



## **Women's Tournaments Mixed Tournaments Parent Child Tournaments 2020 Policies & Procedures in Response to COVID 19**

Below are the guidelines for Mass Golf Women's Tournaments, Mixed Tournaments and Parent Child Tournaments. These guidelines are based on the recommendations from the WHO, CDC and state government. These are subject to change at any time as guidelines and recommendations are revised and updated by these agencies.

Please note, this document will be continuously revised based on any updated guidelines and recommendations from the WHO, CDC and State government.

Last Updated: Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM

Mass Golf will be working jointly with the host club to ensure that proper health, safety and sanitization protocols are in place. Please expect to see all staff wearing face coverings and disposable gloves as part of these precautions.

The true spirit of Women's Tournaments, Mixed Tournaments and Parent Child Tournaments are a round of golf offering a fun and friendly competitive environment to play with friends and/or family members. We look forward to positive changes to these restrictions in the near future, which will allow us to utilize practice facilities and lift additional restrictions.

All participants of Mass Golf Tournaments should expect a separate e-mail for the Tournament they register for with a mandatory COVID-19 Participant Waiver. This waiver **MUST** be signed, submitted and processed prior to play in the Tournament.

### **General Player Information:**

- ❑ Do **NOT** play if you feel sick or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID 19 in the last two weeks. All travelers arriving from outside Massachusetts are instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Should any of these circumstances occur, a full refund will be issued regardless of when Mass Golf is notified.
- ❑ Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet away from anyone at all times.
- ❑ Do **NOT** touch or handle any event supplies or equipment that is not yours.
- ❑ Players are **NOT** to arrive to the golf course more than **45 minutes** prior to their scheduled starting time. If they do arrive prior to this time they are to remain in their car.
- ❑ **Players are expected to provide their own PPE and other sanitizing materials.** Masks should be worn at all times when proper social distancing cannot be practiced on the golf course, while using all practice areas, starting and scoring areas and/or when in any indoor spaces. Hand sanitizer will be available in common areas (i.e. starting, scoring area, etc.)
- ❑ Mass Golf will verify in advance that host facilities are following sanitization protocols and social distancing procedures.
- ❑ All players are required to transport their own golf bags and equipment as state guidelines will not permit staff to assist players.

## Event Operations:

- Practice Facilities
  - Players are first allowed on practice areas within **45 minutes** of their tee time. The flow should begin with the practice range, then to the practice putting green.
    - Please note that available space on the practice range may be limited, please be respectful of other players when warming up.
    - The only players permitted on the practice putting green at any time should be the next two starting times.
    - While using the practice facilities, competitors must follow social distancing protocols and must use a mask or face covering.
  - Practice at the host facility after a player's round is complete is **prohibited**.
- Starting Tee(s)
  - Please report to the "on deck" area near the 1<sup>st</sup> tee no earlier than 10 minutes before your tee time.
  - Players should report to their starting tee immediately after the group in front of them have completely left the teeing area.
  - Starters boxes containing pencils, tees, ball markers, sunscreen, etc. will **NOT** be available. Players **MUST** provide their own equipment and accessories.
  - Bottled water and snacks will **NOT** be provided. Players **MUST** provide their own or purchase from the host club, if available. Players are also expected to carry-out any/all trash from the course after their round.
- Paperwork
  - Local Rules and Hole Locations may be provided to players (via email) ahead of their round and can be printed in advance or accessed electronically on the golf course.
  - Local Rules and Hole Location printouts will be available onsite as well.
- Caddies
  - Players are **NOT** permitted to use caddies.
- Spectators
  - Spectators will be limited to immediate family only. Additional limitations may be enforced, if needed. Spectators will **NOT** be allowed to take carts.
  - All spectators are expected to practice social distancing at all times and must provide their own PPE.
- Golf Carts
  - Golf carts are for single riders only unless two players reside in the same household.
    - In this situation, please notify Naomi Nesenoff if you plan to share a golf cart with a member of your household. ([nnesenoff@massgolf.org](mailto:nnesenoff@massgolf.org))
  - After your round please promptly return golf carts to designated area.
- Weather Delays/Course Evacuations
  - In the event of a suspension of play all players must proceed to their vehicles. If permitted by the host facility, players will be instructed to take the golf cart directly to their vehicle and take shelter in their vehicle.
  - Evacuation plans will be provided to all players in advance of their round if inclement weather is expected.
  - Communication regarding resumption of play and/or further details after a suspension of play will be communicated to players via text message and/or email.
- Clubhouse
  - Per the direction of the host facility - clubhouse, locker room and pro shop access may be unavailable or limited.
  - Mass Golf will ensure that each host facility will have restrooms available.
- Player Information Sheet
  - Additional information specific to each event and each host club will be made available on the Player Information Sheet that will be distributed to players shortly after the close of entries.
    - This supplemental information will include additional details about food & beverage

