

# The Operator's

# GOLF GUIDELINES

## GOLF'S ROADMAP TO NORMALITY

#greaterthangolf  
#flattenthecurve  
#walkthewalk  
#grenergolf

### CLUBHOUSE AND GOLF SHOP SETUP

- Staff should wear a face covering before entering, and until they exit, the property.
- Hand sanitizer should be readily available around the property, specifically at all points of contact (near door to maintenance facility, restrooms, 1 and 10 tee, 9 and 18 green).
- Clubhouse and pro shop are advised to remain closed at this time. However, the kitchen may remain open for take-out orders only, online/phone orders and payments should be encouraged. All sit down food and beverage service is discouraged.
- Chairs outside the clubhouse should be removed and socializing restricted.
- Golfers should be encouraged to leave the course immediately after their round is completed.
- Scorecards, pencils, and similar materials should be removed from the course until further notice. Scorecards and pencils should be obtained from the starter in compliance with social distancing.
- Digital scorekeeping should be encouraged. Consider including an option to download/print a scorecard at home upon making a reservation with a reminder to bring a pencil from home.
- Consider increasing tee time intervals to discourage congregation at starter/first tee.
- Tee times should be made prior to arrival via phone or online, walk-ins should be discouraged.
- Courses should make online or phone payment available whenever possible.
- No tournaments or social activities should take place until further notice.
- Walking should be strongly encouraged (some locations may restrict golf car use, check with local governance).
- Golf cars are restricted to one rider until further notice.
- Remove sand containers, coolers, and anything that can be shared from cars.
- Golf cars should be sanitized before and after each use. See [Yamaha's COVID-19 guidelines](#) for proper procedure.
- Rental clubs should not be offered or provided at this time.
- Buckets that golfers normally wet towels with should be removed. Opt to have the starter wet the towel for the golfer with a hose outfitted with a trigger-sprayer. If that isn't possible, place a sanitizing station next to the trigger-sprayer (and appropriate signage) for golfers to wet their own towel.

### COMMUNICATE RULES AND EXPECTATIONS TO GOLFERS

- Golfers should wear a face covering, [as defined by the CDC](#), between entering and exiting the golf course to adhere to CDC protocol. For instance, wear a face covering before exiting your car and take it off at first tee (1 or 10), put back on at last green (9 or 18). Depending on local laws, face masks, coverings, or gloves may be recommended or required. Defer to your local governance for clarification. Wash or sanitize hands before and after taking off a face cover.
- Golfers should wash their hands before and after their round with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.(16)
- Golfers should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Golfers should maintain social distancing on tees, fairways, approaches and greens.
- All balls that hit the exposed cup liner are considered holed.
- In general, consider restricting golfers to 2 golfers per group at this time.
- A group which resides in the same home and books a tee time together may pose less risk of violating social distancing rules. Encourage the enforcement of social distancing by using the Safe Golfer's Pledge.
- Groups should adhere to social distancing guidelines and each golfer should play their own ball.\**Subject to management discretion*
- Advise golfers to bring their own tees. "See a tee, let it be:"
- Tees may be purchased from the starter. Encourage online payment and sanitize after each transaction.
- Encourage golfers to use Relaxed Rules (see opposite side of this document).
- See the EPA's list for [approved sanitizers](#) effective against COVID-19.
- Encourage that golfers try their best to smooth the disturbed area with a foot or a club after playing their ball out of the bunker.
- Consider employing Relaxed Rules and allow players the option to treat bunkers as ground under repair.
- Encourage golfers to depart the facility immediately after their round is complete. No lingering or congregating.



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### A Word from Our Deputy Director of Public Health

COVID-19 is spread through the transmission of droplets; it is not airborne. Although the virus is not airborne, droplets can be transmitted through the air. For instance, respiratory droplets can spread through any way one can come in contact with a droplet, whether it is through a cough, sneeze, breath, touch, or even by talking to someone (their saliva can transmit the virus). The best methods you can adopt to keep yourself, and others, safe is to practice aggressive social distancing and aggressive surface cleaning. The act of keeping 6 feet of social distance between yourself and others is too simplistic, there are nuances. You must minimize the risk of exposing yourself to a droplet. Maintaining a 6-foot bubble is just an estimation of how far a droplet is likely to travel from someone around you breathing or talking. If you must cough or sneeze, be sure you do it safely. Use a tissue or your sleeve. If you fail to cover your nose and mouth, you could be contaminating everyone around you. Wash and sanitize frequently and be sure to not bring your hand to your face unless it's clean.

Opt to wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth. It will protect you from ingesting droplets if you follow this guidance to aggressively social distance and aggressively clean surfaces. Promote supporting the mental health of the first responders. Send loved ones, friends, family, acquaintances a note to acknowledge their hard work on the front lines during this time.

Practice aggressive social distancing and aggressive surface cleaning to flatten the curve.

Bela T. Matyas, MD, MPH  
Health Officer / Deputy Director  
Solano County Public Health

### RELAXED RULES OF GOLF\*:

- 1. MAXIMUM SCORE:** Double par (6 on par 3s, 8 on par 4s, 10 on par 5s). Be grateful to be outside on the golf course, there are more important things than score.
- 2. PENALTIES:** All are one stroke, including out of bounds, hazards, lost ball and unplayable lie. Drop a ball near where the original was lost and play on.
- 3. SEARCH TIME:** Two minutes to look for your ball. If lost, proceed under Rule 2.
- 4. UNFORTUNATE LIES:** With your playing partners' consent, balls may be dropped out of divots or footprints, away from tree roots and any other dangerous lies.
- 5. CONCEDED PUTTS:** Putts may be conceded with your playing partners' consent. Many "holes" will now be raised hole liners or modified for health reasons. Be generous.
- 6. EQUIPMENT:** No restrictions, including number of clubs. Because many courses are walking only, you may want to carry just a few clubs, maybe even just one.
- 7. COMMON SENSE:** When in doubt, use common sense and fairness. Golf course maintenance is limited during this health crisis so use fairness and attempt to leave the course better than you found it.

\*modified from the Relaxed Rules of Golf developed by the Golf Channel in 2015

### TO GOLF OPERATORS AND STAFF:

*As the face of the course and the golfer's main point of interaction, operators carry the responsibility of leading by example. Practicing guidelines and communicating expectations will keep our golf courses open. Giving back and raising donations will reflect the value of golf and provide beneficial optics to the community.*

