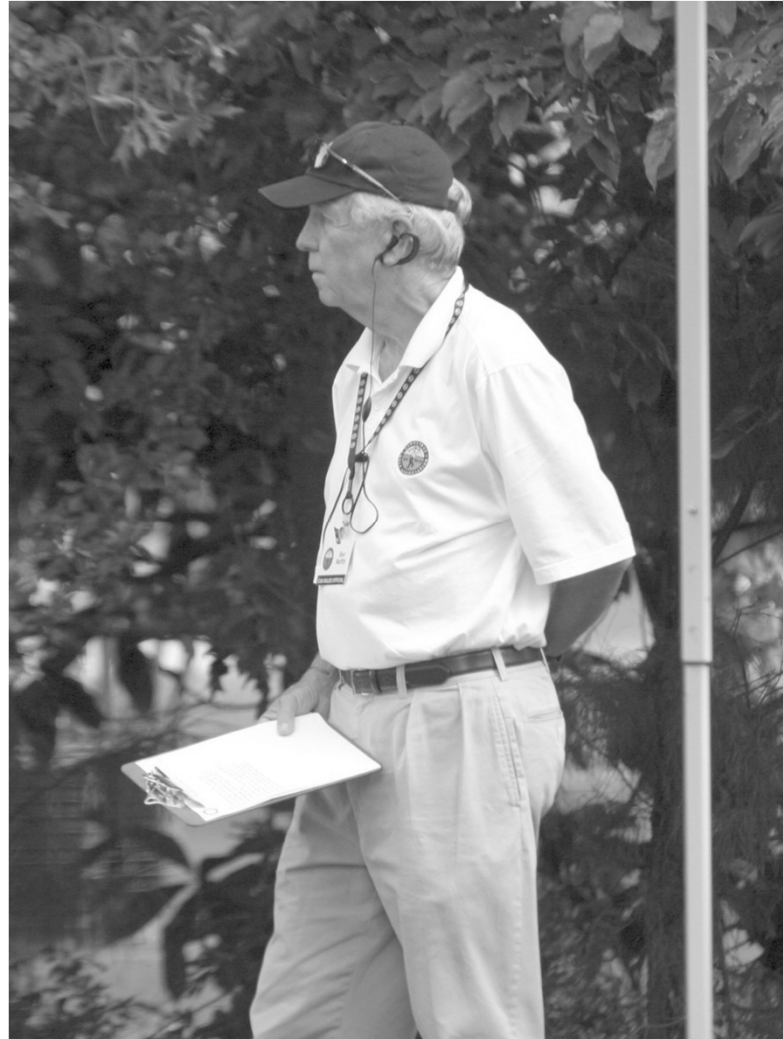




# Starter Duties





# Duties of a Starter

Starter(s) duties:

- Ensure that player's start at the time established by the Committee. (Rule 6-3a).
- Distribute score cards and special notices to the competitors.
- Answer any Rules questions the players may ask (MAKE SURE TO READ THE RULES SHEET!).
- If you need any assistance, please call the CGA official in charge.
- As a starter, make sure to wear an ear piece for your radio.



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# Duties of a Starter



Procedures to follow:

- Locate proper starting box in tournament office (#1 or #10 tee) and arrive at your assigned tee 15-20 minutes prior to first starting time to set-up.
- Synchronize clock with official-in-charge. This should be done already (atomic clocks).
- Maintain order on the 1st or 10th tee. Only players, caddies, or CGA officials on-duty are to be in or around the starting area.



# Duties of a Starter



Procedures to follow:

- Start each group exactly at their assigned starting time.
- If you fall behind, the new starting time is when the group in front has cleared the way.
- Write down the actual time when the group began play on the starting sheet (this is for pace of play information).



# Duties of a Starter



Procedures to follow:

- Keep groups at same tee time intervals. Do not try to “catch up”.
- Do NOT delay a group because a competitor is late in appearing for his starting time.





