

2020

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RETURN TO PLAY

Provincial Competition Protocols



GOLFONTARIO



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The following protocols have been prepared to facilitate the protection of the health and safety of players, Golf Ontario staff, the host facility staff and volunteers. These protocols are to be used in conjunction with normal operating procedures for Golf Ontario events. **Protocols may change based on government/facility regulations at the time of the competition.**

COMPETITION OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Strictly adhere to government and “We are Golf” guidelines as well as industry best practices
- Strictly adhere to the host facility standards
- Control the flow of players and restrict gatherings
- Minimize the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19

WAIVERS: All players must agree to follow all Competition Protocols and sign the Golf Ontario Tournament Waiver and Release before completing the registration process and agreeing to participate.

ILLNESS: If any player is showing signs of illness they should stay home. If a player becomes ill while at a facility, they should leave the facility in a manner intended to address the safety of the player and others. If a Golf Ontario Official becomes aware of a player who appears to be ill while at a facility, the Golf Ontario Official may require the player to leave the facility in a manner intended to address the safety of the player and others. Players who become ill should go to a COVID-19 Assessment Centre. If a player tests positive for COVID-19 they are asked to advise Golf Ontario and cooperate with Public Health in identifying close contacts. If Public Health deems there to be a risk to other players, volunteers, or staff, Golf Ontario will cooperate with Public Health in identifying and contacting those individuals.

A COVID-19 Self-Assessment can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> . Withdrawals prior to a competition for any illness related issue will result in a full-refund minus the administration fee. For complete details, please see the Golf Ontario Withdrawal Policy.

FIELD SIZES: Competition fields will be limited to help reduce the number of players on course at any given time.

FIRST-TEE STARTS: All championships and qualifiers will start from the first-tee only to ensure social distancing on practice facilities prior to tee times and during weather delays.

LIVE SCORING: Live scoring and pace of play checkpoints will be reduced to the 9th and 18th greens only.

CADDIES: Caddies will be prohibited for all championships and qualifiers.

MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION: No power carts will be permitted with the following exceptions: Senior Men’s, Senior Women’s and Disability Championships will have mandatory single rider carts (cart cost included in entry fee).



SPECTATORS: No spectators of any kind (coaches included) will be permitted on the course, at/in the clubhouse or parking lot. The only exception is as follows: Players 18 & Under may have one accompanying parent, guardian or other adult. Those adults must adhere to the Golf Ontario Spectator Policy.

PULL CARTS: Players wanting to use a pull cart must bring their own.

FLAGSTICKS: For the 2020 season, Golf Ontario will be using Pin Caddy's to restrict players from reaching into the hole to retrieve their ball. Players must not touch with their hand, or remove, the flagstick at any time. Removing or touching the flagstick will be a violation of the Golf Ontario Code of Conduct policy and may result in penalty.

BUNKERS: All bunker rakes will be removed from the golf course. Players may lift, clean and place their ball within one club length of where their original ball lay that is not nearer the hole and in the same bunker. Players are encouraged to smooth their footprints (with foot and/or club) to the best of their ability when exiting the bunker.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING: Players and their golf bags must maintain a minimum six (6) feet of distance between themselves and other players. This includes when they are preparing for a shot, walking down the fairway/rough, on the teeing ground, on the putting green, and in the scoring area. Players not maintaining physical distancing will be in violation of the Golf Ontario Code of Conduct policy which may result in penalty.

GATHERINGS: No gathering of any kind is permitted at a Golf Ontario competition. All scoreboards (manual and electronic) will not be used. Players must leave the facility immediately after their round. Some exceptions may apply for playoffs (players will be notified). Players must not gather (multiple groups) on any tee deck if a hole is backed up. Physical distancing must be maintained.

PRACTICE ROUNDS: There will be a new policy for practice rounds that differs than what Golf Ontario has done in the past. Practice rounds will not necessarily take place on the day prior to the Championship. Players will be responsible to arrange their practice round date and time directly with the host facility based on availability. During the practice round, players must follow the operating procedures of the host facility, including protocols relating to their practice facilities. For more information please visit the tournament website.

FACILITY ARRIVAL: Players must check in for every round with the Golf Ontario Greeter as soon as they arrive at the facility. Players are asked to arrive at the course no more than 45 minutes prior to their starting tee time. Players arriving earlier will be asked to remain in their vehicle.

PRACTICE FACILITIES: To help reduce congestion on practice facilities, players will be assigned 20 minutes of warm-up time on the driving range and 15 minutes on the putting/chipping green prior to their tee time. This will be managed by host club staff. Driving range stalls will be spaced to allow for physical distancing, balls will be set out, and holes will be removed from practice putting and chipping greens. Practice after rounds will be prohibited.

CLUBHOUSE: Depending on government and host facility guidelines, the clubhouse may be closed to all players and accompanying adults with the exception of washroom use. Lockers will not be available. Access to pro shop is based on host facility protocols.

REGISTRATION: Championship registration will be conducted on the first round of the competition. Players will receive their championship welcome package at this time.



FOOD & BEVERAGE: Traditional player meals will not be available before or after the round. Boxed lunches and a bottle of water will be provided on the 10th tee. There will be no on course water stations, players are encouraged to bring their own water bottles or purchase beverages from host facility.

CHAMPIONSHIP HEADQUARTERS: Players and parents must call or e-mail the Tournament Director with any questions or concerns and should refrain from physically visiting Championship Headquarters. Contact information can be found on the tournament website.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): Players will be given a personal hand sanitizer bottle at championship registration upon check in, and will be asked to keep this bottle in their bag for the duration of the championship. Hand sanitizer will also be provided at the starting and scoring areas. All players are encouraged to bring and use their own PPE (masks, gloves, sanitizer, etc).

EVACUATIONS: In case of inclement weather, players and/or accompanying adults will be asked to return to their vehicles. If the clubhouse is open, players without a car can seek shelter inside the clubhouse while still maintaining social/physical distancing. If shuttling players off the course is required, staff/referees/volunteers will be equipped with appropriate PPE given that physical distancing may be more challenging in such circumstances. At minimum, the driver and passenger will both be required to wear a mask if the golf cart is not installed with an appropriate barrier. Instructions to resume play will be provided via text and email notifications to all players.

VOLUNTEERS: Essential operational volunteers will be recruited to execute Golf Ontario events. Volunteer should arrive no later than 20 minutes before their assignment and must leave the facility immediately after their assignment.

CHAMPIONSHIP DOCUMENTS: Hole location sheets, official yardages, pace of play and the notice to players will only be available through the tournament website. A link to these documents will be e-mailed to all players in the field in advance. We encourage all players to familiarize themselves with this information prior to the start of the Championship.

SCORECARDS & STARTING: Scorecards, pencils and tees will be provided only by the official starter.

SCORING: At the conclusion of a round, players are asked to refrain from the traditional handshake or hug. Players must proceed to the scoring area to verify their scores with the scoring official. Scorecards will not be exchanged at the scoring area, scores will be read to the player by the marker and then verbally attested. Only two (2) people (the player and marker) will be permitted in the scoring area at a time (while maintaining physical distancing). Players will be asked to leave the facility upon the completion of play. Players will not be permitted to use the practice facilities after their round. Some exceptions may apply for playoffs.

AWARDS PRESENTATION: Only players who have won a medal will be permitted to attend the awards presentation with the following exception: players 18 & Under may have one accompanying parent, guardian or other adult. Awards will be disinfected prior to players receiving them.

