

# Golf's Playbook for Canada

The Golfers' Guide to Enjoying a Safe Experience  
During COVID-19 Recovery | UPDATED JUNE 17, 2020





Golf's Playbook for Canada is a collaborative effort between Golf Canada, Professional Golfers' Association of Canada, Canadian Society of Club Managers, and Canadian Golf Superintendent Association.

We are committed to ensuring the health and safety of our members, golfers, staff, volunteers and industry stakeholders as well as every Canadian in the communities where we live, work and play.

This is a resource for golfers to understand and navigate the golf experience through the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on best practices developed and endorsed by the national and provincial associations that comprise the Canadian golf industry, golfers can be confident that their visit to the golf course will be safe and enjoyable. This comprehensive resource also outlines adjusted

playing and teaching protocols to assist golfers in their enjoyment of the game through the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the expertise of the Canadian golf industry, the fact-based guidelines outlined in the Playbook for Canada have been developed and reviewed by expert practitioners. New information and recommendations will be updated as golf progresses beyond this first re-opening phase. Golf's Playbook for Canada has also been reviewed by health and sport medical authorities including Canadian Olympic Committee Chief Medical Officer, Mike Wilkinson.

Facilities delivering the golf experience across Canada are subject to the legislation and operational guidelines of their respective provincial and municipal health authority. Golfers also have an important responsibility to familiarize themselves with, and

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**ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE**



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**GOLFER**



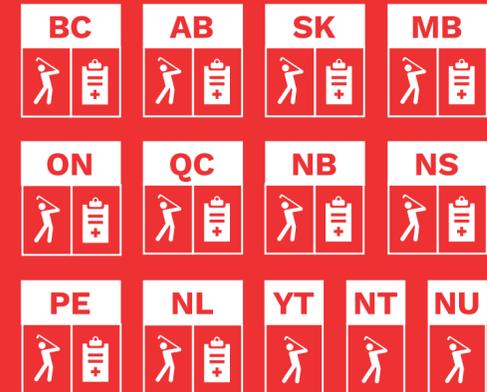
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Golf has emerged as one of the safer recreational options. Physical distancing among golfers is easily achievable and golf facilities have comprehensive safety protocols and precautions to minimize risk to their staff and golfers.

Golfers have a shared responsibility in their safe return to the sport, both in their overall level of preparedness before a round and their strict adherence to the safety protocols implemented at the golf course. Remember that golfers and facilities are in this together, so be prepared for a slightly different course experience, familiarize yourself with the adapted safety and playing protocols and most importantly, be patient, respectful and considerate for the health and safety of yourself and those around you.



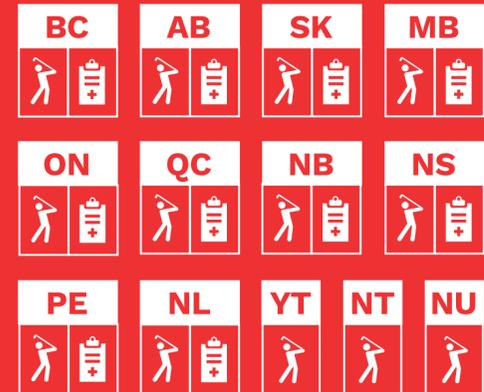
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# ✓ BE PREPARED, BE SAFE

# ENJOY YOUR ROUND



Stay home if you are sick



Book tee times online or by phone



Familiarize yourself with all course safety protocols in advance



Check the golf course's suggested arrival time before your tee time



Be aware of the temporarily adjusted Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping - [CLICK HERE](#)



Physical distancing at all times (2 club lengths)



Avoid gathering and any physical contact



Use your own equipment and don't share items



Adhere to the altered cup and ball retrieval systems to avoid any shared touch points



Smooth sand using your foot to replace the role of bunker rakes



Use the Golf Canada app for scoring and handicap tracking



Following your round, clubs may have food and beverage options available; if not, leave course immediately



