



## Safety Procedures for Nebraska Junior Golf Events (Tour & TEAM)

Below are a set of proposed Policies & Procedures the NJG staff have generated for the Junior Golf Program that could be put into effect once tournaments resume. Based on the recommendations of the WHO, CDC, and Directive Health Measures from local, state and federal government at the time of resumption, some of these policies may be amended or removed completely. Our #1 goal is to provide a safe and responsible environment for junior golfers while maintaining social distancing and mitigating all congregating. Communication will be had with our host facilities regarding the best practices that will be maintained to ensure the safety of our participants and staff members.

Please note, that where these Policies and Procedures directly clash with either the Nebraska Junior Golf Rules & Regulations or the USGA/PGA Rules of Golf, these Policies and Procedures will override.

**When registering for an event, players must be aware and understand that the ability to have junior events relies solely on following these policies and taking every possible preventative measure to keep all individuals at the event as safe as possible.**

### • COVID-19 Education & Protection

- Based off national and local guidance, it is important for players to understand how COVID-19 spreads and ways to protect yourself.
  - Knowing How It Spreads – The virus is spread mainly from person to person:
    - Between people who are within 6 feet of each other
    - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
    - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs
  - Basic ways to protect yourself
    - Washing your hands often
    - Avoid close contact
    - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
    - Cover coughs and sneezes
    - Clean and disinfect
    - Remain 6 feet away from individuals
- Self-Screening
  - All NJG players will be required to self-screen prior to being on-site at tournaments. This acknowledgement will be stated in a waiver that parents/guardians MUST sign off on when registering for Nebraska Junior Golf, the below will be displayed at check-in and at all Nebraska Junior Golf events.

- **Players must stay at home if they display any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:**
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- **Hand Washing & Hand Sanitizer**
  - When washing your hands, you should:
    - Use soap and water
    - Wash for a minimum of 20 seconds
- **Coughing & Sneezing**
  - If you are in a private setting and do not have your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
    - Throw used tissues in the trash
  - Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer.
- **Pre-Event Communication**
  - **With Players**
    - All Covid-19 related communication is made clear during the event sign up process on the website and via email
    - Pairings and tee times will be sent out via email 3-5 days prior to the event so parents and the players can know when they need to arrive to the course in relation to their tee time
    - Strongly encouraged to bring their own water bottles. NJG Staff will handle water distribution around the course to players.
    - Strongly encouraged to have their own bottle of hand sanitizer
    - Weather delay plan put in place
- **Arrival on property**
  - **Check in**
    - Certain time to show up prior to tee time
      - Players not allowed to arrive more than 30 min prior to their tee time

- Use check-in as normal and to monitor the amount of people on the property. Staff at check-in is responsible for monitoring kids arriving at the right time.
- **All Nebraska Junior Golfers MUST have the event waiver signed by a legal parent/guardian and given to staff at check-in to play in EACH event.**
- Cones spaced 8-10 feet apart will be used to mark where players should stand while waiting to check in
- Players and spectators may **not** enter the clubhouse unless communicated entry points and restrooms are stated
- Spectators are asked to either stay in the car or **be mindful of social distancing (6 feet)** themselves from others while waiting for their junior to tee off
- Practice
  - Practice before the round policy (no more than 30 min before their tee time)
  - Juniors are asked to spend no more than 10 minutes each at the range and on the putting green. **Players must maintain social distancing (6 feet apart) at all times and in all areas.**
  - Avoid any and all contact with non-personal items as much as possible (Ex: practice cups, range balls, etc.)
  - Number of players may be restricted on the practice putting green based on size of the green and number of holes on the green. Players will be restricted to 5 minutes when other players are waiting for access.
  - Driving range – 8-10’ from each other
  - Only allow one person putting to a target on the green (Can’t have multiple players putting to one hole)
  - Golf bags must remain in the golfer’s possession at all times. No staff member/other golfer should handle anyone else’s golf bag.

