

# Championship Information for Players

*Updated September 2, 2020*



## Note from Executive Director

On behalf of the Texas Golf Association, I want to thank you for your patience and caution over the last few months as courses, golfers and associations have wrestled with ways to move forward in this pandemic. Over the past few months, I am sure you have all seen the dramatic changes implemented to make it safer to play the game during this time. Many of these changes feel uncomfortable and out of line with the way we have become accustomed to playing. However, guidelines and restrictions simply are in effect right now and govern the way we are able to play. In this document, you'll find our Championship Guidelines that have been developed to provide the safest possible environment at our events. Please review these materials carefully as there are MANY changes and new practices that you must be aware of.

As a player, you will be asked to do things differently or not do things you've become accustomed to. Our staff, volunteers and host facilities are also changing behavior and practices. We are doing our very best to allow our players to get back to playing competitive golf. **I am asking you to also do your best to help us.** Please voluntarily follow the guidelines for players and spectators. We are relying on your cooperation in order to continue our 2020 Championship season safely and successfully. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation. I wish you great success on the golf course.

*Stacy Dennis*

## Summary of Changes

- Flagsticks may be touched and removed.
- Foam cup inserts will NOT be placed in the hole.
- Bunker rakes will be used. Players will not receive free relief in bunkers.
- Players will be provided individual hand sanitizer and encouraged to sanitize hands multiple times during the round including after touching flagsticks and bunker rakes.

## Self-Screening

All players and caddies (if applicable) **MUST** complete a COVID-19 assessment questionnaire prior to each stipulated round. Any player or caddie (if applicable) that has experienced symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate and will receive a full refund.

Please stay at home if you have had contact with a suspected or known COVID-19 patient, if you do not feel well, and/or display any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms.

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills

- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

Please note that public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgement that will protect health and support economic revitalization.

All players and caddies (if applicable) MUST complete a COVID assessment questionnaire prior to each stipulated round. Any player or caddie (if applicable) that has experienced symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate and will receive a full refund.

## Golf Course Maintenance and Setup

### Flags

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- Flagsticks may be touched and removed.
- Foam cup inserts will not be placed in the hole.
- Players will be provided individual hand sanitizer and encouraged to sanitize hands multiple times during the round including after touching flagsticks.

### Bunkers

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- Bunker rakes will be used. Players will not receive free relief in bunkers.
- Players will be provided individual hand sanitizer and encouraged to sanitize hands multiple times during the round including after touching bunker rakes.

## Guidelines for Play

### Carts

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#### *Players*

- Cart availability will be determined for each event based on Championship guidelines, cart availability and club policies.
- All carts will be sanitized before use.
- The TGA will follow the cart policy in place at the host club. If shared carts are allowed by the club, event participants will be required to share carts.
- Where shared carts are utilized, players MUST wear a mask
- while riding with someone who is not in their household.
- Players who are not comfortable sharing a cart or not able to comply with the mask requirement may elect to walk.
- For events utilizing shared carts, only players may ride. Caddies may not ride.

#### *Spectators*

Spectator carts are not available for TGA events.

### *ADA Medical Carts*

- Requests for golf carts must be supported by complete documentation and submitted at least 48 hours in advance.
- Requests must include the completed Cart Request Form and the required accompanying medical documentation specified in that form for all first-time requests.
- Any medical cart request that is granted will be good for that individual for the remainder of that calendar season, however, a Medical Cart must be requested in advance for each event.
- A request will not be deemed complete until all required information and documentation has been provided.

## Player Supplies

### Bottled Water

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Proper hydration for players, staff, and volunteers is a key element of TGA safety procedures for championships.

- The TGA will provide bottled water at multiple locations on the golf course.
- Each water station will include hand sanitizer and gloves. Anyone collecting bottled water is encouraged to use gloves to open the cooler and remove water. Players are encouraged to sanitize hands multiple times during the round including when collecting water.

### Pre-event Information

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Prior to the start of a competition, each player will be provided with the following information digitally.

**The TGA will not provide paper copies of the materials.**

- Complete player information packet
- Player guidelines for safe distancing
- Policy regarding cart availability or walking requirement
- Evacuation procedures
- Caddy policy
- Spectator policy and safe distancing guidelines
- TGA Hard Card
- Blank scorecard

### Competition Materials

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#### *TGA Hard Card*

The Hard Card is available on the TGA website and Tournament Homepages. Players may print their own copy of the Hard Card if needed. **The TGA will not distribute paper copies of the Hard Card.**

#### *Pairings*

First round pairings will be distributed digitally with the pre-event information. **The TGA will not provide paper copies of pairings.** For multi-day events, pairings will be posted on the TGA website and Tournament Homepages.

#### *Scorecards*

- The TGA will utilize digital scoring for all events. Players are encouraged to download the USGA Tournament Management app to utilize scoring on a mobile device.

