



**2021 Plum Creek Golf Club
Men's Club
Handbook**

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2021 Men’s Club Committee

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Tournament & Match Play Chairman- Bob Fishell- bfishell@cwkc.com

POY Points & Treasury- Justin Borzych- borzych@comcast.net

Communications & Cash Games-Kendall Walker kendall.walker@us.loomis.com

Websites

Plum Creek: <http://www.GolfPlumCreek.com>

RECENT CHANGES

SENIOR PLAYER TEE OPTIONS:

Players 65 or older will have the option to move up ONE set of tees if they are flighted in the Blue or Blue/White Flight for individual events only. This option will not be applicable for match play or the Club Championship.

In the past there was a reduction that was manually applied based upon the course ratings. Under the new handicap rules, the course handicap is automatically adjusted based on if you are playing a shorter set of tees or a longer set of tees.

Very Important!!! *Eligible players who elect to move up tees **MUST** notify the committee no later than noon on the Monday prior to tournament play!*



All event registration **MUST** be completed on-line & events close the **Friday Night**, one week prior to the event
 Annual Unlimited Members-Green Fees are Included in Annual Dues
 Green Fees for Men's Club Members Listed Below
Player of the Year wins a Complimentary 2022 Men's Club Membership

Prize Funded Event

Sun April 18 800a Single Tee	<u>Opening Day 4 Person Shamble</u> Earn 5 participation points. No POY placing points- <u>\$69 Green Fee</u>	Yes #1
Sat May 1 730a Single Tee	<u>Individual Stroke Play</u> Earn 3 participation points & Earn POY placing points - <u>\$79 Green Fee</u>	Yes #2
Mon May 10 Match Play Events Begin Schedule Matches On Your Own	<u>Singles Match Play Begins---\$100 cash entry</u> Cash Payouts to winners - Earn 3 participation points & POY placing points Green Fees vary based on when players book times (weekday, weekend, twilight etc.) <u>All scorecards MUST be turned into golf shop as Individual Match Play scores will be recorded</u>	No
Sat May 15 730a Single Tee	<u>2 Man Aggregate Modified Stableford</u> Earn 3 participation points & Earn POY placing points - <u>\$79 Green Fee</u>	Yes #3
Sun May 30 700a Single Tee	<u>Individual Stroke Play</u> Earn 3 participation points & Earn POY placing points - <u>\$79 Green Fee</u>	Yes #4
Sun June 13 700a Single Tee	<u>Individual Stroke Play</u> Earn 3 participation points & Earn POY placing points - <u>\$79 Green Fee</u>	Yes #5
Sat June 26 915-1030a Single Tee 3:30p Horse Race	<u>2 Man 6/6/6 & Horserace</u> Earn 5 participation points – No POY placing points - <u>\$79 Green Fee</u> Must Qualify for Horse Race by winning your flight gross or net – <u>Cash entry & payout for HR</u>	Yes #6
Sun July 10 700a Single Tee	<u>Individual Modified Stableford</u> Earn 3 participation points & Earn POY placing points - <u>\$79 Green Fee</u>	Yes #7
Sat July 31 700a Single Tee	<u>Individual Stroke Play</u> Earn 3 participation points & Earn POY placing points - <u>\$79 Green Fee</u>	Yes #8
Sat & Sun Aug 14 & 15 700a #1 Tee Day 1 700a #1 Tee Day 2	<u>Club Championship ~ 36 Holes Medal Play</u> <u>Double Points & Double Prize Fund!!!</u> - Earn 10 participation points - Earn POY placing points <u>\$79 Green Fee-Player is obligated for two days of green fees upon registering for event</u>	Yes #9 & #10
Sun Sept 12 900a Shotgun	<u>Plum Creek Cup ~ Champions Awards Party & BBQ</u> \$79 Entry for Green Fees, plus \$30 Team Gift ~ \$30 Entry for Annual Pass Holders for Team Gift BBQ/Awards to follow Golf ~ Fee for party is included in dues	Yes #11

Event Registration/Cancellation

Registration: It is the sole responsibility of the Men's Club Member to sign up for the events they wish to play! Registration for all events will be handled via Internet only! Players calling the golf shop will be directed back to the website below for all registrations. **NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE TAKEN VIA PHONE!**

How to Register for an Event: Go to The Plum Creek Golf Club website www.GolfPlumCreek.com and select the "Golf" Drop down menu. Next Click on "Men's Club" and then "Event Registration. Click on "New Registration", type in your last name and follow the prompts to complete the registration. You can also edit and cancel a past reservation by clicking "Edit Registration".