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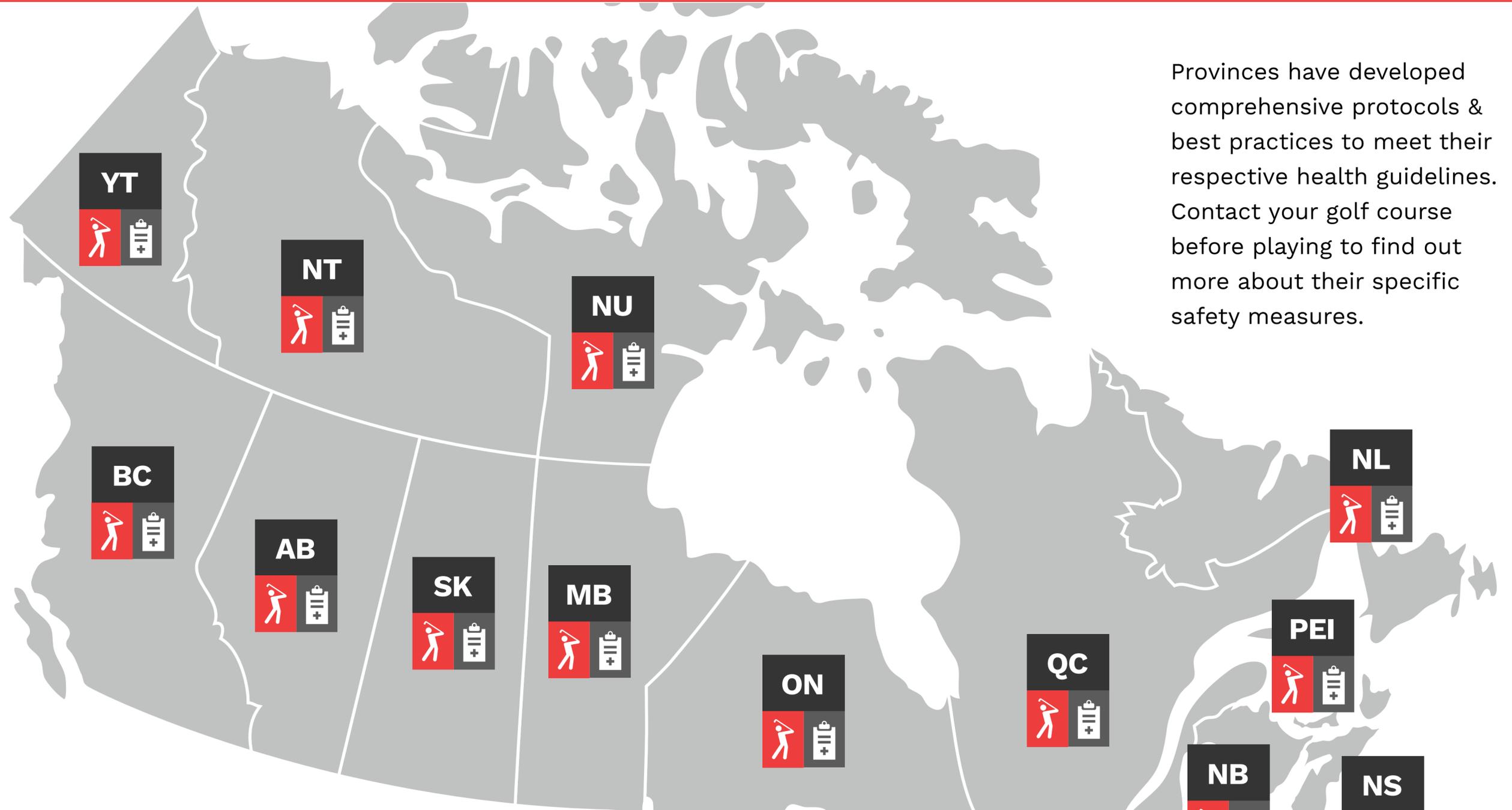


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Provinces have developed comprehensive protocols & best practices to meet their respective health guidelines. Contact your golf course before playing to find out more about their specific safety measures.

