

Attached are a set of Procedures and Policies the **MINNESOTA PGA** has generated for the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf Program. The MNPGA has created these policies to keep golf played responsibly and follow guidelines set by each state (depending on the state in which the facility is located your guidelines and protocols may be different) and local and national agencies. The MNPGA is working with each host site facility to ensure that they are following the proper procedures for retail, food and beverage, and golf course operations as outlined in Governor Walz's executive orders. We believe golf can be a tremendous vehicle to get exercise, be outside, and enjoy this great sport in a responsible manner. As such, the MNPGA will be implementing the below Procedures and Policies until such a time that the MNPGA deem it responsible to remove them. Please note, that where these Policies and Procedures directly clash with either the MNPGA Junior Golf Rules & Regulations or the USGA/PGA Rules of Golf, these Policies and Procedures will override.

All golfers that might attend a MNPGA Junior Golf event must self-screen before coming to the event for any of the signs or symptoms possible with COVID-19 listed under the "Governor's Stay Home Minnesota." If an individual does not feel well, they **MUST** stay home and take the proper precautions. If this is the case, players will be given a full refund during the time that these policies are in affect. ***If you are sick, please stay home.***

It is the responsibility of all players participating in a MNPGA Junior Golf event to fully read and understand these policies and abide by them. By registering for and participating in a MNPGA Junior Golf event, players and parents are agreeing to all these policies and to accepting any potential penalties deemed appropriate by the MNPGA Staff. It is each participants choice if they would like to enact stricter measures than are outlined in this document for themselves, however, restrictions beyond these Policies & Procedures on others are not guaranteed.

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### **COVID-19 EDUCATION & PROTECTION**

Based off national and local guidance, it is important for players to understand how COVID-19 spreads and ways to protect yourself.

- **Knowing How It Spreads** – The virus is spread mainly from person to person:
  - Between people who are within 6-feet of each other.
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
  - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- **Basic ways to protect yourself:**
  - Washing your hands often
  - Avoid close contact
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
  - Cover coughs and sneezes
  - Clean and disinfect
  - Remain 6-feet away from individuals

## COVID-19 EDUCATION & PROTECTION, CONT.

- **Self-Screening:**
  - All MNPGA Junior Golf players, parents and spectators will be required to self-screen prior to being on-site at tournaments.
  - Players must stay at home if they display any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
    - Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19.
- **Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizer:**
  - When washing your hands, you should:
    - Use soap and water
    - Wash for a minimum of 20 seconds
- **Social Distance & Player Contact:**
  - The MNPGA asks that regardless of their position on the golf course, that players maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and other players. This includes when they are preparing for a shot, walking down the fairway/rough, on the teeing area, on the putting green, and all other locations.
  - All players must refrain from touching their fellow competitors in any way, including shaking hands prior to and following the round.
  - Players must not touch, handle, or share each other's equipment.
- **Coughing & Sneezing:**
  - If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
  - Throw used tissues in the trash.
  - Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer.

Below are guidelines for **MINNESOTA PGA Junior Golf** events. These guidelines are based on recommendations from the WHO, CDC, and Directive Health Measures from local, state, and federal governments. A player who blatantly disregards these guidelines may be subject to disqualification and removal from the facility. These are subject to change due to Executive Order protocols.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following guidelines should be followed at all times:

- Do not play if you feel sick or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks.
- Stay at least six (6) feet away from anyone at all times.
  - We ask that regardless of their position on the golf course that players maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and other players. This includes when they are preparing for a shot, walking down the fairway/rough, on the teeing ground, on the putting green, and all other locations.
- Do not touch or handle any tournament supplies or equipment that is not yours.
- Please bring your own snacks and water, as they won't be supplied.
- Please bring your own hand sanitizer.

## SPECTATOR POLICY

We will be allowing Spectators at our Junior Golf events as well as Section events and qualifiers provided all guidelines and protocols are followed.

*MN DNR Outdoor Recreational Guidelines state "Spectators must maintain social distancing, not exceed group gathering limits, and are strongly encouraged to wear a manufactured or homemade cloth face covering per MDH guidance."*

The MNPGA will continue to do all things necessary to host our events responsibly. We ask that everyone follow the protocols which include following the current "gathering" numbers while also being respectful to those around you. As the guidelines are updated, we will adjust our policies and protocols if necessary. We reserve the right to change these policies if needed.

