

# SCGA COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITIONS

In accordance with local orders, recommended health precautions, and industry best practices, the SCGA has developed the following guidelines for its competitions, which are subject to change.

## GENERAL

- If you're not feeling well, please stay home.
- Wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, and avoid touching your face.
- Refrain from shaking hands or coming into contact with others on-site.
- If social distancing is not possible, face masks should be worn in accordance with local guidelines.
- Familiarize yourself and follow best practices issued by the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), and state/local governments.
- Blatant disregard for COVID-19 related guidelines will be considered a violation of the SCGA's Code of Conduct.

## COMMUNICATION PRIOR TO AN EVENT

- **Following the close of entries**, players will receive an email directing them to the Event Portal (tournament website) where they will find the player roster and other details associated with the event.
- **One week prior to the event**, pairings and final reminders, including information about COVID-19 related guidelines, will be emailed to players and posted on the Event Portal.
- **By the evening prior to an event**, the Notice to Players, Hole Locations, and group-specific scorecards will be emailed to players, which **they may print at home** and bring to the event the next day. Players will **also receive a text message** with their Golf Genius ID (GGID) – a unique code that will enable players to enter scores digitally into the USGA Tournament Management mobile app (free to download).

## WHAT TO BRING (PLAYERS)

- In addition to the documents listed above, players must bring their own tees, pencils, ball-marking pens, hand sanitizer, mask, and drinking water, as these items will not be provided on starting holes.
  - Hand sanitizer may be provided at specific locations (e.g. at the scoring area).
  - Refer to the Event Portal for updates on F&B availability at a given facility.

## CADDIES & SPECTATORS

- The ability for additional persons, such as caddies and spectators, to be on-site will depend on local guidelines and will be clarified on the Event Portal.
  - **Caddies:** Prohibited until further notice.
  - **Spectators:** Permitted but must always maintain social distancing.

## ARRIVAL & PRACTICE

- Players are encouraged to arrive no more than one hour prior to their starting time.
- There will not be a registration process unless otherwise noted on the Event Portal.
- Range balls will be provided on the driving range or in a way that minimizes touchpoints.
- Players should limit their range usage to no more than 15 minutes and maintain social distancing.
- Short game areas and practice putting greens will be available unless otherwise noted on the Event Portal.

## HOST FACILITIES; FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Clubhouse, locker room, and golf shop availability will be subject to the procedures set forth at each host facility.
- As part of its preparations with each facility, the SCGA will inquire as to what steps are being taken to sanitize items like golf carts, flagsticks, and other common touchpoints. Players may bring disinfectant wipes to further sanitize items they contact (e.g. golf carts, etc.).
- The availability of food and beverage will be published on the Event Portal.
  - Bottled drinking water will only be provided if the SCGA can do so in a safe and responsible manner. Players should not plan on drinking water being available on the course.
  - At certain championships, vouchers will be provided for takeout items from the facility or food trucks.
  - The SCGA will not host banquet-style gatherings.

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## GOLF CARTS

- **Walking Only Events:**
  - Numerous events will continue to be restricted to walking only with exceptions made for medical or ADA reasons.
- **When Carts are Allowed:**
  - In line with local guidelines, carts will be permitted at events that normally allow players to ride.
  - Keeping in mind the need to provide a safe and equitable opportunity for all players involved, the number of available carts at a facility may dictate field size and whether an event will allow carts.
  - Click [here](#) to view the SCGA COVID-19 Cart Policy.

## GROUPINGS & STARTING A ROUND

- SCGA events will utilize single-tee starts whenever possible and a minimum starting interval of 10 minutes to reduce traffic and promote social distancing. Shotgun starts will not be used.
  - Starters will not distribute materials, nor will any supplies be available on the starting tee.
- While maintaining social distancing, SCGA starters will address pertinent topics with players, including instruction as to who each player will serve as a marker for.
- Players will be required to serve as a marker for another player by keeping score on:
  - The group scorecard emailed the day prior;
  - Any piece of paper, including a course scorecard, that can be referenced at the scoring area;
  - USGA TM mobile app. **It is highly recommended that players who keep score in the mobile app also keep a paper copy as a backup.**

## ON THE COURSE

- Groups are required to maintain social distancing from other groups, whether on the starting tee or any other place on the course.
- The SCGA will inquire as to what amenities, such as restrooms, practice putting green flags, bunker rakes, ball washers, coolers, etc., will be present on the course. Special accommodations may be requested on a temporary basis for SCGA events.
- Central to stroke play competitions remains the need to hole out on each hole, unless otherwise provided for in the format of play.
  - Adjustments to the hole (including inserts to minimize contact) may differ from course to course.
- Players must not remove the flagstick.
- If a player's ball comes to rest in a bunker, he or she may:
  - Take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball:
    - » Within one club-length of the original spot;
    - » Not nearer the hole;
    - » In the same bunker.
  - Smooth the sand with his or her feet, club, or rake **after hitting their ball out of the bunker.**

## AFTER THE ROUND & SCORING

- Immediately after the round, players will go to a scoring area while maintaining social distancing to review their scores with SCGA staff.
  - The player, his or her marker, and SCGA staff will verify hole-by-hole scores and the player(s) will certify the results.
  - Scorecards will not be physically exchanged, signed, or handed over to the committee.
  - Once the results have been certified and the player exits the scoring area, the scorecard is considered returned under the Rules of Golf.
- After completing the scoring process, players will be encouraged to leave the premises.
- All ties will be broken using the USGA suggested method of matching scorecards unless otherwise noted.
- In most cases, there will not be a public scoreboard with results. All results will be visible on the Event Portal.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[SCGA COVID-19 Updates](#)

[USGA COVID-19 Resource Center](#)



**CHAMPIONSHIPS AND GOLF OPERATIONS CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
3740 Cahuenga Blvd., Studio City, CA 91604 | 818-980-3630 | [scga.org](http://scga.org) | [champs@scga.org](mailto:champs@scga.org)