

# **2010 HYLAND HILLS JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM**

## **PACE OF PLAY CERTIFICATION**

First let me welcome all of you to the 2010 Hyland Hills Junior Golf Program. This year's program will consist of learning the fundamentals of the golf swing, the short game, the rules of golf, etiquette, and playing the game. Now the last aspect "playing the game" that's really what golf is all about, learning and enjoying playing the game of golf. One major aspect of playing the game of golf that I believe is of major importance and should be introduced to all new players and junior golfers is the pace of play or slow play on the golf course. Pace of play is of high importance to every golfer, ensuring an enjoyable round of golf for every player on the golf course. Listed herein are several proven ways to ensure proper pace of play and empowering the golfers themselves with the knowledge to do so.

- Choose the correct set of tees from which to play. If you're a 20-handicapper, you have no business playing the championship tees. Doing so only adds strokes, which adds time.
- Members of a group should not travel as a pack, with all members walking together to the first ball, then the second, and so on. Each member of the group should walk directly to his or her own ball.
- Use the time you spend getting to your ball to think about the next shot – the yardage, the club selection. When you reach your ball you'll need less time to figure out the shot.
- If you are unsure whether your ball has come to rest out of bounds, or may be lost, immediately hit a provisional ball so that you won't have to return to the spot to replay the shot.
- 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're having a conversation with a playing partner. Put the conversation on hold; make your stroke, then pick up the conversation again.
- After putting out, don't stand around the green chatting or take any practice putting strokes. Leave the green quickly so the group behind can play. If there is no group behind, then a few practice putts are fine.
- Mark your scorecard after reaching the next tee, not while lingering on or near the just-completed green.
- If you're 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're sure that you're not slowing down play.

- If you are searching for a lost ball and are willing to spend a few minutes looking for it, allow the group behind to play through.
- Don't ask you're playing partners to help you search for a lost ball – unless you are absolutely certain there is time for them to do so (e.g. there is no group behind waiting). If the course is crowded, your partners should continue moving forward, not slow things down further by stopping to help your 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.
- When waiting on the tee for the group in front to clear the fairway, don't be so strict about order of play. Let the short hitter – who can't reach the group ahead anyway – go ahead and hit.
- Work on building a concise pre-shot routine. If your pre-shot routine is a lengthy one, it's probably in your best interests to shorten it anyway. Limit practice strokes to one or two at the most.
- Don't bother marking lag putts go ahead and putt out if it's short enough.
- 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're probably going too slowly. Speeding up your gait a little is good for your health, and it 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 bag to find one when needed.
- When chipping around the green, carry both the club you'll be chipping with plus your putter so you don't have to return to the bag.
- Try playing ready golf, where order of play is based on whose ready, not on who's away.

Let's help make our golfing round more enjoyable for everyone by following these tips.

***Enjoy your round!***

***Hyland Hills Management***