Please make sure to abide by ALL other Minnesota PGA, and Junior PGA, guidelines including the restriction for junior golf events which states, "You must remain at least 25 yards from competitors."

## PLAYING INFORMATION

### **Arrival Time**

- Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series golfers are not allowed to access the golf course more than **45 minutes** prior to their starting time for a tee time event and **60 minutes** prior to the start time for a shotgun event. If you arrive at the facility prior to this time, you must stay in your vehicle.
- If a player has an alternative, safe site in which to warm up, we encourage them to do so.

### **Practice Facilities**

- All players and caddies (Minn/Prep Tour events) are responsible for maintaining proper social distance when utilizing the practice facilities. Spectators should not be on or near the practice facilities.
- Driving Range
  - Will be available based on host facility.
- Putting & Chipping Greens
  - In an effort to maintain Social Distancing, please be aware of how many golfers are on the practice putting green or chipping green. Maintain Social Distancing and practice at your own risk.
  - Will be available based on host facility policy.

### **Registration for a Tee Time event**

- In an effort to reduce the amount of person-to-person contact, the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series will be suspending the registration area for tee time 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. Please wait until the group in front of you tees off before you walk up to the tee.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times on the first tee.
- Participants should refrain from shaking hands.
- Players make sure to bring your own tees, sunscreen, water bottle, sharpies, pencils and ball markers
- Starting times and groupings for tee time events ONLY will be emailed to all players 3 days prior to the tournament and posted to the Tournament Information Page on the BlueGolf tournament website.

### **Registration for a Shotgun event**

- We will have multiple registration tables set up for check-in at a shotgun event. You will go the table based on your last name (Ex. Last name Johnson would go to the table labeled J-P) to find out your starting hole and receive your scorecard. When standing in line, please make sure you maintain social distancing. You will be sent out to your starting hole 10-15 minutes before the shotgun start. You need to be in line to register by 20 minutes before the start of the shotgun event.

## PLAYING INFORMATION, CONT.

### **Scorecards**

- Scorecards will be distributed on the starting tee for a tee time event and at registration for a shotgun event. Scorecards will not be exchanged between players and it will be the players responsibility to keep all players in the groups score.
- Scorecards will have each player in the groups names printed on them.
- One scorecard for each group will be considered the “official scorecard” and will be required to be returned at the end of the round for both shotgun and tee time events. The scorecard that will be returned will be starred and that junior will be notified before the round that they will be responsible for making sure each score is recorded correctly.
- Players must bring their own writing utensils for recording scores, as none will be provided on the first tee and players will not be permitted to share.
- At the conclusion of each hole, each player in the group will announce their score and it will be recorded by each player.

### **Scoring at a Tee Time event**

- Once the round is completed, players must walk straight from the final green to scoring with all of their equipment. They are not to stop and talk to anyone or 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.
- The scorecard will be considered “returned” once the player has verbally confirmed their scores with the scoring official, officially signed the starred scorecard and left the scoring area. All signatures in the group will be required on the “official scorecard”.
- Once you leave the scoring area please return to your car and exit the property in a timely manner.
- We will be removing all scoreboards and BlueGolf TV platforms to minimize crowds.

### **Scoring at a Shotgun event**

- Once the round is completed, players must walk straight from the final green to scoring with all of their equipment. They are not to stop and talk to anyone or go to their car or the parking lot for any reason.
- We will have multiple scoring tables set up. They will be based on what hole that you started your round: For example: Holes 1-6 will go to one table, Holes 7-12 to another, etc... Please get in line at the correct scoring table with your whole group.
- 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.
- The scorecard will be considered “returned” once the player has verbally confirmed their scores with the scoring official, officially signed the starred scorecard and left the scoring area. All signatures in the group will be required on the “official scorecard”.
- We will be removing all scoreboards and BlueGolf TV platforms to minimize crowds.
- Once you leave the scoring area please return to your car and exit the property in a timely manner.