## **PLAYERS ARE ASKED TO FOLLOW THE TIME GUIDELINE BELOW TO PREVENT CROWDING AROUND WARM UP AND PRACTICE AREAS AT THE FACILITY:**

- **Check-in:** 25-30 minutes prior to your tee time
- **Practice range:** 15-25 minutes prior to your tee time
- **Practice green:** 5-15 minutes prior to your tee time
- **Arrive to the First Tee:** No less than 5 minutes prior to tee time to go over rules
- **Arriving to the tee**
  - Arrive 5 minutes prior to tee time
  - Groups play in 12 or 15 minute intervals to keep them spread out and prevent backups
  - No handshakes, sanitizer on 1/10 tee, players are encouraged to use upon arrival and at the turn
  - **Players must maintain social distancing (6 feet apart) at all times**
  - Starter will not offer any extra handouts on the first tee (tees, candy, pencils, ball marks, sharpies, etc.)
  - This time will serve as the pre-event announcement opportunity to inform the players and caddies (For 9-hole tour and TEAM Golf) of important items they need to know

- Scorecards and any players notice will be handed directly to the marker or marking team (staff will be wearing gloves)
  - Will not be exchanging scorecards at all throughout the entire day

## ● **Playing the Course During the Round**

- Rules
  - For the NJG Tour, apply Covid-19 local rules (see modified rules section below)
  - For TEAM Golf, all currently modified TEAM Golf rules will apply
  - Rakes will have been removed from bunkers at most courses. However, if a rake is present players are asked to not use it. Players are to smooth the bunker with their feet.
- Caddies (for 9-hole tour and TEAM Golf)
  - Must be only:
    - Family members of the player
    - Adult guardian living in the same household of the player or
    - Coaches and PGA professionals
- **Players must maintain social distancing (6 feet apart) on the course at all times.** 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 are strongly encouraged to eliminate usage of benches, restrooms, ball washers and other common areas on the golf course to reduce touch points while playing
- No handshakes after the round. A nod, tip of the cap or a wave to show sportsmanship is encouraged.

## ● **Post Event**

- Scoring
  - Scoring will be outside
  - Only one group will be allowed in the scoring area at any one time
  - No chairs in the scoring area to limit touch points. **Players will stand behind cones spaced 8-10 feet apart in the scoring area.**
  - Scoring area will be defined as the course property
  - Players do not exchange scorecards, instead marker/marking team will verbally confirm scores with the owner/owning team and then reads off the scores to the scorer. The scorer will read them back to the owner/owning team. If the scores are correct, the owner/owning team will confirm and that will certify the scorecard.
  - No signature or trading of scorecards will occur
  - Once scores are confirmed, drop the scorecards in the box or designated area provided. The scorecards will only be referred to if there is a catastrophic scoring system failure or score discrepancy.
  - All scoreboard platforms will be removed to reduce any congregating
  - The scoring official will be at a table and the **players will remain socially distanced (6 feet apart) during the scoring process**
    - Any rulings will take place in a secure area away from the scoring area while maintaining social distancing

- Event results will be posted on [www.nebraskajuniorgolf.com](http://www.nebraskajuniorgolf.com)
- Players must return to their vehicles and exit the property after the scoring process is complete
- **Playoff**
  - There will be no on-course playoffs. All ties, including for first place, will be determined by the USGA recommended method of scorecard playoff.
    - Note: Any ties for first place in PREMIER events will be invited to the NJG Tour Championship
- **Spectators**
  - Congregating will not be allowed post round
  - **Spectators must social distance at all times (6 feet apart)**
  - Upon finishing the round, spectators will not be allowed to linger around the scoring area. They should return to their vehicle to wait until their player returns to them.
- **Awards/Prizes**
  - NJG Tour will not be conducting awards ceremonies at junior golf events. Awards will be mailed to players who earned them following the event or distributed on-site at future events.
  - There will be no proximity markers on the course during TEAM Golf events.
- **General**
  - Golf bags must remain in the golfer's possession at all times. After play, no staff member/other golfer should handle anyone else's golf bag.

