



## Golf Union of Wales Championships – Pace of Play Policy

Dear Player

In the interest of equity for all players in the event, Golf Union of Wales officials will be enforcing a pace of play schedule for the duration of the Championship. All players will be provided with information for expected round and hole times prior to the commencement of each round. These times will have been calculated by the Championship Manager at each event and will take into account a variety of factors such as hole length, hole difficulty & walking distances.

Players are advised that Golf Union of Wales referees and officials will be enforcing this pace of play schedule when any group is seen to be “out of position”. Consideration will be given for groups which are out of position as a result of a ball search or a ruling, however players must be aware they will be expected to regain their position promptly.

### Out of Position

“Out of position” and “in position” refer to the relative position on the golf course to the pace of play schedule, as well as the group in front, of each respective group. Each group’s schedule is set to their actual starting time.

Below is an example of groups, their positions relative to the pace of play schedule and whether they are “out of position”. Each group has completed 6 holes in this example:

Group No.	Time Allowed	Time Taken	Difference	Position Status
1	1hr 13mins	1hr 05mins	-8	In Position
2	1hr 13mins	1hr 10mins	-3	In Position
3	1hr 13mins	1hr 13mins	0	In Position
4	1hr 13mins	1hr 13mins	0	In Position
5	1hr 13mins	1hr 17mins	+4	<b>Out of Position</b>
6	1hr 13mins	1hr 17mins	+4	In Position
7	1hr 13mins	1hr 19mins	+6	<b>Out of Position</b>

Groups 1 and 2 are quicker than the scheduled time so are “in positon”. Groups 3 and 4 are equal to the schedule so are also “in position”, but risk becoming “out of position” in future holes. Group 5 is 4 minutes slower than the scheduled time so are “out of position”. Group 6, although also 4 minutes slower than the scheduled time, are deemed “in position” as they are unable to play any quicker due to group 5. Group 7 is 6 minutes slower than the scheduled time, and because they are more than the starting gap behind group 6, they are also “out of position”.



## Procedures for a Group “Out of Position”

Groups which have fallen “out of position” in the first instance will be notified by Golf Union of Wales officials that their pace of play needs to be improved. Consideration will be given to any group which has fallen “out of position” because of any issues they may have experienced on the golf course, however, players will be expected to regain their position promptly. Groups which fail to regain their position within two holes, or fall further out of position after the subsequent hole, will be subject to timing. In exceptional circumstances, individual players may be subject to timing rather than the entire group.

### Timing Procedures

Any group which is “out of position” and where officials feel necessary may be liable for “timing” and will be subject to individual shot timings. Players will be notified if they are subject to timing. Each player will have sufficient time reach their ball and timing will not commence until it is their turn to play without interference or distraction. The time allocated for each shot is 40 seconds, except in these circumstances:

- 50 seconds are allowed for the first player to play the tee shot on a par three
- 50 seconds are allowed for the first player to play an approach shot
- 50 seconds are allowed for the first player play a chip or putt

The time allowed for these shots will include yardage assessments, pre shot routines and practice swings. These times will also include shot assessment, however consideration will be given to shots of particular difficulty and unusual nature.

On the putting green, the player will be given reasonable time to lift, clean and replace their ball, repair pitch marks and attend to any loose impediments before timing commences. Timing will include time spent looking at the line, practice strokes and time allowed for the stroke.

Timing of the group will cease once the group is back “in position”

If during timing, a player receives a “bad time” they will be subject to penalty under the following guidelines under Rule 6-7 (Note 2) & Rule 32-1b (Note 4):

	<b>Stroke Play</b>	<b>Match Play</b>
<b>1 Bad Time</b>	One Stroke Penalty	Loss of Hole
<b>2 Bad Times</b>	Two Stroke Penalty	Further Loss of Hole
<b>3 Bad Times</b>	Disqualification	Disqualification



## Procedure when Again “Out of Position” During Same Round

If a group falls “out of position” more than once during the same stipulated round, then the above procedures will apply on each occasion. Any bad times and the application of penalties in the same round, where applicable, will be carried forward until the round is complete.

## Avoiding Slow Play

Pace of Play policies, schedules and timing procedures are not designed to penalise players, but as an incentive to promote efficient play for the benefit of all competitors in the Championship. All scheduled times are set to allow players sufficient time to complete their rounds in Championship conditions.

Simple but very effective measures can be taken by all players to nullify slow play. These include, but are not limited to being ready when it is your turn to play, measuring shot distances whilst a fellow-competitor is preparing to play and knowledge of the Rules of Golf.

Further information can be viewed on the web pages of the R & A at the link below:

<http://www.randa.org/RulesEquipment/Etiquette/Pace-of-Play>

If you have any further questions or comments regarding the Golf Union of Wales Pace of Play policy, then please seek the Championship Manager on-site at any Championship.

With Best Wishes

David Wilson  
Championship Manager  
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