



## Lowcountry Women's Golf Association (LWGA) Tournament Protocols and Procedures Effective May 26, 2021

In consideration of the on-going COVID-19 risks, LWGA has implemented the following protocols and procedures. Our focus is on providing a safe environment during this period of uncertainty and we ask that all participants and volunteers review these before participating in each LWGA tournament.

Generally, LWGA will take its guidance on COVID-19 protocols for mask wearing, use of rakes in bunkers, removing the flag stick and other matters from the host clubs of our events, and advise members as part of the pre-event communications. Please assess your personal risk and consider CDC guidance when making your decision to participate in the event and related activities.

By registering for a LWGA Tournament, you agree to abide by these protocols and procedures, and acknowledge that you are playing at your own risk.

### **Before you go**

- If you are sick or at risk, based on CDC's list of high-risk individuals, please stay home. If you have been exposed to a person who has COVID-19 or other contagious illness, ensure it has been at least 14 days before participating in any tournament.
- Food may or may not be available for purchase. Be prepared to bring your own snacks, water and other beverages.
- Come with your own towel, pencil, sunscreen, bug spray, ball markers, tees, etc.
- Bring a mask or scarf.
- We recommend that you bring your own hand sanitizer to the event to ensure it is available as needed.

### **At the tournament**

- Tournaments will be set up as tee times to minimize gathering and promote social distancing.
- Players are asked not to arrive at the golf course more than one hour before their start time.
- Players will have a choice to either load their own bags or have club bag handlers load the bags in the cart.
- Unless otherwise stated for a specific event, two riders per cart will be utilized. It is strongly recommended that players riding together follow South Carolina mask guidance.
- Players should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently. Players should avoid touching their face, including the mouth, eyes, and nose.

## Playing the tournament

- Bunkers— If rakes are present, tournament participants are expected to follow the rules of golf for bunker play and rake the bunkers after playing their shot from the bunker. If tournaments are played without bunker rakes: Relief from an abnormal ground condition (i.e. a footprint, club swing mark) **for the lie of the ball only**, the player may lift the ball, smooth the area and place it at the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole. Players are also encouraged to smooth out all bunkers with their feet when exiting after play.
- Holed — definition of Holed is modified in this way: If any part of the ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, the ball is treated as holed even if the entire ball is not below the surface.
- Flagstick - LWGA will follow host club protocols related to the flagstick. Any special considerations from the host club will be communicated in the tournament rules.
- Suspensions or Delays — In the event of inclement weather, participants will be the top priority. Players and volunteers are to report to the designated shelter locations where distancing can be maintained (usually the clubhouse/restaurant). If you wish to shelter in your vehicle, please let the committee know. Ensure that your cell phone is current on the LWGA website.

## Post round

- Players are asked to refrain from the traditional handshake or hug prior to and after all rounds. A friendly nod, a tip of the cap, or wave is a recommended form of greeting or sportsmanship.
- There will be no scoreboard in use.
- Bring your marker attested scorecard to the designated scoring area immediately following the round and before going to your car.
- As soon as you submit your scorecard, please avoid congregating in the scoring and common areas. If this is the first day of a two-day tournament, please depart the grounds expeditiously. If it is a one-day tournament, the scoring committee will advise you of the estimated time and procedure for the award and claiming of prizes for the day. If it is a championship or Major tournament, with a playoff stipulated for ties and you think you may be in a playoff situation, stay in the scoring area.
- For events with post round food, please assess your personal risk and consider CDC guidance when making your decision to participate in the event and related activities.

These procedures and protocols may change at any time due to updated restrictions or guidelines issued by state or federal officials. There may also be changes that apply to a specific event. Any such changes will be communicated by the Tournament Chair in advance.

We look forward to seeing you at an LWGA event soon!