## • **Spectator Policy**

- Spectators must be only:
  - Family members of the player
  - Adult guardian living in the same household of the player or
  - Coaches and PGA professionals
- **Spectators must social distance (six feet) from other spectators, players, officials and staff at all times**
- Spectators cannot congregate in groups larger than ten persons
- Spectator carts will be restricted to one (1) person per cart unless riders are immediate family members
  - Must abide by a facility's policy of no spectator carts if applied
- Facility and county health departments have the right to not allow any spectators
- Upon finishing the round, spectators will not be allowed to linger around the scoring area. They should return to their vehicle to wait until their player returns to them.

## **Other player responsibilities**

- Refrain from touching any other golf ball besides your own
- Common sense protocols
  - DO NOT golf if you're not feeling well
  - Don't touch your face
  - Wash your hands as often as possible
  - Limit time spent in the clubhouse



## Nebraska Junior Golf COVID-19 Local Rules

The following local rules will be in effect at all Nebraska Junior Golf events until the Committee deems them unnecessary for the safety of the players or until the USGA removes these local rules. These rules are in addition to the terms of the competition and notice to players for each specific event.

### Practicing Before the Round

Rule 5.2a is modified in this way: Within 30 minutes of their starting time, players may only practice at the facility in which the competition is being conducted. Penalty for breach of this local rule: Warning for first breach, General Penalty applied to the score of first hole played for second breach, disqualification for third breach. This rule and its penalties are applied to each individual event at a time.

### Bunkers

When a ball is in any bunker, Model Local Rule E-3 is in effect. The player may lift, clean, and place the original ball or another ball in the bunker, within one club-length of the original spot of the ball, no closer to the hole. **The relief area must not be smoothed before placing.** Penalty for breach of this local rule: General Penalty.

### Flagsticks

Rule 13.2 is modified in this way: Players are prohibited from moving the flagstick at any time. Penalty for breach of this local rule: Warning for first breach, General Penalty for any subsequent breach. The player is not penalized under this local rule for accidentally touching the flagstick while removing the ball from the hole.

### Holing Out

The definition of Holed is modified in this way: A ball is considered holed if it is resting on an object in place to prevent the ball from falling to the bottom of the cup even if the ball is not completely resting below the surface of the ground. A ball is also considered holed if it hits or touched an exposed hole liner that is raised with the intent to not allow a ball to fall into the cup.

### Scoring

Scoring will be done electronically or with a paper scorecard that is not exchanged between players. In the scoring area, players will certify their scores hole-by-hole verbally and a signature will not be required by the player or marker. The scorecard is considered returned when the player verbally certifies the scores and leaves the scoring area.



The weather delay policy put into place for any event operated while Covid-19 precautions are still in place.

### Three phases of Weather Delay:

#### 1. Players being pulled off course

- a. Due to COVID-19, we will expand our weather radius to give competitors a head start to get back to the clubhouse (Ex: 20 or 25 mile radius instead of 10 miles)
- b. If necessary during immediate suspensions (Ex: imminent danger from lightning), shuttles can be utilized to retrieve players from the course
- c. During normal suspensions (Ex: darkness or unplayable course), all players must walk back to the clubhouse while maintaining social distance

#### 2. Players get back to shelter

- a. All parents/spectators need to go directly to vehicles
- b. Players must join their parents in the vehicle if available
  - i. A staff member will direct traffic and communicate this with players as they come off the course
- c. Have chairs set up six feet apart in clubhouse to maintain social distancing for those who don't have a vehicle to wait in
  - i. A staff member will direct inside traffic to help with social distancing

#### 3. Players getting back on the course following the delay

- a. Competitors will be notified via text/email/website or by a staff member when the delay is extended or expired
- b. Players not allowed to warm up prior to any restart
- c. All players will walk back out to their position on the course to resume play. No shuttles will be utilized for resumption.
- d. Will start play with three air horn blasts once kids are to their places
- e. If making a decision on getting back out on the golf course isn't likely within an hour, the event will be postponed or cancelled

**Pre-course Communication:** What facilities will be open on tournament day?

- Clubhouse
  - Decide if it is big enough to hold juniors and keep them separate
- Cart Barn
- Other shelters
- Coordinate a plan with the course ahead of time

### Communication with competitors

- Pre-tournament pairing emails should detail the plans, bolded and near the top