



## **NCGA Team Match Play Procedures During COVID-19 Pandemic**

The following policies will be in effect for all NCGA Team Match Play and are subject to change as new guidelines are established through government agencies. Realizing each golf course has different capabilities of service, Team Captains will work with the golf courses to create safe playing opportunities for players. It is very important for everyone to follow these rules so that Team Match will be able to continue during these uncertain times. Teams or players failing to adhere to the following policies will be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension from Team Match.

**In addition to the following protocols that will be enforced by the NCGA, we ask that you use the following precautions:**

- If you have a fever, cough, or other symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home. Any player with noticeable symptoms will be asked to go home.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, lips, and eyes.
- Wash your hands frequently. If you are unable to wash your hands, use hand sanitizer.
- Please familiarize yourself with and follow the best practices published by the [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC), [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) and [California state and county ordinances](#).

### **General Sanitation Guidelines for Participation in Team Match**

- Absolutely no gathering or loitering at any location on the property before or after a round.
- Players are to maintain at least a six-foot distance minimum from other people (except for household members) while on property whenever possible.
- Mask/facial coverings must be worn when a six-foot distance cannot be met, when indoors (if available) or otherwise in accordance with club and government ordinances.
- There will be no traditional post-match socials. Players are required to leave the property as soon as possible once their match has been decided.

### **Caddies/Advice Giver**

- Caddies are not allowed in Team Match (see Team Match Rule 13b).
- Advice givers are expected to practice social distancing while performing his/her duties.

### **Spectators**

- When permitted, spectators must remain at least six-foot distance minimum from people while on property.
- We request players to limit spectators to one person, preferably a household member, whenever possible. Spectators are expected to maintain a reasonable distance from players during the round as they are not caddies.

### **Groupings**

- No shotgun starts.
- Use a minimum of 10-minute intervals.
- Groups are required to stay away from the starting area until the previous groups have cleared the tee.

### **Fewer than 12 Players**

- Team Match Rule 15 is modified in this way: When a team is unable to field at least six players, the match will not be subject to forfeiture. The team may play with fewer than six players.

## Practice/Warm-Up (When available)

Availability of practice facilities, including driving range and putting green, will be subject to individual facility/county policies and may not be available.

- When available, practice range set up for safe distancing and request players arrive no earlier than 20 minutes prior to starting time and limit range time to 10 minutes to allow others the opportunity. Any stretching or other warm-up activities should be done beforehand at their car.
- When available, the practice putting green is only available to players 10 minutes prior to their starting time. No holes will be available.

## Carts

Cart sanitation policies are subject to county ordinance and will be maintained by the host facilities. Other cart policies may vary based on county ordinance and cart availability. Check with the host Captain for specific cart policies.

- When permitted, carts are limited to single riders. Exceptions may be made for household members.
- Unless otherwise determined by the host facility, groups will be limited to two carts per group.

## Scorecards and Scoring Procedures

Teams are strongly encouraged to utilize mobile scoring and electronic scoring procedures.

- To mobile score, players must download the GolfGenius or USGA TM app.
- The group's GGID – which is the group specific code to enter mobile scores – will be made available by Team Captains prior to the round.
- At least one player in each group must enter scores using the mobile scoring app.
- At the end of the round, all players in the group must confirm that match results are accurate by using the Leaderboard on the app.
- Match results are treated as officially announced one hour after the group has entered the results of the final hole.
- Any issues with the scoring must be communicated with Captains via text, email or phone prior to that deadline and will be confirmed with other players in the group.
- [Training Video for Using GolfGenius/USGA TM Mobile Scoring](#)

### If online scoring is not an option:

- Host Captain will provide each group with scorecards to help players keep track of their match status and hole-by-hole scores.
- Host Captain must announce a designated scoring official prior to the start of the first match.
- Players will verbally announce match results and give hole-by-hole scores to the designated scoring official on site at the completion of the round from a safe distance.
- The designated scoring official will notify Captains by text, email, or phone when all match results are posted in GolfGenius.
- The results of matches are treated as officially announced 12 hours after the designated scoring official notifies the Captains.

## Flagstick and Hole

The following Code of Conduct provision is in effect:

- The flagstick must not be removed or deliberately touched by hand during the round, including with a gloved hand or a towel wrapped around the flagstick. Any player who deliberately ignores this Code of Conduct will be considered guilty of Serious Misconduct (see Rule 1.2b), the penalty for which is **disqualification**.
- Working in concert with each individual facility, a device will be used to ensure players can retrieve the ball from the hole without touching the flagstick or hole. This may include:
  - A foam insert allowing the ball to fall only part way into the hole,
  - A hole with a liner turned upside down so the ball can fall only part way into the hole, or
  - An approved flagstick attachment that allows a player to lift the ball from the hole with their club.
- When a device that does not allow the ball to fall fully into the hole is used, the device is treated as being attached to the flagstick and thus is part of the flagstick. Per Rule 13.2c and the Definition of Holed, if any part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green and is leaning/resting on that device, the ball is treated as holed. A ball that hits the device and does not come to rest with any part of the ball within the hole is not holed.

## Bunker Rakes

- Bunker Rakes will be removed from the course. Players are encouraged to smooth the surface of the bunker with their foot or club before exiting the bunker.
- The condition and specific policies regarding bunker maintenance at a facility will be reviewed by the host Captain. If conditions allow for maintained bunkers to be available to all players (such as by consistent marshal raking or sanitized rakes for individual players), the ball will be played as it lies.
- When it is not possible to provide consistent conditions to all players, the host Captain shall implement the following Local Rule:

**Preferred Lies in Bunker:** When a player's ball lies in a bunker, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this relief area:

- Reference Point: Spot of the original ball
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: One club-length from the reference point, but with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
  - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
  - Must be in the same bunker

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedure for replacing a ball under Rule 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

## Food and Beverage

Host clubs have traditionally provided food and/or beverage for players as part of their host functions. Host Captains will work with facilities to ensure as much food and beverage is available in accordance with county ordinance and facility capabilities. At all events, teams/players are expected to be prepared to bring their own food and beverage as county ordinances may prevent clubs from providing such services.

- When available, food will be issued in accordance with county guidelines which includes consideration for touch points and social distancing guidelines.
- In some cases, food and beverage options may be eliminated and players should be prepared to bring their own snacks and water.
- Specific availability of food and beverage amenities will be communicated by the host Captain to the visiting Captain prior to the day of the match.