

## 4.02 PARENT AND SPECTATOR POLICY

Spectators, including parents and coaches, are an integral part of Golf Ontario championships. Our Golf Ontario tournament staff and volunteers work very diligently to ensure the best possible experience for both competitors and spectators at our Golf Ontario Championships. While our goal is to maximize the spectator experience, we must also ensure that the integrity of the competition is preserved at all times. The following parent and spectator guidelines have been developed to ensure everyone's safety and to preserve the authenticity and integrity of our championships. In any case, spectators should not take any action deemed detrimental to the athlete environment and/or experience.

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM GOLF ONTARIO

1. Professionally-run tournaments
2. Friendly, courteous staff and volunteers
3. Certified Rules Officials at all Championships
4. Strict enforcement of Pace of Play & Code of Conduct
5. Positive competitive experience

**MINIMUM DISTANCES AND PROHIBITED AREAS:** A minimum distance of 30 yards must be maintained between the player and spectators in ALL circumstances with the following exceptions:

- Once all players have reached the green, spectators must remain 10 yards from the green.
- Once all players are on the tee, spectators must remain 10 yards from the tee and on the cart path (if one is present).

When cart paths are provided, spectators **MUST** remain on those paths. When no cart paths are available, spectators must stay in the rough on the side of the hole/course.

Spectators are prohibited from the following areas:

- Tees, Fairways, Greens;
- Scoring and Starting areas; and,
- Rules Situations

**ADVICE & COMMUNICATION:** No advice is to be given to any player during a stipulated round. Advice is defined as any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining their play, choice of a club or method of making a stroke.

Avoid all communication, verbal and non-verbal, which may be construed by others (competitors, parents and Rules Officials) as advice.

- Exceptions:
- i) Asking or giving the player food, drink, umbrella or the like;
  - ii) Need to deal with a medical situation.



**LOST GOLF BALLS:** Spectators can help pace of play by observing when and where golf balls stray.

**DRESS CODE:** Each host course has its own particular dress-code policy. Spectators who do not meet the standard established by the host club and/or Golf Ontario, will be refused admittance to both the golf course and/or clubhouse.

**CELL PHONES/SMARTPHONES:** All mobile devices must be set to the "vibrate" only or "silent" mode or turned off. Many golf clubs have policies that prohibit the use of mobile phones on the golf course and/or in the clubhouse. It is the responsibility of the spectator to follow the policy of the host facility.

**GOLF CARTS:** The use of golf carts by spectators is not permitted during Golf Ontario Qualifiers and Championships (including practice rounds).

Possible violations of the Golf Ontario Parent & Spectator Policy should be reported to a Golf Ontario Rules Official, who will inform the Golf Ontario Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will investigate the details of the incident.

### **PENALTIES**

An individual who violates this Policy may be subject to sanctions pursuant to GO's Discipline and Complaints Policy and may be subject to any or all of the following penalties as determined by the Tournament Director in consultation with the Senior Rules/Tournament Official(s):

- Verbal warning to the spectator and/or the player.
- Two-stroke penalty to the player being followed.
- Disqualification from the tournament of the player being followed.
- Spectator banned from the golf course and or property for the round or tournament.
- Spectator banned from future Golf Ontario events.

### **RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Any GO disciplinary decision imposed as a result of a breach of this Policy may be appealed in accordance with GO's Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy.

**AFTER THE COMPETITION:** Parents & Coaches should encourage players to send thank-you messages to those who contributed to the success of the tournament.

We welcome any and all letters of suggestion to Golf Ontario that will help us make our Championships even more special for all involved.