



2020-21 MHSA GOLF REQUIREMENTS / CONSIDERATIONS FOR COVID-19

The requirements / considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS / CONSIDERATIONS

1. Workouts/practices should be conducted in “pods” / “bubbles” of participants with same players working out together to limit overall exposure.
2. Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, and administration should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.
3. No out of state competition or teams traveling from out of state for competition, unless it is in a dual format and approved by the MHSAA Executive Director.
4. Always maintain social distancing of 6 feet while on the field/court of play when possible.
5. Everyone must have their own beverage container that is not shared. Safe handling practices should be adhered during hydration, which includes refilling, retrieval and identification of water source.
6. Cloth facial coverings are allowed for players, coaches and course officials. Facial coverings must be a single solid color and unadorned. Face coverings must be worn per the Governor’s directive.
7. Gloves are permissible for all players, coaches and officials.
8. The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest / event as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
9. Administrators must limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field/player surface area throughout the contest.
10. Attendance at MHSAA events is dependent on host site and local health department guidelines and restrictions.
11. A family’s role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others is very important. Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home). Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.

ARRIVAL AT THE LOCATION

- No gathering points for registration. Communication on starting holes / tee times etc. must be communicated through each participant’s coach before arriving on site. All information should be communicated to players before arrival to avoid congestion in the clubhouse.
- NO use of the any golf course practice facilities (including practice driving range and practice putting green).
- Tees, pencils and ball-markers and sharpies will not be available. Players must bring their own equipment.
- Limit all use of golf shop and retail operations to maintain social distancing guidelines. If social distancing cannot be maintained, golf shop access should be prohibited.

COMPETITION

In order to minimize exposure with other schools, the MHSA will require that each school plays with participants of the same gender from their school in the same group of 4 or 5 during regular season competition. This will minimize exposure with student-athletes from other communities

Dual meets are allowed and encouraged. Tournament management should expand spacing of starting times (15 minutes for groups of 4 or 5).

If a golf meet has five or fewer schools a shotgun start does not have to be used, however there can't be any gathering by teams waiting for their tee time (they must stay in their team staging area practicing proper social distancing until called to the tee).

For multi-team events (invitational meets with 3 or more schools present), shotgun starts are required. A maximum of 90 players on an 18-hole course and 45 on a 9-hole course are allowed at multi-team events (one 5-some starting per hole). ***Warm-ups - During multi-team events, shotgun starts are required and teams can report to their starting hole and use the previous green to practice chipping and putting. The amount of time allowed will be determined by the meet manager.***

Strict social distancing and staging that eliminates the potential for large gatherings at the beginning and end of the event. For the shotgun start, a plan will be developed by meet administration that includes a strategic entry and exit plan on the golf course that minimizes gatherings at the clubhouse area.

Bunkers –

- Rakes must be removed from the course.
- Players are encouraged to try their best to smooth the disturbed area with a foot or a club after playing their ball from a bunker.
- A local rule must be established that would allow a player to place the ball elsewhere in a bunker without penalty (such as within one club-length of where the ball came to rest).

Flagsticks – We will require that players leave the flagstick in the hole at all times.

COMPLETION OF THE ROUND

Carts for coaches must have a designated return point that strictly monitors social distancing and avoids gathering.

The use of practice facilities is prohibited after the round to encourage all players to depart once their round and scoring obligations are complete. Teams must exit the course upon completion of their round.

No awards presentations at the completion of the event.

