

Alabama–NW Florida PGA Junior Tour COVID-19 Protective Measures –
Policies & Procedures Addendum to 2021 Rules & Regulations (effective 5/14/21)

Below are a set of Policies & Procedures the Alabama–NW Florida PGA (AL-NW FL PGA) staff have generated for Junior Tour events in 2021. The AL-NW FL PGA has created these policies to keep golf safe, follow the guidelines set by Governor Ivey and local and national agencies. The AL-NW FL PGA will work 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 in Governor Ivey’s “Safer at Home” order (4/28/20) and Governor DeSantis’ “Safe, Smart, Step-By-Step Plan for Recovery” order (4/29/20). We believe golf can be used as a vehicle to bring us together in a safe and healthy way during these uncertain times.

Corresponding to these new state orders, the AL-NW FL PGA will be implementing the below Policies and Procedures until such a time that the PGA Section Board and Staff deem it safe to remove them. ***Please note, that where these Policies and Procedures conflict with either the 2021 AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour Rules and Regulations or the USGA Rules of Golf, these Policies and Procedures will take precedence.***

All players and spectators who attend AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour events are responsible for self-screening before arriving on-site at an event for any symptoms of COVID-19 listed by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and state/local health officials. If an individual does not feel well, they *must* stay at home and take proper precautions. If this is the case, players will be given a full refund on their BlueGolf account during the time these policies are in effect. ***In short, if you are sick please stay home.***

It is the responsibility of all players participating in an AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour event to read and understand these policies and abide by them fully. By registering for a Junior Tour event, players are agreeing to all these terms and accepting any possible penalties deemed appropriate by the AL-NW FL PGA Board and Staff. It is each participants’ choice as to whether they would like to enact more strict measures than are outlined in this document for themselves and their families, however, restrictions beyond these policies & procedures for others are not guaranteed.

UPDATE IN RESPONSE TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION’S ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS AND MASK POLICY (5/13/21): All spectators and players who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear a mask or socially distance themselves from other players or spectators. All players will still need to adhere to local health and safety measures laid out by the Junior Tour until further notice. See below for a list of those guidelines. [Read More about the 5/13 Update from the CDC >>](#)



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COVID-19 Education & Protection

COVID-19

- Based on national and local guidance, it is important for players and spectators understand how COVID-19 spreads and ways to protect yourself.
 - **KNOWING HOW COVID-19 SPREADS**
 - Between people who are within six feet of one another.
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
 - The 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
 - Wear a mask or face covering whenever indoors
 - Cover coughs and sneezes
 - Clean and disinfect
 - Remain six feet away from individuals

Self-Screening

- All AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour players and spectators will be required to self-screen prior to being on-site at events.
- Players and spectators 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 warm water
 - Wash for a minimum of 20 seconds



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Coughing and 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 into the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, please use hand sanitizer.

Social Distancing

- The AL-NW FL PGA asks that regardless of their position on the golf course, players maintain a minimum 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.

Masks and Face Coverings

- All players, spectators and AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour staff will be encouraged to wear a mask or face covering unless they have been fully vaccinated and are in accordance with CDC guidelines.

GENERAL PLAYER INFORMATION

Arrival Time

- We are encouraging all AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour Players and spectators to not arrive earlier than 1 hour prior to their starting time. This is to prevent any large groups from gathering in one area of the facility or "bottlenecking" any of the practice areas.
- Should a player need special accommodations, please contact the Section office at least two (2) days in advance of the scheduled event.

Method of Starting

- All 2021 events will be Tee Time start to reduce the number of people congregated in one area at our host facilities.

Tournament Paperwork

- The AL-NW FL PGA will communicate all applicable Local Rules to players digitally. Players can access these documents through BlueGolf during play.
- Paper documents will again be available at events on a first-come-first-served basis.



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Spectators

- There is no limit to the number of spectators accompanying a player.
- The AL-NW FL PGA will communicate ahead of time to ensure each facility's policy is aligned with the Junior Tour.

TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS

Registration

- Players will register on their starting tee ten (10) minutes prior to their starting time. It is the player's responsibility to know their starting time and be on the designated starting tee ten (10) minutes prior to their assigned tee time.
- Starting times and groupings will be emailed to all players prior to the tournament, posted to the Tournament Information Page (TIP), and available via www.alabamanwfloridapga.com.

