

Golf

Every school district/program should consult with their local health department to determine which risk level to start this program safely. Continued consultation with local health department should be used to determine when progression to the next risk level can be initiated.

Pre-Workout/Pre-Contest Screening:

- Athletes and coaches should check their temperature at home before attending practices or games. If a student-athlete or a coaching staff member has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or above, they should not attend practices or games.
- Ensure that individual(s) with symptoms do not return to practice until:
 - They are free of fever (less than 100.4°F) **AND** respiratory symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath) for at least three days (72 hours) without the use of fever-reducing medicine; **AND**
 - Ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Any person with symptoms of respiratory illness should not be allowed to take part in workouts until they are free of fever and respiratory symptoms for at least three days without the use of fever-reducing medicine AND ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared. They should contact their primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional for guidance. **Written medical clearance is required to return to activity.**
- A record should be kept of all individuals present at team activities.
- Vulnerable individuals can resume public interactions, but should practice social distancing, minimizing exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical, unless precautionary measures are observed.

Sport Specific Information

Social distancing:

- **Practice Range and Greens** – Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing, chatting, or changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to hit. Workouts should be conducted in 'pods' of students, with the same 5-10 students always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- **On Course Play** – Only essential personnel are permitted on the course. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials. All others, i.e., managers, video people, media photographers, etc. are considered non-essential personnel and are to be in the gallery remaining by the cart path (when present) or remaining at least 15 yards from the players.
- **Spectators** – Spectators should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines and remain at least 15 yards from the players.
- **Media** – All local social distancing and hygiene guidelines for spectators should be followed by media members planning to attend meets. Media members should contact host school administrators prior to arriving.
- **Concession stands** – Concession stands are not recommended.
- **Coach conferences** – Encourage limiting the number of individuals in a conference and/or huddle to those who must be in close proximity for these discussions. It is encouraged that coaches wear a mask.
- **Team handshakes** – Teams and individuals shall NOT exchange handshakes before, during, or following the practice or meet.
- **Press area** – Local schools shall determine which personnel should be in the designated press area considering Wisconsin DHS guidelines.

Practice and Game Protocols:

- **Masks** – Players are not required to wear cloth face coverings, but may do so if they desire. Coaches and others are encouraged to wear masks, especially when not able to maintain social distancing. If an individual would like to wear a mask on the playing course or in a meeting, they may do so. There is no prohibition on the color of the mask. Spectators, workers, and others are encouraged to wear masks and they are expected to follow social distancing guidelines.

- **Players licking fingers** – If a golfer touches their mouth, practice is stopped and the player must sanitize their hands. Players should only touch and use their own golf ball and not touch other players golf ball or equipment. Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol).
- **Player habits** – Coaches should now work to create new habits including staying away from touching their face, not allowing sunflower seeds and not spitting. Do not touch the flagstick or bunker rakes, nor other player’s equipment or golf balls.
- **Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes** – Players, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes. The WIAA SMAC recommends using hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) before and after each at round and when going out to, and coming in from, the course. Additionally, emphasize to all to avoid touching their face.

Equipment:

- **Golf equipment** – Players should use their own equipment and golf balls. Players should not touch other players equipment or golf balls.
- **Course equipment** – Players should not touch the flagstick, bunker rakes or ball cleaning devices on the course.
- **What kinds or brands of sanitizer should we be using** – The WIAA SMAC recommends referencing and utilizing [EPA-registered disinfectants](#). Balls and equipment may be wiped with listed disinfectants and a damp cloth.

Hydration:

- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) should NOT be utilized.

COVID-19 Coach:

- Designate a coach to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- All coaches, staff, officials, and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Train coaches, officials, and staff on all safety protocols. Conduct training virtually, or ensure that [social distancing](#) is maintained during training.

Golf Practice Risk Levels:

- **High Risk Level** – Range, practice green work and course play, without competitions, that can be done during the High risk level to reduce exposure with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between use by competitors.
 - Individual play can be permitted with no more than four players per group. All league, clinic, camps and organized activities will remain suspended.
 - Holes will be filled or adapted to allow for easy ball retrieval, no bunker rakes; trash removed by individual players. Flags should not be touched for any reason. The player should bring their own water and remove trash upon leaving.
 - Practice facilities may be open but are restricted to 10 or less people practicing strict social distancing. Enhanced practice ball sanitation protocol.
 - Golf instruction and club fitting in person may be conducted on an individual basis while practicing strict social distancing. Cloth facial covering recommended for instructors and students. Group teaching and coaching programming is conducted virtually.
 - Outdoor workout activities allowed with proper social distancing and no more than 10 people.
 - Virtual events are permitted based on appropriately spaced tee times. No staff administration of events and no pre or post gatherings. All scoring is done digitally. Individual play only. No shotguns.
 - Follow the USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook and PGA Jr. League Guidelines: https://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/images/course-care/covid-19-resource-center/back2golf/back2golf_operations_playbook-version4-0-june10-2020.pdf
https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ1oEw931iYxsVlBfmUtqcrOSTvlq2LX3ECgOyTSYADFFtEF0RATa5segvSi_zfF4MchVFVpFxFNx51D/pub.
- **Moderate Risk Level** – Range, practice green work and course play that can be done during the Moderate risk level to reduce exposure, which involve close, sustained contact, with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants OR intermittent close contact OR group drills OR sports that use equipment that can be cleaned between participants.

- Normal golf groups are permitted; walking or riding in golf carts is permitted. Restrictions apply and will vary by locality.
- Practice facilities may be open but are restricted to 50 or less people practicing strict social distancing. Enhanced practice ball sanitation protocol.
- Golf instruction and club fitting conducted with adherence to strict social distancing guidelines. Small group clinics may be resumed based upon the practice facility space available to abide by the social distancing guidelines.
 - Smaller group play allowed at the facility.
 - Shotguns allowed with strict social distancing and staging that eliminates the potential for large gatherings.
 - Groups no larger than 50 players may be held. It is important to note that the 50 player limitation refers to gatherings (ex. scoreboard area, clubhouse, registration, etc.). As long as an event organizer can have protocols in place to ensure that people do not have gatherings of 50 or more, then these groups can conduct a golf event with a larger field size as long as it via tee times.
 - No gathering points for registration or awards ceremony. Functions may be held with social distancing protocol and local F&B guidelines adhered to. Any awards presentation should follow the local government guidelines at that time.
 - Practice facility follows local guidelines and strict social distancing that must be monitored by a staff member.
 - Arrivals of participants are not be prior to 30 minutes before tee time (limit practice time).
- Follow the USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook and PGA Jr. League Guidelines:
 - https://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/images/course-care/covid-19-resource-center/back2golf/back2golf_operations_playbook-version4-0-june10-2020.pdf
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ1oEw931iYxsVIBfmUtqcrOSTvlq2LX3ECgOyTSYADFFtEF0RATa5segvSi_zfF4MchVFVpFxFxNx51D/pub.
- **Low Risk Level** – Range, practice green work and course play that can be done during the Low risk level to reduce exposure, which involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants.
 - Facility is fully operational. No restrictions.
 - On course water available.
 - New normal trash operations may occur.
 - All groups allowed. No restrictions.
 - Follow the USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook and PGA Jr. League Guidelines:
 - https://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/images/course-care/covid-19-resource-center/back2golf/back2golf_operations_playbook-version4-0-june10-2020.pdf
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ1oEw931iYxsVIBfmUtqcrOSTvlq2LX3ECgOyTSYADFFtEF0RATa5segvSi_zfF4MchVFVpFxFxNx51D/pub.