

WESTERN NEW YORK PGA

COVID-19

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS PLAYBOOK

*Effective as of 06/19/2020



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and putting your health and safety first, the Western New York PGA Junior Golf Committee and Section Staff are making changes to adhere to all state and CDC Guidelines during our Junior Golf Tournaments. The Western New York PGA has created these policies to keep golf safe and follow guidelines set forth by State Governments within our boundaries. These policies have the potential to be changed/extended throughout the season dependent on requirements and policies set for by the State and CDC.

Please note, where these Policies and Procedures directly contradict the WNYPGA Junior Golf Handbook, Rules of Golf, and WNYPGA Junior Hard Card (WNYPGA Terms of Competition), these COVID-19 Policies and Procedures will override.

The Junior Golf Handbook is available online and It is the responsibility of all players participating in WNYPGA Junior Tournaments to fully read and understand these policies and abide by them. By registering for and participating in a WNYPGA Junior Tournament, players are agreeing to all these policies and accepting any penalties deemed appropriate by the WNYPGA Staff.

COVID-19 EDUCATION AND PROTECTION

Covid-19

- Based on national and local guidance, it is important for players to understand how COVID-19 spreads and ways to protect yourself.
 - Knowing How it Spreads - The virus is spread mainly from person to person:
 - Between people who are within 6-feet of each other
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Screening

- All WNYPGA Competitors and Spectators (1 per play MAX) will be screened upon arrival to the tournament site and will be asked to go home if the temperature measured is greater than or equal to 100.3 degrees fahrenheit. In addition, if that player or spectator rode with another player they will be asked to go home as well.
- Players must stay home if they display any of the following any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills or repeated shaking with the 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

*Any players who need to be sent home per the above screening will be fully refunded their entry portion from that event.

Social Distance/Player Contact

- The WNYPGA asks that regardless of their position on the golf course, players maintain 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 area, on the putting green and all other locations.
- All players must refrain from touching their fellow competitors in any way, including shaking hands prior to and following the round.
- Players must not touch, handle, or share each other's equipment.

Coughing & Sneezing

- **We ask that you kindly wear a face covering in interactive areas (starting tee, scoring area, etc.).**
- If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer.

GENERAL PLAYER INFORMATION

Registration

- All registrations must be completed with a credit card through Blue Golf before arriving at the facility.
- There will be no checks or cash accepted on-site to limit potential contact with a WNYPGA Staff member. If you are having trouble registering or paying online, please reach out to a Section Staff member before the entry deadline via phone.

Arrival Time/Practice Areas

- Junior competitors are not allowed to access the property more than one (1) hour prior to their starting time. If you arrive at the facility prior to this time, you must stay in your vehicle.
- The WNYPGA will be taking everyone's temperature (including spectators) when they arrive and reminding them to check in on their mobile app. It is the player's responsibility to know their time of starting and be on the starting tee five (5) minutes prior OR after the group in front of them has left the tee. There must be only one group on the tee at any time.
- Players will be allowed to access the practice range 45 minutes prior to their starting time and the practice green 15 minutes (i.e. 9:00 am tee time - Arrive at 8:00 am to get screened / Range 8:15 am -8:45 am / Practice Green at 8:45 am). Please note: This time may be adjusted based on proximity of practice areas to the 1st tee. Final guidelines will be listed event by event on the notice to competitors.

Tournament Paperwork

- The WNYPGA will provide all applicable Local Rules, Hard Cards, Hole Locations (when Applicable) and Notice To Competitors via email prior to the tournament rather than passing out paper copies at the tournament site. Players will also be able to access all these documents via their mobile devices through the WNYPGA Jr Golf App during play or on wnypga.com.
- An instructional video on how to use the WNYPGA Junior App will be available to all players prior to the tournament season.

Starting Format

- All events will be consecutive tee time starts to reduce the number of people congregated in one area.
- Starting times and groupings will be emailed to all players prior to the tournament, posted on the Tournament Information Page and available on the WNYPGA Jr Golf App.

Scorecards

- **Will NOT be distributed on the starting tee.** All players will be required to keep score on the **WNYPGA Jr Golf App**. You will keep score of the player assigned to you. You will be able to mark your own score but it will not be your official score.