# Duties of a Starter



Procedures to follow:

- CGA does NOT call players to the tee. Players are responsible for being at their starting tee on time.
- If a player is missing, call the CGA official in charge.
- An effort may be made to “look” for a player.
- The starter must NOT leave the tee to “look” for a player



# Duties of a Starter



Time of Starting Penalties:

If a player arrives within five minutes after the assigned starting time, the penalty for failure to start on-time is:

Individual Match Play = Loss of hole

Individual Stroke Play = Two Strokes

After five minutes has elapsed, the penalty is disqualification.



# Duties of a Starter



Time of Starting Penalties:

If a player arrives within five minutes after the assigned starting time, the penalty for failure to start on-time is:

Four-Ball Match Play: late partner is disqualified from 1st hole and may join match on 2nd hole. (Dec. 30-3a/1)

Four-Ball Stroke Play: late partner may begin with a two stroke penalty if his partner has not yet played from the teeing ground (Dec. 31-2/1)

Foursomes (including Modified Alternate Shot): both players of the *side* must be present or the *side* receives the loss of hole penalty in match play or two stroke penalty in stroke play (Rule 6-3a, definition of Partner)





# Duties of a Starter



Procedures to follow:

- At events where carts are allowed, no more than 2 carts are allowed per group.
- Pair-up players and/or caddies if necessary
- Report to the golf shop any extra carts that may be left at the starting tee.



# Duties of a Starter



Q: When is a player considered to be late for his starting time?

A: When the official clock has turned to the assigned starting time. Ex. 8:00 starting time, player is late when the clock turns from 7:59 to 8:00. We will have a digital clock in each starters box.

7:59:59



# Duties of a Starter



Q: When is a player considered to be late for his starting time?

A: When the official clock has turned to the assigned starting time. Ex. 8:00 starting time, player is late when the clock turns from 7:59 to 8:00. We will have a digital clock in each starters box.

8:00:00



# Duties of a Starter



Q: When is a player considered to be 5 minutes past his starting time?

A: When the official clock has turned 5 minutes past the assigned starting time. Ex. 8:00 starting time, player is disqualified when the clock turns from 8:04:59 to 8:05:00. We will have a digital clock in each starters box.

8:04:59



# Duties of a Starter



Q: When is a player considered to be 5 minutes past his starting time?

A: When the official clock has turned 5 minutes past the assigned starting time. Ex. 8:00 starting time, player is disqualified when the clock turns from 8:04:59 to 8:05:00. We will have a digital clock in each starters box.

**8:05:00**

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# Duties of a Starter



Q. A player's starting time is listed on the official starting sheet as 9:00 a.m. He does not arrive at the 1st tee until 9:00:45 a.m. and claims that, as it is still 9:00 a.m., he is not late for his starting time. What is the ruling?

A. When a starting time is listed as 9:00 a.m., the starting time is deemed to be 9:00:00 a.m. and the player is subject to penalty under Rule 6-3a if he is not present and ready to play at 9:00:00 a.m. Therefore, the player is disqualified unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty under Rule 33-7.

USGA Decision 6-3a/2.5



## Duties of a Starter



Q. In a stroke-play competition, A, B and C were drawn by the Committee to play together starting at 9 a.m. A and B were present at the appointed time. C arrived at 9:02 a.m. after A and B had played from the teeing ground, but just in time to play in the correct order.

What is the ruling?



# Duties of a Starter



A. As C arrived and was ready to play within five minutes after his starting time, he incurred a penalty of two strokes for failure to start at the time established by the Committee (Rule 6-3a).

If C had arrived more than five minutes after his starting time, the penalty would be disqualification. In either case if the Committee determines that exceptional circumstances had prevented C from starting on time, there is no penalty.

All competitors in a group must be present and ready to play at the time established by the Committee, in this case 9:00am. The order of play is not relevant.

