

6 Day Timesheet & 'Win Your Tee Time' Proposal

Issue

Golf tee times are booked online, or by calling the pro shop, to get a time slot up to 7 days in advance. This is the usual practice for members looking to play Duntryleague member competitions. I believe visitors are able to book up to 12 months in advance, however, this proposal has no bearing on them.

This proposal only relates to Saturday competitions as only Saturday has a presentation. I believe the women's comp day on Tuesday's has a presentation, but there is no issue booking a time slot on that day due to lower numbers. However, if they choose to adopt something similar, then there should be no reason not to do the same.

Background

Booking at tee time on a Saturday morning is hectic and regimented. The timesheet opens at 6.30am on Saturday morning to book for the following Saturday. The timesheet is called a 7 day timesheet.

If you fail to log in online at 6.30am "on the dot", or a few minutes after, you may miss out on your preferred time slot, and sometimes, miss out on a time slot altogether. This is evident in both the summer and winter months. Summer time has more people playing and winter has a smaller window for getting the best time due to the cold. If you are assigned the job to book a group of players, this can get even more problematic to find a time slot with 4 open spots. Even if you are organised and "sign in" at 6.30am, due to the number of other players trying to log in also, your name goes into a "lottery" and you are then subjected to joining a queue and it's the luck of the draw. By the time you get to putting your name down, a number of spots may have already gone. The booking process is a MiScore issue, not a club issue and it cannot be resolved.

6 DAY TIMESHEET PROPOSAL

Comment

I propose to change the timesheet to book your round, to 6 days from the current 7 days. For example, at present, if you want to play golf on a Saturday you have to book your time slot from 6.30am on a Saturday, 7 days before. However, the proposal is to change the time to 7.30am each day to play in six days time. ie. Saturday golf is booked on a Sunday, Tuesday golf is booked on a Wednesday etc. This proposal is for the entire timesheet available at Duntryleague, 7 days a week, all year.

The benefit of a 6 day timesheet will enable people to organise a game with other players with a shorter window before the next timesheet opens. Currently, by the time you have finished your round, on any day, your name has already been put on the timesheet earlier in the day and if you wanted to have a round with someone, you may have to wait another 7 days because yours, or their time slot, is already full. I can attest to logging on at 6.30am on a given Saturday and trying to remember who I was talking to a week ago and agreeing to put our names down so we could play a round together. My memory has failed me more than once. However, a 6 day timesheet means you could arrange a round with some people, while having a beer after your round for example, and then put all their names down at 7.30am the next day and not have to worry about trying to remember a week later.

A 6 day timesheet should also reduce the need for players to 'block spots'. This is a common practice as people are not sure if another player can play that particular week (7 days away) as they have not yet played with them that day. By setting the timesheet to open the following day, on any round, gives players time to confirm their commitment to play the following week and therefore a more accurate timesheet would be entered once it opens and is fairer for everyone. A player is more likely to know they can play 6 days out rather than 7 days. At present, some players just assume their mates will be playing the following week and put their names down only to confirm later that day whether they can play or not.

A 6 day timesheet has numerous positive attributes and I'm failing to see any negatives, other than people will have to get used to signing on to play golf on another day. Most people have smart phones these days and it is very easy to set up an alarm or a reminder at a specific time, to remind you to log on and sign in to golf (in 6 days time).

A 6 day time sheet will enable the time the timesheet opens to change to a more respective hour. The proposal is to change it to 7.30am from the current 6.30am. The current time of 6.30am is set because that is when the first players tee off on any given day, and if you want to play next week, the first group can easily book their time as they stand on the tee, ready to tee off. If it was later in the day, players would need to stop during their round and book their time slot for the next week, and this would hold up play. The chances players are playing 2 days in a row at the same time is minute, meaning a new 6 day timesheet means a player wishing to play next Saturday, and being on the course at 7am on a Sunday, would fall into this problem. However, players playing that often are rare.

A 6 day timesheet will also assist the Pro Shop as they are already busy first thing of a morning, and if players are having trouble booking online etc, they ring the Pro Shop and have them manually do it. The Pro Shop opens about the same time as the current timesheet opens, and making it a little later now should take a little pressure off them.