All tournament entries will close on the Friday at 11:59 p.m., 8 to 9 days prior to each event! The only players who will be allowed to enter after the tournament has closed will be those filling any openings in groups that are vacant. Late entries will be on a first come, first serve basis. Availability of these "late entry" possibilities will be emailed to each member via the Men's Club. **Flights and Pairings of the tournament will not be altered for late entrants!** All late entries will compete in their appropriate flights from their appropriate tees; however, they may be paired with other competitors competing in different flights and possibly playing from different tees.

Cancellation of an Event Registration: It is the individual's sole responsibility to cancel properly by **sending an email** to the Head Golf Professional, cy@GolfPlumCreek.com by 5:00 PM on the Monday before the event.

"No-Show" Policy: Individuals that fail to show for an event for which they have registered will be charged \$79.00! (Annual Card Holders included!)

Membership

Responsibilities and Benefits

All members of the Plum Creek Men's Club will: (Men's Club Committee reserves the right to modify at any time)

- Pay appropriate annual dues
- Have USGA Amateur Status
- Provide valid credit card number to be on file with golf shop

Each Member will have the following benefits:

- USGA Handicap services
- A discounted rate for "Green Fees" every time member plays (does not apply to guests)
- 8 day advance golf reservations via phone only (public gets 7 days)
- 15% discount off suggested retail on all in-stock golf merchandise (will not apply to sale items)

Tournament Fees

Each Plum Creek Men's Club Member will have paid for their "Tournament Merchandise Fee" for each event by paying their entry into the Men's Club. (Match Play is not included and is paid out in cash.) For each tournament round, **each member will be charged the \$79.00 tournament green fee automatically** by the golf shop for each day of play! Annual cardholders will not be charged.

Optional Cash Games

Optional Cash Game registration closes 30 minutes prior to last tee time of the day's event!

There will be optional cash games that each participant may enter for each day of competition. Daily registration is required! Cash only please!! Normally there will be the following optional games to enter for each day of competition (may vary based upon event). Players who choose not to enter prior to play will not be eligible to win! Each individual/team may choose to enter none, all or select from the following games:

- **Closest to the Hole** (\$5 entry ~ pot divided by the four Closest to Pin Winners ~ non-flighted event)
- **Gross and Net Skins** (\$15 entry ~ pot divided evenly for both gross and net skins—must enter both to be eligible)
- Closest to the Hole pays for each par 3. Amount will be 25% of total pot for each par 3.
- **Rather than Hole-in One insurance, if anyone gets a hole in one during tournament play they will win all four closest to the hole contests that day. Half of the cash winnings will be obligated to cover the bar tab in celebration and the 2nd half goes in your pocket. Well done! However, you MUST have entered the cash contest prior to the start of the round to be eligible.**

Flight Calculations/Tournament Pairings

Individual Event Tee Options-tees will be based on the field each event

Black Flight	7,044	73.7	147
Blue Flight	6,458	70.9	136
Blue/White Flight	6,138	69.4	128
White Flight	5,819	67.8	122

COMBO TEES: Blue/White Flight Only (Look for the “dual color” tee markers.)

Blue Tees: 1,2,4,8,9,10,13,15,17

White Tees: 3,5,6,7,11,12,14,16,18

Senior Player Tee Options:

Players 65 or older will have the option to move up ONE set of tees if they are flighted in the Blue or Blue/White Flight for individual events only. This option will not be applicable for match play or the Club Championship.

