



## **Connecticut PGA - Return to Golf Safety Plan**

*Effective – June 29, 2020*

The Connecticut Section PGA is working diligently to conduct events in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and State/Local Government policies and recommendations as they pertain to Covid-19. As such, the Connecticut PGA will be implementing the below Policies and Procedures until such a time that the above organizations deem it safe to remove them (document will be revised and recognized accordingly). Please note, that where these Policies and Procedures directly clash with either the PGA of America Rules & Regulations or the USGA Rules of Golf, these Policies and Procedures will take precedence.

The Connecticut PGA staff will be updated on all Covid-19 restrictions imposed by federal, state, and local governments prior to any events that take place. Any Connecticut PGA staff that show any symptoms/signs of Covid-19 will be required to stay home. All players and caddies that participate in a Connecticut PGA operated event should self-screen before coming to the event for any of the signs or symptoms possible with Covid-19. If an individual does not feel well or is having any symptoms of Covid-19, they must stay home and take the proper precautions (see Refunds).

It is the responsibility of all players, and their caddies, participating in a Connecticut PGA event to fully read and understand these policies and abide by them. An inherent risk of exposure to Covid-19 exists in any public place where people are present and Covid-19 is an extremely contagious disease that may lead to severe illness and possibly death. By registering for and participating in a Connecticut PGA event, players, and caddies, voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to Covid-19 and are agreeing to all the policies in place, including any potential penalties deemed appropriate by the Connecticut PGA Staff.

It is each participants choice if they would like to enact stricter measures than are outlined in this document for themselves, however, restrictions beyond these Policies & Procedures on others are not guaranteed.

### **PRE-EVENT COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES**

- Hand sanitizer “stations” will be readily available throughout the golf course and facilities, but each player and/or caddie are strongly recommended to come prepared with their own hand sanitizer.
- Players and caddies must come prepared with face masks or cloth face coverings.
- Starting times will be created with a minimum of 10 minutes intervals
- The Connecticut PGA will communicate all applicable Local Rules, Hard Cards, Hole Locations, and Contestant Information to players digitally prior to the tournament. Limited items to include scorecard, pencil, and local rules/hole location sheet will be available at the starting area the day of the event.
- All Connecticut PGA staff that may come in close proximity to a player/caddie will be strongly recommended to wear a mask/cloth facial covering.
- All entry fees must be completed in advance through the section website (Blue Golf).

- *Host Facility* - The Connecticut PGA will collaborate with the host facility to ensure alignment of safety precautions and understand any special facility requirements and restrictions.
- All areas accessible to players/caddies will be cleaned and sanitized prior to morning arrivals
- Golf cars and pushcarts (if available) will be sanitized and cleaned by the host facility prior to each use and golf cars will be staged with physical distancing in mind.
- Golf cars are available on a first come, first serve basis. Only two golf cars per group will be permitted. When two riders are sharing a cart, both must wear facial coverings while in the cart. The driver must remain the only driver of the cart.
- All restrooms throughout the property, including on-course, will be sanitized regularly by club staff.

### **PLAYERS/CADDIES**

- The Connecticut PGA will communicate safety precautions to all players prior to the event and their arrival to the host facility. If the player will be utilizing a caddie, it is the players responsibility to be sure the caddie is aware of all the guidelines in place.
- Players and caddies must make “every effort” to social distance during the round (this includes when they are preparing for a shot, walking down the fairway/rough, on the teeing ground, on the putting green, and all other locations)
- Players, or their caddie, are strongly encouraged to transport their own golf clubs throughout (from their vehicle to when they return them to their vehicle).
- Players are strongly encouraged to remove and replace their own golf clubs from the bag and remove their ball from the hole.
- All attendees (players, caddies, staff, volunteers, etc.) will be required to wear a mask/cloth facial covering when in an area that social distancing may not be attainable (i.e. golf shop, locker room/restrooms, practice green, etc.).

### **PRACTICE FACILITIES**

- The short game area and practice putting green will be made available for “warm up” use only. Please limit your warm up time to avoid overcrowding.
- In an effort to maintain social distancing, the Connecticut PGA may restrict the number of players allowed on any practice putting green. Players may be restricted to fifteen (15) minutes when other players are waiting for access.
- Practice greens and the short game area green holes will be filled to prevent the ball from falling into the hole and all flagsticks on the putting green will be removed.
- All non-essential devices will be removed from the practice facilities such as shag bags, devices collect or push balls (such as PVC piping), den caddies, etc.

