

## *New Jersey Golf Course Owners Association*

**Contact Information:**

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**April 17, 2020**

**Honorable Phil Murphy  
Governor  
State of New Jersey  
225 W. State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625**

**Re: New Jersey Golf Course Owners Association**

**Dear Governor Murphy,**

**This letter is a follow-up to our previous letter dated March 24, 2020. On behalf of the N.J. Golf Course Owners Association (NJGCOA), the approximate 300 New Jersey golf courses, the over 600,000 New Jersey golfers and almost 30,000 individuals who are employed by the N.J. Golf Industry, we are ready and willing to assist and do our part to assure the Governor that allowing golf to be played in New Jersey will be done in a safe, organized and structured manner. All N.J. golf courses will be provided the approved and recommended list of CDC guidelines (see list attached) as they apply to the game of golf. With numerous safety and social distancing benchmarks established before the closure of golf in the state and many more now currently being implemented at golf courses throughout the country, we have no doubt that we can be part of the solution as life slowly begins to get back to normal.**

**When evaluating which businesses and activities should initially be allowed to re-open, we request you take into consideration what a unique activity the game of golf is compared to other outdoor sports and activities. First, golf is a non-contact sport, meaning it can be played alone or with a maximum of only 3 other participants. Second, the golfers are outside on a large, open piece of land and can be required to maintain "social distancing" far greater than the recommended 6 feet. Third, some of the other proposed guidelines would include allowing golfers to walk, or if riding only one golfer per cart (unless 2 golfers are from the same family), the flag must remain in the cup, rakes and ball washers are removed or covered so that no golfer has to touch anything but his/her own equipment.**

**The food and beverage operations for the initial period of time would be limited to take-out service only (ie half-way house or similar type facility). Based on these guidelines as well as others (please see list attached) , we are convinced that golf courses can provide the residents of New Jersey a very safe and healthy environment while at the same time provide the physical and mental wellbeing that we all need.**

**In addition, allowing golf courses to re-open under these restrictive guidelines will allow thousands of New Jersey residents who are employed in the NJ golf industry to get back to work which will help the N.J. economy to get back on track in a very safe and healthy work place.**

**The NJGCOA on behalf of all of the New Jersey golf courses and resident golfers (public, municipal/government & private) requests that golf courses be allowed to re-open under the proposed guidelines (see attached list) preferably on or before May 1, 2020. We feel strongly that golf should be the first outdoor sporting activity that is allowed to re-open for the many valid reasons explained in this letter which includes the implementation of the recommended guidelines that are attached. Almost all the residents of N.J. are clamoring to be allowed to participate in some form of outdoor sport or physical activity and allowing golf to be played under these proposed guidelines should be one of the first exemptions granted. Thank you for your continued leadership and your attention and consideration to this important matter.**

**Sincerely,**

**Joel D. Moore  
The Ridge at Back Brook  
V.P. – NJGCOA**

**List of Supporting Clubs/Golf courses:**

## ***New Jersey Golf Course Guidelines***

- Allow “Walking”, or restricting one rider per golf cart {unless two (2) family members}
- Requiring flagsticks to remain in cup to avoid additional touch points
- Being creative with cup liners to avoid having players reaching in to the hole to retrieve golf balls
- Removal of bunker rakes and other on-course furniture like benches, ball washers, water coolers, etc.
- Installation of signage to discourage group congregation
- Continual sanitization of counter tops, door knobs, other common surfaces, golf carts, push carts, cash registers and other frequently touched surfaces
- Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day
- Posting signage to encourage compliance of CDC regulations such as no hand shaking, frequent hand washing, etc.
- Having staff wear protective gloves at all times and face masks if warranted
- Daily fee courses shall restrict payments to credit cards only, to eliminate the handling of cash
- Eliminating scoring areas and/or modifying score card transmissions
- Modifying driving range hitting areas to ensure a minimum 6 foot separation between players
- Increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the clubhouse area and check in areas
- Require social distancing from arrival through departure
- Educating staff on CDC requirements and approved guidelines and proper hygiene and sanitizing regulations
- Staggered tee times will be implemented so there is a gap of time between groups ensuring that there will not be golfers congregating in groups waiting to play

**We are all in this together! Our success depends on everyone doing their part to ensure everyone’s health and safety.**