Very Important!!! Eligible players who elect to move up tees **MUST** notify the committee no later than noon on the Monday prior to tournament play!

Team Event **ONLY** Tee Ranges

Players with Indexes	+3.0 to 9.9	will play Blue Tees
Players with Indexes	10.0 to 12.9	will play White/Blue Tees
Players with Indexes	13.0 and higher	will play from White Tees

Flights for Individual Events

The tournament committee will create flights to make them as equal as possible based on handicap ranges and number of entries in each tournament. Chances are very good they will change from tournament to tournament. Our goal is to provide everyone with a challenging course and a competitive field so we can enjoy gentlemanly competition and camaraderie while focusing on enjoyment for the game.

Flights for “Team” Events

Flights for “Team” events will be calculated by the “Team’s” cumulative handicap. Size of flights will be in direct correlation to number of total entries. Our optimal goal will be to have the same number of teams in each flight. Men’s Club reserves the right to have unequal numbers of teams in each flight and to modify the number of flights to keep the competition fair for all players.

Handicap Utilized for Flight Calculation and Tournament Play

USGA handicap will be utilized. The maximum course handicap for an individual for all competitions is 30. The Handicap Committee reserves the right to establish a course handicap for any player in order to make the competition fair for all participants. For example, the odds are 1 in 37,000 that a player with an index from 13 to 21 can score 10 strokes below their handicap. Should this occur for any player for two consecutive tournaments, the Handicap Committee may establish a Plum Creek Men’s Club event course handicap for that player for future events. *Due to nightly revisions starting in 2020, it is not feasible for the golf shop to use the most current handicap on the day of play to prepare for the event. Therefore, the shop will use a revision earlier in the week (likely a Tuesday or Wednesday) and all players will be calculated off of the same revision date. Match play events are the exception and players should use the most current revision for their match.*

Tournament Pairings

Once flights have been established, the Men's Club Pairings Chairman will determine the pairings.

Rules of Play/Local Rules

Rules of Play

The USGA Rules of Golf will govern all tournament play. The golf shop has limited copies of the 2019 Revision of the Rules of Golf. Players may download a free version of the 2019 Rules of Golf by downloading the USGA Official Rules of Golf 2019 App on their phones or players may purchase a 2019 Rules book through various avenues online on their own.

For *stroke play events*, competitors are not eligible to play the golf course prior to a stroke play event on the same day.

For *match play events*, competitors are eligible to play the course prior to a match play event on the same day.

Disputes

Any challenges or "call outs" for rules infractions brought to the board must have both parties present. If you need a ruling pertaining to the "rules of golf", go directly to the pros in the Pro Shop. If it is Men's Club issue, bring it to the any of the Committee listed on page 2, and we will resolve it internally.

Under no circumstances is a player allowed to post another player's score in the USGA system without their permission. If a competitor does post another player's score without their permission, they will be asked to leave the Men's Club and their dues will not be refunded.

Local Rules

Any local rules applicable to the daily play will be noted on the daily tournament rules sheet. It is each player's sole responsibility to make themselves aware of the rules of play for the day.

"Pace of Play" Policy (Local Men's Club Rule **WILL BE HIGHLY ENFORCED IN 2021**)

Pace of play is a key ingredient to adding enjoyment to the game. The Men's Club is committed to making pace of play an important aspect to our tournaments going forward.

Any group finishing in over 4 hours and 30 minutes, and 15 or more minutes behind the group in front of them will be penalized. Time is kept from the moment your cart leaves the first tee box until it arrives at the clubhouse. The Men's Club Competition Committee will assess penalties.

Penalty for infraction- All players in the group receive a two-shot penalty. This will be added to your gross score thereby affecting both gross and net scoring for that tournament.

Appeal of infraction- If a player feels he is unjustly penalized because of the slow play of one or two others in his group he may appeal the penalty. The other players will be questioned and if all agree that player 'A' was the reason for the slow play that will be the only person penalized.

See attached Addendum I for additional information and guidelines on this important pace of play policy.

