

Officiating 101 Starting Lesson Summary

Getting Ready

- √ Get to the tee **30 minutes** before the first starting time.
- √ Make sure the starting area is **set up and secure**.
- √ Get the **Starter's Box** to the first tee and check its contents, which should include:
 - Atomic clock (synchronized) and a synchronized wrist watch as a back-up
 - Radio (on the correct frequency, with an earpiece so you don't distract a player making a stroke)
 - Pencils and permanent marking pens
 - Tees
 - Official scorecards and extra blank scorecards
 - Notice to Players (Local Rules Sheet)
 - Hole Location Sheet
 - USGA Hard Card (if it's not on the back of the Hole Location Sheet)
 - Starting Sheet
 - Special Notices
 - USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls and
 - USGA List of Conforming Driving Heads (or ready access to the lists)
- √ The atomic clock at the first tee will show the **Official Time**. Record the **actual time** the first player tees off. If play is **suspended**, keep a record.
- √ Check that all the **equipment** is in order.
- √ Keep the **teeing area** calm and avoid chatter.

What Starters Do

- √ Make sure the **starting area** is ready to go.
- √ Start each group **exactly at the time** indicated on the starting sheet.
- √ Hand out the **scorecards**. Remember that competitors *don't* keep their own scorecards. Be consistent: Hand A's card to C, C's card to B, and B's card to A.
- √ Hand out all **special notices**. (Notice to Players, Hole Location sheet, Hard Card, Pace of Play guidelines, time par information)

Announcing and Starting Players

√ What to Say

Follow the starter's script:

- Announce the **full name** of the player without titles (in other words, no Mr. or Ms.).
- When a player is **not from the United States**, announce the country and check with the Championship Director about whether you should announce the city.
- When the **last group of the day** has left the tee, make an announcement over the radio to notify the Championship Director.

√ How to Say It

Use the phonetics sheet:

- If you don't know how to pronounce a player's name, don't ask the player! You'll get a **phonetics** guide (or you can create your own phonetics guide before the competition).
- Practice saying each name—*before* you start your announcements.

√ When to Say It

Start announcing a group so the first player goes forward to play the ball at the group's **starting time**—not any earlier.