Legend

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Click on the icons for provincial details



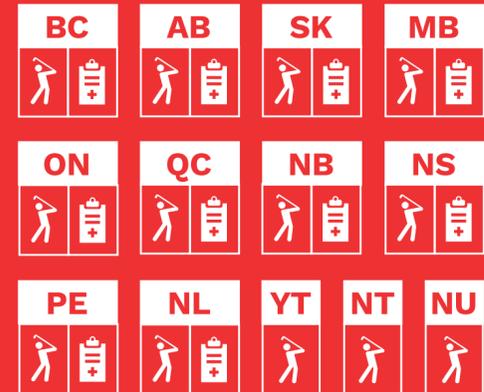
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# TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

Below is a general overview of the golfer experience at events if allowed by the provincial health guidelines;

- POLICIES AND EVENT INFO may be communicated in advance (tee times, practice, F&B etc.);
- Golfers will be subject to pre-screening questions or temperature checks before competing;
- Golfers may be asked to sign a liability waiver in advance of competing;
- Golfers are encouraged to provide their own cleaning supplies and equipment (i.e. hand sanitizer, pencils, tees etc.);
- Clubs or committees might only provide limited or 'take-out' food and beverage options; golfers are encouraged to inquire in advance;
- Clubs or committees may prohibit CADDIES OR SPECTATORS;
- Clubs or committees may prohibit guests to participate in club events;
- Groups may start off a single tee; multiple tees or split-tee/crosser will not be used;
- Scoring procedures and where to return scorecards will be outlined by the club or committee;
- Golfers should not exchange scorecards; score verification should take place verbally or electronically;
- Playoff procedures may be outlined to include matching scorecards instead of sudden death to determine ties;
- Leaderboards or traditional scoreboards may be avoided;
- FINAL RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ONLINE; presentations/prizing will be done at a later date;
- Team events may take place if allowed by provincial health guidelines;
- If golfers are instructed to leave the course due to inclement weather, players should return to their personal vehicles;
- Following your round, clubs may have food and beverage options available if allowed by the provincial health guidelines; If not, leave course immediately



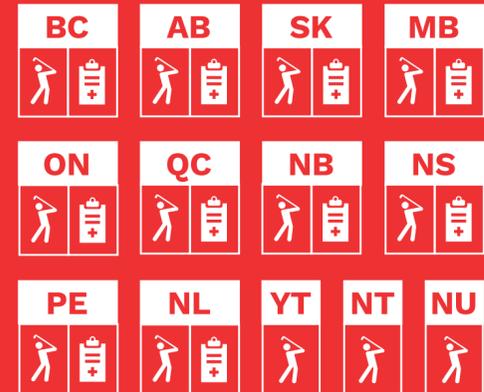
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# RULES, HANDICAPPING & SCORE POSTING

Guidance below is to assist golfers to better understand how the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping have been temporarily adapted.

## SCORING

- Clubs may REDUCE SCORECARD DISTRIBUTION; golfers are encouraged to bring their own;
- Electronic scoring methods may be encouraged;
- Clubs may eliminate score posting at kiosks in the pro shop or clubhouse;
- Golfers should post scores online at [golfcanada.ca](http://golfcanada.ca) or through the Golf Canada mobile app.

## BUNKERS

- Bunker rakes will be removed from the course;
- Committees may adopt one of the following options:
  - o Change the status of all bunkers to be part of the general area allowing

players to ground their club and take relief for abnormal course conditions;

- o Bunkers may be declared ‘Ground Under Repair’, allowing players the option to take free relief outside the bunker;
- o Golfers may be permitted to utilize preferred lies in all bunkers.

## FLAGSTICKS

- Golfers may be required to leave the flagstick in the hole at all times;
- Tools to eliminate the need to lift the ball out of the hole may be used by clubs temporarily.

## HOLE AND HOLED

- The hole liner (“cup”) may be set to restrict the ball from being completely below the surface of the green;
- If the course or provincial guidelines restricts the hole liner (“cup”) to be sunk below the surface of the ground, golfers must post their ‘most likely score.’

## RULES OF HANDICAPPING & SCORE POSTING

- All scores posted for rounds with any of the alternate scoring methods outlined above are acceptable for handicap purposes.