Player “On Time” Policy (Local Men’s Club Rule)

1. Players will be assessed a 2-stroke penalty if they are not at the tee box, ready to tee off, when the starter instructs your group to play away. Player will be assessed penalty to the first hole played.
2. To paraphrase the rules of golf: Penalty for lateness beyond five minutes of player’s starting time is disqualification.

The Board strongly recommends that you be at your appointed tee box 5 minutes before your time! Trains or weather delays do not excuse you from your responsibility to be at your tee on time.

Local Rules

Directions and Orientation:

As used in these rules, left, right, near and far are determined by facing the hole from the tee box.

Immovable Obstructions:

Steps, bridges, railroad ties and cart paths that are not out of bounds or within a penalty area are considered **Immovable Obstructions**. Players should proceed under **Rule 16.1**. Free relief can be taken within one club length from the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole.

On par 3’s only, the player may elect to go to the drop zone provided (See Drop Zones below). Since this is a player selection, there is a one stroke penalty.

Drop Zones:

***Holes #2, #7, #12 & #17:** After the players first shot or any subsequent shot, they have the option (*under penalty of one stroke*) to move to the designated “drop zones” **located on the right side of hole 2, the left side of hole 7, the back of hole 12 and the left side of hole 17**. This is to help with pace of play.

***Hole #12:** If a ball is at rest on any part of the cart path between the two bridges to the right and left of the green, the player has the option to take relief under Rule 16.1 (*without penalty*) to move to the “drop zone” or the nearest point of full relief, no closer to the hole.

When using a Drop Zone the following provisions apply regarding the dropping and re-dropping of the ball:

- (a) The player does not have to stand within the Drop Zone when dropping the ball.
- (b) The dropped ball must first strike a part of the course within the Drop Zone.
- (c) If the Drop Zone is defined by a line, the line is within the Drop Zone.
- (d) The dropped ball does not have to come to rest within the Drop Zone.
- (e) The dropped ball must be re-dropped if it rolls and comes to rest more than two club-lengths from where it first struck a part of the course.
- (f) The dropped ball may roll nearer the hole than the spot where it first struck a part of the course, provided it comes to rest within two club-lengths of that spot.

Tournament Payout Calculations

Payouts for Individual and Team Events ~ Golf Shop Credit

- **35%** of each flight participants/teams will earn golf shop credit (rounding up at .5 or greater)
- Total number of payout places for gross and net positions are indicated below.
- Taking the total dollar amount available in the “Tournament Prize Fund Account” and dividing it by the number of play dates remaining on the schedule, dividing the purse equally, calculates the tournament purse. (Total of 11 play days.)
- To calculate the prize fund for each flight, take the total purse for the event and divide it by the total number of flights. (Rounding of figures will be utilized at Golf Shop’s discretion.)
- Each flight’s total purse will be distributed to the winning individuals/teams in Golf Shop Credit.
- Golf Shop Credits are redeemable for in-stock golf shop merchandise only!
- **All Golf Shop Credit expires in Mid-December each year.**

Payout Percentages for General Flights

<u>3 places</u>	<u>4 places</u>	<u>5 places</u>	<u>6 places</u>	<u>7 places</u>
1st gross (40%)	1st gross (35%)	1st gross (30%)	1 st gross (27%)	1 st gross (23%)
1 st net (40%)	2 nd gross (15%)	2 nd gross (15%)	2 nd gross (15%)	2 nd gross (14%)
2 nd net (20%)	1st net (35%)	1 st net (30%)	3 rd gross (8%)	3 rd gross (10%)
	2nd net (15%)	2 nd net (15%)	1st net (27%)	1st net (23%)
		3 rd net (10%)	2nd net (15%)	2 nd net (14%)
			3rd net (8%)	3rd net (10%)
				4 th net (6%)

The “1st Place Gross” position will be determined first, then “1st Place Net” next, and so forth. A player may only win one place when competing for Golf Shop Credit. Golf Shop credit will be posted under your name in the POS system in the golf shop within 48 hours of tournament conclusion.

