

Guidelines to a Safe Reopening of Golf in Pa.

The **Pennsylvania Alliance for Golf** embraces the opportunities for the successful reopening of golf, and maintaining a safe environment for all staff and golfers to maintain our open status during this pandemic. Even in these unprecedented times, with the COVID-19 threat affecting all aspects of life as we know it, golf is available as an outlet for people to exercise and provides one of the few respites from the confines of home. With vast areas of open space containing green grass, ponds and trees, a golf course can provide the ability for social distancing.

The Pennsylvania Alliance for Golf is committed to doing all it can to support our constituents by being a resource of information and a clearinghouse of best practices that will provide guidance to any and all facilities, operators, golf professionals, club officials and stewards of the game. As golfers and industry operators, let's all do our part to keep the game and our loved ones safe.

1. Staffing

- a. It is strongly recommended that all fees, including green, guest and cart fees be paid on line or via touchless payments prior to arrival.
- b. Staff to assist in bag handling anywhere on the property are prohibited. Players should retain personal possession of their golf bags which should not be stored in a baggage storage facility.
- c. Caddies should be prohibited.
- d. Staff will be permitted to provide, sanitize and maintain motorized carts and/or pull carts. Golf carts may be utilized but must be single riders, except for those who share a residence.
- e. Staff will be allowed to ensure access to the property by authorized golfers only. No observers or non-golfers should be allowed on the course.
- f. Staff will be allowed to ensure enforcement of the health and safety restrictions outlined by the Governor. Special attention should be paid to prohibiting grouping in the parking lot and the first tee.
- g. Staff to maintain and sanitize on-course restrooms can be provided.
- h. Staff should wear protective gloves and face masks.
- i. Staff levels should be kept at a minimum appropriate to facility activity.

2. Common Use Items/Equipment

- a. All rakes should be removed from the bunkers. Players should smooth the sand after use using their shoes or a club.
- b. No tees, scorecards, ball markers or other common use items should be provided.

- c. Ball washers and water coolers should be removed. If they cannot be removed, clear signage forbidding their use should be provided.
- d. Flagsticks should not be removed while putting unless a "touchless" device has been installed. Raised cup liners or foam inserts should be used while leaving the flagstick in place.

3. Tee Times

- a. Tee times should be spaced, preferably no closer than fifteen minutes apart, to minimize chance of congregating on the first tee.

4. Social Distancing

- a. Social distancing should be strictly maintained at all times and places on the course.
- b. Handshakes should be eliminated.
- c. No balls or equipment should be shared or exchanged. Rental equipment is prohibited.
- d. Signage outlining these playing restrictions should be prominently posted.

5. Clubhouse/Pro Shop

- a. Pro shops should remain closed to in-person retail sales.
- b. All clubhouse/restaurants should remain closed, take out services permitted in strict accordance health and safety restrictions outlined by the Governor.
- c. Clubhouses should be closed, limited restroom access may be made available.



The **Pennsylvania Alliance for Golf** was formed to create a unified voice for the future of golf in Pennsylvania. Supporting Pennsylvania golf organizations include: Central Pennsylvania Chapter of Club Managers Association, Golf Association of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Golf Association, Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association, Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association (all seven Pa. Chapters), Philadelphia & Vicinity Club Management Association & Philadelphia Club Foundation, Philadelphia PGA Section, Pittsburgh Chapter of the Club Management Association of America, Tri-State Section PGA, Western New York PGA Section, Western Pennsylvania Golf Association.