**Important:** If the ball cannot be holed because the hole liner (“cup”) is raised above the hole, use your ‘most likely score’:

- Within 5 feet = 1 extra stroke
- Between 5 to 20 yards = add 2 or 3 strokes depending on difficulty and ability
- More than 20 yards = add 3 or 4 strokes depending on difficulty and ability

For complete details on the Rules, Handicapping and score posting during temporary guidelines established during COVID-19 [CLICK HERE.](#)



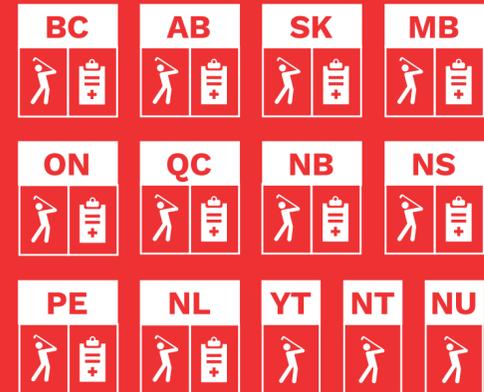
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# TEACHING, COACHING & JUNIOR GOLF

## INSTRUCTION AND LESSONS

- Subject to provincial guidelines, individual or group lessons may be offered as long as PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND DISINFECTING PROCEDURES are followed;
- Training TOOLS WILL BE THOROUGHLY DISINFECTED between lessons;
- Students should avoid handling any equipment or ITEMS BELONGING TO THE INSTRUCTOR;
- Use of an alignment stick (or similar item) may be used to help with player positioning;
- Students should use their own balls for short-game lessons, where possible;
- Contact the club in advance to be aware of the safety measures in place prior to the lesson
- Reschedule the lesson if you are not well or have symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing etc.)
- Non-medical grade masks are encouraged.

## JUNIOR GOLF

Junior golfers and their parents rely on the expertise of PGA of Canada professionals to deliver a safe golf experience. Follow the guidelines of provincial and municipal health authorities regarding limitations on social gatherings as it relates to organized sport.

- All junior golf participation may be subject to GROUP SIZE RESTRICTIONS and recommendations outlined by provincial health authorities;
- Group sizes may be restricted to a specific ratio between participants and instructors;
- PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING between instructor(s) and other participants over the course of the lesson/program.
- Alternate arrangements may be made to provide feedback to participants following the lesson (phone call, electronic documents);
- All parents and juniors should inquire about food and beverage options in advance; no items should be shared between participants;

- HAND SANITIZER STATIONS for use before and after lessons will be available close to the instructional area. Each participant is also encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use;
- All participants must bring their own equipment and should not be shared between participants;
- Face masks are encouraged for juniors and parents in the first phase of introducing junior golf activities;
- Parents and guardians should observe junior golf activities from an appropriate viewing area at least 20 feet away with parents spaced out by a minimum of six feet;
- All juniors or parents who are not well and showing symptoms (cough, fever etc.) should not participate;
- Juniors or parents may be subject to pre-screening questions or temperature checks before participating.

### Resource Links

- Learn more about the Rule of Two in a virtual setting - [CLICK HERE](#)



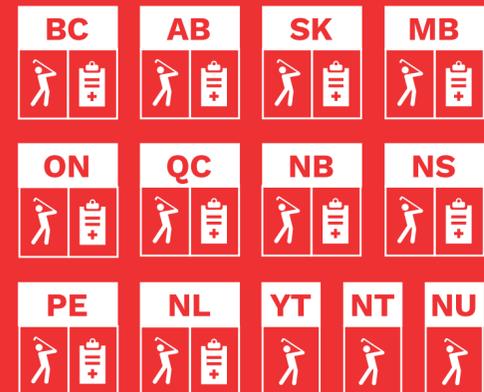
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# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE

Golf courses have implemented significant COVID-19 protocols to ensure the health and safety of golfers and facility staff. The protocols have been developed collaboratively by the golf industry in consultation with provincial government officials. Golfers can be confident that health and safety has been considered at every point before, during and after the round for the enjoyment of their golf experience.