As a member of the Men’s Club, you will receive 15% off retail for all in-stock merchandise. Any credit must be spent prior to mid-December each calendar year. For best selection, Plum Creek recommends spending Golf Shop Credit prior to October 15th. Last shipments for new merchandise are received in late August.

Tie Breaking Method

Other than for “Over-All Club Champion” and “Match Play”, all ties will be determined utilizing recommended USGA method: Matching cards of the best score for the last nine holes. If the tiebreaker is not determined, then utilize the best score for last six holes, last three holes and finally 18th hole. If further tiebreaker is needed, repeat procedure with first nine holes as above. To determine net winners utilizing above method, one-half, one-third, and one-sixth of tournament handicaps will be deducted. Holes 10-18 will always be considered as the last nine holes of play for tiebreaker purposes.

Player of the Year Calculations

The Men's Club will be awarding a 2022 Men's Club membership for the Player of The Year in 2021, currently valued at \$299.00. The prize is non-transferable!!

Player of the Year Points

- No Player of the Year Points will be awarded for competitions scheduled after Club Championship
- **Participation Points only** will be awarded for the following tournaments:
- Season Kick-Off Golf Event 5 points
- 2-Man 6/6/6 & Horse Race 5 points
- Club Championship 10 points + placing points
- In Individual events, each player who participates will earn 3 points for participating.
- Player of the Year points will be awarded to all players that place in their flight and earn Golf Shop Credit.
- Points will be distributed to winners in the following manner:

1 st Place Net or Gross	10 Points + participation pts
2 nd Place Net or Gross	8 Points + participation pts
3 rd Place Net or Gross	6 Points + participation pts
4 th Place Net or Gross	4 Points + participation pts
5 th Place Net or Gross	2 Points + participation pts
Participation	3 Points

Player of the Year Tie Breakers

The following method will be utilized in realization of a tie for the Player of the Year award:
An 18-hole stroke play playoff with a match date determined by parties involved. Players will play from the farthest back tee that they have individually competed from in a Men's Club Schedule of Events. Handicap allocation will be 100% as of the date of play, wheeling off the lowest handicap. If there is a tie at the completion of the 18-hole match, players will then proceed to a sudden death playoff with strokes falling where applicable. Green fees for this match will be courtesy of Plum Creek!

Club Championship & Match Play

Club Championship

- Club Championship will be a flighted 36-hole medal play event.
- The “Club Champion” will be the player with the lowest 36-hole total gross score played from the lowest handicap flight in the tournament.
- Player of the year points will be doubled for this event.
- If there is a tie for the Overall Club Champion, there will be a sudden-death playoff immediately following the conclusion of regular play. Spectators for the playoff are encouraged to come out to see some great golf.
- The tees used for the Club Championship will be the furthest back tees utilized during any of the low gross/low net tournaments during the season. Members eligible to compete in the Club Championship flight will be limited to members that competed in the top flight during the tournament season.
- The second day scorecard will be used for any ties
- **NEW: The Men’s Club committee will allow players to play rounds in between Day 1 and Day 2 as long as the round is not played on the same day as Day 2 of the Championship. (i.e. you can only play after your Day 1 round on Saturday).**

Match Play Championships

These are not scheduled events but are open to all players who sign up and pay the cash entry fee by the deadline. The entry fee is to be paid in cash to the Match Play Committee. The drawing for the brackets will be announced immediately by e-mail from the Match Play Chairmen. This will be a single elimination match play tournament.