SPECTATORS

- For spectators, the following additional safety measures apply:
 - Spectators are limited to 2 per player.
 - Spectators must maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals and/or family/household units at all times and all spectators must wear face coverings when they are in common areas and situations where six feet of distancing is not able to be maintained.

TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS

Practice Facilities

- Driving Range
 - Players will be allowed to gain access to the driving range forty-five (45) minutes prior to their time. Players will be restricted to thirty (30) minutes on the range. Those with tee times closest to the current time have priority. Please be courteous.
 - We encourage all players to utilize their home course prior to events.
 - The WNYPGA will be working with facilities to set up the driving range utilizing every other station in order to maintain social distancing.
- Putting and Chipping Green
 - Players will be restricted to fifteen (15) minutes in the areas when other players are waiting for access. Those with tee times closest to the current time have priority. Please be courteous.
 - The WNYPGA will have all host facilities remove the flagsticks from both the putting and chipping green.

Practice Following the Round

- Practice on the putting green, chipping green and driving range following the round is prohibited.

Scoring

- Once the round is completed, players must proceed straight from the final green to scoring with all their equipment. They are not to stop to converse with other players, not to go to their car or the parking lot for any reason.
- Only the junior competitors are allowed in the scoring area.
- Only one (1) group will be allowed into the scoring area at a time. All players must maintain proper social distancing throughout the process.
- There will be no chairs at the scoring area. All players will be required to stand during the scoring process.
- All players must stand behind the plexiglass barrier between the players and the scoring official(s).
- Once all scores have been reported and verified by the player and the scorer the card will be official.
 - This process will ensure that every player's score has been certified as accurate by themselves, as well as the other players in their group.

Weather Delays

- In the event of a horn blast signaling a discontinuance of play, all players must proceed directly to the nearest course shelter or their vehicles. When in a shelter it will be required to wear face coverings. The WNYPGA will contact the player via cell phone to let them know of any resumption of play. The WNYPGA will be conscious of the length of delays under this policy.
- There will be no warmups available after a weather delay in order to ensure no congregating.

TEMPORARY RULES CHANGES

Bunkers

- The host facility will be asked to remove all rakes from the course. After your shot please smooth out the bunker with your feet or club to be courteous to your fellow competitors. However, should a facility elect not to remove these, the WNYPGA accepts no liability for them and encourages players that use extreme discretion regarding their use.

Holing Out/Flagstick

- **The Flagstick MUST NOT be touched.** Players will be required to putt out with the flagstick in the hole. There will be foam in the holes or EZ Cup lifters to make it easier to retrieve the ball from the hole. If someone does not feel comfortable reaching in the hole to retrieve their ball, please be sure to bring devices that can help (suction cup, etc.).

WNYPGA & FACILITY EQUIPMENT

Spectator Golf Carts

- It is at the discretion of the host facility if they want to allow spectator carts. The WNYPGA is working with each host facility to ensure that carts are being properly sanitized.

Sand Buckets

- The WNYPGA is asking that all host facilities remove the sand buckets from Par 3's. However, should a facility elect not to remove these, the WNYPGA accepts no liability for them and encourages players that use extreme discretion regarding their use.

Starter Boxes

- The WNYPGA will be removing starter boxes from tees. Players are responsible for bringing their own pencils and tees to an event.

Scoreboards

- The WNYPGA will not be utilizing any scoreboards or TV scoring per social distance gathering recommendations. All scoring will be available in "real time" on the WNYPGA Jr Golf App or on wnypga.com.

Ball Washers and Benches

- Since it is impractical for facilities to remove ball washers and benches, the WNYPGA asks that all players refrain from utilizing either of these items.

Trash

- All players are asked to remove their own trash from the facilities.

Hand Sanitizers/Face Coverings

- The WNYPGA will provide hand sanitizer in areas of high traffic.
- Junior players and spectators must have their own face covering and It is strongly recommended that all players utilize face coverings when in close proximity to the Section Staff.

Bathrooms

- The WNYPGA will ensure that each host site has at least one (1) male and (1) female bathroom available.

WNYPGA Jr Golf APP

The WNYPGA Jr Golf has an App that gives access to all Tournament Information Pages, tournament documents, tournament registration and leaderboards. Please visit the Apple and Android App Stores for the Free Download. An instruction video on how to use the app will be available for players before the season events start.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time.

WNYPGA Junior Golf Committee and Section Staff