USGA Decision 6-3a/2





# Duties of a Starter



- Q.** A player is assigned by the Committee to a group with a 9:00 am starting time. He arrives at the 1st tee at 9:06 am but for whatever reason (e.g., weather, slow play or a ruling) the starting time has been delayed until after he arrives. What is the ruling?
- A.** As the group was unable to start at the time originally established by the Committee and the player arrived before it could do so, the player is not in breach of Rule 6-3a.

USGA Decision 6-3a/4



# Duties of a Starter



**Q.** In stroke play, A, B and C were scheduled to start at 9:00 am. All players were present at the 1st tee at 8:56 am. Without being given authority to do so by the Committee, A started at 8:58 am, B started at 8:59 am and C started at 9:00 am. What is the ruling?



# Duties of a Starter



A. Unless the Committee considers that the players have started early as a result of an error by the Committee or its representative, A and B are subject to a penalty of disqualification for failing to start at the scheduled time (see penalty statement under Rule 6-3a).

However, in view of the fact that starting within five minutes after the time of starting results in a penalty of two strokes in stroke play under Rule 6-3a, the penalty for starting early, but within five minutes of the starting time, should be the same.



# Duties of a Starter



Therefore, under Rule 33-7, the Committee should modify the disqualification penalty to two strokes, unless there is good reason not to do so, e.g., the players ignored a direct instruction from the Committee not to start before 9:00 am.

C incurs no penalty as he did start at 9:00 am, which was the time established by the Committee. (New)

USGA Dec 6-3a/4



# Duties of a Starter



Each starters box will contain:

- ✓ Starting and pairing sheet.
- ✓ Official score cards (in starting time order).
- ✓ Blank club score cards.
- ✓ Pencils.
- ✓ Digital clock.
- ✓ Notice to Players and Local Rules Sheet.
- ✓ Hole location sheets.
- ✓ Permanent marking pens.
- ✓ Tees
- ✓ Sunscreen/bug spray

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# Duties of a Starter

Greet each player when they arrive at the starting tee. Shake hands and introduce yourself.

Give each player prior to play:

- His own score card (make sure it has the right name and hometown).
- There is no official score card in match play. However a match play score card may be given at certain events to players for online scoring.
- Local Rules sheet/Daily hole location sheet (One per team in a four-ball event.)
- Pencil.



# Duties of a Starter

Tell each player prior to play:

- Switch score cards with a fellow-competitor. (This constitutes assigning a marker.)
- Make sure to identify and/or mark his golf ball.
- Count the number of clubs in his bag, no more than 14.
- Order of play. (left to right OR top to bottom on starting sheet)
- Where scoring area is located.
- Any special instructions. (cart rules, etc.)
- Any special local rules (preferred lies)
- Ask if they have any questions





# Duties of a Starter



- Remember that the Starter needs to control that starting tee. (sometimes it is like herding cats!)
- Have players prepared to start play at the starting time (if fairway is clear)
- Notify players how much time remains before their starting time so they will be ready to play.
- Tell players “1 minute” or “30 seconds” until the start time
- If a player is late to his starting time announce to the other player(s) the missing player’s name and that he is officially late (notify CGA official-in-charge)





# Duties of a Starter



At the starting time, announce each player or team (name, hometown, state) in order on the starting sheet to begin play.

Individual Event:

“This is the (blank) starting time”

“From (Hometown/State), (Player A)”. Player A plays

“From (Hometown/State), (Player B)”. Player B plays

Repeat for Players C and D.





# Duties of a Starter



Four-Ball Event (Announce Both Team Members):

“This is the (blank) starting time”

“From (Hometown/State, Player A) and From (Hometown/State, Player B)”

