

2021 COVID-19 MGA Tournament Policies and Procedures

Below are the Local Rules and guidelines for MGA events. These guidelines are based on recommendations from the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control, as well as directives from the State of Missouri government. A player who blatantly disregards these guidelines may be subject to disqualification from the event and removal from the facility. These guidelines are subject to change pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order protocols and/or Local County Health Commission orders.

The Missouri Golf Association Board of Directors has the right to make changes to the Policies and Procedures as things might change during the year.

- Do **NOT** play if you feel sick or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks.
- Maintain social distancing by staying at least six (6) feet away from others.

LOCAL RULES:

- **Flagsticks** – Unless otherwise stated, players **MAY** elect to remove the flagstick at their own discretion.
- **Bunkers** – Unless otherwise stated, rakes will be on the golf course. Use of the rake by the player is not mandatory and at the discretion of the player. Players are encouraged to use their feet to smooth bunkers *after* making a stroke from one if they choose not to use the rake.
- **Holed** – The definition of Holed is: If any part of the ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, the ball is treated as holed even if the entire ball is not below the surface of the putting green.

GENERAL PLAYER INFORMATION:

- **Registration** – There will be a registration area at all events for players to check in. This is to ensure players have their GGID for the day and so that they can be made aware of any special instructions for the event.
- **Paperwork** – All tournament information, including but not limited to the Hole Location and Local Rules sheets, will be provided electronically prior to the tournament. Players are encouraged to download and read these materials on their own before their round because paper versions of this information will not be provided at the tournament site.
 - **NOTE:** Links to these materials will be sent to tournament participants and always may be found on the event landing page on the MGA website.
- **Golf Carts** – When allowed per the competition, the number of riders per cart will be determined by MGA policy, local County Health Commission orders in place and host facility supply.

TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS:

- **Caddies** – Players **ARE** permitted to use caddies.
- **Practice Facilities** – The number of players allowed on the driving range, putting green or short game area may be restricted as needed to allow for social distancing. Flagsticks may be removed from both the putting green and short-game greens. Every player should have a fair and equitable opportunity to warm up prior to play and should be respectful of other players when preparing to play. Practice at the host facility after a player's round is complete may be prohibited.
- **Starting Tees** – Players should check in at their starting tee immediately after the group in front of them has left the teeing area.
 - **Starter's Boxes** – Starting tees **WILL** have a Starter's Box containing tees, pencils, local scorecards and hand sanitizer.
- **Scoring** – Group online scoring is mandatory through the use of the **USGA Tournament Management** app. MGA scorecards will be provided.

Players are expected to download the **USGA Tournament Management** app. This allows a player to access online scoring and record scores.

- Players will have another players scorecard to keep scores with the marker strip to keep their own scores
- ONE player in each group will be required to use the USGA TM/Golf Genius scoring app to input scores during the round for the group

- **Scoring Area Procedure:**

- After completing the round, ONE group at a time will be allowed in the “scoring area.” Players should maintain six (6) feet of distance between them and will verbally agree to their hole-by-hole scores with their group and the scoring official. After verbally verifying one’s scores and leaving the scoring area, a player’s scorecard is deemed returned, and no changes may be made after this time.
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- Scoring Official will ask each player to read the scores of the player they were marking for
- The player will verbally confirm the hole-by-hole scores
- Scoring Official will input scores into computer
- This process will continue until all scores for group are confirmed
- Players will place scorecards in a box and scoring will be complete, no signatures will be required

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The only scoreboards will be through the *USGA Tournament Management* app, the **MGA website** and **host facility monitors** (if available).

- **Shuttling** – Shuttling of players may take place in specific situations, such as when play is suspended by the Committee due to weather. In addition, shuttles may be provided to groups that start or finish on a hole away from the clubhouse, such as after a match has finished. Players who take a shuttle will be provided face masks and hand sanitizer and will be expected to use them prior to getting in the cart. Players not wishing to follow these safety protocols are entitled to walk.
- In all cases, communication regarding resumption of play will be sent by text message.
- **Spectators** – Spectators are allowed on the golf course, provided they follow appropriate social-distancing guidelines.
- **Awards** – Award ceremonies may be conducted inside or outside, depending on the host facility’s space and following social-distancing guidelines.

FOOD & BEVERAGE:

- **Snacks/Water** – Snacks and water **MAY** be provided by the MGA.