



RIO GRANDE VALLEY GOLF COACHES ASSOCIATION

COVID – 19

POLICIES and PROCEDURES

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

Self-Screening (MUST BE DONE BY THE COACHES BEFORE EVERY TOURNAMENT)

- All coaches and players 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



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.

Social Distancing

- The RGVGCA asks that regardless of their position on the golf course, that players maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and other players, spectators, and caddies. 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.
- 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.

STJPGA COVID 19 Policies and Procedures. (2020). Retrieved August 21, 2020, from <https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/168238dd/files/uploaded/Coronavirus%20Safety%20Measures%20%28Junior%20Golf%20FINAL%29.pdf>

General Play Information

Arrival Time

- Schools will need to arrive in a timely manner to ensure tee-off time is kept.
- Once the team has arrived to their designated starting hole, the teams will review course rules with their coach and will properly stretch for at least 20 minutes.

Method of Starting

- Tournament format will be shotgun.
- To ensure student safety, athletes will walk to their team hole assigned.
- There will be no carting to the holes with any athletes.

Tournament Paperwork

- **Host School Responsibilities**
 - It will be the responsibility of the head coach in charge of the tournament to provide all electronic copies of local course rules and scorecard ahead of the tournament.
 - The Head Coach will be responsible to share day 1 and day 2 tournament results with the RGVGCA template via email to Danny Castillo @ missiongolfcoach@juno.com
- **RGVGCA Responsibilities**
 - Will post tournament invitations, tournament fields, pairings and results through website and social media platforms.
 - Waters
- **Tournament Fees and Field**
 - Registration fees for RGVGCA tournaments will be a **school entry fee**, which will cover a max of 5 players.
 - There will no longer be an individual registration fee.
 - The field will be maxed out at 90 players
 - Second Team will be allowed only if the field capacity has not been met.

Scoring

- Once the round is completed, players must walk straight from the final green to scoring with all their equipment back to their mode of transportation.
 - Scoring will be completed and verified by the Head Coach of the team.



Scoring

- It will be the coach's responsibility to keep the scores honest and accurate.
- Two signatures will not be required to make the scorecard official.
- A scorecard will be considered "returned" once the player has verbally confirmed their scores with their coach and turn in the scorecard electronically through a google form or other methods decided by the tournament host.

Practice Facilities

- Driving Range and putting greens will be **CLOSED**.

Playoffs

- No Playoffs will be held, scorecards will be the deciding factor to break all ties

Awards

- RGVGCA will not be conducting awards ceremonies at any events. Awards will be distributed appropriately to the head coaches onsite at the next tournament event.

Weather delays

Will follow all UIL protocols

Spectators and Parents

- Spectator/Parents carts will be restricted to one (1) individual per cart unless they are immediate family members (max allotted - 2 per cart).
- Spectators/Parents will be required to wear a mask when social distancing is not actable and when entering the facilities to rent a cart.
- They must stay on the cart path and keep a respectable distance at all times.
- They will be asked to have **no communication** with players.
- Praise and other positive encouragement are only allowed.
- NO coaching, giving advice and/or equipment or the aid in ruling in decisions is not permitted.

Tournament Operations

Registration

- All registration for tournaments will be conducted online through the association's website, www.rgvzca.com
- The window for registration will open 6 weeks prior to tournament event and close 3 weeks prior to event.
 - Special Circumstances: Early closure of tournament will be determined by tournament field.
- It will be the coaches' responsibility to confirm all numbers with Coach Adrian Garcia, RGVGCA President, if RGVGCA will be running the tournament.
 - Note: if tournament is not held by the RGVGCA, it is the coaches' responsibility to confirm their numbers with the tournament host/director.

Pairings

- Teams will no longer be grouped with other schools during tournament play for player and coach safety.
- Pairings will be determined through school representation.
 - A max of 5 players of the same school will be grouped together and assigned a starting hole.

Tournament Operations CONT.



Pairings

- The coach will accompany the group and will be responsible for the scoring.
 - If a school takes two teams to a tournament, they will need to ensure there will be a second coach to monitor the second team for scoring.

Scorecards

- Scorecards will be printed prior to tournament play by the coach.
- Players will not be allowed to exchange any type of scorecards prior to the beginning of tee time.
 - If the player wishes to keep their scores and everyone else in the group they may, however, the coach's scorecard will be the official scorecard for the tournament.
- It is the coach's responsibility and duty to ensure that scorecards are kept honest and accurate throughout the round.

Pace of Play

- Due to pairings, it will be the coach's duty and responsibility to ensure that the pace of play is kept
- Max time for Varsity Tournament Play will be 4hrs 45 mins and Junior Varsity 5 hrs.

Temporary Rule Changes

Holing Out

- Throughout this process facilities have come up with a wide range of mechanisms to decrease touching and potential contamination around the cup and flagstick. Below are examples of how RGVGCA will modify the definition of "holed" based on these mechanisms.
 - Upside Down Cup Liner: If a ball touches the bottom of the cup liner it will be considered holed regardless of where it comes to rest.
 - 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.

Flagstick

- Coaches and 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

- Players will not be permitted to use bunker rakes, regardless of whether rakes are provided by the golf course or not.
- Bunkers will be in play.
- Ball will be treated as Ground Under Repair due to abnormal condition lie within the bunker.
 - Note 1* Abnormal conditions lie (sand disturbed by shots being played from bunker), the player will have the GUR option to drop knee high within bunker.
 - Note 2** Extreme conditions of bunker (excessive play within the bunker), the coach will rake the bunker while taking all necessary sanitary precautions.

FACILITIES

- Host site will ensure at least one female and one male bathroom will be open.
- Clubhouse/Pro-Shop usage will be determined at facilities discretion.

****NOTE: These procedures and policies will be re-evaluated in December 2020 for the Spring Tournament Play Protocols****