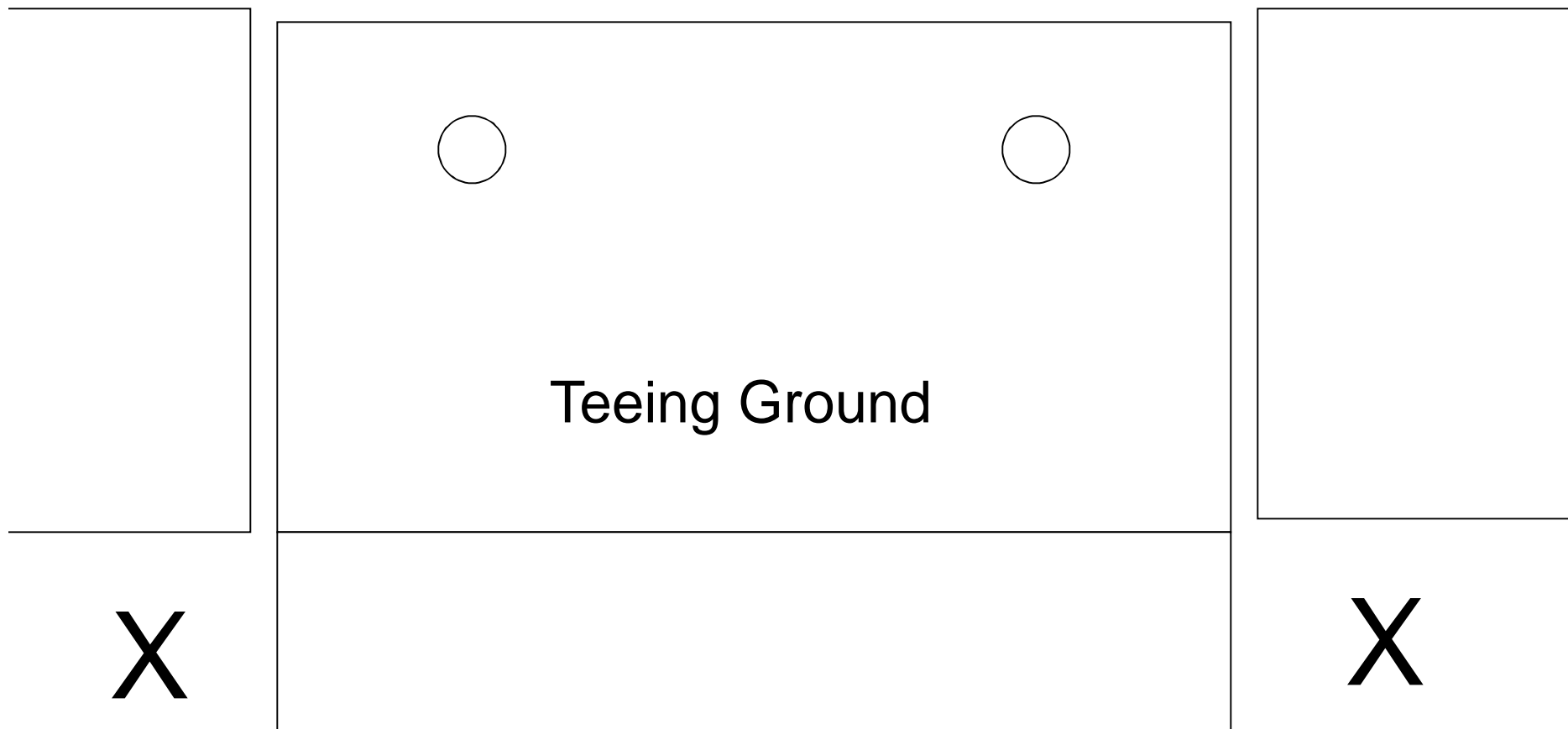
Repeat for other team after Team A plays.

\*Remember in Four-Ball that partners can play in any order





# Duties of a Starter



Starter should stand behind and to the side of players when announcing players: X marks the spot

Avoid standing in gray shaded areas



# Duties of a Starter

After the last group has cleared the tee:

- Make a call on the radio to let official in charge know all groups are on the golf course.
- Notify officials of any tee time delays
- Return starters box to its original location so it can be packed for the next round (or afternoon start).
- Give the official starting sheet to a CGA staff member.
- For some championships, the starter may need to keep track of which player's caddie has a caddie bib. Denote by writing a "B" or "BIB" in top right corner of that player's scorecard.