



2021 COVID 19 Operating Procedures

The Maryland State Golf Association has worked diligently to develop operating procedures that will be used as we navigate through the COVID - 19 pandemic. Our goal is to provide a safe environment for participants, host club staff, volunteers, MSGA staff, and everyone involved in the conduct of an MSGA Championship. This document is meant to be a living document that will be updated periodically. Please keep in mind these policies are subject to change based on current CDC and Health Department directives. Hopefully we will be able to return to more normal operations in the near future as restrictions are eased. **Please note: Any host facility policy that may be more stringent than those outlined below will be followed for all MSGA Events.** Our updated policies for our on-site events are as follows:

COVID 19 MSGA Event Operating Procedures

Championship Events

If any player is showing any signs of illness they are asked to stay home. All players must sign the waiver of liability prior to competing in an MSGA championship.

Pre-Round

- Players are asked to arrive at the course no more than 45 minutes prior to their starting time.
- Players should be mindful of social distancing (six feet apart) from the moment they arrive at a host facility.
- Practice areas are only available to participants **45 minutes prior** to their tee time.
- Tournament information will be emailed out before arrival at the event site. This includes Conditions of Competition, hole location sheets, etc.
- Players will be assigned the scorecard of a player in their group and will be that scorecard's Marker.
- Should a player need to go inside the clubhouse, they will need to follow the face covering requirements of the host facility. Please follow the masking guidelines for junior golfers as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Those guidelines can be [found here](#)*, under the heading 'When should face masks be worn?', paragraph one.
- Tees, pencils, ball-markers, and sharpies will not be available at the starting tee(s). Players should bring their own equipment.

During Round

- Players can either wear face coverings and ride together or alternate who rides on which hole, one rider max in the cart at a time. Both golf bags may be on the cart for the entire

round.

- All cups will be placed in the ground for competition rounds.
- Rakes will be permitted at the discretion of the facility.
- Caddies will be permitted at the discretion of the facility.
- The MSGA asks that regardless of their position on the golf course that players maintain six feet of distance between themselves and other players. This includes when they are preparing for a shot, walking in the general area, on the teeing ground, on the putting green, and all other locations.

Post Round

- Scorecards can be exchanged at scoring area, scores will be checked and attested by the player and marker.
- Only 3 participants (the players from each pairing group) will be allowed in the scoring area at a time.
- Social distancing (six feet apart) should be observed at any leaderboard display.
- Players are asked to wear a face covering in the scoring area.

Food and Beverage

- Food and Beverage offerings will be decided by each host facility. There will be no F & B as part of the entry fee for any MSGA event until further notice and no on course amenities.
- On-course water stations will be permitted at the discretion of the host facility. Players are encouraged to bring their own water bottles or purchase beverages from the host facility when available.

Weather Delays

- Should play be suspended for inclement weather, players are encouraged to seek shelter in their cars.
- If the clubhouse is open, players without a car can seek shelter inside the clubhouse while still maintaining social distancing and adhering to any guidelines issued by the Maryland State Fire Marshal.
- Instructions to resume play will be distributed via text or email. The MSGA will be utilizing the texting capabilities of the USGA Tournament Management system.
- Practice facilities will be closed during weather delays including practice putting green.

Restroom Facilities

- Restroom facilities will be open at host facilities but social distancing will be enforced.

Miscellaneous

- All players should refrain from touching their fellow competitors in any way, including shaking hands prior to and following the round.
- Spectators will be held to the same social distancing requirements as players.
- No spectator carts will be available.

Contact Tracing

- The MSGA will utilize the registration data collected via our Golf Genius portal to gather and maintain contact tracing information for those in attendance at all our events. This information will be available through the current year. The data collected includes the following information: name, address, e-mail address, cell phone, event participation, event dates, and time of start.