Scorecards

- Will be distributed on the starting tee. It is the players' responsibility to exchange scorecards with the players in their groups.
- Players will be allowed to utilize multimedia devices to record scores if desired.
- Players must bring their own writing utensil for recording scores.

Scoring

- Once the round is completed, players must walk straight from the final green to scoring with all their equipment.
- Only one (1) group will be allowed into the scoring area at a time.

Practice Facilities

- We understand each facility's practice areas look different and can accommodate different numbers of players.
 - We ask all participants and spectators use common courtesy and limit their time on each practice area so other players have ample time to warm up if needed.

Awards

- The AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour will be hosting awards ceremonies during the 2021 season in adherence to CDC guidelines.



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Weather Delays

- In the event of a weather delay / horn blast, and if the host facility cannot host all players and spectators safely, all guests are to immediately vacate the golf course and go back to their vehicles.
- Based on the number of holes completed, refund will be granted on a tournament-by-tournament basis and communicated to the field three (3) business days of the tournament.

TEMPORARY RULES OF GOLF CHANGES

Holing Out

- Throughout the last few weeks, facilities have come up with a wide range of solutions to decrease touchpoints in and around the hole and the flagstick. Below are a few examples of how the AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour will modify the definition of “holed” based on these solutions:
 - *Raised Cup Liner*: If a ball touches the exposed cup or cup liner, the ball will be considered holed regardless of where it comes to rest.
 - *Upside Down Cup Liner*: If a ball touches the bottom of the cup liner, the ball will be considered holed regardless of where it comes to rest.
 - *PVC / Pool Noodle in Cup*: If a ball touches the PVC or Pool Noodle insert it will be considered holed regardless of where it comes to rest.
- **Note #1**: If the method used at the facility is not defined in these policies, the Junior Tour Coordinator or staff person on-site will determine how a ball will be “holed” based on the facility’s preferred method.
- **Note #2**: **The Rules of Golf are structured around the player’s integrity and while we are aware there is no perfect system, we trust all participants will be honest and respect the game and spirit of competition.**

Flagsticks

- Players may touch and/or remove the flagstick unless otherwise noted by the host facility.

Bunkers

- Players will be permitted to use bunker rakes, unless otherwise noted by the host facility. **If bunker rakes are permitted the Rules of Golf will govern all play.**
- **In the case that bunker rakes are not available at a host facility**, any disturbed area in a bunker will be deemed Ground Under Repair, and players must take full relief under GUR procedures (USGA 16.1c) but must stay inside the bunker.
 - Disturbed areas include (but are not limited to) footprints, divots, ball marks and other disturbances that may have been caused by players.



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- Reminder – under Rule 16.1c, the players must drop the ball from knee height, and is not permitted to place the ball.
- Players are encouraged to use their best judgement when determining if an area in a bunker is disturbed, and to deliberate within their group for confirmation.
- It is important all players smooth the bunker with their foot, or the like, after they have played their shot.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Provided Meals

- Depending on whether the host facility will allow it, during tournaments where food and beverage is provided by the AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour players will receive a boxed lunch distributed by the facility and are encouraged to take the meal to-go.

On-Course Snacks and Drinks

- All on-course coolers and water stations will be used at the host facility's discretion. However, should a facility elect not to remove these, the AL-NW FL PGA Junior Tour accepts no liability for them and encourages players to use extreme caution regarding their use.
- Players should bring an adequate supply of water and snacks for their round from home.

AL-NW FL PGA & FACILITY EQUIPMENT

Clubhouse

- The AL-NW FL PGA will defer to facility's practices on whether the clubhouse is open to guests or not.
- The AL-NW FL PGA will ensure that each host site has at least one (1) male and one (1) female bathroom available.

Ball Washers & Benches

- Since it is impracticable for facilities to remove their ball washers and benches, the AL-NW FL PGA asks that all players utilize either of these items at their own discretion.



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Tee Gifts

- The AL-NW FL PGA staff will mail Membership gifts via USPS at the start of the season.
- Junior Tour Coordinators and AL-NW FL PGA staff will distribute Membership gifts in the scoring area following play (if available).

Shuttles

- Staff shuttles will be available at Junior Tour events. At events where the on-site staff has allowed shuttles on certain holes, players will be allowed to ride from green to tee with immediate family members or AL-NW FL PGA staff.