



“BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR GOLF COURSE RE-OPENING IN COVID-19”

The Bermuda Golf Association and The Bermuda Professional Golfer’s Association, advocate for the use of these best practice guidelines to facilitate a safe return to golf for our members, course operators and the general public. We realise each course operator maintains their own autonomy, and we ask that golfer abide by the safety operations and procedures in place at each course.

5 KEY POINTS

- 1) Social distancing will be to a minimum of 6 feet, preferably 8 feet between players.
- 2) Removal of all contactable surfaces to assist reduction in contact points at each golf course. Measures for consideration to reduce contact points are the use of foam cup fillers/styrofoam/pool noodles in the hole, raising the cup 1 inch above ground, and keeping the flag in place at all times during play.
- 3) Removal of all communal contactable objects such as water coolers, ball washers, bunker rakes.
- 4) Initially we recommend no usage for motorised carts, rental push-cart, caddies or rental clubs.
- 5) All Food&Beverage (F&B) to close until operations advised by public health operational guidelines.

ADMINISTERING THE GAME

- 1) Consider using the Rules of Golf amended specifically for the Covid-19 crisis.
- 2) Consider an increase of tee sheet timings between 12 to 15 minutes intervals, implement where possible the usage of two tee starts and utilise more starter times (gaps) on the tee sheet.
- 3) Maximum group size of 3 and encourage a ‘ready golf’ approach.
- 4) Pace of Play to be within 3 hours 30 minutes for 18 holes, and 1 hour 15 minutes for nine-holes.
- 5) Where possible consider best practice course management set ups to assist in keeping Pace of Play i.e. Minimise length of the rough, widen fairways, suitable green speeds and accessible hole placements.
- 6) Player keeps own scorecard with verbal verification by marker. No requirement for signature.
- 7) No player to use or touch another player’s equipment.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Arriving at the Club

- Encourage online tee time or telephone booking, online payment, prepayment or monthly billing .
- Golf shop sales operations to work with a pre-order curb-side pick up.
- Gradual return to in-shop operations with restrictions as permitted by public health guidelines.
- ***As we return, we recommend no cart, rental push-cart, clubs or caddie usage.***
Actively encourage walking with own personal equipment i.e. bag, clubs and push cart.
- We recognise economic impact and medical requirement with the usage of motorised cart rentals.
- On return to usage of motorised carts in golf we recommend — one player per cart at all times.
- Post round all carts and equipment rentals to be disinfected by golf course operations.

After the Round

- No physical or social interactions or at the conclusion of a round.
- No post-round gathering/socialising in and around the clubhouse including parking lot.

Clubhouse Operations/Facilities

- Minimal staff to monitor and deliver outside services operations.
- Minimal staff to maintain golf shop curb-side sales and maintenance operational control.
- Clubhouse, locker room, bar and F&B closed (see above).
- Where possible allow the bathrooms access only primarily for infection control purposes.
- Require player’s to leave the golf club immediately after the round.
- ***At this time close the practice areas***
- Reopen practice areas with marked indicate social distancing and public health guidelines
- Discontinue all lessons until practice areas and industry standard recommendations meet public health guidelines.

Adapted from the Royal and Ancient, PGA of America and National Golf Foundation.