



The Northeastern New York PGA is working diligently to conduct our tournaments in conjunction with the World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control, President's policies and recommendations as they pertain to COVID-19. As such, the NENY PGA will be implementing the below Policies and Procedures until such a time that the above organizations deem it safe to remove them. Please note, that where these Policies and Procedures directly clash with either the NENY PGA Rules & Regulations or the USGA/PGA Rules of Golf, these Policies and Procedures will override.

COVID-19

The following are a set of Policies & Procedures the NENY PGA staff have generated for the NENY PGA Professional events. The NENY PGA has created these policies to keep golf safe, follow guidelines set by the states of New York and Massachusetts as well as local and national agencies. The NENY PGA is working with each host site facility to ensure that they are following the proper procedures for retail, food and beverage, and golf course operations as outlined within our protocols. We believe golf can be a tremendous vehicle to get exercise, be outside, and enjoy this great sport in a safe manner.

As such, the NENY PGA will be implementing the below Policies and Procedures until such a time that the NENY PGA deem it safe to remove them. Please note, that where these Policies and Procedures directly clash with either the NENY PGA Rules & Regulations or the USGA/PGA Rules of Golf, these Policies and Procedures will override.

All golfers that might attend a NENY PGA Golf event must self-screen before coming to the event for any of the signs or symptoms possible with COVID-19. If an individual does not feel well, they must stay home and take the proper precautions. If this is the case, players will be given a full refund during the time that these policies are in affect.

If you are sick, please stay home.

It is the responsibility of all players participating in a NENY PGA event to fully read and understand these policies and abide by them. By registering for and participating in a NENY PGA event, players are agreeing to all these policies and to accepting any potential penalties deemed appropriate by the NENY PGA Staff.

It is each participants choice if they would like to enact stricter measures than are outlined in this document for themselves, however, restrictions beyond these Policies & Procedures on others are not guaranteed.

At all times, ensure that you have a mask readily available if a circumstance arises that social distancing cannot be observed.

COVID-19 Education & Protection

COVID-19

Based off national and local guidance, it is important for players to understand how COVID-19 spreads and ways to protect yourself.

Knowing How It Spreads – The virus is spread mainly from person to person:

- Between people who are within 6-feet of each other
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs
- Basic ways to protect yourself
 - Washing Your Hands Often
 - Avoid Close Contact
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
 - Cover coughs and sneezes
 - Clean and disinfect
 - Remain 6-feet away from individuals

Self-Screening

- All NENY PGA players will be required to self-screen prior to being on-site at tournaments.
- Players must stay at home if they display any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible

COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizer

- When washing your hands, you should:
 - Use soap and water
 - Wash for a minimum of 20 seconds

Coughing & Sneezing

If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer.

Social Distancing

The NENY PGA asks that regardless of their position on the golf course, that players maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and other players and spectators. This includes when they are preparing for a shot, walking down the fairway/rough, on the teeing ground, on the putting green, and all other locations.

- All players must refrain from touching their fellow competitors in any way, including shaking hands prior to and following the round.
- Players must not touch, handle, or share each other's equipment.
- At all times, ensure that you have a mask readily available if a circumstance arises that social distancing cannot be observed.

Pre-Event Policies

Arrival Time

Juniors are not allowed to access the golf course more than 45 minutes prior to their starting time. If you arrive at the facility prior to this time, you must stay in your vehicle.

Registration

There will be no official Registration Area.

It is the players responsibility to know their time of starting and be on the starting tee no more than eight (8) minutes prior to their tee time and arrive to the tee after the group ahead of their tee time has left the tee.

Starting times and groupings will be emailed to all players prior to the tournament, posted to the Tournament Information Page, and available via the App.

Starting Format

All events will be Tee Time starts to reduce the number of people congregated in one area.

Starting Time Increments

Groups will be assigned starting times with 10-minute increments

Tournament Paperwork

Communicate all applicable Local Rules, Hard Cards, Hole Locations, and Contestant Information to players digitally prior to the tournament rather than passing out paper copies at the tournament site. Players will also be able to access these documents on their mobile devices through the App or on the website during play.

Download the Northeastern New York PGA App

Search "Northeastern New York PGA"

Be sure to select the Junior App

We will send you a check in code via text and email the day prior to each event

By checking into the event, you will have access to

- *Hole Locations
- *Local Rules
- *Summons a Rules Official

Practice Facilities

Driving Range

Work with facilities to setup the driving range utilizing every other station in order to maintain social distancing. 12 feet minimum hitting stations. The section will ask for the range balls to be set up in a pyramid or pile at each hitting station. If all stations are filled, please limit your time.

Putting & Chipping Green

In an effort to maintain Social Distancing, restrict the number of players allowed on any practice putting green or chipping green to 6 players. Players will be restricted to 10 minutes in the areas when other players are waiting for access.