- Players will receive a digital copy of a blank scorecard with the pre-event information. Players electing not to utilize mobile scoring **MUST** print their own copy of the scorecard and bring it to the event for their use. **The TGA will not provide or distribute paper scorecards at events.**

#### *Hole Location Sheets*

- Daily hole locations will be distributed digitally at the end of the day prior to the next day's round. Players may print their own hole location sheet if needed.
- Copies of the daily hole location sheet will be available on the Tournament Homepage and may be accessed during the round.
- A single copy of the daily hole location sheet will be displayed at the starting tee. Players may take a photo of the sheet and access the photo during the round. **The TGA will not provide paper copies of the daily hole location sheet.**

#### *Notice to Players*

- The Notice to Players will be distributed digitally at the end of the day prior to the next day's round. Players may print their own Notice to Players if needed.
- Copies of the Notice to Players will be available on the Tournament Homepage and may be accessed during the round.
- A single copy of the Notice to Players will be displayed at the starting tee. Players may take a photo of the Notice and access the photo during the round. **The TGA will not provide a paper copy of the Notice to Players.**

#### *Pace of Play Guidelines*

Pace of Play Guidelines will be distributed digitally with the pre-event information and will be available on the TGA website and Tournament Homepage. Players may print their own copy of the Pace of Play guidelines if needed. **The TGA will not provide a paper copy of the Pace of Play guidelines.**

#### *Tees, Pencils, etc.*

The TGA will not provide bulk tees, pencils, ball markers or other similar supplies. Players must provide their own.

### Practice Facility

- Players may have access to practice areas no more than one hour prior to their starting times. Safe distancing must be practiced at all times.
- Limits to the number of players allowed at each practice area (driving range, putting green, short game area) will be established based on space available at each site.
- There will not be shared practice balls and equipment available at the putting green or short game area. Each player may only use his / her own golf balls.
- Practice areas will not be available for use following the round.
- Practice Facility access policies are included in the Code of Conduct. Violations of the policies will be reviewed and players in violation are subject to penalty and / or disqualification.

### Caddies

- Caddie policies will be established for each event based on event requirements and policies at the host club.

- If caddies are permitted for an event for which shared carts are being used, caddies are not permitted to ride.

## Clubhouse

Each host facility will determine policies for access and safe practices in the clubhouse areas. All players are required to fully comply with all club policies at all times.

## Food & Beverage

Buffet food service will not be provided. Information about the availability and serving plans for event food and beverage will be provided for each event based on procedures in place at each club.

## Registration

There will not be on-site event registration. Player gifts (if applicable) will be distributed in the scoring area following the first round.

## Evacuation

### Face Coverings

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- Face coverings are **REQUIRED** when social distancing cannot be practiced outdoors.
- Face coverings are **REQUIRED** for indoor gatherings.
- In the event that players must be evacuated from the golf course, tournament representatives will transport players from the golf course according to the evacuation policy. Any person (players, spectators, volunteers, staff members) provided transportation where safe distancing is not possible are **REQUIRED** to wear a mask. All players and spectators are encouraged to provide their own masks and have them available when needed.

### During suspension of play

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- Procedures and locations for gathering during a suspension of play will be communicated in the event Evacuation Policy.
- In the event that the facility or dangerous weather condition requires gathering indoors, all gathered persons (players, spectators, volunteers, staff members) **MUST** wear a mask. All players and spectators are encouraged to provide their own masks and have them available when needed.
- In order to limit the need for large gatherings, all updates during a suspension of play will be communicated through email, text messages and social media.

## Starting

- The TGA will not distribute or allow for exchange any hard copy materials.
- The TGA will not provide bulk items for player use (tees, pencils, ball markers, etc.)
- Players should arrive at the starting tee with the USGA Tournament Management app already downloaded on their mobile device.
- A single copy of the daily hole location sheet and Notice to Players will be available at the starting area. Players may take a photo of these documents and access them during the round if needed.

## Player Scoring

- The TGA will utilize digital scoring for all events. Players are encouraged to download the USGA Tournament Management app to utilize scoring on a mobile device.
- Players will receive a digital copy of a blank scorecard with the pre-event information. Players electing not to utilize mobile scoring **MUST** print their own copy of the scorecard and bring it to the event for their use. The TGA will not provide or distribute paper scorecards at events.

## Mobile app scoring

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- Players should download the USGA Tournament Management app prior to arrival at the starting tee. The starter will communicate the GGID for each round at the starting tee.
- Players electing not to utilize mobile scoring **MUST** print their own copy of the scorecard and bring it to the event for their use. Players will receive a digital copy of a blank scorecard with the pre-event information.

## Score verification

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- Players must verify scores with a scoring official immediately following the round.
- The scoring area will provide for safe distancing for players and officials. Scorecards will not be exchanged or manually signed. Scores will be considered official once they have been verified and submitted by the scoring official.

## Award Ceremony

- Awards ceremonies will be conducted within safe distancing guidelines.
- All persons are **REQUIRED** to wear a mask if the ceremony location does not provide adequate space for safe distancing practices. All players and spectators are encouraged to provide their own masks and have them available when needed.

## Spectators

- Spectators will be allowed at events as long as the host club permits.
- Spectators **MUST** remain on the cart paths or along the perimeter of the hole and **MUST** maintain safe distancing from all persons.
- Spectator carts are not allowed.
- Spectators are required to comply with all TGA and club policies regarding sanitation practices, safe distancing and mask requirements. Spectators must provide their own masks and must have them available for use when needed.
- Spectators are subject to removal for repeated violations of spectator policy and safe distancing guidelines.