

2020 BRJGT Social Distancing and Safety Guidelines

Out of an abundance of caution of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour (BRJGT) staff is taking necessary safety precautions to protect our players, spectators, volunteers and staff at our events. We will be adhering to state, local and golf course guidelines, in addition to those outlined below. It is the sole responsibility of each person present to make an informed decision about their attendance at a BRJGT event. If a player does not feel comfortable playing in a tournament based on the guidelines in place below, please reach out to us at brjgt.com and we will issue a full refund for the event. Our goal again is to keep everyone as safe as possible and for the events to be enjoyable for everyone involved.

The following guidelines and expectations will be in place at BRJGT events:

Everyone

1. All players, parents and spectators are expected to read these guidelines. They will be available at each event and on brjgt.com.
2. Everyone is expected to follow social distancing guidelines of staying at least six feet apart with the exception of family members.
3. The BRJGT Staff will not be providing tees, pencils, sharpies (for marking golf ball), food or beverages. All players will be responsible for bringing their own. Some facilities may have food to purchase. The website will include this information.
4. Face coverings are recommended but not required when outdoors.
5. Please be aware there should be no gatherings in the clubhouse, restroom or grill areas. Also, be aware that face coverings are required in the state of Virginia when entering public indoor places until further notice.
6. The BRJGT staff will be monitoring the weather each day. In the event of inclement weather, our staff will do their best to blow the suspension horns in plenty of time so that everyone can remove themselves from the golf course. During suspension of play, competitors may use cart transportation from a family member to leave the golf course. Only in emergency situations will competitors be allowed to ride with non-family members or will our staff offer to transport players or spectators to evacuation. During suspension of play, competitors and spectators should return to their vehicles.

Spectators

1. We anticipate a high demand for spectator carts and these will be available on an event-by-event basis. If a facility is allowing spectator cart rentals it will be noted along with

the price on the website and rented on a first-come first-serve basis. It is solely up to the facility as to how many are rented. Only two people are allowed in a cart at one time.

2. Spectators are asked to not be on the practice areas (range, putting and chipping greens) to help with social distancing. Caddies are an exception.
3. All spectators are asked to keep a proper distance from the competitors. Fifty (50) feet is recommended. When helping players search for lost balls, please make sure the player wants to find the ball. Also remember to maintain your distance when helping search for the ball.
4. Spectators may approach elevated greens so they can see the completion of the hole.
5. No shuttles are to be given by spectators during the course of play unless permitted by the BRJGT tournament committee.
6. If there is a weather delay, all spectators are asked to go to their vehicles in the parking lot to minimize large gatherings in the clubhouse. Weather updates will be offered by BRJGT Staff in person.
7. After the round, please proceed to your vehicle. No formal awards ceremony will take place to eliminate the possibility of social gatherings.

Players and Caddies and Practice Facilities:

1. Each player will be allowed on the practice range 30 minutes prior to their tee time. Each player will be allowed on the practice putting green 45 minutes prior to their tee time.
2. Players are expected to adhere to social distancing at all practice areas.
3. Players are to arrive to their starting hole ten (10) minutes prior to their tee time. There will be designated areas set six feet apart for players to stand in to receive important information from our staff for the day.

Starting:

1. For age groups 17-18, 15-16, and 13-14, a BRJGT staff member will distribute scorecards appropriately so no player has her/his own scorecard. Each player will be a marker(scorekeeper)for another player in the group and will also be expected to keep her/his own score in the designated area on the scorecard. It is highly recommended that scores are verified on each tee for the previous hole. For age groups 10-12, 9 and Under, and the 13-18 Developmental groups, a volunteer will be given a scorecard to record the scores.

During The Round:

1. Players are expected to practice social distancing (at least six feet apart) during their entire round. This practice will be part of the “Code of Conduct” allowed under Rule 1.2b. Penalties may be enforced.

