



MAGA/WMGA



COVID-19 Guidelines for Tournaments

The following MAGA/WMGA policies and procedures are designed to supplement the Phase II protocols and guidelines established in the 'Back2Golf' Operational Playbook protocols developed by the PGA, USGA, GCSAA, and the CMAA and approved by the CDC. State, local government, and host club rules and regulations will take precedent. If their rules and regulations are not as comprehensive, we will still implement our guidelines to ensure everyone's safety.

The objective of the MAGA/WMGA is to safely manage the movement of our players, volunteers, and club staff in order to maintain social distancing and reduce touch points and conduct competitions in a safe and healthy manner. The below outline summarizes the steps (with adjustments along the way) that must be followed at our events until further notice. Your cooperation is appreciated and required.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1) **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.
- 2) Practice social distancing - stay a minimum of 6 feet away from others at all times
- 3) **DO NOT** touch or handle any tournament supplies or equipment that are not yours.
- 4) Caddies are permitted on a case by case basis - strict social distancing protocol required.
- 5) Spectators will **NOT** be permitted. Exception - a parent/guardian who is required to transport a junior player to an event. That person must stay off the practice facilities and practice social distancing and follow protocols as required.
- 6) If you need to reach out for assistance while on site call Michael Cumberpatch on his cell at **410-991-7843**

PPE & SAFETY

- 1) Players should bring their own PPE (facemasks and gloves if desired) to the event. Keep the face mask handy at all times. The Committee will have extra PPE gear on hand for those who forget.
- 2) CDC approved hand sanitizer will be available onsite for players, volunteers, and staff and will be located at the first tee and the scoring area.
- 3) Players shall wear facemasks when in and around clubhouse and pro shop facilities and when returning their scores in the scoring area.
- 4) Officials and Volunteers will be required to wear PPE in circumstances where following social distancing practices is challenging.
- 5) Volunteer equipment, such as radios, are not be shared, and will be sanitized before and after use.

PREPARING FOR EVENTS

- 1) Tournament paperwork, Notice to Players, Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard Card), Pace of Play, and Hole Location Chart, will be provided electronically, as PDF files, before the start of play.
- 2) Blank scorecards (several days in advance) for certain events may be made available the round. If distributed, the person distributing will be required to wear protective gloves.
- 3) The tournament documents will be available on the association website and the event portal and the links to those sites will be e-mailed to all players.
- 4) You are encouraged to download, print, read, and bring the documents with you or store them on your smart phone for viewing.
- 5) Practice rounds may not be available for events. That will be decided on a case by case basis.

ARRIVAL AT EVENT SITE

- 1) Players should not arrive at the golf course more than 50 minutes prior to their starting time.
- 2) If arriving at the site earlier, please wait in or by your car.

PRACTICE-WARM-UP

- 1) Please limit your time on the practice tee to 25 minutes. With practice tees spread out, and to promote social distancing, players need to share the space and time available.
- 2) Recommended procedure is to hit balls 45 minutes from start time to 20 minutes before, then proceed to the putting/chipping green for the remainder of that time period before reporting to the starting tee.

STARTING TEE

- 1) Please report to the tee no more than 10 nor less than 5 minutes before your assigned start time - best practice is to report after the group in front has played away and cleared the area.
- 2) Please listen to and follow the starter's instructions before play.
- 3) Starter's box, pencils, player scorecards (there may exceptions), tees, sharpies, sun screen, bug spray, and water bottles will **NOT** be available on starting tees.

PLAYING YOUR ROUND

- 1) **Social Distancing** - please practice social distancing, maintaining at least six (6) feet of spacing between players at all times, especially on the teeing ground.
- 2) **Bunkers** - Under Phase II, all bunker rakes are removed. Please smooth the bunker sand **after** making your stroke.
- 3) Please read the Notice to Players for any Local Rule pertaining to play from bunkers that may be implemented.
- 4) **Flagsticks** - jurisdiction specific - if in effect, players must not deliberately touch the flagstick. If you remove it, put it back before holing out. Please see the Notice to Players for penalty statements regarding flagsticks. It is also covered under an addendum to the 'Player Code of Conduct.'
- 5) **Hole** - jurisdiction specific - a hole insert may be used to prevent the ball from falling all the way into the hole. Generally, they allow the ball to come to rest just below the surface of the putting green. In the event they do not, the ball is considered holed when it comes to rest on the hole insert, even if part of the ball is above the level of the surface of the putting green.
 - a) If a ball hits the hole insert and bounces out, that is just a bad break and the player must continue holing out.
 - b) Note - some clubs may utilize a device which is attached to the flagstick and has a lever for pulling the ball out of the bottom of the hole. The player uses their putter to pull the lever, causing the ball to rise and then fall out of the hole. The lever mechanism is part of the flagstick. While an attachment of that sort may not be the permitted under the equipment rules, if a host club utilizes them, we will live with it.
- 6) **Divots** - please replace/repair your divot and care for the course. Divot fill bottles/containers may not be available.
- 7) **Pace of Play** will be enforced using either the traditional hole by hole pace timing method or the checkpoint system.

