



GOLF ONTARIO

Golf Ontario is Ontario's Provincial Sport Organization focused on enhancing participation, elevating performance and supporting the passion of golfers in Ontario. With over 100,000 individual members and 450-member clubs, Golf Ontario is one of the largest golf associations in the world. From rating courses and keeping the integral rules of the game intact, to growing the game at the grassroots level and hosting the best amateur tournaments in Canada, Golf Ontario is a passionate group dedicated to shaping lives through Golf.

2021 PROVINCIAL COMPETITIONS HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

(Approved April 2021)

Golf Ontario as the recognized Provincial Sports Organization, has created the following protocols to protect the health and safety of the local community, host facility, players, officials and volunteers. These protocols will be used in conjunction with normal operating procedures for Golf Ontario competitions for the 2021 season.

COMPETITION OPERATING PRINCIPLES

1. **Priority will be given to the health and safety of all people involved with competitions regardless of their vaccination status**
2. **Strictly adhere to provincial and local government, host facility and “We are Golf” guidelines**
3. **Consistent protocols to each competition**

Any breach of the protocols below may result in a violation of the Golf Ontario Code of Conduct policy

OPERATION PROTOCOLS

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.

GATHERINGS: No gatherings of any kind are permitted at Golf Ontario competitions including the course, parking lot, starting and scoring areas. Players must not gather (multiple groups) on any tee deck if a hole is backed up. Physical distancing must be maintained at all times.

SPECTATORS: Due to government mandated regulations, NO spectators of any kind (coaches included) will be permitted on the course. Exception: Players 18 & Under may have ONE parent or guardian that must adhere to the Golf Ontario Spectator Policy and check in with the Golf Ontario Greeter and complete a wellness check. In case of inclement weather during a player’s round, the parent or guardian must remain onsite with their vehicle.

EVENT PERSONNEL: Only essential event personnel will be allowed on site including staff, officials, and facility volunteers. Personnel will be asked to leave the facility immediately following the completion of their assignment. All event personnel must complete a self wellness check prior to arriving to the facility.

ILLNESS: Any player experiencing symptoms of an illness is required to stay home and notify the tournament director. If symptoms of illness are known or observed by a Golf Ontario Official the player will be asked to go home immediately and contact their local health unit. Withdrawals from events for any illness related issue will result in a full refund. For more information on the COVID-19 Self-Assessment can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>.

WAIVERS: All players must agree to follow all Competition Protocols and waive liability for all claims before completing the registration process and agreeing to participate.

SANITATION: Common touch points and event personnel equipment will be sanitized or disinfected prior to use.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): Players will be given a personal hand sanitizer bottle at each championship by the Golf Ontario Greeter. Players should 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 must bring and use their own PPE (masks, gloves, etc). Golf Ontario will supply PPE to event personnel only

EVENT PROTOCOLS

FIELD SIZES: Traditional championship field sizes will be limited to help reduce the number of players on course at any given time.

FIRST-TEE STARTS: All championships and qualifiers will be conducted using a first tee start to control the flow of players and ensure physical distancing on practice facilities and during weather evacuations. Tee time intervals will be made to maximize player flow and avoid congestion.

FACILITY ARRIVAL: Players must not arrive at the course more than 30 minutes prior to their scheduled tee time unless another time has been specified. Players arriving earlier will be asked to remain in their vehicle. Players must check in for every round including official practice rounds with the Golf Ontario Greeter as soon as they arrive at the facility and complete a wellness check.

PRACTICE FACILITIES: All practice facilities during the competition are reserved for players only. Unless otherwise stated and to help reduce congestion on practice facilities, players will be assigned 20 minutes of warm-up time on the driving range and 10 minutes on the putting/chipping green prior to their tee time. This will be managed by host facility staff or volunteers. Driving range stalls will be spaced to allow for physical distancing and any roped off areas will display the max occupancy. Practicing at the host facility after a round is prohibited.

REGISTRATION: Event registration will be conducted on either the official practice round or the first day of the competition.

PRACTICE ROUNDS: For championships that have a designated practice round, players must follow the same protocols as tournament rounds. This includes restrictions on arrival times, practice facilities, parent or guardian etc. Pace of Play will also be enforced.

For championships without an official practice round, players will be responsible to arrange their practice round date and time directly with the host facility based on availability and fees. Players must follow the operating procedures of that host facility. For more information please visit the championship website.

LIVE SCORING & SCOREBOARDS: Scoreboards (manual and electronic) will not be used during the season. Instead, priority will be given to live scoring at pace of play checkpoints and final groups.

CLUBHOUSE: The clubhouse, food & beverage and pro shop operations may vary depending on local government and host facility guidelines at the time of the championship. If outdoor dining is not available, all players, officials, volunteers, parents or guardians must leave the facility immediately after their round/assignment.



FOOD & BEVERAGE: Depending on local government and host facility guidelines at the time of the championship, player meals may only be available after the round. As an alternative, boxed lunches will be provided. Hydration stations will be set up on course where volunteers will be handing out bottles of water. However, players are encouraged to bring their own water bottles or purchase beverages from host facility.

TOURNAMENT OFFICE: Players and parents must call or e-mail the Tournament Director with any questions or concerns and should refrain from physically visiting the on-site Tournament Office. Contact information for the tournament director can be found on the championship website.

AWARDS PRESENTATION: Only players who have won an award will be permitted to attend the awards presentation with the following exception: players 18 & Under may be accompanied by one parent or guardian. Awards will be disinfected prior to players receiving them.

EVACUATIONS: In case of inclement weather, players, parents or guardians 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 physical distancing. If shuttling players off the course is required, staff/referees/volunteers will be equipped with appropriate PPE. The driver and passenger will both be required to wear a mask. Instructions to resume play will be provided via text and email notifications to all players.

GOLF PROTOCOLS

FLAGSTICKS: Players must not touch or remove the flagstick at any time. Golf Ontario will be using soft hole disks (pool noodles) to restrict players in retrieving their ball from the hole.

CADDIES: Caddies are prohibited for all championships and qualifiers.

MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION (Power Carts): Players may use power carts at the following championships (qualifiers included): Senior Women, Senior Men, Mid-Am Men and Disability. Single carts can not be guaranteed and players may have to share. Players sharing carts must adhere to the government mandated mask rule while both players are in the cart.

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.

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 players and officials will be permitted in the scoring area (while maintaining physical distancing). Players will be asked to leave the facility upon the completion of their round except for possible playoff scenarios.

CHAMPIONSHIP DOCUMENTS: Daily 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 advance of the championship. Players should familiarize themselves with this information prior to the start of the competition.