**SHOT CLOCK MASTERS Q&A**

**GENERAL**

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| **QUESTION** | **ANSWER** |
| **Q.** What is the intent of the Shot Clock format? | **A.** To demonstrate that if every player plays within the time allowances set, pace of play can be significantly improved. The objective is not to penalise players, indeed by advising every player when the clock is starting and having a visible clock with each group, players will have every chance to avoid a penalty. |
| **Q**. How does the referee determine when to start the clock? | **A.** This Q&A will help explain some typical situations in more detail but ultimately the nature of golf creates many variables in when it can be deemed that it is now the players’ turn to play. Taking account of all these variables and following a set of “guidelines”, the referee will always be the sole arbiter of when the clock should start. |
| **Q.** Should a player wait to be advised by the referee that the clock is being started? | **A. NO.** Given the nature of the tournament, players are encouraged to play as soon as they are able to do so**.** |
| **Q.** For a timing to be taken, **MUST** the player be advised that the timing process is commencing? | **A. YES.** If for any reason the referee is unable to advise the player that he is starting the clock, no official timing will be carried out and he will simply use the **No Time Recorded** button. |
| **Q. On the starting hole,** how will the referee let players know when the clock is starting when there are announcements being made by the starter**?** | **A.** To avoid confusion, the referee will **not** tell the players when the clock starts on this tee but timing will commence as soon as the player announcement by the starter has concluded. |
| **Q.** Will “tap – in” putts be recorded? | **A. NO.** It is impractical to time a short putt or “tap-in” therefore the referee will simply use the **No Time Recorded** button. |
| **Q**. If the timing process has commenced and the player being timed calls for a ruling or is distracted and backs off his shot, will the clock continue to countdown? | **A**. **NO**. The clock should immediately be **Paused** and after assessing the situation, the referee, at his sole discretion, will either:-  **1. Restart** the clock from zero or  **2.** **Resume** timingfrom when the player has restarted his pre-shot routine to the point where the clock was paused.  Note - Any distraction will need to be **significant and obvious** to the referee/and or other players in the group before a referee will make allowance for this and the referee is the sole arbiter of whether an allowance needs to be made for this. |
| **Q.** In the event of a system failure with the digital shot clock, what will the referee do? | **A. The referee will** report the issue immediately. He will carry on **Official** timing as per all other shots but just using a hand-held stop watch. |
| **Q.** What happens if the referee makes a mistake, such as inadvertently commencing timing at the wrong moment or giving a 50 second allowance rather than 40 seconds? | **A.** He will press the **Restart** button which will allow him to commence that timing process again. |
| **Q.** Is it necessary for the player to be able to see the clock during the timing process? | **A. NO.** Although this will always be the intention, situations will arise on the golf course where it is impossible to position the clock where the player is able  to see it, such as when he is playing from woods or bushes. |
| **Q.** Will a provisional ball be timed and is there a penalty if the player exceeds the time limit in playing this shot? | **A. YES** but if the provisional ball does not become the “ball in play” then any penalty will be disregarded. |
| **Q.** If a player exceeds the time limit and incurs a penalty, is he able to appeal it? | **A. YES** but any appeal must be made before the player tees off the next hole and the player must have sufficient grounds for appeal. If it cannot be resolved directly with the referee with that group, the referee will refer it to the Chief Referee/Senior Referee who will be the final arbiter. |
| **Q.** When the shot clock stops on zero, is this considered to be a penalty? | **A. NO**. the player will only incur a penalty when the clock reaches +1 or beyond. |
| **Q**. If a player incurs a penalty for a bad time how is this applied? | **A.** This will be added to his score for the hole on which he had the bad time. |
| **Q.** How many **Time Extensions** can a player have during a round? | **A. TWO.** The player mustmake it **very clear** to the referee when he is requesting them. |
| **Q.** When can a player call for a **Time Extension**? | **A.** A player may call for a Time Extension either before the clock commences or at any time during the countdown to zero. Once the clock goes beyond zero (e.g., +1, +2, etc.) he is no longer able to request a Time Extension and a penalty will be incurred. |
| **Q.** In the event of a play-off can a player have an extra time extension? | **A. YES**, a further extension will be granted for every 9 holes of a play-off. |
| **Q.** If the group is under schedule for the round and in position with the group ahead and a player in the group incurs a penalty, will this stand, given the groups position on the course? | **A. YES**. The relative position of the group to the schedule or the group ahead is irrelevant. |
| **Q.** What happens if players are unsure who is away? | **A.** The referee will make the decision, inform the players and commence the timing process from this point. |

**INDIVIDUAL TIMING INFORMATION**

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| **Q.** When is a player allowed 50 seconds to play instead of 40? | **A**. 50 seconds is given for a **first to play** approach shot, chip or putt and first to play tee shot on a **par 3 only** (or a reachable par 4)**.** |
| **Q.** Is the 10% allowance normally operated when timing on the European Tour allowed in this format? | **A. NO.** Whenever the clock goes beyond zero (+1, +2, etc.) this will be a bad time. |
| **Q.** If a player is in close proximity to a green and is first to “chip”, does the player who is then first to putt still get a 50 second allowance? | **A. YES** |
| **Q.** If a player is second or third to play an approach shot but cannot stand close to his ball as he is on the line of another player who will play before him, will he be treated like he is first to play? | **A. YES,** he will be given 50 seconds in this situation. |
| **Q.** Can a player pace to the **nearest** measured spot to get a yardage **before** the clock starts? | **A. YES.** |
| **Q.** Can a player walk to the other side of the hole to look at a putt before the clock starts? | **A.** The whole point of Shot clock is to time **the assessment and execution of the stroke.** The referee will start the clock when the player has had **sufficient opportunity** to reach a point when it would be reasonable to expect him to commence this process. If a player begins this process and then decides to walk to the other side of the hole to assess the line, the clock will have started. The smart player will first replace his ball and walk to the other side to begin his assessment. In this way, he can exclude the time for the walk and the replacement of the ball in the time allowed. |
| **Q.** Can a player mark and replace his ball on the green before the clock starts? | **A. Generally, YES.** The referee is timing **the assessment and execution of the stroke** so he will start the clock when the player has had **sufficient opportunity** to reach a point when it would be reasonable to expect him to commence this process. The smart player will mark and replace his ball **before** he begins his assessment, so he can exclude this time from the time allowed. But if a player spends any significant time assessing his play **before replacing his ball**, the referee will be obliged to start the clock and the time spent replacing the ball will be included in the time allowed. |
| **Q.** Can a player repair pitch marks, remove loose impediments, etc. on his line of putt on the green before the clock starts? | **A. YES.** |
| **Q.** Will more time be allowed for very challenging shots? | **A.** The referee is the sole arbiter of when the clock starts and will make his own judgement based on all circumstance as to when this point is reached but as a consistent principle, a few extra seconds will be given for a particularly difficult shot. |
| **Q.** When a player has to drop a ball, is this included within the timing? | **A. Generally NO.** The player will be allowed a **reasonable** time to get a ball back “in play” before the timing process begins. |