



# TJGT COVID-19 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 Junior Golf Tour tournaments.

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## SUMMARY OF 2021 UPDATES

Below are the most recent updates/amendments to the COVID-19 policy. You can also read them in the full policy text within this document

### For Players

- All scoring will be done via the ShotStat Live app on player phones. Players will also be sent pin sheets for certain tournaments the night before via e-mail, and hole locations will also be available in the app. There will be no paperwork given to players on the No. 1 tee.
- Players will be permitted to arrive 1 hour before the tee time to begin their warm up session on the driving range. If the driving range is closed, players will be permitted to warm up 30 minutes before their tee time.
- All flagsticks are still to be left in the hole at all times and not be touched by any player
- Hydration stations will be provided throughout the golf course for each round. Players are instructed to carefully take water bottles from the cooler 1 at a time

### For Spectators

- There will be no general limit on spectators at TJGT events. However, we highly suggest that only immediate family members attend as spectators and as few spectators attend as possible. TJGT reserves the right to change this policy at any time based on state guidelines
- Spectators are highly encouraged to wear facial coverings when on the golf course
- Spectators must fully comply with all county/city regulations regarding facial coverings inside any clubhouse or proshop

## **TJGT STAFF AND VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

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

- TJGT staff members must verify their temperature before each tournament round. Any TJGT staffer or volunteer found to have a temperature over 100.4 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 developed COVID-19 symptoms will not be permitted at any TJGT event until they have passed guidelines laid out by the CDC for a positive COVID test ([CDC Guidelines Here](#))
- Any player confirmed to have had contact with someone who has COVID-19 will not be permitted at a TJGT event until CDC guidelines for direct exposure/close contact are satisfied ([CDC Guidelines Here](#))
- TJGT staff members and volunteers will be required to wear a mask/facial covering that covers the mouth and nose at all times during a tournament round
- TJGT 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

## **SPECTATOR POLICIES**

The TJGT'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 TJGT. 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 no general limit on spectators at TJGT events. However, we highly suggest that only immediate family members attend as spectators and as few spectators attend as possible. This policy could change at any time due to course, city or county guidelines regarding spectators. Any changes for a given tournament will be communicated with the tournament field as soon as possible.
- Spectators are highly encouraged to limit the amount of time they spend at the facility to reduce the risk of crowding, especially before and after a round. Any crowding of spectators and violation of social distancing protocols may result in course or TJGT 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. There will be no exceptions.
- 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 may be permitted to locate player golf balls before the group arrives, but must maintain proper social distancing and must vacate the area once the players arrive and begin searching for a golf ball.
- The allowance/use of spectator carts will be regulated completely by the golf course and strictly enforced by the TJGT. Exceptions will not be made by the TJGT for any reason.
- Any spectator diagnosed with COVID-19 or developed COVID-19 symptoms will not be permitted at any TJGT event until they have passed guidelines laid out by the CDC for a positive COVID test ([CDC Guidelines Here](#))
- Any player confirmed to have had contact with someone who has COVID-19 will not be permitted at a TJGT event until CDC guidelines for direct exposure/close contact are satisfied ([CDC Guidelines Here](#))
- 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 TJGT events for the spectator and, if necessary, the player.

## **GENERAL PLAYER POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

These general Code of Conduct policies will apply to all players participating in a TJGT event. The TJGT 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 TJGT 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.

- Players will be permitted to arrive 1 hour before the tee time to begin their warm up session on the driving range. If the driving range is closed, players will be permitted to warm up 30 minutes before their tee time. Any player that arrives earlier will not be permitted in the "tournament area" before their allotted time.
- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, or has multiple COVID-19 symptoms, the individual may return to TJGT events when all three of the following criteria are met:
  - o at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - o the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and

- at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or a positive test.
- Any player confirmed to have had contact with someone who has COVID-19 will not be permitted at a TJGT event until CDC guidelines for direct exposure/close contact are satisfied ([CDC Guidelines Here](#))
- 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.
- All scoring will be done via the ShotStat Live app on player phones. Players will also be sent pin sheets for certain tournaments the night before via e-mail, and hole locations will also be available in the app. There will be no paperwork given to players on the No. 1 tee.
- 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:
  - Not walking closely down the fairway together and not standing by other player's golf ball.
  - Not standing near other players while on the tee box or green.
  - 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 TJGT 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 TJGT staff may be disqualified from the tournament at the discretion of the Rule Committee.