WIN YOUR TEE TIME PROPOSAL

Following on from a new timesheet, if it is approved, due to the headache caused by trying to book your round, especially on a Saturday, I propose that players that play well and finish within the top 3 spots in their respective divisions, on a Saturday, should win the opportunity to jump the queue and get to place their names on the time sheet about 12 hours before the time sheet opens the following morning.

If a player places first, second or third in either division 1, 2 or 3, that player wins the right to place their name on the time sheet and avoid the problems

associated with everyone else logging on and trying to book their time slot for the following week. This is a way to offer an incentive to play well and secure your preferred time slot for next week's round. Days when there are reduced numbers, on wet days for example, and there are only 2 divisions, then only 6 players win their tee times etc.

Any player that wins the right to place their name on the time sheet before the 'general public' may choose to either place their name only, or up to 3 other players, in the same time slot for the following Saturday.

Players that have "won their tee time", need to be present during the presentation on that day's play. You can not send a representative of your "group" to claim your prize and book your time slot for next Saturday's round.

The lowest/best score across the 3 divisions gets first choice on the timesheet, second lowest/best score gets the next spot and so on. A tie could simply be a "toss of the coin" to see who gets the preferred time slot among players that have tied, and they both want to the same time slot, and the chance that a gentleman's agreement could not be arranged to choose time slots, would be rare. A simple solution to overcome this could be the person hosting the presentation (usually the Captain) randomly chooses a hole and the player with the lowest/best score on that hole is the winner of the tie breaker. I highly doubt this would be a problem as no one needs to play at exactly a particular time.

This would also help with the 'log jamb' associated with everyone else trying to log on at the same time as there would be, in a perfect situation, up to 36 less players trying to log on to book their times. In saying that, up to 12 time slots would have already be taken though. The fact is, play well and get rewarded and they don't have to worry about booking next weeks round the following morning.

This little incentive is also a way of getting people back to the club during presentation on a Saturday, or some people may choose to stick around a little longer if they are a winner. This makes for more bar sales for the club and also

increases the atmosphere during the presentation and looks better for the club and sponsors.

As most players use their phones these days to record their scores, a player can simply log on to MiScore at any time after their round on a Saturday and track how their score is going against the rest of the field. There is a very minimal degree of unfairness to members as there are multiple ways a player knows how their score is tracking.

Players that play in the morning may say this is unfair as it only benefits the players that play in the afternoon and stick around for presentation as part of their day. Morning players may say they have to travel back to the club or break up their afternoon/evening routine to “collect” their prize. I don’t believe this is a valid argument as players choose when they want to play for various reasons and presentations can only be after a round. No one is being excluded from the process. The morning time slots are also not as contested as the afternoon slots, and if players that play in the morning have no issues getting their preferred time slot in the current format (albeit booking on a Sunday if the 6 day timesheet is approved) then there is no real benefit for them to make the effort to come back to the club at presentation. However, a valid argument there is any player that played on that day should be at the presentation to congratulate the winners and acknowledge the sponsor of the day out of courtesy.

There are 2 ways the names can be added to the timesheet before it opens the following day.

- 1) The Captain and Vice Captain are given access to the MiScore system so they can log on and simply add the names after the presentation. This is a simple process to set up so I have been told by Nathan.

- 2) A sheet is created and players write their names, and the names of their playing partners, on the sheet in the order they won, with their preferred time slot and if the Pro Shop is closed, the Pro Shop staff could simply add them the following morning before the timesheet opens.

Summary - First Proposal

- Change golf timesheet from a 7 day timesheet to a 6 day timesheet for all days of golf and change the time the timesheet opens to 7.30am

Summary - Second Proposal

- Reward good rounds of golf with preferred time slots on the timesheet for the following Saturday comp round. Up to 9 rounds on offer and best results gets first choice, second best gets second choice and so on.

- Open to all Duntryleague members, men and women, who played in the Saturday comp and are present during the results presentation proceeding golf on that day. Visitors are not eligible to “win their spot” for next week.

Recommendation

For favourable consideration.

Sam Morgan
Captain - Duntryleague Golf Club
28 June 2024