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### **STARTING:**

- Starters will wear a mask (if recommended) while laying/handing out the scorecards, hole locations sheets, and a pencil on the table for each player or caddie to pick up for the round. Any formal announcements will be made from a minimum of 6 feet once players have received the available documents on the tee.
- Participants will receive a scorecard, hole location sheet/local rules, and a pencil on the starting tee. Any formal announcements will be made from a minimum of 6 feet once all players have received available documents on the tee. .
- No starter's boxes will be available. Tees, ball markers, divot tools, markers and other non-essential items will be removed from the starting tee and it will be the responsibility of the players to bring themselves.
- Only one group will be allowed on the starting tees at a time.

### **BUNKERS AND BUNKER RAKES:**

- All bunkers will be raked in the morning prior to the start of play.
- A minimal number of bunker rakes will be available on each hole and sanitized periodically throughout the day.
- Any player or caddie that handles a rake is strongly recommended to use the hand sanitizing "station" provided on the tee box of the following hole (or use their own).
- Rules Officials will be provided with a sanitized rake and will be observing/manicuring bunkers as necessary during their routine travels throughout the golf course.

### **FLAGSTICK**

- Players/caddies may touch/tend/remove flag sticks if they choose to do so.
- Any player or caddie that touches/handles a flagstick is strongly recommended to use the hand sanitizing "station" provided on the tee box of the following hole (or use their own).
- Flagsticks will be sanitized periodically throughout the day.

### **SCORING:**

- Scorecards will be distributed directly to the marker on the starting tee. Scorecards will not be exchanged between players at that time.
- The scoring official will wear a mask/cloth facial covering (if recommended) while in the scoring area with participants.
- Upon entering the scoring area, players are strongly recommended to wear a mask/cloth facial covering.
- Only players will be allowed in the scoring area (one group at a time).
- Each player should review their scores with the marker and both players shall sign the scorecard.
- Players are strongly encouraged to use the hand sanitizing "station" available in the scoring area immediately following turning in your scorecard.
- Once scores are checked, they will be posted electronically and available on the Blue Golf APP & via the Tournament Information Page on the Connecticut PGA website.

### **STOPPING & RESUMING PLAY**

- During Immediate Suspensions (such as when there is imminent danger from lightning), shuttles may be utilized to retrieve players from the course. While the Connecticut PGA will prioritize the safety from imminent danger over the recommended social distancing guidelines, we ask that players/caddies wear facemasks/cloth face coverings if transportation in a cart is provided.
- During Normal Suspensions (such as for darkness or unplayable course), all players may be required to walk back into the clubhouse while maintaining social distance.
- All players may be required to walk back out to their positions on the course to resume play.
- In the event of a weather delay (imminent danger from lightning or unplayable conditions), all players/caddies are to immediately vacate the golf course and go to their vehicles. Communication about resuming play will take place via emails & text messages.

### **REFRESHMENTS/ FOOD SERVICES**

- All players/caddies are advised to bring their own water, hydration drinks, and snacks.
- The Par Four Restaurant will be open at approximately 8:00 AM each day.

### **CLUBHOUSE/GOLF SHOP**

- The clubhouse and its restrooms are available for use by players and/or caddies. Anyone entering the building must wear a mask/face covering. The Golf Shop will be closed.

### **NON-ESSENTIAL COURSE ITEMS**

- The Connecticut PGA and host facilities will remove benches, ball washers, water jugs, divot sand buckets, tee collection baskets and all other non-essential items from the competition course.

### **REFUNDS**

- If an individual does not feel well, they must stay home and take the proper precautions. A written Request for Refund must be submitted to the section office, in care of the Tournament Director, within five (5) days of the conclusion of said event. Under no circumstances will a refund be sent to a player who withdraws from any tournament after the deadline (June 11) for said entry unless there is a reasonable cause. If the reasonable cause is accepted and approved by the Tournament Committee, a full refund will be returned, less 10% which will be retained by the section for administrative purposes.

**GOOD LUCK, ENJOY THE DAY, AND BE RESPONSIBLE!!!**