American Society *of* Golf Course Architects

Pace *of* Play

CHECKLIST & TIPS *for working with your* COURSE ARCHITECT

A. Initial Steps to Sizing Up the Issues of Pace of Play

- ☐ What type of course do you operate?
- ☐ What type of golfers (Hcps.) do you cater to?
- ☐ Cart/Walking policies
- ☐ What are your current round times?
- ☐ Are round times consistent — or varied?
- ☐ What is your idea of an ideal round time?
- ☐ Where are the bottlenecks on your course?

B. Understanding Site Constraints

- ☐ How set-in-stone is your routing and course footprint?
- ☐ Is there any room for change and adjustment?
- ☐ Quantify the grade and site constraints
- ☐ Quantity soil types, vegetation and firmness

C. The Design Intent of the Course

- ☐ History and legacy
- ☐ Identify the essential design characteristics
- ☐ How does the design dictate set-up?
- ☐ How does the design dictate maintenance?
- ☐ Does the design limit flexibility (tees, lengths)?
- ☐ What changes to the design intent would be possible and beneficial?
- ☐ What type of golfers (Hcps.) do cater to?

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Pace of Play has become a household term in golf. What was once regarded as "something only the group ahead could solve" is now being tackled by all of golf's major organizations.

The members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) are uniquely qualified to assist course owners and operators in improving pace of play at their facilities. Getting players to move faster — *and smoother* — involves five basic ingredients:

(1) Course design — The key variable that sets it all in motion.
(2) How the course is being managed (e.g., the starting time interval, sequencing at the first tee, assisting players, etc.)
(3) Course set-up (e.g., tee flexibility, hole lengths, hole placement, etc.)
(4) Maintenance and Turf Conditions (green speeds, rough heights, tall grasses, visibility, etc.)
(5) Player abilities, and the varying types of players on a course at any given time.

The goal is to create an even flow of golfers as they play the game, minimizing wait times and creating a more enjoyable experience. Your Golf Course Architect also has the goal of preserving the spirit of the game — to make sure that your course offers the fun and challenging aspects that lure people to play time and time again.

For more information visit: www.asgca.org

D. Routing & Sequence

- ☐ Does the current routing pose any routing obstacles?
- ☐ Where are the issues?
- ☐ Does the par order and lengths of holes work for (or against) good pace?
- ☐ Are there solutions that may not involve physical change? (Easy fixes)
- ☐ What are some ideas that may be "thinking out of the box"?

E. Course Set-up, Length & Flexibility

- ☐ Is tee flexibility ample?
- ☐ Is there a tee use policy and a way to enforce it?
- ☐ Are there solutions to set-up where wait times can be reduced or eliminated?
- ☐ Have you implemented Tee It Forward tools?

F. Course Conditions

- ☐ Greens speeds
- ☐ Rough heights
- ☐ Tall grasses, and their proximity to frequent play
- ☐ Fairway widths
- ☐ Hazard difficulty
- ☐ Forced carries
- ☐ Tree overgrowth (blind areas, visibility)
- ☐ Hole locations
- ☐ Firmness, roll, lies

G. Follow-up

- ☐ Master planning relative to Pace of Play solutions
- ☐ Turf area evaluation
- ☐ Tee addition planning

Produced in cooperation with the United States Golf Association

www.usga.org/paceofplay

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