



TCAT Plans for Competition

In light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent safety protocols and requirements put in by the CDC and WHO, this document will serve as the “Plan for Competition” for any and all Texas Collegiate Amateur tournaments starting immediately. These policies are in place out of an over-abundance of caution to help provide the safest opportunities for all junior golfers.

These mandatory policies will apply to TCAT staff, players and spectators at any TCAT event, and will be in place indefinitely under the recommendations of the WHO and CDC and the requirements of the state of Texas, the county and city in which the tournament is taking place.

These policies will detail the base standards the TCAT will operate under due to the COVID-19 outbreak at time. Please note, as time goes by and things change, these policies may be altered and relaxed in accordance with health/state guidelines.

It is the responsibility of all players and spectators participating in a TCAT event to fully read and understand these policies and abide by them. By registering for and participating in a TCAT event, players and parents are agreeing to all these policies and to accepting any no-tolerance actions outlined in these policies or determined necessary by the Tournament Committee.

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

Below are highlights of some of the main policies, procedures and rules spelled out in this document. **It is the responsibility of the player and spectator to read and understand all the detailed rules, policies and procedures**, not just those highlighted on in the summary.

For Players

- Players will be assigned a specific time when they can arrive before their tee time, and a specific amount of warmup time, which will be posted by Noon the day before Round 1

- All flagsticks must be left in the hole at all times and may not be touched by any player
- Players will be given GUR relief from any disturbed area within a bunker
- Players must provide their own pencil/pen/marker to keep score, TCAT will not provide them with anything on the first tee other than a scorecard, water and hand sanitizer
- TCAT will attempt to provide water to players on the No. 1 and No. 10 tee, but it is highly recommended that players also bring their own form of hydration, as water will not be readily available across the golf course
- Players must not shake hands with or touch in any way their playing competitors

For Spectators

- There will be a maximum of 2 spectators per player at any given time on the golf course, plus any siblings, unless further restricted by the course or county.
- TCAT will defer to the golf course regarding the use of spectator carts and will strictly follow the course guidelines and requirements
- Spectators must at all times stay on or close to the cart path
- Spectators are highly encouraged not to arrive on the main golf course property any earlier than 5-10 minutes before their player's tee time. Any crowding of spectators and violation of social distancing protocols may result in course or TCAT officials asking spectators to return to their vehicles.

General Policies & Procedures

- TCAT staff will be required to have a facial covering with them at all times and wear it any time they are engaged with a player or spectator
- Anyone exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend any TCAT event for 14 days after symptoms arise
- All staff, players and spectators are required to maintain proper social distancing at all time
- TCAT will do our best to provide any updates or changes to these policies based on course or county rules 5 days before the tournament begins – please help us by monitoring your e-mail and checking the tournament info page for specific updates related to an event

I. TCAT STAFF AND VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

All TCAT staff and volunteers at a given tournament will be required to perform the following:

- TCAT staff members must verify their temperature before each tournament round. Any TCAT staffer or volunteer found to have a temperature over 100 F and/or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms (based on CDC and local guidelines) will not be permitted at the tournament for the duration of the event and will not be permitted at any tournament for 14 days following unless medically cleared by a doctor.
- Any staffer diagnosed with COVID-19, or that has come in contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19, is not permitted at any TCAT event for 30 days following a diagnosis or contact, regardless of symptoms.
- TCAT staff members and volunteers will be required to wear a mask/facial covering that covers the mouth and nose during any interaction with players and/or spectators. These actions include, but are not limited to:
 - o Running check-in, starting on the No. 1 tee and running the scoring area
 - o Issuing any on-course ruling or discussion with players and/or parents
- TCAT staff members will be required to wear clean gloves when handling any item that is to be given to (or placed out for) players or spectators. Any item given to players or parents may also be sanitized via cleaning wipes or cleaning spray. These items include, but are not limited to:
 - o Scorecards on the No. 1 tee
 - o Bottled water & hand sanitizer
 - o Tee gifts
- TCAT staff members and volunteers will be required to sanitize or wash their hands at least every two hours for the duration of a tournament round

II. SPECTATOR POLICIES

The TCAT's main priority for each and every tournament is to provide a safe environment for players to experience the level of play and competition they are accustomed to on the TCAT. We love all our spectators and thank you so much for your support, and sincerely ask that you help all of us by adhering to these new (and temporary) policies. To that end, adjusted Spectator Policies are as follows:

- There will be a maximum of 2 spectators allowed per player at any given time, plus related siblings. Spectators may rotate out among a player/group at any time, as long as the maximum number of spectators per player and group is not exceeded.

