



The European Tour is publicly shaming golfers who play too slow

By: [Luke Kerr-Dineen](#) | February 11, 2016 3:52 pm

Anybody who watches golf, especially golf during the major championships, will acknowledge that the game has a slow-play problem. It crops up occasionally during the regular season, but it's always most apparent when the pressure is at its highest, like during final rounds and in the majors — which is especially unfortunate because that's when the most eyeballs are on golf.

The European Tour has started this season with a pretty aggressive plan to combat the issue [which I think is a good idea](#), even if enforcing it may seem a little unfair in the short term. The tour has been ramping up the warnings and threatening fines, and now, in its latest press release, named names of the [players it had recently penalized](#):

A total of 95 groups were 'monitored' in the Middle East (36 in Abu Dhabi, 20 in Qatar and 39 in Dubai), while five players were given monitoring penalties. They were Jordan Spieth (Abu Dhabi, round one); Daniel Brooks (Abu Dhabi, round two); Benjamin Hebert (Abu Dhabi, round four); Eddie Pepperell (Dubai, round one); Gavin Green (Dubai, round two). These players will be fined the next time they receive a monitoring penalty during the 2016 season, with the fines increasing for each subsequent monitoring penalty thereafter.

However, an encouraging factor to emerge from the early implementation of this new policy was the fact that no players in the first three weeks were given a monitoring penalty when their group was in position, a situation which illustrates well that the players are embracing the new guidelines.

Some take issue with the European Tour choosing to enforce the rules with fines rather than with stroke penalties — when you make millions of dollars a year, the thinking goes, a \$10,000 fine won't hurt as much as a two-stroke penalty when you're hunting down the lead of a tournament. That may be true, but it'd also cause more of fuss among players. Simply making that information public would probably accomplish the same thing. It'd be a hard sell for players to lobby to keep that information out of the public eye, and once it is out there, it's hardly a list you'd want to land on more than once.

So good idea, European Tour! Keep it up.