



PGA
Michigan Section

COVID 19 MICHIGAN SECTION EVENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Below are a set of Policies & Procedures that the MPGA Staff have generated for Section tournaments. These guidelines are based on recommendations from the CDC and Directive Health Measures from state and federal governments. The MPGA staff is working with each host site facility to ensure that they are following the proper procedures for retail, food and beverage and these event procedures. These policies have the potential to be changed / extended throughout the season dependent on requirements and policies set forth by the State and CDC.

Please note, that where these Policies and Procedures directly clash with either the MPGA Rules & Regulations or the USGA/PGA Rules of Golf, these Policies and Procedures will override.

When registering for events players must be aware and understand that the ability to have events relies solely on following these policies and taking every possible preventative measure to keep all individuals at the event as safe as possible. If you are showing any symptoms related to COVID-19 after registration please contact the Section office and your registration will be cancelled for a full refund.

Arriving at an event

- Participants should not arrive at the facility more than 40 minutes prior to their tee time.
- Participants should eliminate the need to enter the clubhouse prior to their tee time. Available restrooms will be clearly marked

Registration

- In an effort to reduce the amount of person-to-person contact, the Michigan PGA will be suspending the registration area at all events. Players will register on their starting tee ten (10) minutes prior to their starting time. It is the players responsibility to know their time of starting and be on the starting tee ten (10) minutes prior.
- Starting times and groupings will be emailed to all players prior to the tournament, posted to the Tournament Information Page, and available via the MPGA App and www.michiganpga.com

Golf Car Policies & Procedures

- Carts will be staged with 10 feet of space in between on all sides...sanitized and ready to go (this included spot sanitization after the staffer parks the cart in staging area)
- 1 per golf cart (2 players allowed in the cart if from the same immediate household)
- In a team event, each twosome will receive one cart, two bags can be transported by one cart but still limited to the single driver (option – provide a sanitation station at the turn for switching drivers)
- If the golf course is deemed walkable players have the option of walking, pull carts are allowed

Spectators & Caddies

- Caddies will not be permitted
- Spectators will be held to the same social distancing guidelines as the players
- Spectator Carts will not be available



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Practice Facilities

- Driving ranges will be available 30 minutes prior to the participants tee time and appropriately spaced apart to maintain social distancing.
- Practice putting green and chipping green will be restricted to the number of players allowed to however many holes have been cut, with the maximum number allowed being nine, i.e. if there are five holes cut than 5 players are allowed on the practice green. Players will be restricted to five (5) minutes in this area when other players are waiting.
- Practice on the putting green, chipping green, and driving range following the round is prohibited.

At the First Tee

- Social distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Participants should refrain from shaking hands.
- Individual scorecards will be handed out to the marker. The marker will keep the scorecard for the duration of the round. Scorecards will not be exchanged between players. (Option to mandate or use online scoring through the Michigan PGA Blue Golf App)
- Rules/Hole Location Sheets will be given to the players. (Option to provide this info electronically and encourage players to save and view on phones)
- Option tournament or facility staff have all scorecards and paperwork on the cart before the player arrives
- MPGA will not be providing tees and pencils at the first tee

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 one (1) group will be allowed into the scoring area at a time. All players will maintain six (6) feet of distance between them and confirm their scores verbally with their group and the scoring official.

Scoring Option:

- 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.
- A scorecard will be considered “returned” once the scoring official has taken a picture of the scorecard.

Scoring Option:

- Without trading cards, players will confirm scores verbally to each other.
- Once hole by hole scores are agreed upon with the marker, players will confirm scores to the scoring official.



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- Participants will be able to see their individual hole by hole scores on a monitor at the scoring area. Once the participant agrees with the scoring official on the hole by hole scores, the scores will be submitted. This will be the validation of the scorecard.

Post Round

- Players must return to their cars and exit the property upon completion of their rounds.
- No congregation will be allowed post round.
- All tournament results will be available on our section website as well as the Blue Golf App as soon as the competition is completed.

Playoffs

- In the event that a player is close to the lead or in contention for National Qualifying spots, the player must immediately return to their vehicle, or a specified area utilizing proper social distancing if allowed by the facility.
- The MPGA staff will contact that Member via cell phone to let them know if a playoff will be necessary.

Awards

- The MPGA will not be conducting awards ceremonies events. Awards will be shipped to players following the event.

Weather Delays

- In the event of a horn blast signaling a discontinuance of play, all players must proceed directly to their vehicles.
- The MPGA staff will communicate any resumption information via text message. The MPGA will be conscious of the length of delays under this policy.
- No warmups will be allowed after a weather delay.

Food & Beverage

- The MPGA is asking all host facilities to remove all of their on-course coolers.
- Players will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles or purchase beverages from the host facility when available.
- The MPGA will work with host facilities to provide the best food & beverage experience. Please note that based on the facility a meal may not be provided.

Temporary Rules Changes

Holing Out

- The MPGA will work with host facilities to utilize either PVC inserts, pool noodles or a ball retrieval system in the cups. A player's ball will be considered holed as is outlined in the Rules of Golf.

Flags/Flagsticks

- Players must not touch the flagstick under any circumstances. Tending of the flag as outlined in the Rules of Golf is suspended until further notice.

Bunkers

- If the host facility is able to provide each cart (one player to use) with a sanitized rake, bunkers will be played as normal.
- If the host facility is not able to provide a rake per cart:



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Options :

- 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.
 - 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.
- Option :
- Use the local preferred lie rule – identify area (bunker), relief area (1 or 2 club lengths), identify limits on location of relief area (no closer to hole)