## TEE TIME RESERVATIONS, PAYMENT AND PRE-ARRANGED SERVICES

- RESERVATIONS should be made in advance by phone or online, with prepayment used to the greatest extent possible;
- CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EACH PLAYER should be collected during the reservation process to assist with contact tracing, if necessary;
- Players requiring a golf cart or pull cart should indicate that in advance. These will be disinfected before each rental. Be aware that some golf courses

require individual golf carts rather than dual riders, to comply with physical distancing;

- Clubs may require golfers to sign a risk management waiver for liability purposes;
- Subject to provincial health guidelines, golf courses will likely have increased tee time intervals to reduce on-course congestion; players should be punctual to avoid group gatherings
- If a golfer requires an item from storage, at least one hour notice should be given;
- RENTAL CLUBS, GOLF BAG/SHOE SERVICES and club repairs may be permitted and will be cleaned and disinfected prior to issuing.

## ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE

- Expect to be welcomed by a parking lot greeter; staff will confirm that golfers have a pre-arranged tee time and inform them of the safety protocols in place;
- Golfers should be prepared to attest their health status (where applicable). **For a sample COVID-19 pre-screening questionnaire [CLICK HERE.](#)**

- If practice facilities are at capacity or closed off, golfers will be asked to remain in their vehicle until shortly before their tee time;
- Golfers should not be congregating in the parking lot before or after your game;
- Golfers should expect to handle their own clubs for the duration of their visit.

## POWER CARTS & PULL CARTS

- Will be CLEANED AND DISINFECTED AFTER EACH USE;
- One person per golf cart may be required;
- Two persons in a golf cart may be permitted if they are from the same household or within your social bubble if allowed by provincial guidelines. Drivers licenses may be required to validate.
- Two persons in a golf cart, if they are not from the same household, may be permitted if a plexiglas divider (or equivalent) is in place between the driver and the passenger if allowed by provincial health guidelines;



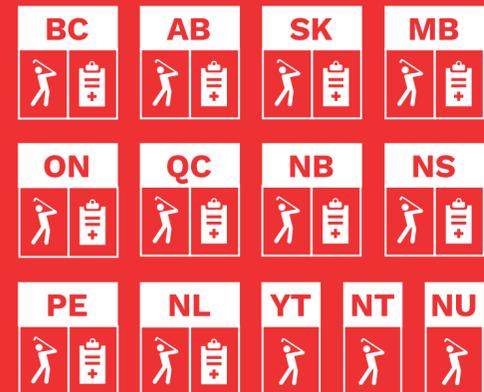
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# ON-COURSE EXPERIENCE

- Hand sanitizers will be available and golfers are encouraged to use them frequently and bring your own;
- Coolers and sand containers may be removed;
- Cart signs or identifier may indicate if power carts have been disinfected;
- Courses will have a clearly-marked area for the return of used power carts and pull carts;
- Golf carts may be staged with keys, name plates and cart cards that outline safety policies and procedures.

## PRACTICE FACILITIES

- Putting green -- Golfers can expect cup modifications to prevent reaching into the hole and should use their own golf balls;
- Driving range -- hitting areas WILL BE ARRANGED TO ALLOW FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING; golf balls will be disinfected and cleaned before being redistributed; players are encouraged to use their club to position the ball; extraneous

- touchpoints will be removed (e.g. benches, bag stands, etc.)
- Driving range and putting greens will have signage and/or markings to indicate appropriate capacity, use and distancing. Range time may be limited to short warm up sessions only.

## ON-COURSE

- Only one group will be allowed at the teeing area at any given time;
- For everyone's safety, expect to see an increased on-course presence of staff ensuring safety protocols are being followed; golfers not adhering to safety guidelines will be asked to leave the course;
- Golfers should **OBSERVE PHYSICAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES**;
- Ball washers will be removed or not available for use;
- Bunker rakes will be removed; golfers are encouraged to level sand using their foot;
- Flagstick should remain in place and **NOT BE TOUCHED**;

- Benches on the course may be removed or taped off;
- Players should plan to bring their own waste back to their vehicles, or to designated waste disposal areas;
- Communal water fountains will be removed or taped off;
- Emergency protocols will be modified to ensure compliance with provincial guidelines;
- Following your round, clubs may have food and beverage options available; if not, leave course immediately



