



# Rhode Island Golf Association

## COVID-19 Local Rules

The following Local Rules will be in effect at all RIGA events until the Committee deems them unnecessary. These rules are in addition to the terms of the competition and notice to players for each event.

### 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 14 days.
- Please maintain social distancing at all times.
- Do NOT touch or handle any tournament supplies or equipment that is not yours.
- 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 or when in any indoor spaces.
- The RIGA will supply hand sanitizer on the first tee and in the scoring area only.

**Arrival** – The general policy is that players are NOT allowed to arrive at the golf course more than **45** minutes prior to their starting time. If a player arrives to the facility prior to this time, he or she must stay at one's vehicle. The player may use the time to change shoes, stretch, get their push cart and/or golf bag ready and otherwise prepare for the round.

**Practice Facilities** – the general policy below allows players a window of access to the practice facilities on a limited time, priority basis. The intent of the policy is to provide a flow through the practice tee (if available, short game area (if available), and putting green. Every player should have a fair and equitable opportunity to warm up prior to play, and should be respectful of fellow players when preparing to play.

Players are first allowed on practice areas within **40 minutes** of their tee time. The suggested flow should begin with the practice tee for **20 minutes**, then to the short game area and/or putting green for the remainder of time before reporting to the tee. This will retain social distancing and prioritize access to each area. The number of players allowed on the putting green or in short game area will be restricted to the number of holes that have been cut in the greens.

As the size and access to practice areas differs, this general policy may be adjusted for specific events. This will be communicated in the Notice to Competitors for each event. **Practice at the host facility after a player's round is complete is prohibited.**

**Starting Tees** – Players should check in at their starting tee immediately after the group in front of them has left the teeing area. **Pencils, scorecards, tees, sharpies, sunscreen and water bottles will NOT be available on the starting tees. Players must provide their own.**

**Paperwork** – All tournament paperwork, including hole location and local rule sheets, will be provided electronically prior to the tournament. *A player is encouraged to **view, read and print** these materials on their own before their round.* Links to these materials will be sent to tournament participants and always may be found on the event landing page on the RIGA website.

**Scorecards** – Group online scoring is mandatory through the use of the USGA Tournament Management app. If a player is unable to online score, the player is encouraged to bring his or her own score-marking materials (i.e., paper and pencil) as **paper scorecards will NOT be given to players.** A link to a blank scorecard will be available to print on the RIGA website tournament page.

## LOCAL RULES

### **BUNKERS:**

Any damaged area in a bunker is deemed Ground Under Repair, and the player may take full relief under GUR procedures (Rule 16.1c) but must stay inside the bunker. Note—Rule 16.1 is modified this way: Interference exists only if the damaged area in a bunker interferes with the player's lie of the ball and the player will place the ball within one club length of the original spot, no nearer the hole.

- Damaged areas include (but are not limited to) footprints and other disturbances that may have been caused by players, animals or other sources

- In the unlikely event that there is nowhere to drop without going closer to the hole, the player may place at the nearest point of relief (without the one-club length) even if that spot is closer to the hole.

- Under a Penalty of One Stroke, the player may elect to drop behind the bunker along the line formed by the flagstick and the spot where the ball is at rest in the bunker, going back on the line as far as the player wishes.

### **FLAGSTICK:**

For the safety and well-being of all, the flagstick is not to be touched and is to remain in the hole at all times. Rule 13.2 is modified in this way: A player is prohibited from making a stroke with the flagstick removed from the hole. Note: Touching the flagstick, the inadvertent removal and the subsequent replacement of the flagstick is not of itself a penalty. The flag may not be tended.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:

First Breach—**General Penalty**

Subsequent Breaches—**Disqualification**

### **SCORING:**

A player's digital scorecard is considered returned after verbally agreeing to the hole-by-hole scores and leaving the scoring area.

### **WEATHER DELAYS / COURSE EVACUATIONS:**

In the event of a suspension of play for a dangerous situation, all players must proceed to their vehicles and take shelter there.

Communication regarding resumption of play and/or further details after the suspension of play will be communicated via text message and email.