

effective as of 5/27/2020



PGA

New England Section

NEPGA Section Tournament Covid-19 Policies and Procedures

Below are a set of Policies & Procedures the NEPGA staff have generated for Section tournaments. The New England PGA has created these policies to keep golf safe, follow guidelines set by the State Governments within our boundaries and other local and national agencies. The NEPGA is working with each host site facility to ensure that they are following the proper procedures for retail, food and beverage, and golf course operations as outlined by the CDC.

As such, the NEPGA will be implementing the following Policies and Procedures until such a time that the NEPGA deems it safe to remove them. Please note, that where these Policies and Procedures directly contradict either the NEPGA Rules & Regulations or the USGA Rules of Golf, these Policies and Procedures will override.

All Professionals that attend an NEPGA event must self-screen before coming to the event for any of the signs or symptoms possible with COVID-19 listed by the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> . If an individual does not feel well, they must stay home and take the proper precautions. If this is the case, players will be given a full refund during the time that these policies are in affect. If you are sick, please stay home.

It is the responsibility of all players participating in an NEPGA event to fully read and understand these policies and abide by them. By registering for and participating in a NEPGA event, players are agreeing to all these policies and to accepting any potential penalties deemed appropriate by the NEPGA Staff.

It is each participants choice if they would like to enact stricter measures than are outlined in this document for themselves, however, restrictions beyond these Policies & Procedures for others are not guaranteed.

COVID-19 Education & Protection

COVID-19

- 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

- All NEPGA 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
- When washing your hands, you should:
 - Use soap and water
 - Wash for a minimum of 20 seconds

Social Distance/Player Contact

- The NEPGA asks that regardless of their position on the golf course, that players maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and other players. This includes when they are preparing for a shot, walking down the fairway/rough, on the teeing area, 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.

Coughing & Sneezing

- Face coverings required in interactive areas (starting tee, scoring area, etc.)
- While out on the golf course, face coverings required at any higher-traffic areas (halfway house, etc.). Otherwise, players are expected to keep at least six feet distance between themselves and other people.
- 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.

General Player Information

Arrival Time

- Professionals are not allowed to access the golf course more than one (1) hour prior to their starting time. If you arrive at the facility prior to this time, you must stay in your vehicle.

Tournament Paperwork

- The NEPGA will communicate all applicable Local Rules, Hard Cards, Hole Locations, and Contestant Information to players digitally prior to the tournament rather than passing out paper copies at the tournament site. Players will also be able to access these documents on their mobile devices through the NEPGA App or on www.nepga.com during play.

Starting Format

- All events will be tee time starts to reduce the number of people congregated in one area.
- In an effort to reduce the amount of person-to-person contact, the NEPGA will be suspending the registration area at all events. Players will register on their starting tee ten (10) minutes prior to their starting time. It is the players responsibility to know their time of starting and be on the starting tee ten (10) minutes prior.
- Starting times and groupings will be emailed to all players prior to the tournament, posted to the Tournament Information Page, and available via the NEPGA App and www.nepga.com.

Scorecards

- Will be distributed on the starting tee. Scorecards will not be exchanged between players and it will be the players responsibility to keep all players in the group's score.
- Scorecards will have all players in the group's name printed on them. Each player will be required to mark the hole-by-hole scores of every player in their group to ensure proper verification of each player's score at scoring.
- Players must bring their own writing utensil for recording scores, as none will be provided on the 1st tee and players will not be permitted to share.
- The scorecard that has your name highlighted will be considered your official scorecard.

Spectators & Caddies

- Caddies will not be permitted until further notice
- Spectators are allowed, but will be required to maintain social distancing of six feet unless they live in the same household until further notice.

Tournament Operations

Practice Facilities

- Driving Range
 - If allowed by local/state government, the NEPGA will be working with facilities to setup the driving range utilizing every other station in order to maintain social distancing.
- Putting & Chipping Green
 - In an effort to maintain Social Distancing (and if allowed by local/state government), the NEPGA will restrict the number of players allowed on any practice putting green or chipping green to however many holes have been cut in the green, with the maximum number allowed being nine (9). Players will be restricted to five (5) minutes in the areas when other players are waiting for access.
 - The NEPGA will have all host facilities remove the flagsticks from both the putting green and chipping green.

Practice Following the Round

- Practice on the putting green, chipping green, and driving range following the round is prohibited.

