



GEORGIA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT A GSGA EVENT IN 2021?

*The highest priority for the Georgia State Golf Association (GSGA) is the health, safety and well-being of all players, spectators, GSGA staff, GSGA volunteers, as well as everyone at our host facilities that generously offer their golf course for our events. The intent of the following policies and procedures is to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19 by utilizing publicly available guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), but the GSGA cannot guarantee a risk-free environment. It is everyone's responsibility to follow these guidelines and do your part to help make our events as safe as possible. We thank you in advance for familiarizing yourself and following all policies and procedures the GSGA has implemented. **Until further notice, the following policies and procedures will be in effect:***

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- We will be in regular contact with host facilities prior to and throughout each competition to discuss sanitizing practices for common touchpoints such as carts, practice balls, bathrooms, etc. While we aim to be consistent across the entire schedule with policies and procedures, there may be certain instances where a host club's policies take precedence. Any modifications will be communicated to players through the event portal, e-mail and/or text message.
- Before arriving on-site for a competition, if you feel sick or show any symptoms of COVID-19, or if within the last fourteen (14) days you have felt sick, shown any symptoms of COVID-19, been diagnosed with COVID-19 or been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, we request that you stay home and notify us before your starting time. *Note: We are continuing to provide full refunds of entry fees regardless of reason until a player's starting time (only for the first day of competition for multi-day events).*
- Except when sharing a cart with another player or GSGA official, we ask that social (physical) distancing is always practiced by keeping a minimum of six (6) feet from others. Players and caddies found violating social distancing practices may be subject to a Code of Conduct violation.
- There are no restrictions on spectators attending competitions. Spectators are advised to remain on cart paths and to maintain social distancing from players and other spectators.
- Please ensure all contact information in Golf Genius is updated to receive text messages and e-mails about important event updates and weather delays. General competition announcements will be made prior to the practice round and each competitive round. If you have previously unsubscribed from text message notifications, we ask you to re-subscribe once again so you do not miss any essential information. Please contact Miller McCachern in our Rules & Competitions Department at [mmccachern@gsga.org](mailto:mmccachern@gsga.org) with any contact information updates. To re-subscribe to Golf Genius text messages from GSGA please text START to (888) 599-7983.
- Player gifts, when applicable, will be safely packaged using PPE and sanitized by GSGA staff at least 72 hours prior to arriving on-site for the competition. Registration times, when applicable, will be lengthened and GSGA staff will have proper plans for safe distribution. This may include, but is not limited to, eliminating registration at championships and the distribution of player gifts taking place at the scoring area at the end of your round.
- Buffet lunches have been eliminated until further notice. Food & Beverage offerings will vary from club to club and we will update Player Information pages on the event portal with all pertinent information.
- Spectators must present valid ADA certification at the time of the cart request on-site. Spectators requesting a cart should do so in advance of the competition by contacting our Rules & Competitions Department.

### **BEFORE YOUR STARTING TIME:**

- We request that players not arrive at the golf course **MORE THAN 60 MINUTES** prior to your starting time so that potential large gatherings of players at practice facilities can be avoided.

- Practice range stations will be spaced accordingly to promote social distancing. Practice balls will be set out without bags or baskets and hole flags will be removed from practice putting greens. Please note that it may be necessary for us to limit the amount of time, or number of persons allowed, to practice at a specific location (e.g., range, putting green, short game) to provide an opportunity for all players to have time to warm-up.
- Players are asked to refrain from the traditional handshake or hug prior to the round.
- Please be aware of all signage on and around the golf course that communicates important safety and competition instructions.

#### **DURING YOUR ROUND:**

- We will utilize single tee starts as much as possible to begin the season. Split tee starts may be utilized for large field events or when weather forecasts warrant.
- Caddies are permitted and will be required to sign the GSGA's *Participant Release, Waiver and Covenant Not to Sue* in advance of a competition in which they will serve as a caddie.
- Shuttle carts will be available at GSGA competitions when applicable. Transportation on shuttles will not be required.
- Tees, pencils and hand sanitizer will be available for players in starter boxes/at starting tees. Permanent markers, sunscreen, bug spray, Advil, etc. will NOT be provided at the starting tee and players should come prepared.
- Digital scoring will be used for all qualifying rounds and championships and no paper scorecards will be collected by the GSGA. **Players are encouraged to use the Golf Genius application (available on iOS and Android) for Live Scoring.** Instructions on how to download and use the app can be found [here](#). More information on the GSGA's Modified Scoring Procedure can be found [here](#).
- **Players are encouraged to always leave the flagstick in the hole.** However, prior to the start of the round, it is recommended one player or caddie in each group should be designated by the group to be responsible for holding, attending, removing and replacing the flagstick on each hole throughout the round. Whomever touches a flagstick during a round is encouraged to use sanitizing wipes or hand sanitizer before and after touching a flagstick. There will not be any items (e.g., PVC, foam, etc.) placed in the bottom of the hole so golf balls will come to rest in the bottom of the hole.
- Bottled water may be available at limited locations on the golf course. Pre-packaged snacks may be provided, but fruit will not be provided.
- GSGA staff and volunteers will wear face masks when engaging with players and unable to maintain social distancing.
- Players should call or e-mail the Official in Charge (contact information can be found online) with any questions and should refrain from physically visiting Tournament Headquarters. A phone number may be provided to players to call in the event rules assistance is needed.

#### **AFTER YOUR ROUND IS COMPLETE:**

- Players are asked to refrain from the traditional handshake or hug following the round.
- When your round is complete, please proceed immediately to the scoring area, keep strict social distancing when in the scoring area and follow the instructions of the scoring official as the scoring process will have modified procedures in effect that could include, but is not limited to video and/or audio verification processes.
- Upon completion of the scoring process, players are encouraged to depart the golf course property (exceptions include potential playoff participants or event winners).
- Practice facilities will NOT be available to players after your round.
- Traditional paper scoreboards have been eliminated to reduce areas of player and spectator congestion. In most instances, digital versions of a scoreboard will also be eliminated, and players must rely on their personal devices and the Golf Genius mobile application for competition scoring.
- Traditional trophy and awards ceremonies will be limited. Paper gift certificates may not be distributed. In most cases, the golf shop will receive a prize distribution and players will be notified of their winnings. Gift certificate amounts will be displayed with the results on the Golf Genius event portal and mobile app.

- A simplified version of a trophy presentation will take place with pictures and video of the winner only. Players should not congregate at this time. Added sanitization measures will take place to ensure the trophy is clean and safe for touching by the winner. Take home trophies, when applicable, will remain as originally boxed and distributed to those winners or will be mailed to the player shortly thereafter.

**PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- If within the last fourteen (14) days, you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, have had a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19, you must stay home and notify the GSGA to withdraw from an event.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, lips, and eyes.
- Wash your hands frequently. If you are unable to wash your hands, use hand sanitizer (*Note: We will be providing hand sanitizer to players at events*).
- Please familiarize yourself and follow publicly available best practices as published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) and state / local governments.
- PLEASE BE PATIENT. Allow more time for things such as waiting your turn for use of practice facilities, starting and scoring procedures, awards distribution, etc.
- Respect all direction and instruction provided by GSGA staff, volunteers and/or the host club regarding safety measures in place.
- Respect your fellow players and understand everyone also has their own personal comfort level regarding safety practices. However, everyone must abide by the policies and procedures put in place by GSGA and the host club. Failure to abide by such policies and procedures may result in disqualification due to a Code of Conduct violation and result in suspension from future competitions.