

Sport-Specific Protocol: Golf

Last Updated: July 1, 2020

Special Olympics



This document is specific to the sport of golf and is supplemental to the general *Return to Activities Protocol*. It is imperative that golf programs adhere to any protocol outlined below or in the general *Return to Activities Protocol*. If your course has rules in place that are stricter than those provided by Special Olympics, those local rules are to be used.

BEFORE TEAM ARRIVAL

- Ensure venue is disinfected, especially restrooms and golf carts.
- Highly recommend putting physical barriers between rider seats in golf carts.
- If using golf carts, space out golf carts to allow at least 6ft between each cart. Golfers should be able to load clubs and get into golf cart while maintaining social distancing.
- Distribute scorecards and pencils to each golf cart to reduce contact in clubhouse. The person distributing scorecards and pencils should utilize proper PPE and sanitation measures.
- Collect *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* from all attendees (golfers, screeners, county management, family, etc.).

TEAM CHECK-IN

- Check-in area must be setup so that social distancing can be maintained.
- If possible, check-in area should be setup outside to reduce bottlenecks and close-quarter interactions.
- *Athlete Medical Forms* must be checked as usual.
- Check that each participant has a *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* on-site.
- Must follow the “Onsite Screening Protocol for COVID-19” as outlined in the *Return to Activities Protocol*.

BEFORE THE ROUND

- Players may use the driving range for practice provided there is adequate space to allow social distancing. Recommend using every other stall at the driving range.
- Restrict the number of players allowed on any practice putting green or chipping green to however many holes have been cut in the green, with the maximum number allowed being nine(9). Players will be restricted to five (5) minutes in the areas when other players are waiting for access. Encourage course to remove flags from practice greens. If not possible, flags are not to be pulled.
- Meals are strongly discouraged. If a meal will be served, boxed or bagged meals are required. Food preparation and packaging must be done by the caterer. Food must be distributed by a caterer-provided person. Napkins and utensils must be provided by the caterer and distributed individually to each participant. No buffets or banquet style meals are permitted. Concession stands run by the facility are allowed to serve.
- Make regular announcements to reinforce the importance of PPE, hygiene, and social distancing.
- Grouping up should be discouraged as much as possible.

DURING THE ROUND

- You may use a golf cart to distribute water provided:
 - The person distributing the water is utilizing PPE and proper sanitation procedures.
 - The water is in a sealed container.

- One person is handling the water and golfers are not permitted to reach into the water reservoir.
- Community water coolers should be removed from the course.
- Participant golf carts
 - Golf carts should be properly disinfected prior to use.
 - If both golfers live in same household, they do not need to wear masks.
 - If both golfers do not live in the same household, and a physical barrier is not put up between golf cart seats, the golfers MUST wear face masks while in the golf cart.
- Golf balls
 - Each golfer should have their own golf ball.
 - The golfer who tees off should also remove the golf ball from the hole to help minimize indirect contact.
- Pins are not to be removed from holes.
- No high fives, handshakes, or other direct contact. Tapping together club heads will take the place of high fives or handshakes.

AFTER THE ROUND

- No congregating at the clubhouse. Use of restrooms as needed is acceptable.
- Golfers waiting on others to finish their round should wait in the parking lot.
- Recommend setting up a drop box for scorecards to reduce contact. The results person handling scorecards should utilize PPE and sanitation measures.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Social distancing guidelines will be followed at all times if inclement weather forces golfers to move inside.
- Golfers may be directed to their cars if adequate space is not available indoors to maintain social distancing.

PENALTIES

- Programs that do not adhere to these protocols will be suspended from hosting golf events for 1 year.
- Golfers who do not adhere to these protocols may face punishment up to and including loss of Tour points, suspension from the Tour, or suspension from golf competition (Sectionals & State).
- Additional punishment may be given to County Management as warranted, on a case by case basis, according to the *Return to Activities Protocol*.