

Golf Event Safety

Golf is considered by many state governments to be an "essential" recreational activity. In fact, nearly half of the golf courses in the United States stayed open throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Golfers also recognize that golf is inherently safe, with open courses experiencing a high volume of activity throughout the pandemic.

To assist golf event organizers, Hole In One International has put together this Golf Event Safety Protocol using guidelines suggested by golf industry organizations. In addition to these safety suggestions, Hole In One International urges you to stay up-to-date on any guidelines provided by your city, county and state, as well as, any rules and requirements of the course that is hosting your event.

Above all, it is important to communicate to everyone participating in your event (players, organizers, volunteers, and course staff) that if they are sick, have been exposed to COVID-19, or are caring for someone with COVID-19, they should not participate in your event.

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GUIDELINES FOR EVENT STAFF

- Whenever practical, practice social distancing.
- Unless otherwise required by your course or local regulations, masks should be considered optional.
- Whenever possible, offer "virtual" options. For example, to prevent unnecessary gatherings at arrival, offer virtual check-in, i.e. have tournament players text a designated volunteer, so they can proceed directly to their carts.
- Whenever possible, reduce the number of "surfaces" that may require disinfection. For example, this year consider awarding big cash prizes instead of physical trophies or plaques.
- Consider increasing the number of insured prize contests to encourage participation.
- Consider adding a giant-prize shootout or putting contest to drive additional revenue.



AT THE GOLF COURSE

- Ask the course if they have published safety guidelines, communicate those guidelines to your team and make any necessary modifications.
- Verify that the golf course has trained their staff on all applicable golf course safety restrictions.
- Where practical, set up the bag drop area with social distancing in mind.
- Have staff use disinfecting wipes on bags being unloaded and placed on carts.
- Before providing assistance with player's bags or clubs, have staff ask for permission.
- Establish if two players per cart will be acceptable, or if additional carts will be needed. If golfers arrive together, work together, or live in the same household, permit them to ride in the same cart. This will ensure more carts are available for other players.
- Find out if "push" carts are available for those who would like to walk, further reducing the need for electric/gas carts.
- Discourage the use of ball washers and remove rakes from sand bunkers.
- Require pin flags to be in and request that foam cylinders (or another device) are placed in the cup so golfers do not place their hands inside the cup.
- Ask the course if players can bring their own beverages in small cooler to fit on their cart.

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COMMUNICATING WITH EVENT PARTICIPANTS BEFORE YOUR EVENT

The following guidelines should be used based upon your event and regional guidelines. Consider sending the following guidlines to participants prior to the event:



- Your safety and the safety of all participants, organizers, and course staff is our primary concern.
- You have the option of walking if you do not wish to share a cart.
- Please bring your own mask, hand cleaner, and disinfecting wipes.
- No cash transactions will be accepted. Please bring a check, debit/credit card if you want to participate in the raffle, putting contest, or auction.
- Respect social distancing. Please stay six feet away from other players in the staging area, on the course, tee box, and greens.
- Do not share clubs or touch anyone else's equipment (bag, balls, etc.).
- Rakes will be removed from the course. If your ball goes into a bunker, remove it and play from outside.
- There will be a two-putt rule to limit time on the green. Once your ball is on the green, take the putt and, if missed, pick it up and move to the next hole.
- No course-provided beverages or coolers will be available. You may bring your own cooler and beverages. Personal beverage coolers will be available in the staging area.
- To minimize scorecard contact, please designate a single person to keep score and use the provided zip-lock bag. Please drop the zip-lock bagged scorecard at the designated location near the clubhouse where staff will use disinfecting wipes to clean the bag and record the scores.

VOLUNTEERS

- The safety of participants, organizers, and golf course staff is our primary concern.
- If you want to use them, bring your own mask, hand cleaner, and disinfecting wipes.
- Practice social distancing where practical.

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PAYMENT PROCEDURES



- Go cashless! Collect payments for registration, contests, auctions, raffle tickets and more onsite via iPhone and iPad, using Venmo or a Square account (Square.com).
- Instruct volunteers/staff member to collect fees, using appropriate social distancing, by visiting player carts and have players swipe their own cards.
- To further reduce staff/volunteer interaction, consider requiring registration and payment prior to the event to limit the number of transactions required at the event. Consider advance sales of contest fees, raffle tickets and mulligans as well.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE

- Ensure that anyone providing food and beverage services are following acceptable safety guidelines.
- If no course-provided coolers are available, give players personal-sized coolers for drinks. These are inexpensive and provide an outstanding sponsorship opportunity. Consider assigning a single volunteer to be responsible for the cleanliness and safety of this process.
- Provide a box breakfast or lunch depending on tournament start time.
- If you decide to offer a post-event cocktail, be sure to space out the bars and promote appropriate social distancing. To enhance safety, use disposable drinkware. Provide individual cups of ice.
- Depending on your local rules and regulations, a buffet or sit-down dinner may not be possible; if you want food following the event, offer individually portioned boxes with appetizers or dinner.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTION

- You may wish to consider posting and providing attendees and volunteers with a disclaimer that explains the safety procedures in place; expresses that participation is at the individual's own discretion; and states that your organization cannot be held responsible for any issues resulting from participating in your golf event.

Disclaimer

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