- Spectators are highly encouraged not to arrive on the main golf course property any earlier than 5-10 minutes before their player's tee time. Any crowding of spectators and violation of social distancing protocols may result in course or TCAT officials asking spectators to return to their vehicles.
- Spectators MUST practice social distancing at every opportunity and stay 6-10 feet away from all other spectators and players in the group they are following.
- Spectators are required to stay on the cart path or in very close proximity (1 step) from the cart path at all times.
- Spectators are permitted to carry food, drink and other items (umbrellas, outerwear, sunscreen, etc.) for their player/child and permitted to give such objects to players as long as it is done quickly, and they quickly return to social distancing.
- Spectators will not be permitted to assist in looking for lost balls with players, but may communicate an entry point or approximate location to any player verbally, as long as social distancing is maintained and the spectator remains on the cart path.
- The allowance/use of spectator carts will be regulated completely by the golf course and strictly enforced by the TCAT. Exceptions will not be made by the TCAT for any reason.
- Any spectator exhibiting any symptoms associated with COVID-19 is not permitted at any TCAT event for at least 14 days.
- Any spectator diagnosed with COVID-19, or that has come in contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19, is not permitted at any TCAT event for 30 days following a diagnosis or contact, regardless of symptoms.
- Any spectator found to be in violation of any of these policies will be asked to vacate the primary golf property immediately, without exception. Egregious offenses may result in an extended or permanent ban from TCAT events for the spectator and, if necessary, the player.

III. GENERAL PLAYER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

These general Code of Conduct policies will apply to all players participating in a TCAT event. The TCAT reserves the right to remove any player from an event and suspend them 1 additional event if these policies are not followed to the best of the player's ability.

These are general player policies that are required at all TCAT events; additional policies and practices that may be specific to a given tournament venue will be communicated in a tournament-specific Plan of Competition document to all players 3 days before the event.

- Any player experiencing a temperature above 100 F and/or exhibiting symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 is not permitted to participate in a TCAT event for 14 days once symptoms present unless specifically cleared by a doctor. Any player exhibiting any symptoms is encouraged to seek medical attention and doctor's recommendation as to a return to play.

- Any player diagnosed with COVID-19, or that has come in contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19, is not permitted to participate in any TCAT event for 30 days following a diagnosis, regardless of symptoms or contact, and must present a note from a doctor clearing them to participate to the TCAT Executive Committee.
- Any player found in violation of the above policies, or found to have purposely hidden or not disclosed symptoms or diagnosis, will be banned from the TCAT for a length to be determined by the TCAT Executive committee.
- Players must not shake hands with or touch in any way any fellow player or non-related spectator. Players must also not share any equipment, food or drink with other players or non-related spectators.
- Players will not exchange scorecards and must supply their own writing utensil to keep score. Specific starting, score recording, and reporting procedures will be outlined in subsequent policies below.
- Players must, at all times, maintain proper social distancing (6-10 feet) from one another and from spectators. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - o Not walking/riding closely together and not standing by other player's golf ball.
 - o Not standing near other players while on the tee box or green.
 - o Keeping proper social distancing while searching for golf balls.
- We understand that there may be instances where accidental violations of social distancing occur within the course of a round, and TCAT staff will attempt to constantly remind players of proper social distancing practices. However, any player found to be in continued violation of the social distancing practices outlined in this document and communicated by TCAT staff may be disqualified from the tournament at the discretion of the Rule Committee.

IV. TEMPORARY RULES & CODE OF CONDUCT CHANGES

These temporary rule(s) or Code of Conduct changes are in accordance with guidelines and recommendations put forth by the USGA during the COVID-19 outbreak.

A simplified version of each of these policies/rules will also be printed on each tournament's Conditions of Competition sheet.

- Players will be required to leave the flagstick in at all times and are prohibited from touching the flag in any way (to the best of their abilities).
 - o A violation of this rule will result in a warning upon first occurrence and the general penalty (2 strokes) upon subsequent occurrences.
 - o If it has been determined that a player has touched a flagstick, tournament officials will attempt to determine the level of the occurrence (accidental/unavoidable contact vs intentional/unnecessary) when deciding to issue a penalty.

- Accidentally touching the flagstick while retrieving the ball from the hole will not be considered a violation of the policy, although players are encouraged to do their best to avoid contact with the flag in all instances.
- Any disturbed area in a bunker will be deemed Ground Under Repair, and players may take full relief under GUR procedures (USGA Rule 16.1c) but must stay inside the bunker. This rule applies even if rakes are present.
 - Disturbed areas include (but are not limited to) footprints, divots, ball marks and other disturbances that may have been caused by players/caddies/spectators.
 - Reminder – under Rule 16.1c, the player must drop the ball from knee height, and is not permitted to place the ball. The player does also have the option to play the ball as it lies.
 - Players are encouraged to use their best judgement when determining if an area in a bunker is disturbed, and to confer within their group for confirmation.
 - If rakes are present, players are encouraged to rake the bunker after their shot, but are not required to if a player feels uncomfortable touching the rake due to Covid-19 threat
- Players will be permitted to use their cell phones to contact a rules official and discuss a ruling scenario over the phone if necessary.
 - At the bottom of the Conditions of Competition for an event, a contact phone number for each group's rules official will be printed. Utilizing a cell phone to contact that rules official will be the only time player will be permitted to use their phone during a round. (See below for more information on Conditions of Competition distribution before each round).