Scoring

- Once the round is completed, players must proceed straight from the final green to scoring with all their equipment. They are not to stop to converse with other players, not to go to their car or the parking lot for any reason.
- Only PGA Professionals are allowed in the scoring area. No amateurs will be permitted in scoring at pro-am events.
- Only one (1) group will be allowed into the scoring area at a time. All players must stand on the designated marks on the floor during scoring to ensure proper social distancing throughout the process.
- There will be no chairs at the scoring area. All players will be required to stand during the scoring process.
- All players must stand behind the plexiglass barrier between the players and the scoring official(s)
- Once all scores have been reported and verified by players and the scorer, each player will sign the scorecard in their possession – this signature will serve as a certification of their own score, as well as the scores of the other players in their group.
 - This process will ensure that every player's score has been certified as accurate by themselves, as well as the other players in their group.
- The NEPGA will be removing all scoreboards and BlueGolf TV platforms. The leaderboard may

be viewed on mobile devices on the NEPGA app or at www.nepga.com .

- A scorecard will be considered “returned” once the scoring official has taken a picture of the scorecard.

Playoffs

- Until further notice, the NEPGA will not be conducting playoffs for first place in Section events, with the exception of the Section Championship, Senior Championship, and Assistants Championship. In all other events, if players are tied for first place, co-champions will be crowned. In the event that a player may be eligible for a playoff in one of the National Qualifying Championship events, they must proceed directly to their car following play and wait there until it is determined if a playoff will be necessary.
- Playoffs will be conducted for the final qualifying spot in a National Event Qualifier. In the event that a player is near the cut line for the final qualifying spot, they must proceed directly to their car following play and wait there until it is determined if a playoff will be necessary.
- The NEPGA staff will contact that Member via cell phone to let them know if a playoff will be necessary.
- Until further notice, ties for National alternate spots will be broken by a match of scorecards using the USGA recommended method (last 9, last 6, last 3, last hole).
- Playoff procedures may be adjusted in subsequent phases of opening to align with clubhouse access as authorized by state governments.

Awards

- The NEPGA will not be conducting awards ceremonies events. Awards will be shipped to players following the event.

Weather Delays

- In the event of a horn blast signaling a discontinuance of play, all players must proceed directly to their vehicles. The NEPGA staff will communicate any resumption information via text message. The NEPGA will be conscious of the length of delays under this policy.

Holing Out

- The NEPGA will provide mechanisms on the flagsticks that lift the ball out of the hole without touching the inside of the cup. Players will be able to hole out as normal, albeit with the flagstick left in the hole.

Flagstick

- Players must not touch the flagstick under any circumstances. Attending the flagstick as outlined in the Rules of Golf is suspended until further notice.

Bunkers

- If the host facility is able to provide each player with a sanitized rake, bunkers will be played as normal.
- If the host facility is not able to provide a rake per player:
 - A Local Rule will be in effect allowing relief from disturbed areas in bunkers,

under Rule 16.1c (Ground Under Repair).

- Note that Rule 16.1c includes an option for players to take back-on-a-line relief outside the bunker for one penalty stroke.

Food & Beverage

Water Coolers & Snacks

- The NEPGA is asking all host facilities to remove all of their on-course coolers. However, should a facility elect not to remove these, the NEPGA accepts no liability for them and encourages players to use extreme discretion regarding their use.
- The NEPGA will not be providing bottled water or snacks on the first/tenth tee until further notice.
- All players are responsible for bringing their own bottled water for on-course consumption.

Food & Beverage

- In the interest of safety, meals will not necessarily be included at tournaments until further notice. The NEPGA will communicate whether food will be served prior to the event, and if so, contact-free boxed lunches or other precautionary measures will be in place.
- Please be aware that food and beverage will not necessarily be provided at any given event.

On-Course Touch-Points

Sand Buckets

- The NEPGA is asking all host sites to remove the sand buckets from Par 3's. However, should a facility elect not to remove these, the NEPGA accepts no liability for them and encourages players to use extreme discretion regarding their use

Golf Carts

- The NEPGA will be allocating each player their own golf cart, when available. The NEPGA is working with each host facility to ensure that carts are being properly sanitized prior to play.
- In the event that carts are limited, the NEPGA will issue a call for volunteers to walk, or may limit the size of the field based upon cart availability.

Ball Washers & Benches

- Since it is impracticable for many facilities to remove their ball washers and benches, the NEPGA asks that all players refrain from utilizing either of these items.

Starters Boxes

- The NEPGA will be removing starters boxes from all starting tees.
- Please ensure that you bring a writing utensil, ball markers, and tees with you.
- Sunscreen and bug spray will not be provided by the NEPGA. All players are expected to bring

their own, if needed.

Hand Sanitizer

- The NEPGA will provide hand sanitizer stations at all starting tees and in the scoring area.
- Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for on-course use.

Clubhouse

- The NEPGA will defer to facilities' practices and state guidelines on whether the clubhouse is open to guests or not.
- The NEPGA will ensure that each host site has at least one (1) male and one (1) female bathroom available.

NEPGA App

- The NEPGA has an App that gives access to all Tournament Information Pages, tournament registration, and leaderboards. Please visit the Apple and Android App Stores for the free download.