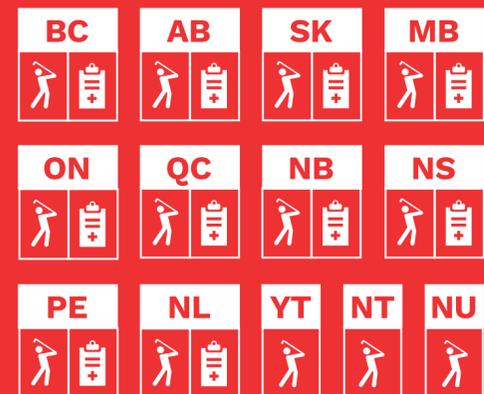
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# CLUBHOUSE & PRO SHOP

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Access to potentially crowded areas will be monitored and restricted to meet provincial guidelines;
- Golfers can expect increased access to hand sanitizing stations but are encouraged to bring their own sanitizer, where possible;
- Physical distancing measures should be adhered to at all times.

## CLUBHOUSE

- Food and beverage offerings may be limited to call-ahead, take-out or to-go options (subject to provincial health guidelines);
- Beverage cart and/or restaurant service may be available (subject to provincial health guidelines);
- Communal water stations may be removed or taped off. Golfers are encouraged to bring their own water, where possible;
- Locker room access may be restricted. Golfers should arrive ready to play;

- Washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times a day. Golfers are encouraged to check if on-course washrooms are available prior to play.

## PRO SHOP

- Groups should designate one person to check-in, where possible;
- Pre-payment or contactless payment is encouraged;
- Bulk items such as scorecards, tees and ball markers may be removed or provided only as necessary;
- Floor markings may be present to control the flow of traffic;
- Fitting room access may be limited;
- Golfers may be asked to disinfect their hands prior to handling any merchandise;
- Online retail services and custom delivery options may be available at some clubs. Golfers are encouraged to check with their local Pro Shop for more details.



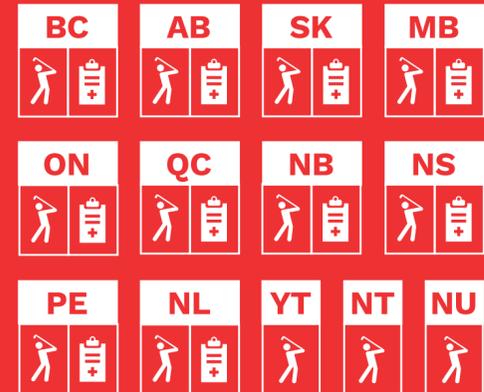
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# GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

Golf Course Superintendents play a critical role in delivering a premium golf experience. Their efforts also played a major role in golf’s ongoing recovery through the pandemic, instituting all public health guidelines on the golf course property and throughout the maintenance facility.

Dating back to the emergency period where courses (other than British Columbia) were closed by provincial mandate except for essential property maintenance, Superintendents and turf professionals have followed all provincial and public health guidelines to keep their staff safe. Every area of the turf and maintenance operation has been adjusted with safety protocols including physical distancing among staff, proper hygiene, and sanitization, and requiring staff to remain at home if unwell.

Some of the various safety protocols include:

- Staggered start times for all maintenance staff to avoid congregation and to maintain physical distancing guidelines;

- Sanitization of all high touch areas across the property;
- Sanitization of all maintenance equipment before and after use;
- Re-worked equipment assignments and transportation to various areas on the course to ensure appropriate physical distancing;
- Staff members supplied with their own cleaning, sanitization equipment or kit and their own personal protective equipment;
- The removal of all on-course objects or fixtures including bunker rakes, water coolers, ball washers, etc.

For Superintendents managing a team of 3-50 plus employees depending on the course size, needs and budget, the work of turf maintenance staff at a golf course is done so that the golf club members, guests, and the golfing public remain safe and healthy.



**Remember Golfers** – do your part to thank golf course superintendents and their staff by acting responsibly on the golf course. Please replace your divots and fix your ball marks!



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