



**Valley Golfers Association
Golf Etiquette and Pace of Play**

Good standing with the golf courses we play depends upon how we treat the course property and its personnel, and how we pace our play. We can cement relationships and improve standing if we remember that each VGA member is responsible for the image projected. Keep the following in mind every time you play a VGA event and the whole club will have a better time, play at a faster pace, play more enjoyable golf, and play on courses that appreciate and reward the club's business:

Golf etiquette should be demonstrated every time a game is played; it is nothing more than respecting property and allowing fellow players to play their game without interference. As a start try the following:

- Fix divots and replace items you move like stakes and ropes.
- Drive golf carts safely and in areas designated by the course.
- Do not talk when others are trying to concentrate on hitting their ball.
- Do not stand in someone's line of putt or behind someone teeing the ball up.
- Do not throw clubs; it is dangerous and childish.
- Learn from etiquette advice given by fellow players.

The pace of play can be boiled down to two simple phrases: be prepared and be ready to play. Here is how:

“Protecting the field”- This means every VGA Member has a responsibility to assure those individuals competing in a VGA sponsored event are playing within the rules of golf. If a member observes someone violating the rules of golf it is their

responsibility to seek clarification from that golfer regarding what he just did or question him about what rule of golf he applied when making his decision. This should always be done diplomatically so as not to accuse a golfer of violating the rules of golf. If there is disagreement with the outcome, the incident should be reported to the Event Coordinator and/or a Rules Committee member after the round to seek resolution. Local rules are printed on the scorecard provided by the golf course. It is a member's responsibility to be familiar with the local rules and to understand the boundaries and protected areas of the course. Ignorance is not an excuse to violate the "rules of golf." If there are any questions regarding Local Rules, you can always seek advice from the Event Coordinator or any member of the Rules Committee. Members playing in the same foursome can also be a valuable resource in resolving issues encountered. If unsure about a rule violation, play two balls and seek clarification after the round is completed.

3. The VGA Membership is made up of a variety of skilled golfers and all have some knowledge of golf rules and golf etiquette. However, each member does not have finite wisdom on either subject. A friendly reminder of correct play is an appropriate action to take if a member has or is about to violate the rules of golf. Do not assume that an individual knows what to do in every situation encountered on the golf course.

An acceptable pace of play on an 18-hole course is between 4 and 4.5 hours. Just two minutes of wasted time on each hole adds another 36 minutes. Let us be aware of our pace of play and our etiquette practice for the sake of fellow players and our host course.