V. TCAT TOURNAMENT PROCEEDURES

Below are the details concerning the changes to standard tournament, day-of procedures, such as check-in and arrival times, warming up, the first tee, scoring and others. These are general policies that will be in place at every TCAT tournament, but may look slightly different event to event given the nature/layout of the golf course.

A. Player & Spectator arrival times and check-in

- All players will be required to check-in before warming up or beginning their round and must arrive/check in no later than 10 minutes before their tee time.
- To maintain smaller crowds and groups, players will not be allowed to check in/begin warming up any earlier than 45 minutes before their tee time
- Any player attempting to enter the primary golf property before their designated arrival time will be required to return to their vehicle and stay in the parking lot until their designated arrival time.

B. Player Warm Up

- The TCAT will strictly follow each golf course's rules regarding practice facilities. There may be many instances where the practice facilities at a course are closed due to local government guidelines, and that status will be communicated to players by Noon (12pm) the day before the event.
- The TCAT reserves the right to close off any practice areas to TCAT players that may be open to the public in an effort to further promote safety and control social distancing. The closure of any specific practice area will be communicated to players by Noon (12pm) the day before the event.
- As noted above, no player will be permitted on any practice area until he or she has checked in before their round at their allotted arrival time.
- Any player or spectator who blatantly disregards these rules or instructions from a TCAT staffer on site may be asked to leave the premises immediately and removed from the tournament. Players may also be subjected to an additional 1-tournament penalty.
- If a player has an alternative, safe, site in which to warm up, we encourage them to do so. No concessions will be made, however, for arrival after your tee time.

C. Starting, The No. 1 Tee

- The first tee and starting area will be set up so as to allow for proper social distancing for all players and starter. Spectators are not permitted anywhere near the starting area.
- Players will only be provided their fellow competitor's scorecard on the first tee and are not permitted to exchange cards or shake hands (or touch their fellow competitor in any way).
- Players must bring their own writing utensil for recording scores, as none will be provided on the 1st tee and players will not be permitted to share.
- Players and parents will be provided with a digital copy of the Tournament Rule Sheet via e-mail by Noon the day before the tournament (it will also be posted on the Tournament Info Page) for review, and are encouraged to print a copy for themselves and bring it to the golf course.
- A single Rule Sheet will also be set up on the first tee and players will be allowed to take a picture with their cell phone and will be permitted to reference that photo during the round.
- Each player will be provided at least 2-3 bottles of water on the No. 1 and No. 10 tee. Bottles will be set out on a table and thoroughly wiped down with disinfectant for each player/group. Due to safety concerns, there will be no coolers on the golf course, and snacks will also not be provided.

D. End of Round, Scoring and Scorecards

- Once the round is completed, players must walk straight from the 18th green to scoring with all their equipment. They are not to stop to converse with spectators, not to go to their car or the parking lot for any reason.
- TCAT asks that players do not shake hands after the round.
- Spectators must return to their vehicles after the round, they are not permitted to linger anywhere near the scoring area, No. 18 green or No. 1 tee.
- The scoring area will be expanded to properly accommodate social distancing protocols and roped off for players only. Players will be instructed by the scoring official as to where to sit or stand for score reporting.
- Players will not return or exchange scorecards. Player A will read aloud Player B's score, hole-by-hole, and Player B will verify or correct those scores while the official enters them into the computer.
- Once all scores have been reported and verified by players and the scorer, each player will twice sign the scorecard in their possession – once on the “Scorer” line and once on the “Attest” line of the same scorecard.
 - The signature on the “Scorer” line is standard, and the signature on the “Attest” line will signify that the player signing approves his or her own score that was read aloud and verified by the scorer, the player and the scoring official.
 - This process will ensure that every player has signed twice – once as a scorer and once to attest their own score – without having to exchange scorecards.
- Once all scorecards are signed, the scoring official will direct players to drop their scorecard in a box near the scoring table. This action will signify the completion of scoring for the group.

E. Scoreboards, Awards, Award Ceremonies

- There will be no physical scoreboard at any TCAT event for the remainder of the summer tournaments (through Aug. 31). All scores may be viewed online at www.TCAT.com
- There will be no award ceremony at the end of a tournament. Once scoring for a group is complete, players and spectators are required to vacate the premises and may follow along on the online leaderboard.
- Champions will be contacted via phone and Top 3-5 finishers will be announced and celebrated via social media. All awards will be mailed to players within 3 business days of the tournament completion.
- There will be no on-course playoffs. All ties, including for first place, will be determined by the USGA recommended method of scorecard playoff, which compares the back 9 of the final round for all players tied.