2. All flagsticks must remain in the hole and no one may touch a flagstick.
 - a. Each player is encouraged to practice continuous putting until their ball is holed, so they may move out of the way to allow the next player to putt.
 - b. If a player is concerned with the safety of removing their ball out of the hole, we recommend players bring their own hand sanitizer and/or wipes.
3. If a player hits a ball that may be lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds, she/he is encouraged to follow Rule 18.3 for hitting a provisional ball. A BRJGT staff member will not be able to shuttle players back to where the previous shot was made.
4. How bunkers will be played each day will be explained to players by a BRJGT staff member on their starting hole. The following POSSIBILITIES (suggested by the USGA) will be in place based on the overall maintenance and playability of all bunkers on the course:
 - a. Change the status of bunkers to be part of the general area. This would give players relief options under Rule 16.1b (Relief for Ball in General Area) or Rule 19.2 (Relief Options for Unplayable Ball in General Area)
 - b. Declare all bunkers to be Ground Under Repair. This would allow players the option to take free relief outside the bunker under Rule 16.1.
 - c. Declare disturbed areas (non-raked areas, footprints, etc.) only as Ground Under Repair. This would allow players free relief from such areas, but would require such relief to be taken elsewhere within the bunker as permitted under Rule 16.1c. In addition, the competitor will be allowed to smooth the intended area of play with her/his foot or personal grooming implement and place the ball within one club length from where the original ball came to rest not nearer to the hole.
5. On the final hole of each round, we ask that players and caddies refrain from the customary handshake or hug. We do encourage players to give air high 5's, thumbs up or another positive gesture while social distancing.

Scoring Area:

1. "Competitors in the 17-18, 15-16, and 13-14 age groups will receive the scorecard of a fellow competitor on the first tee and serve as marker for that fellow competitor during the round. At the conclusion of the round, all competitors in the group will stand on one of the orange spots positioned at least 6 feet from each other and the official scoring table. The tournament official in charge of scoring will call the name of one competitor. The marker of that competitor will then recite aloud the scores for each hole while the tournament official enters the scores in the computer. The official in charge of scoring will repeat the process with the other competitors. Each competitor will verbally agree or not agree with each score. Any discrepancy will be resolved prior to players leaving the scoring area. Scorecards are deemed to be returned once the competitor leaves the scoring area.

Competitors in the 10-12 and 9 and Under age groups will have an official scorer to record the scores of each hole during the round. At the completion of the round, the

group members will stand on one of the orange spots positioned at least 6 feet from each other and the official scoring table. The tournament official in charge of scoring will call the name of one competitor. The official scorekeeper will then recite aloud the scores for each hole while the tournament official enters the scores in the computer. The official in charge of scoring will repeat the process with the other competitors. Each competitor will verbally agree or not agree with each score. Any discrepancy will be resolved prior to players leaving the scoring area. Scorecards are deemed to be returned once the competitor leaves the scoring area.

2. Unfortunately no formal awards ceremony will be held. Scores can be viewed on the paper scoreboard near the scoring table and on the BRJGT website. Players that think they may have finished in the top two or three in their division should remain on site to pick up their flag.

Breaking Ties

1. An on-course playoff will decide 1st place winners **only** in each age division and corresponding point values will be awarded. Do not leave the scoreboard area if a playoff is possible. To settle other places for award winners, or if it is not possible to conduct an on-course playoff for 1st place, a scorecard playoff will be used starting with the last hole played and going backward until a winner is determined. However, the point values will be split among the players involved in a tie for 2nd and 3rd place.

Final Remarks

It is our goal to meet all of these guidelines while still providing the best tournament experience possible. Should you notice one of the policies not being followed, please try and politely resolve the issue within your group first, as they are new for everyone. Should you not be able to resolve it within the group then you should contact a staff member to resolve the issue. The BRJGT Staff expects full cooperation with these necessary guidelines. These guidelines have been adopted by the BRJGT tournament committee and are used as a Code of Conduct as allowed under Rule 1.2b. Additionally, should a competitor feel any signs of illness during an event please find a staff member onsite or contact the BRJGT at (276) 345-8786 to withdraw from the event. Our staff thanks everyone in advance for adhering to these guidelines and we look forward to a great season!

**Special thanks to the Sneds Tour for providing a helpful model for this document.*