



## **Back2Golf Operations Playbook - Junior Golf Programming**

Updated May 28, 2020

These guidelines provide guidelines for running organized junior golf programming in Phase 2. Thank you for abiding by this plan, these provided guidelines will cover public health, social distancing, and well being, our goal is to provide safe character education golf lessons.

### **General Clarifications**

- Reference [Back2Golf](#) and Implement all procedures described in Phase II of the Back2Golf Operations Playbook.
- All organizations, facilities, and staff shall follow the guidelines of their [local health authorities](#). State of Minnesota Stay Safe Plan:
- <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>
- Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports:
- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/youthsports.pdf>
- All organizations, facilities, and staff shall follow [sanitation](#) and [social distancing](#) guidelines outlined by the [Centers for Disease Control](#).
- It is important to note that the 1:9 Player/Coach limitations refers to gatherings (ex. Practice Areas, Clubhouse, Registration, etc.). As long as a program organizer can have protocols in place to ensure that people do not have gatherings of 10 or more, then these groups can conduct organized junior golf programming. We have modified group sizes and league formats to comply with the Governor's guidelines and have set clear expectations for participants.
- Adhere to a staff (or volunteer) to participant ratio of 1:9. If social distancing cannot be attained with the group size, then the number of participants must be reduced. Within the program, create consistent pods of the same staff, volunteers, and participants with a maximum number of 10 people in each pod.
- These guidelines are designed for commonly organized junior golf programs such as camps, clinics, and practices that primarily utilize practice facilities.
- For programs including golf course play, please refer to the [Competitions Addendum](#) for detailed guidelines to follow while on-course.

## Culture/Etiquette

- Any participant, parent, guest or staff who does not feel well must stay home, or if on site, must return home immediately.
- Participants, parents, guests and staff are encouraged to consider wearing cloth facial coverings during instruction, check-in, pick up. On-course play may not require a facial covering.
- No physical contact of any kind (including handshakes and high fives).
- Participants, family members, guests and staff should be trained on appropriate ways to handle greetings and other interactions that are traditional to the game of golf. **Handshakes and high fives should be replaced with creative alternatives that do not require touching.** These interactions include, but are not limited to:
  - Introductions
  - Encouragement
  - Departures
  - Verbal encouragement is another great way to replace any physical interactions.

## Pre-Arrivals

- Consider the age of participants and their ability to comply with social distancing guidelines in your programming decisions.
- Send communication to parents with the spectator, food and beverage, sanitation, etc. guidelines outlined below.
- Email any other printed programming materials such as lesson plans, staff/volunteer guidelines, activities, etc. for participants to print and bring to the program.
- Prepare and share an inclement weather plan with all participants and their parent/guardian. If inclement weather is expected, modify or cancel your program.
- Ask participants to come to the golf course ready to play with sanitized equipment.
- Sanitize any rental equipment that will be provided to participants before and after each use.
- Notify facility members/guests of the youth golf program taking place and ask them to abide by social distancing guidelines.
- Prepare and place appropriate signage around the facility explaining “Physical Distancing” and other relevant Covid policies.
- Additional COVID-19 information:
  - [Facts About COVID-19](#)
  - [Symptoms of COVID-19](#)
  - [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
  - [Back2Golf Social Distancing Guidelines posters](#)

### Protective Practices:

- [Washing Your Hands 1 & 2](#)
- [Social Distancing 1 & 2](#)
- [Protect others from getting sick 1 & 2](#)

## Program Execution

### Drop-off/Registration:

- Designate staggered arrival times for participants to ensure no large gatherings upon check-in for the event/program.
- Try to have any entry fees/payments/disclaimer forms agreed to, signed and paid for in advance (on-line electronically). Discourage all day-of registrations.
- Set-up check-in area outdoors if possible with no seating and elevated work space for individual registrations.
- If indoor check-in is necessary, it should be in an open spacious room with ample access/egress spacing. Try to avoid narrow or limited space locations.
- If nametags are utilized, have the participants pick them up off a table. Try disposable nametags instead of reusable.
- Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to stay on-site for the duration of programming to assist with any health and/or inclement weather situations.
- If activities are occurring around practice facilities, parents/guardians are encouraged to observe from their vehicle.
- If activities are occurring on the golf course, one parent/guardian is recommended to spectate either via a single-rider golf cart (sanitized and cleaned prior to use) or walking along at a safe distance.
- Follow a path that participants can follow through checking in, lesson and pick up. Entrance through the regular doors facing Montreal Ave, exit out the garage doors. Create a one-way path from the garage to the chipping area then to the driving range area.
- Clean commonly touched area (door knobs, check in area, balls, training aids and clubs) before and after each camp/class
- Create 2 Sanitation areas, one for disinfected clubs and one for used clubs.
- Coaches & Juniors are encouraged to wear masks

#### **Practice Areas:**

- To insure social distancing during outdoor lesson, hula-hoops, cones, tape, and other markers will be used to for safety staging areas & safe practice areas that will keep participants 6 feet apart.
- Maintain appropriate coach to participant ratios. (Pods of a maximum of 1:9 coach/player ratio, pods will never cross paths during lessons, we are encouraging a 1:5 coach/ratio)
- The practice facilities including Full Swing Areas, Chipping Greens and Putting Greens should be utilized only providing physical distancing can be maintained.
- Players using the range should carry their own clubs to the hitting stations and move practice balls with their club heads (not by hand) to position for hitting.
- Players should bring their own golf balls to the practice putting green (3 max).
- Stagger clean up/ball retrieval to half the group at a time.
- Alternative: have a designated coach pick up all golf balls and replenish the hitting areas with new ones, or assign each student a color of golf balls that only they can touch and use.

#### **Food & Beverage:**

- All participants should bring the necessary food and beverages to maintain hydration and nutrition throughout the event.
- Food and beverage should be stored in a personal cooler or golf bag, and not handled by anyone other than the participant and/or their parent/guardian.
- If coaches must provide any food or beverage items, they should wear gloves while handling and ensure each item is individually packaged.
- Community water stations are discouraged and individual water bottles should be provided, if necessary.

**Player Equipment:**

- Players or parent/guardian transport their own golf clubs throughout the program (from their vehicle to when they return them to their vehicle).
- Participants shall not share their equipment or touch another participant's equipment. This includes golf clubs, golf balls, ball markers, tees, etc.
- Coaches should avoid touching participant equipment as much as possible.
- Do not allow participants to store bags indoors or on any bag storage racks.

**Restrooms:**

- Only one participant/Coach may use the restroom at a time. Ensure appropriate social distancing occurs if a restroom line is formed.

**On-Course Play:**

- When transitioning participants from practice areas to golf course play, stagger kids going to the first tee based on tee times.
- Consider appropriate on-course formats, games, and activities to allow for all social distancing guidelines to be maintained - e.g. automatic two putts, etc.
- Reference the [Competitions Addendum](#) for more detailed guidelines for on-course competitions.

**Departures:**

- Consider implementing a non-handshake handshake to end the program.
- Consider staggered pick-up times to avoid large gatherings at the end of programs.

The First Tee of the Twin Cities is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, our mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

Thank you for following the guidelines and being safe!

Brian Simpson, Aaron Shafranski, & Franco Zerna  
The First Tee of the Twin Cities