2020-21 Golf Requirements and General & Rule Recommendations

With assistance from the Northern Ohio PGA's Junior Tour guidelines and the USGA, the Ohio High School Athletic Association supports the requirements and recommendations outlined in this document which are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps in each school, city, and state to help prevent the spread of virus. Ohio schools are required to follow state COVID-19 general guidance for "Youth, Collegiate, Amateur and Professional Sports"
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf
Even when taking all precautions, there will still be risk of transmitting illnesses. Everyone should stay vigilant about the health of members of their teams. Lastly, the situation with Covid-19 is rapidly changing. These considerations may quickly become outdated. Please keep up with the latest from the CDC and other health officials in your area.

*A **requirement** must be adhered to and followed. A **recommendation** is a consideration to the sport and allows for optional guidelines. Recommendations are not required but are permitted.*

REQUIREMENTS:

Requirements for Coaches:
- Coaches must wear face masks at all times, including arriving and departing the facility and during active play.

Requirements for Facility Hosts:
- Follow existing guidance for "Golf Course and Miniature Golf Operations"
  https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Golf-Course-Operator.pdf
- Inform the local health district when events are scheduled and establish a plan to handle those persons who fail a symptom assessment or temperature check or exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Predetermine areas for all participants, coaches, contest officials and game-day personnel to shelter in the event there is lightning and/or thunder.
- Clearly review prior to the contest mandates, best practices and school/host facility policies with visiting team administrators and/or coaches and officials as they relate to, but are not limited to, parking; entrances and exits; medical care; spectators; ticketing; locker rooms/showers; athletic training rooms and restrooms; water; towels; equipment, and shelters in the event there is inclement weather.

RETURN TO COMPETITION RECOMMENDATIONS:

Prior to Competition:
- Host school remains in contact with host golf course and local health department to determine any guidelines/recommendations/requirements in place.
- Host school communicates any guidelines/recommendations/requirements to participating schools.
- Host school communicates with host golf course on local rules as it pertains to flagsticks/ball retrieval/bunker rakes/bunker rules/etc.
- Host school communicates local rules to participating schools.
- Determine whether paper scorecards or electronic scoring will be utilized. No waiver is necessary should you choose to utilize electronic scoring as a blanket waiver has been approved for this season.
- Determine whether temperature checks/other health assessments will be utilized upon arrival.
- When conducting temperature checks, take into account the potential for environmental factors causing an elevated temperature. Should the temperature be elevated, it is appropriate to isolate the individual and recheck the temperature after 5-to-10 minutes of sitting in a cool environment.
- Determine a practice range and greens schedule in order to maintain proper social distancing.
- Determine whether spectators need to be limited due to course layout/number of participants/course guidelines/local health department guidelines/etc.
- Create an accurate list of participants and groups should contact tracing be necessary.
- Determine format of play. Shotgun starts are permitted if social distancing can be maintained.
- Consideration should be given to limiting contests against only teams in your local area or, if out-of-state, against teams located in counties that are contiguous to Ohio.

Arrival to Facility:
- Players/schools arrive as close to their practice time as possible.
- Players refrain from entering clubhouse unless communicated entry points and restrooms are stated.
- Maintain social distancing.
- Conduct any temperature checks/other health assessments.
- When conducting temperature checks, take into account the potential for environmental factors causing an elevated temperature. Should the temperature be elevated, it is appropriate to isolate the individual and recheck the temperature after 5-to-10 minutes of sitting in a cool environment.

Practice Range and Greens:
- Limit the number of people on the range/greens to ensure proper spacing.
- Only enter the practice area during designated time.
- Avoid as much contact as possible with non-personal items such as practice cups, range balls, etc.
- Do not permit anyone other than coaches/players to be near the practice areas.

First Tee Procedures:
- Sanitize upon arrival.
- If paper scorecards are being used, sanitize after handing out or picking up.

During the Round:
- Follow all procedures on local rules regarding flagsticks/bunker rakes/etc.
- Refrain from using benches/ball cleaners/restrooms and any other common areas or touchpoints.
- Continue to sanitize throughout play.
- Athletes are permitted to wear masks at any time during play.
- Any lunches provided are pre-packaged and avoid concession lines/congregation.

Scoring Area:
- Sanitize upon arrival.
- One group in a scoring area at a time.
- Confirm scores verbally rather than trading cards.
- Any rulings take place in a secure area away from the scoring area.
- Groups leave scoring area after scores are posted.

Post Round:
- Teams should return to cars/busses/other open area after score is posted.
- No awards ceremony.

Spectators
- Arrive as close to tee time as possible for participant they are watching.
- Avoid practice areas, tee areas, clubhouse, scoring areas, and other common areas.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Coaches:
- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Consider conducting workouts in "pods" of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.
- Sanitize equipment as often as time permits.

Students:
- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should carry personal hand sanitizer in their bag.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well.
- Bring your own water/food.

Parents:
(A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):
- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home).
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your student's personal equipment after each contest or practice.

Facility Hosts:
- If applicable, stagger the entry of all participants, coaches, officials, student game-day auxiliary groups and spectators to adhere to six-foot social distancing.
- Consider multiple points of entry to help ensure there is six-foot social distancing.
- Use contact-less payments where possible.
- Appoint an individual(s) who is responsible for assisting the host facility manager(s) in logging all incidents and action plans when mandates have not been followed and/or incidents occur; logging recommendations for improving the host facilities' game-day strategies, and creating reports on said items that were logged.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
- Ohio Department of Health coronavirus website (coronavirus.ohio.gov)
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov/coronavirus)