### **Playoffs**

- We will ONLY have on-course playoffs for three events this summer: Players Tour Tournament of Champions, Boys Junior PGA Championship and the Girls Junior PGA Championship. All ties, including first place and any ties for National Qualifier spots, will play on-course playoffs.
- Players Tour events, MN Boys Junior PGA Qualifiers, Match Play Qualifiers, Minnesota 12&U Junior PGA Championship, Warrior Cups, Minny and Prep Tour Championships – In the event of a tie for any qualifying spots or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards, we will be using the USGA recommended method for playoffs: the matching scorecards will be used to determine the winner. Determining the winner will be based on the score for the last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes and finally the 18th hole. If there is still a tie, then the last six holes, three holes and final hole of the first nine holes will be considered.
- There will be no playoffs conducted for Minny, Prep, or Junior Tour Events.

## PLAYING INFORMATION, CONT.

### **Award Ceremonies**

- At the conclusion of each tournament, the top three finishers of each division will be recognized and receive their award on-site. Awards will be distributed by the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf Staff once results are official.

**Traditional scoreboards and/or digital scoreboards will be removed from the scoring area. Players and spectators are encouraged to use the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf app to view the tournament results.**

### WEATHER DELAY

- In the event of a suspension of play due to inclement weather, all players and spectators should immediately vacate the golf course and go straight to their vehicles. Players without a vehicle on-site, will take shelter in the clubhouse maintaining proper social distance.
- Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series staff will communicate weather delay information with players and spectators via email and text.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **Food and Beverage**

- If a facility should elect to have an on-course water cooler, the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series accepts no liability for them and encourages players to use extreme discretion regarding their use.
- Golfers should bring an adequate supply of water for the round with them from home.
- If food and beverage services are available at the host facility, players should follow all social distancing guidelines in place as posted by the host facility.

#### **Restrooms**

- Players will be restricted to the open restrooms designated by the facility.

#### **Clubhouse**

- The Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series will defer to the facility's practices on whether the clubhouse is open to guests or not. Please maintain proper social distancing.

## TEMPORARY RULES CHANGES

### Flagsticks

- If the host facility allows it, players (and caddies on Minny/Prep Tour Events) may touch or remove the flagstick.

### Hole/Holing Out

- **If a host facility allows flagsticks to be removed:**
  - A player's ball must be holed as defined in the Rules of Golf – When your ball is at rest in the hole after your stroke and the entire ball is below the surface of the putting green.
- **If a host facility DOES NOT allow flagsticks to be removed and there is NOT a mechanism in the hole:**
  - A player's ball must be holed as defined in the Rules of Golf – When your ball is at rest in the hole after your stroke and the entire ball is below the surface of the putting green.
- **If a host facility DOES NOT allow flagsticks to be removed and there is a mechanism in the hole:**
  - Below are examples of how the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series will modify the definition of "holed" based on these mechanisms:
    - Raised Cup Liner – If a ball touches the exposed cup or cup liner, the ball will be considered holed regardless of where it comes to rest.
    - Upside Down Cup Liner – If a ball touches the bottom of the cup liner it will be considered holed.
    - PVC/Pool Noodle in Cup – If a ball touches the PVC or Pool Noodle insert it will be considered holed regardless of where it comes to rest.

NOTE #1 – If the method used at a facility is not defined in these policies, the On-Site Rules Official will determine how a ball will be determined as "holed" on-site. This will be communicated on the starting tee.

NOTE #2 – The game and Ruled of Golf are structured on the player's integrity and while we feel there is no perfect system, we rely on the players to be honest and respect the game and spirit of competition.

### Bunkers

- **If the host facility provides bunker rakes:**
  - If a host facility provides bunker rakes on the golf course, players are permitted to use them at the practice facility and during the round. If the host facility has bunker rakes on the golf course, the players will play the ball as it lies in the bunker.
- **If the host facility does NOT provide bunker rakes:**
  - When a ball is in any bunker and lies in a DISTURBED AREA, the player may lift, clean and place the original ball or another ball in the bunker, within one club-length of the original spot of the ball, no closer to the hole. **NOTE: The relief area must not be smoothed before placing.** Disturbed areas include (but are not limited to) footprints or other disturbances that may have been caused by players or others. The player also has the option to play the ball as it lies. Penalty for breach of this local rule: **General Penalty.**  
*Note – Rule 16.1 is modified in this way: Interference does not exist if the disturbed area in a bunker only interferes with the player's stance.*