

LPGA Amateur Golf Association, Columbus OH

2020 League Guidelines – Effective 5/1/2020

Covid-19 Restrictions and World Handicap System Changes

All Columbus LPGA Amateurs Golf Association Leagues are expected to follow all federal, state, local and golf course specific directives to ensure our players can participate in a safe environment. League captains will share the following guidelines with their players and provide any concern or feedback to the Columbus LPGA Amateur board through Laura Seed, Director of Golf Services.

Covid-19 Playing Guidelines - *These guidelines will be updated as directives change.*

Do NOT come to League if you are feeling ill.

Social Distancing & Face Covering: Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be practiced at all times. It is recommended that face coverings be worn to protect other players as you are gathering before or after play. With more ability to social distance on the course, they are optional during play.

Restroom & Port-a-John Access: Access to these may vary by course and while the courses will do their best to keep things clean it is highly recommended that you bring your own sanitizing wipes to stay safe when touching shared surfaces.

Pre & Post Play Gathering: Since gatherings of more than 8 people are prohibited, for any leagues with more than 8 players the league captain will establish groupings and communicate assigned tee times at least 1 day in advance of play. Players should show up no earlier than 15 minutes before their tee-time. Post league dinners will not be held. ***Players are expected to respect the captain's pairings and show up at their designated time.***

Carts: To adhere with social distancing requirements carts should be single player only unless players reside in the same household. *Some courses may not have enough carts for each player to get one so walking if you are able is encouraged.*

Scorecards: If your league turns scorecards in to the captain it is recommended to send your scorecard via a photo. It is recommended you use a phone or GPS app for scoring instead of a paper scorecard.

Shared Surfaces: Avoid touching shared surfaces like ball washers. Also do not touch other players equipment.

Water and Snacks: It is recommended you bring your own water and snacks. Take all trash with you and deposit in appropriate waste containers.

Playing Modifications: The USGA has provided [USGA rules and handicappingguidelines](#) and implemented temporary measures to accept scores played under these conditions for handicap. This USGA information was used to create the following playing guidelines for use by all our leagues. Since the way holes are setup and the state of sand traps vary from course to course, league specific rules can be established using these guidelines

Flagstick & Putting:

- Players should not touch or remove the flagstick.
- If the course has recessed holes (most have done this by placing a pool noodle about 1 ½ inch below the lip of the hole) the players should attempt to hole the ball as usual. If the ball goes in and pops out again it is the player's discretion to determine if the ball would have been holed had it been full depth. *Note: competitive leagues may want to use the consensus of the playing group to make this call.*

- If the course has a raised hole liner 1-2 inches above the surface of the green, a player's ball should be considered holed if it touches this barrier and does not rebound a distance more than the length of the putter's grip - about 10"

Sand Traps and Raking

- Most courses have removed rakes from their sand traps. Players should not touch rakes if they are present.
- If a course has established a local rule for sand traps it should be followed.

Otherwise:

- If a player's ball lands in an undisturbed area of a bunker the ball should be played where it lies.
- Since bunkers are not being raked it is likely a player's ball will eventually land in a disturbed area of the sand trap. In this case the area should be treated as an Abnormal Condition. This will allow the player to take free relief elsewhere in the bunker. Rule 16.1c The ball should be dropped within 1 club length from the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole.
- In extreme conditions, where no reasonable point of relief exists within a bunker the player should let their playing partners know they are declaring the entire bunker Abnormal Conditions. This will allow the player to take free relief behind the bunker, in line with the hole and within a 1 club length radius. Rule 16.1
- If many/most of the bunkers on a course are in disrepair the league can declare specific bunkers or all bunkers to be considered General Area with Abnormal Conditions which will allow players to take free relief behind the bunker, in line with the hole and within a 1 club length radius. Rule 16.1. *This decision should be made by the league captain in conjunction with the league members.*

World Handicap System Changes

As you are probably aware a common global system with a single set of Rules for Handicapping was implemented in January. Follow [this link](#) for a summary of the changes.

Here are the major modifications most important for our members:

- Handicaps are now updated daily rather than twice a month. Members should post the day of play and we highly recommend entering scores hole by hole using a mobile app!
- Handicap is based on your best 8 score differentials of the last 20; previously it was based on the best 10 scores. Lowering the number will make your handicap more responsive to good scores.
- The number of holes required to establish a handicap has been dropped from 90 to 54 holes (combination of 9 & 18 hole rounds) allowing a handicap index to be established more quickly.
- The maximum score for a hole is now Net Double Bogey and varies by course based on the difficulty. We highly recommend using a mobile or online app and entering your score hole by hole which will automatically adjust your score for this maximum. View [this video](#) for more information on this calculation.
- Player Responsibilities:
 - Download the WHS phone app
 - Post scores on the day of play
 - Post hole-by-hole to let the system calculate your max score per hole.