



Memorandum

To: All Metropolitan Clubs & Metropolitan Group Secretaries
Cc: P Hanlon – RVBA, L Schulz - VLBA
From: RVBA Greens and Match Committees
Date: 4 November 2009
Ref No: MSC 117/09
Subject: Pace of Greens

The RVBA & VLBA Guidelines for the pace of greens used for their respective events and Pennant have been set at 13 seconds to 17 seconds for many years.

While most clubs generally observe this range some clubs are frequently outside the guidelines and in some cases even go to the extreme of “fudging” or coercing visiting side managers to accept an incorrect time in order to stay within the guidelines.

Sometimes too, in contravention of RVBA Pennant Procedures set out at MC No. 124/09 dated 21 September 2009 timing has been carried out without a member of a visiting side present to verify the timing and at times well before 12.30pm. This can result in a request from the visiting side that the green be timed in their presence which can seriously affect the start and finishing time of a game.

It is important that the Pennant Green Pace Form and the Pennant Check Form (yellow) are completed correctly and accurately to reflect the true situation regarding the pace of the green and these forms will continue to be checked to ensure that greens are running within the current guidelines of 13 - 17 seconds.

Clubs whose greens are continually outside the guidelines can expect to be contacted soon for them to advise what corrective action is intended to be carried out to bring their green(s) up to standard and will be given two weeks to do so. Initially it will be necessary for offending clubs to liaise with their Greenkeeper/ Green Director and/or contact the installer of the green to arrange for the necessary maintenance work to be carried out and in the case of synthetic greens this may only entail heavy brushing to remove contaminants.

Clubs who continue to have greens consistently outside the guidelines or disregard the guidelines without genuine reasons e.g. extreme weather, may face the possible closure of rinks or the green itself during the season and if this is the case prior to the second last round of pennant the current entitlement for sectional finals to be played on the green(s) of sides finishing in 1st and 2nd place on the ladder will be withdrawn from the aberrant club(s).

Rule 12 of the RVBA Rules for Competition should also be borne in mind where complaints are received from a club regarding excessive pace of the green.

The co-operation of all clubs is sought to ensure that suitable greens are available for all players to participate and enjoy their bowls on an acceptable and virtual level playing field.