- These is a season long championship
- **Deadline for signup and payment of cash only entry fee is May 1, 2021.**
- **Brackets will consist of 8 individuals. This allows for longer timeframes for matches to be completed. Once 8 individuals sign up, we will move on to filling out the next bracket.**
- **Brackets are determined on a first come, first serve basis. A bracket will occur only if it is full. For instance, if 20 individuals sign up, the first 16 individuals will have completed 2 brackets and only these two brackets will play. The other four individuals will receive their money back.**
- Teams are equally responsible for scheduling and completing each match by the scheduled due date. If the match is not completed by deadline date, **both** players/teams could be disqualified. Keep a record of the effort that is made to schedule your match, it will be effective in determining whether both or one will be disqualified. If both players/teams make an honest effort to schedule the match but are unsuccessful, the Committee will appoint a winner. All rulings by the committee are **final**. Reasons for delay such as a family emergency, illness, injury or business will **not** be accepted. It is highly recommended to communicate via email to show a record. Both parties **MUST** communicate within the first week of each round.
- If one player/team forfeits the match, their opponent will move into the next round.
- Participation points will be awarded for all players/teams playing in each of the first two matches.
- Players/teams receiving byes or forfeits in the first two matches will receive participation points for match not played.
- Match Play greens fees are the standard Men’s Club 15% discount on the day of play rate.
- Players are eligible to play golf on the course prior to match play events

Individual Match Play

<u>ROUND</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>COMPLETED BY</u>
ROUND 1	May 10, 2021	June 13, 2021
ROUND 2	June 14, 2021	July 11, 2021
CHAMPIONSHIP	July 12, 2021	August 8, 2020

- Report scores and results right after the round to Golf Shop.
- If there are any disagreements, contact the Shop upon completion of the round to receive a decision.
- Payouts will be in cash. Payouts are as follows:

Individual Match Play Cash Payouts--3 Participation Points

1 st (60%)	1 st	10	placing points
2 nd (35%)	2 nd	8	placing points
3 rd	3 rd	5	placing points
4 th	4 th	5	placing points

5% for Trophies

Individual Match Play

- Each bracket will have its own champion. There will not be a play off between flights.
- **Each match will be based on the difference between the two course handicaps.**
- **Brackets are determined on a first come, first serve basis. A bracket will occur only if it is full.**
For instance, if 20 individuals sign up, the first 16 individuals will have completed 2 brackets and only these two brackets will play. The other four individuals will receive their money back.
- Entry fee is \$100 per player.

Plum Creek Men's Club Handicap Policy

In keeping with the tradition of the Plum Creek Men's Club to promote gentlemanly competition and camaraderie while focusing on enjoyment for the game, the Men's Club Board of Directors has modified the handicap policy for 2021 tournament play for New Members. Below is the description of the updated handicap process for new members:

A. Members with a current USGA Handicap Index:

Current USGA Index will be applied as the index.

B. Members with NO GHIN or equivalent index:

Players will need to have a valid USGA handicap prior to the first round of play. In order to establish a handicap, the player must have at least 5 scores in before the revision date. Please keep in mind that players who do not have a current handicap are able to backdate scores in as well to establish a handicap. Players who do not meet the criteria will play as a 0 handicap until they have established a handicap.

The PCMC Committee reserves the right to adjust a players USGA index based on a player's current and past scoring history. There will not be any injury adjustments for handicaps or flights!!

Addendum I

Pace of Play ~ Play Ready Golf

Again, pace of play is a key ingredient to adding enjoyment to the game. The Men's Club is committed to making pace of play an important aspect of our tournaments going forward. Please review the pace of play policy so you are aware of this before the season starts.

For self-monitoring suggestions, the GPS System on the golf carts is set for a 4:19 round of golf. The top line on the GPS display informs players of their status to pace of play. The recommendation is that all players play "Ready Golf"! The course Marshals are instructed to inform all groups as to their position in relation to the group in front of you. The Marshals will inform the lead group (those without a group in front of them) as to their position in relation to the GPS System pace of play, informing the group as to how far out of position the group is, if any. The marshals are there to assist the Men's Club, please treat them with respect and courtesy.

For the group teeing off first, please be cognizant of the fact that if you dally and play your round in 4:30, the last group will be doomed to have a 5 plus hour round. Nobody wants that! Remember, you control the Pace of Play for the entire day, and not just for the Men's Club, but for the entire course for the entire day. The dedicated people at the Plum Creek Golf Shop work with us to make our Men's Club successful. Let's work with them to insure an enjoyable golfing experience for everyone.