Players should not hit to a hole in the green. Flags to be removed from practice green. Suggested to place tee or object on the green and putt to the object. Multiple players must hit putts to separate objects.

Player Timing Sample

Player Starting Time: 8:27 AM

Arrival time: 7:42 AM (*45 minutes prior to starting time*)

Range time: 7:42 AM – 8:02 AM (*20 minute duration*)

Putting green time: 8:02 AM – 8:17 AM (*15 minute duration*)

Arrive on first tee – Not before 8:19 AM (*Not more than 8 minutes prior*)

*It is important that players follow the designated order of practice area and be cognizant of the time/duration at each. We understand your typical routine may differ, but in order to accommodate all players and meet the appropriate limitation of numbers at each practice area it is a must. Each of our host site's practice areas will be different sizes, etc. so this regimented timing will help achieve social distancing while providing the opportunity for all the players.

On Course

Hand Sanitizer

We will provide hand sanitizer stations on the 1st starting tee and in the scoring area.

No Starter Box Available

No Tees, pencils, sharpies, sunscreen, bug repellent, or snacks will be available during the event. Please ensure that you bring a writing utensil, ball markers, and tees with you. Please make sure your golf ball is clearly marked prior to arrive at the golf course.

Scorecards

Will be distributed on the starting tee. Scorecards will not be exchanged between players and it will be the players responsibility to keep score as in the past.

Sand Buckets

All host sites will be asked to remove the sand buckets from Par 3's and not have them available on the golf cars.

Ball Washers & Benches

Since it is impracticable for facilities to remove their ball washers and benches, we ask that all players refrain from utilizing either of these items.

Bunkers

Preferred lies may be utilized for a ball that lies in a bunker. When using this option, player must place the ball in the same bunker within one club length of where the ball originally lied, no nearer the hole.

Flags/Flagsticks

Players must not touch the flagstick under any circumstances. Tending of the flag as outlined in the Rules of Golf is suspended until further notice.

Spectators and Caddies

A player may have a maximum of one parent/guardian/spectator on the facility property.

Holing Out

To allow players to remove the ball without touching the ball retrieving device (which only requires a player to use his or her putter shaft to retrieve the ball from the hole) or a pool noodle will be used.

Clarification of when a ball is holed when noodles or pipes are included:

“If a ball goes into the hole but bounces out due to the noodle or plastic pipe close to the surface, A ball is considered to have been holed if it is known or virtually certain that the only reason it did not remain in the hole is because the noodle or pipe caused the ball not to be holed. If there is no such certainty, then the ball must be played where it came to rest”.

Flagsticks – Players must NOT touch the flagstick under any circumstance. Tending of the flag as outlined in the Rules of Golf is suspended until further notice. A player's ball will be considered holed as is outlined in the Rules of Golf.

Clubhouse/Restrooms

Clubhouse – The NENY PGA will defer to facilities practices on whether the clubhouse is open to guests or not.

The NENY PGA will ensure that each host site has at least one (1) male and one (1) female bathroom available which has been cleaned and sanitized.

Weather Delays

In the event of a horn blast signaling a discontinuing of play, players must evacuate, and must proceed directly to their vehicles they arrived in.

Communication regarding resumption of play will be sent via text and email message.

If the delay will be longer than one hour, the event Rules & Regulation policies will be adhered to.

No practice prior to the resumption of play will be allowed.

Post Round/Event

Scoring Area

Social distancing must be maintained.

Participants must use the Sanitation Station upon entering the scoring area.

Only one group will be allowed in the scoring area at any one time.

Using the hole by hole scores entered on the NENY PGA Junior App, players will confirm scores verbally to each other.

Once hole by hole scores are agreed upon with the marker, players will confirm scores to the scoring official. Once the hole by hole scores are confirmed, the scores will be official in this method in lieu of a signature on the scorecard.

The scoring official will be at a table and the players will remain 6 feet away during the scoring process. No chairs will be available at the scoring area.

Any rulings will take place in a secure area away from the scoring area while maintaining social distancing.

Groups must leave the scoring area immediately after their scores are confirmed.

Once players leave the scoring area, they will be asked to return to their car and exit the property upon completion of the round.

Post Round

Players must return to their cars and exit the property upon completion of their rounds.

No congregation will be allowed post round.

Any events where a playoff is needed to determine the winner, the players will be asked to keep socially distancing from other players.

All tournament results will be available on our section website as well as the Blue Golf App as soon as the competition is completed.

Awards

Award ceremonies will NOT be conducted. Awards will be shipped to players following the event.

Practice Following the Round

Practice on the putting green, chipping green, and driving range following the round is prohibited. After the completion of the round, only players competing in a playoff will be able to practice for 10 minutes before the beginning of the playoff.