

How to play golf quickly, without rushing.

Time taken is dependent on a large number of very small events, and all the players who hit off after you will be held up when you play slowly. It is highly frustrating for them and could give you (and us) a reputation you could well do without.

1. Be ready when it's your turn to tee off. If you are not ready you must tell someone who is ready to go ahead of you "Ready golf".
2. Your card should be filled in at the next tee while playing partners are hitting off. NOT on the green.
3. When waiting on another player to play, decide which club you are going to use for next shot, ideally you should have that club in your hand as you reach your ball.
4. It's not always necessary to put your club away when you've just used it – just walk forward with it in hand & put it away when you select the club for your next shot – this applies particularly to putting – just clear the green area asap for the next group.
5. Do not walk forward from the line of play, always move to one side allowing your playing partner to play his ball, always keep an eye on the flight of his ball, a lost ball is time wasted.
6. Be aware where you leave your bag. Position it on the side of the green in the direction of the next tee box.
7. If you're in a bunker or doing a chip shot, bring your putter as well as your wedge. Nothing is as frustrating as watching someone walk 30 metres back to their bag for a club.
8. Use your i-Phone app for distance only – please don't spend valuable time adding personal data, concentrate on the look and feel of your position on the course.
9. Ideally you should finish your round within half a fairway of the players in front of you, being two or more hole behind is totally unacceptable
10. Speed is of the essence – a 3 ¾ hour game or less is a very achievable target.
11. If, after all of this, you still fall behind by a full hole, it is your OBLIGATION to call through the group following you. Stand to one side, and then wave them through. This is the last resort - the best solution is to PLAY QUICKLY WITHOUT RUSHING.

And finally, good social interactions on the course are great, but speed of play should be uppermost in your mind. Remember, there is plenty time for banter once you're in the club house.