



PGA
Southern California

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PGA
COVID-19 TOURNAMENT BEST PRACTICES

The Southern California PGA has implemented the following guidelines in response to the precautionary measures related to COVID-19. The adopted protocols will be executed at all Section, Division and Chapter events to ensure the safety for all participants, volunteers and staff. It is the SCPGA’s top priority to continue to provide safe and responsible programming.

The SCPGA best practices are produced with the reference of the “Back2Golf Operations Playbook”, which has been reviewed by the CDC, along with the guidelines and recommendations outlined by the CDC, State and County health officials.

It is our responsibility to follow these guidelines and we thank you for your attention to these details.

Guidelines are subject to change.

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- All participants must wear a face covering in the parking lot and around the clubhouse. The face covering may be removed once leaving the starting tee and while on the golf course; unless the county restrictions require the face covering must be worn at all times. Participants must also have face covering upon completion of their round when arriving to the scoring area.
 - It is the participant's responsibility to provide his or her own face covering.
 - Should the participant decline to wear a face covering, they will be withdrawn from the event and refunded of their entry.
- Section staff, facility staff and rules officials are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Sanitary gloves must be worn by staff when handling items that others may come in contact with, not limited to tournament day but also during administrative preparation prior to tournament day.
- Sanitizing stations will be made available to staff and participants near the practice, starting and scoring areas.

ARRIVAL & PRACTICE FACILITIES

- Participants must arrive NO EARLIER than 45 minutes to the host facility prior to their starting time to reduce crowding and allow proper social distancing.
 - If you arrive earlier than 45 minutes from your start time, we kindly ask you remain in your vehicle until the 45 minute time-line is reached.
 - Practice areas are only available to participants during their time allotment.
- Spectators are restricted from all areas of the golf course during the event.
- If a Skins Game is offered, entries will be cashless and collected using the Venmo application. Staff will pay all skins electronically via Venmo.
- Range balls will be staged in stalls that are at the least ten feet wide and the stalls spaced six feet apart; if mats are utilized the same distancing shall be used with the mats at least eight feet apart.
 - Participants only permitted at practice range, no family or spectators.
 - Players must not exceed 15 minutes on the practice range.
- There will be no holes cut in the practice green or the holes will be raised above the level of the green to prohibit the golf ball from falling into the hole.

STARTING

- Tee times will be the method for starting. No shotgun starts.
 - Pairings will be released 2-3 days prior to the event.
- There will be one group only on the starting tee and each player shall maintain at least six to eight feet separation at that point and throughout the round.
- Tournament documents will be e-mailed digitally to all players the evening prior to the event as well as posted on the tournament page and SCPGA application to allow participants to print documents remotely.
 - The SCPGA app may be used during the round to view tournament documents.
 - Players may also take photos of tournament documents and refer to them during their round.
- Tournament information such as scorecards, Notice to Players and hole location sheets will be properly laid on the table for the players to pick up one at a time prior to any announcements made by the starter. Please ask that players retrieve these materials individually to maintain proper distancing.
 - The starter will be wearing a face covering and sanitary gloves.
- Participants will not be required to exchange or attest scorecards.
 - Paper scorecards will have each competitor in the group.
- No starter boxes will be available on the starting tees.
- No beverages or snacks will be available on starting tees or at scoring.
 - Players are encouraged to bring their own necessities such as sharpies, tees, water, sanitizer, etc.

DURING THE ROUND & RULINGS

- Players must maintain social distancing and stay at least six to eight feet away from other individuals while on property.
- Caddies are not permitted.
- If golf car use is permitted, it is under the single rider policy. If a player walking is to place their golf bag on the car, that individual must remain walking. Should players prefer to switch drivers during the round, it may be done so only by following proper sanitizing of the golf car. It is recommended that only one player drives the golf car for the duration of the competition.
- Flagsticks must remain in the hole during play. Players should not touch or move the flagstick for any reason during the competition. See Local Rules.

- All bunker rakes will be removed. See Local Rules.
 - Participants may bring their own rake should they wish.
- All cups will be placed in the ground for competition to allow the ball to properly drop in the hole. Players will be responsible for using a touchless e-z lift device that will be attached to the flagstick. This device will allow players to retrieve the ball once holed out by using your club head to pull the lever up, remaining touchless.
- All individuals must maintain distancing when assisting players with ball searches.
- For any rulings, participants may call a Rules Hotline that will be available with the phone number listed on the Notice to Players. Should the ruling not be resolved verbally over the telephone, a SCPGA Rules Official will report to assess the ruling.
- Rules Officials must maintain proper distancing when assisting players with ruling. In addition, no drive-backs will allowed.
- Competitors shall refrain from shaking hands or any other contact with an individual.

SCORING & AWARDS CEREMONY

- All players will be required to keep a paper scorecard, which will include all competitors in their group. Players must keep score for each competitor in their group. No exchanging or attesting of scorecards will be required.
- Electronic scoring will also be available by using the BlueGolf scoring application. Digital scores are not official.
- Upon the completion of the round, players will be required to verbally verify hole-by-hole scores while maintaining proper spacing. Do not exchange scorecards.
- An official scoring box will be provided in the scoring area to submit scorecards. Once the scorecard is placed in the box, it is official.
- The scorekeeper will be collecting scorecards in a safe space.
- Once players submit their scorecard, please immediately proceed to your vehicle and depart property.
 - Should a player be in contention, we ask that you please do not wait near the scoring area or create gathering.
- Players may view leaderboards on their personal electronic devices using the SCPGA application.
 - No scoreboards will be available for viewing at the event.
- The awards ceremony will begin at the conclusion of the event and will be limited to only the Champion(s) and SCPGA staff. All trophies will be properly sanitized and placed on a table. When the winner is announced, they will proceed to the table to accept their respective award and staff will step to the side.
 - All staff and participants must wear proper PPE during awards.

- Please, no gathering or congregating. Results and winnings will be posted online.

LOCAL RULES

- All local rules that apply to the competition will be included on the Notice to Players that will be distributed to players prior to the round. In addition, the following rules will be applied during COVID-19.
- The Flagstick; the flagstick must remain in the hole during play. If a stroke is made without the flagstick in the hole, results in a 1-stroke penalty for breach of a local rule. Maximum of 1-stroke penalty per hole. If the flagstick is removed inadvertently and then replaced before a stroke is made, no penalty.
- Bunkers; when a player's ball comes to rest in a bunker, that player may lift their ball and smooth the sand and replace their ball one scorecard length where it was lifted. Outside of this action, Rules 8.1a and 8.1b remain in effect. The ball may be cleaned during this procedure. Substituted Ball rules still apply 6.3b.
- Ball Holed; if a ball bounces out of the cup because of a depth restriction object, the ball is not holed. Players must hole out. Rules 3.3c and 6.5.