## **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).
  - A violation of this rule will result in a warning upon first occurrence and the general penalty (2 strokes) upon subsequent occurrences.
  - 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.
- Players will not be permitted to use bunker rakes, regardless of whether rakes are provided by the golf course or not. Players are encouraged to smooth out their disturbances in the sand with their foot or club.
  - A violation of this rule will result in a warning upon first occurrence and a general penalty (2 strokes) upon subsequent egregious occurrences.
- 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.
  - 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.
- 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).

## **TJGT 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 TJGT 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.
- Players will be allowed to arrive 1 hour before their tee time to begin warming up on the driving range. If no driving range is available, players will be permitted 30 minutes to warm up.

- 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 TJGT 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 TJGT reserves the right to close off any practice areas to TJGT 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 TJGT 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.
- All scoring will be done via the ShotStat Live app on player phones. Players will also be sent pin sheets for certain tournaments the night before via e-mail, and hole locations will also be available in the app. There will be no paperwork given to players on the No. 1 tee.
- Players and parents will be provided with a digital copy of the Tournament Rule Sheet and Pin Sheet via e-mail by the day before the event 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.

## **D. End of Round, Scoring and Scorecards**

- All scoring will be done via the ShotStat Live app on player phones. Players will also be sent pin sheets for certain tournaments the night before via e-mail, and hole locations will also be available in the app. There will be no paperwork given to players on the No. 1 tee.

- Once the round is completed, players must walk straight from the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.
- TJGT 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.

#### **E. Scoreboards, Awards, Award Ceremonies**

- There will be no physical scoreboard at any TJGT until further notice. All scores may be viewed online at [www.tjgt.com](http://www.tjgt.com)
- Awards will be handed out at the end of the tournament in a small, quick fashion with little fanfare. Players and spectators not receiving an award are not permitted to gather around the scoring area.
- On-course playoffs will only occur for 1<sup>st</sup> place. For other places, ties will be broken by the USGA recommended method of scorecard playoff, which compares the back 9 of the final round for all players tied.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **A. Tournament Gifts**

- We are working tirelessly to come up with tee gift options that can be delivered via e-mail to players, such as fast food gift cards, DoorDash or Grubhub certificates, iTunes and movie theater gift cards, Spotify subscriptions, etc.
- Physical tee gifts given out at a tournament will be handed out either before or after Round 1, in a manner such as to ensure safety of players and TJGT staff.
- We are communicating with vendors and sponsors to ensure that any tee gifts delivered and distributed are kept sealed and disinfected until given to the player.
- Any apparel gift given out will not be returned or exchanged under any circumstances – players and parents need to ensure that the shirt size listed in their profile is correct, as that is the size polo or athletic shirt that will be provided
- TJGT staffers will be required to wear gloves and a facial mask while handing out tee gifts, as well as use of sanitizing products to keep the gifts and staffs' hands clean.

## **B. Weather Delays**

- The TJGT will strive to complete each round of a tournament, even if a weather delay temporarily halts play. All options and avenues will be considered to complete as many holes as possible for a tournament.
- At the discretion of the TJGT, a round halted due to weather may be immediately canceled if the Tournament Committee deems it impossible to safely shelter all players (while maintaining social distancing) who had started their round at the time of the weather delay.
- Factors such as number of players on the course, holes completed, course layout and county/course guidelines will be taken into consideration when determining if a round may continue after dangerous weather has passed.
- In the event of a weather delay horn blast, all players and spectators are to immediately vacate the golf course and go back to their vehicles.
- If an entire division has all played at least 9 holes, TJGT staff will make all attempts to gather and score those 9 holes.

## **C. Mid-Round Withdraws or DQs**

- If a player is forced to withdraw mid-round (or is disqualified) for any reason, the player is to inform their group and then immediately leave the golf course; the player (or spectator) is encouraged to call the head rules official (phone number at the bottom of the Rule Sheet) and communicate the withdrawal instead of physically attempting to locate an official.
- The player is instructed NOT to exchange their scorecard, but to instead verbally communicate the scores to the players remaining in the group so they can be transferred.