

# Pace of Play Around the World

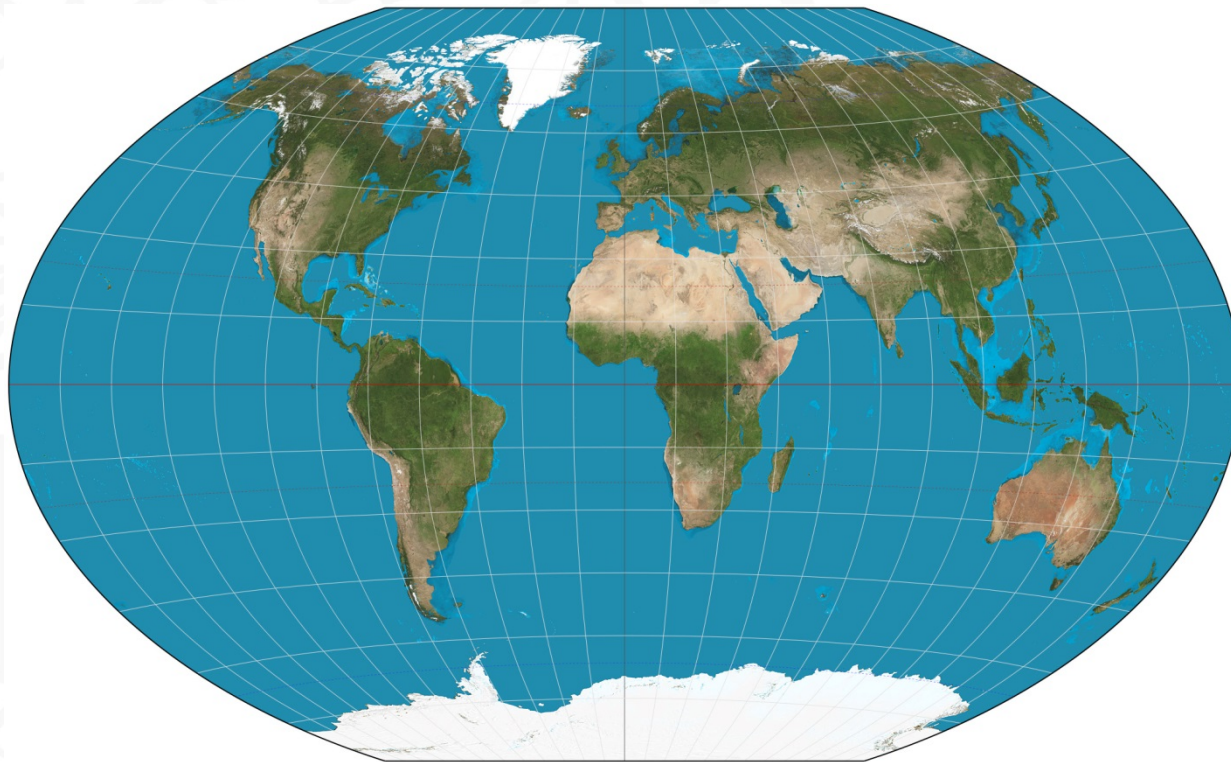
Kevin Barker

Assistant Director, Rules, The R&A

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# Pace of Play Around the World - Competitions

- The R&A Pace of Play Policy
- R&A Affiliates



## The R&A Pace of Play Policy

- Background
  - concern about pace of play
  - lack of enforcement
- Concentrated efforts at
  - Amateur Championship
  - Boys Amateur Championship



# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

What is it?

- Hole-by-Hole timing policy
- Starting intervals
- Starter's gaps
- Standard times allowed per hole

	Par 3	Par 4	Par 5
Groups of three	11 mins	14 mins	17 mins
Groups of two	10 mins	13 mins	15 mins

# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

- Definition of “Out of Position”
  - 1<sup>st</sup> group and any group after a starter’s gap
  - other groups
- Maximum times per shot
  - 40/50 seconds
  - + 10% tolerance

# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

## Penalties

- 1 bad time - warning
- 2 bad times - one stroke/loss of hole
- 3 bad times - further two strokes/loss of hole
- 4 bad times - DQ

# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

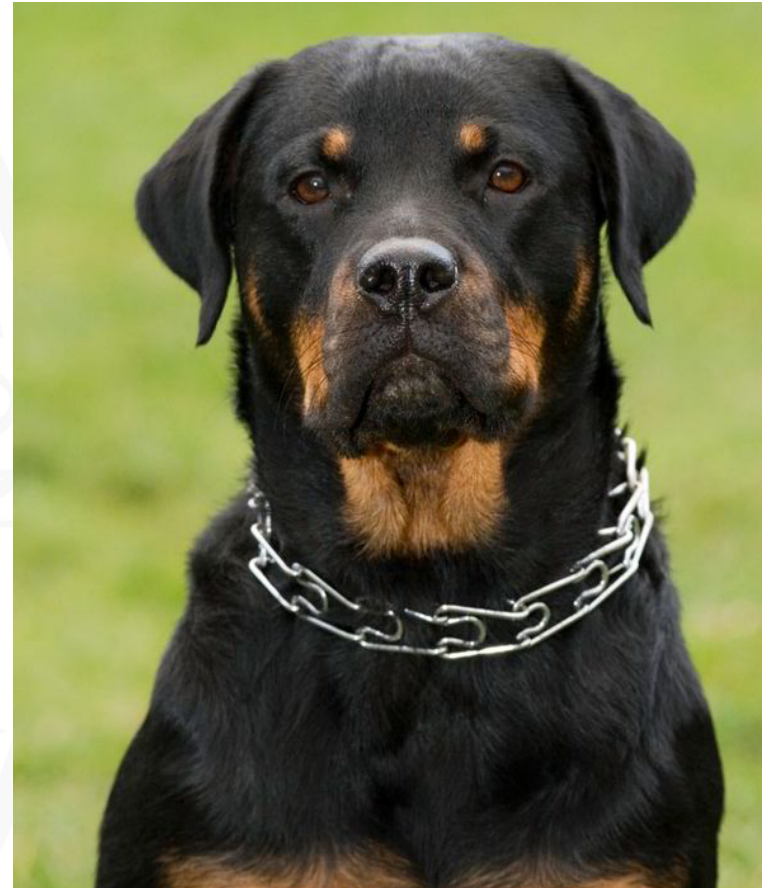
How does it work in practice?

- Issue Guidelines for Referees
  - early groups are the key
  - be proactive
  - when to time?

# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

## Key Factors

- Enforcement



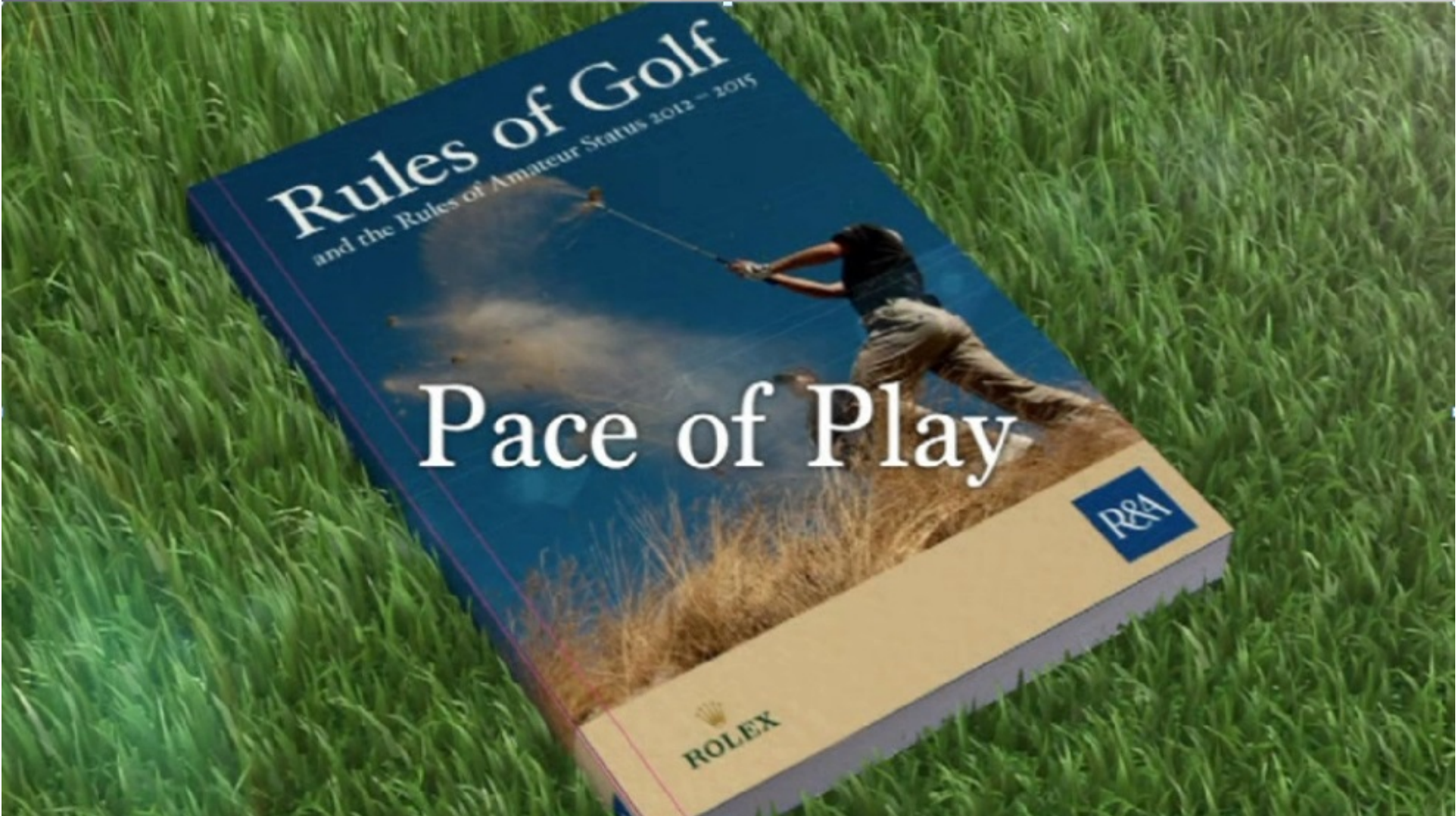


# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

## Key Factors

- Enforcement
- Communication with players
  - pre-competition

TES GOLF ASSOCIATION



Rules of Golf  
and the Rules of Amateur Status 2012 - 2015

# Pace of Play

ROLEX

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# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

## Key Factors

- Enforcement
- Communication with players
  - pre-competition
  - during the competition

# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

## Key Factors

- Enforcement
- Communication between referees

# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

## Key Factors

- Enforcement
- Communication
- Referee Training
  - empower
  - practise



# The R&A Pace of Play Policy

## Results?

- Lots of timing
- Some penalties applied
- Average round times are encouraging



## R&A Affiliates

- Number of players timed
  - 2012 – 274
  - 2013 – 250
- Fines
- 26 one-stroke penalties since 1998

### Observations

- Progress limited by large field size + two tee starts
- Plateaued
- Education





## R&A Affiliates



- Pace of play policy similar to R&A/European Tour
- Pace of play generally OK
- Reluctance to enforce/no penalties given

### Observations

- Early action is paramount
- Professional tours are the shop windows
  - players should set an example
  - fines should be deducted from order or merit money

## R&A Affiliates



- Pace of play policy similar to R&A/European Tour
- 4-5 referees per event
- Penalties seldom given

### Observations

- No pace of play education of players

## R&A Affiliates



- Pace of play policy similar to R&A/European Tour
- 3-4 referees per event
- Only one penalty issued

### Observations

- Not all referees are comfortable timing

## R&A Affiliates



- Pace of play policy similar to R&A/European Tour
- 3-5 referees per event

### Observations

- When enforced properly, pace of play is good
- Players not used to being timed
- Not all referees are comfortable timing

## R&A Affiliates



- Checkpoint system
- 4-5 referees per event
- Rare to exceed 4:35 for a 3-ball

### Observations

- Coaching methods are extending pre-shot routines
- Professional tours need to lead by example

## Conclusions?

- Enforcement
- Communication
- Training
- Professional tours are an important part of the mix
- More to be done...

# USGA Pace of Play Symposium 2014



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