Here are some tips for speeding up play without feeling like you are being rushed:

- Members of a group should not travel as a pack, with all members driving together to the first ball, then the second, and so on. Each member of the group should go directly to his own ball.
- When two players are riding in a cart, drive the cart to the first ball and drop off the first player with his choice of clubs. The second player should proceed in the cart to his ball. After the first player hits his stroke, he should begin walking toward the cart as the second golfer is playing.
- Use the time you spend getting to your ball to think about the next shot- the yardage, and the club selection. When you reach your ball you'll need less time to figure out the shot.
- If you are unsure your ball has come to rest in the natural area on your tee shot, or may be lost, immediately declare and hit a provisional ball.

- Begin reading the green and lining up putts as soon as you reach the green. Don't wait until it's your turn to putt to start the process of reading the green. Do it as soon as you reach the green so that when it's your turn you can step right up and putt.
- Never delay making a stroke because you are having a conversation with a playing partner. Put the conversation on hold, make your stroke, then pick up the conversation again.
- If using a cart on a cart-path-only day, take more than one club with you when you walk from the cart to your ball. Getting to the ball only to find out you didn't have the right club is a huge time waster on the golf course.
- After putting out, don't stand around the green chatting or take practice putting strokes. Leave the green promptly so the group behind can play.
- When leaving the green and returning to your golf cart, don't stand there fussing with your putter or other clubs. Get in the cart, drive to the next tee, and then put your putter away when you take your club out for your next tee shot.
- Likewise, mark your scorecard after reaching the next tee, not while lingering on or near the just-completed green.
- When using a cart, never park in front of the green. Park it only to the side or behind the green. And don't mark your scorecard while sitting in the cart next to the green (do it on the next tee). These practices open up the green for the group behind. And is additionally a safety measure.
- If you are the type who likes to offer tips to playing partners, save it for the driving range- or only do so on the course when you are sure that you're not slowing down play (and sure that you are not annoying your partners).
- Don't ask your playing partners to help you search for a lost ball- unless you are absolutely certain there is time for them to do so. If the group is behind pace, your partners should continue moving forward, not slow things down further by stopping to help you search.
- On the tee, pay attention to your partner's drives. If they lose sight of their ball, you can help direct them to it and avoid any searching. Players- when you hit an errant shot, keep your eye on the ball flight and mark where the ball comes down, don't look away in disgust, and remember you hit it!

- When waiting on the tee for the group in front to clear the fairway, don't be so strict about the order of play. Let the shorter hitter- who can't reach the group ahead- go ahead and hit.
- Work on building a precise pre-shot routine. If your pre-shot routine is a lengthy one, it's probably in your best interest to shorten it anyway. Limit practice strokes to one at most.
- Don't bother marking lag putts- go ahead and putt out if it's short enough and you won't be stepping on another player's line.
- Leave your cell phone in the car.
- Walk at a good pace between shots. No, you don't have to look like a race walker. But if your between shot gait can be described as a "shuffle" or an "amble", you are probably going to slow. Speeding up your gait a little is good for your health, but also might help your game by keeping you lose.
- Carry extra tees, ball markers and an extra ball in your pockets so you never have to return to your golf bag to find one when needed.
- When chipping around the green, carry both the club you will be chipping with plus your putter so you don't have to return to the bag. Place your chipping club on the edge of the green between the hole and your cart so you can pick it up on your way back to the cart is a huge time saver.
- Try playing ready golf, where order of play is based on who's ready, not on who's away. Starting the round by saying you want to play ready golf sets the tone.
- When playing in team or match play events, know when to pick up if your score is not going to count.
- Note: Seeing a professional golf tournament on TV or in person is great fun, but tour professionals do a disservice to the regular golfer. If we imitate their pace of play, "public golf" would be a disaster- 5, 6, 6 ½, hours to play. They play at their pace because they are trying to make a living, AND they take less shots than we do. Keep in mind we are here because we enjoy the game, competitive spirit, and camaraderie. Let's go out and enjoy our time on the course with each other!