GOLF CARTS

- 1) Phase II Back2Golf guidelines permit two people to ride together in a cart without a facial cloth covering if they live in the same household . If two people who do NOT live in the same household are sharing a cart, a facial cloth covering is required. Another option allowed, and that we may utilize, is for one player to ride while the other walks. Carts with passenger dividers may be available.

WEATHER DELAYS

- 1) In the event of a weather delay of any kind, all players must park their carts at direction of the professional staff.
- 2) For walking events, weather warnings will be issued well in advance of approaching storms and committee will be instructed to assist with evacuation by transporting clubs only.
- 3) Players will be instructed to shelter in their cars. At junior events, where players may not have cars available, those players will be permitted to shelter inside the clubhouse facility under adult supervision and adhering to strict social distancing.
- 4) Communication regarding resumption of play will be sent to players via e-mail or text (if that system is available). If need be, verbal instructions will also be given.
- 5) A banner which scrolls across the top of the event portal home page will also be updated to reflect event status and restart.
- 6) Restarts may go out in stages to minimize congestion and to enhance social distancing.
- 7) Warm-ups on the practice facilities prior to restart will not be permitted.
- 8) Weather delays are going to be one of the biggest challenges we face - cooperation and patience is essential.

CONCLUSION OF ROUND - SCORING

- 1) Players will be advised at the start of the round as to the location of the scoring area.
- 2) After completing your round, ONE group at a time will be allowed to enter the scoring area. Please maintain 6 feet of social distancing between each other.
- 3) Follow the directions of the scoring official carefully.
- 4) Players will verbally agree to their hole-by-hole scores with their group and the scoring official. The scorer will write the scores on a score sheet and then enter them in the TM system for on-line display. If scorecards are returned, they will be deposited into a box and saved for a short time if needed later to clear up any discrepancies.
- 5) After verbally verifying the scores and leaving the scoring area, the score is deemed returned.
- 6) The only score boards will be through the USGA Tournament Management app (see end of this doc) or the event portal (available via a link on the MAGA or WMGA website). All results are on-line.
- 7) Once players leave the scoring area, they must return to their car and leave the property.
- 8) Post round practice of any kind is not permitted at the tournament site.

TIES - PLAY-OFFS - AWARDS

- 1) For selected events, ties will be broken by match of cards utilizing the USGA recommended tie breaker method - last 9 holes, last 6 holes, last 3 holes, last hole - if still ties, front nine scores will be used.
- 2) For some events, there may be multiple champions.
- 3) For some events (typically two round tournaments), play-offs will be conducted. Players close to the lead must wait in their vehicle or off-site, unless advised otherwise. Players should keep track of results on the app or on-line. Players will be contacted by cell phone if a play-off is necessary.
- 4) Players will be advised before the start of each event whether there will be play-offs, matching of cards, or multiple winners.
- 5) Award ceremonies will not be conducted. Trophy awards will be boxed and available on-site for the winner if available, otherwise they will be shipped. Gift certificates/cards will be mailed or kept at the host facility and players should arrange with the facility to redeem the prizes.

FOOD & BEVERAGE - WATER

- 1) If food and beverage is available at the host site, please follow their guidelines and instructions for purchasing and consuming. Dispose of all waste carefully in trash containers.
- 2) The MAGA and WMGA will not provide any food and beverage until further notice.

- 3) Players should bring their own water bottles. For clubs that do not have a readily available means to dispense water, water bottles will be available for distribution by a committee volunteer in a safe manner. Water is essential, especially in extremely hot conditions.
- 4) There will be no water bottle stations on the golf course.

USGA Tournament Management Mobile App

Search in the app store for the free app by entering "USGA TM". USGA Tournament Management will show, likely as the first choice.

Select that and Install the free app. When the app is finished installing, open it up. Sign in via the GGID (Golf Genius ID) by entering the MAGA-WMGA GGID which is

DUMFNA

At this time, we will not be using the mobile scoring app which allows players to enter their scores. We may later in the season.

Updated 10/29/2020