availability, practice round availability, course set-up, host facility policies, etc.

## Local Rules:

### □ Bunkers

- All bunker rakes will be removed from the golf course.
- A ball that comes to rest in a bunker may be marked, lifted, cleaned and dropped within **one club length** no closer to the hole.
- The ball must be dropped from knee height and both land in and come to rest within the relief area within the bunker.
- The area in which a player intends to drop may not be improved in any way, including smoothing, raking, kicking or any other action that will materially improve the conditions of their stroke. The act of using a club to measure the one club length area is permitted, provided it is done in a reasonable way and does not materially improve the area in which the player intends to drop.
- Players are expected to smooth all footprints (unkept areas) with their foot, club or other device to the best of their ability after they hit their shot.

### □ Flagstick

- For the safety and well-being of all, the flagstick **MUST NOT** be touched and should always remain in the hole.

### □ Ball Holed

- The definition of Holed is modified in this way: If any part of the ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, the ball is treated as holed even if the entire ball is not below the surface.
- Devices will be placed in the hole to prohibit the ball from falling to the bottom of the cup and requiring players to reach into the hole to retrieve a ball.
- A ball deflected out of the hole will not be considered holed and must be played as it lies.

### □ Scoring (see *Player Information Sheet* for additional scoring details)

- Online/Mobile Scoring via USGA Tournament Management. Prior to the Tournament, players should download the USGA Tournament Management App.
  - Mobile App instructions will be included in the tournament portal. Click [HERE](#) to download the app.
- Paper scorecards will be provided to all participants for the player's own notes. All paper scorecards are considered **UNOFFICIAL**.
- Do **NOT** exchange scorecards at any time.
- Official Scoring Details
  - The first person on the scorecard in each group will be required to serve as the **OFFICIAL** Marker for the group. They will input all scores using the USGA Tournament Management App.
  - The second person down on the scorecard in each group will be designated as the **VERIFIER** of the official scores in the app.
  - Before approaching the scoring area, the **OFFICIAL** Marker and the Verifier **MUST** agree to the group's hole by hole scores.
  - Upon the completion of the round, **ALL** competitors must report to the established scoring area.
  - Do **NOT** hand scorecards to staff at end of round.
  - A member of the Mass Golf staff will verbally announce each player's hole-by-hole scores and require a verbal confirmation which will be used as a signature that the hole-by-hole scores are correct. One or more fellow competitors must also verbally agree as the (marker).
  - Mass Golf staff will voice record the reading of hole-by-hole scores and confirmations from each individual.
- Once a player leaves the defined scoring area all scores are **FINAL** and changes cannot be made unless permitted by the Rules.
- Each player is responsible for posting their individual score for handicap purposes.
- Players must promptly return to their cars and exit the golf course upon the completion of

- official score submissions, unless they may be needed for a potential playoff.
- Paper/electronic scoreboards will **NOT** be used. Results will be posted following completion of play on the tournament portal and [MassGolf.org](https://www.massgolf.org).

Thank you for your understanding and your support of Mass Golf Women's Tournaments, Mixed Tournaments and Parent Child Tournaments. We look forward to seeing everyone back out on the course!

Please visit [website](#) or [social media pages](#) for any updates

