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**A safe and Practical Guide**

**for Army Golf Events**

**during COVID-19**

Safe Steps

1. Course Access

2. Booking & Arrival

3. Check-in Protocol

4. To the First/Tenth Tee

5. On the Course

6. Getting Home Safely

General

Golf, for all of us is a passion of love and enjoyment. It is important to allow golfers at every level to enjoy the game in a safe environment providing mental and physical well-being, for the thousands of enthusiasts within the Army.

This guide, prepared by input from various industry and medical experts, outlines the robust, monitored processes The Army Golf Association has taken to manage and maintain the safeguarding of its members, associate members and officials.

These measures are designed to help cover each step, from home/unit, to the first teeing point and back home again, they will be in place for the foreseeable future until restrictions are relaxed.

It should be noted any Player(s) not adhering to the following instructions/directions will be removed from the event/competition, asked to leave the course and may have their membership suspended with immediate effect.

1. Travel to the Venue

Travel to and from sporting locations. Guidance on travel can be found in
FRAGO001 TO Pj PHOENIX OpO 001. Service Personnel (SP) are to comply with Army Travel Policy for COVID-19 adhering to the restrictions imposed for military travel:

* SP are not to car share whilst traveling to the venue of an event unless authority is granted by the parent unit CoC..
* SP are to assess the travel distances to venues to ensure that Drivers Hours
Regulations are adhered to.
* Where excessive travel distances are required SP are access the viability of attendance against potential risk. If there is any doubt the SP is advised not to travel.

2. Course Access

In the initial period access to the course will be limited to organising officials and selected players following a formal online entry process. Visitors and Sponsors will be welcomed, managed within the event organiser’s own requirements, the host Golf Clubs specific rules on visitors and the easing of government restrictions.

To access the course, a player must:

• Be a selected playing member of the event/competition

• Not recently have been out of the country for over 14 days

• Not be in self-isolation

• Not be displaying COVID-19 symptoms

3. Booking & Arrival

• All entries into the event or competition must have been completed within the weeks leading to the event. The event organiser will be required to submit a self-declaration to the Sec AGA the day prior to the event/competition.

* All participants must have attended a Unit Forced Health Protection Brief prior to entering the event or competition and are required to self-declare to the event organiser before the event. Competitors who have not been briefed, including Associate Members, are to access the brief via the following link and then self-declare to the event organiser: <https://jive.defencegateway.mod.uk/videos/16686>
* Tee times will have been arranged by the event Organiser and notified to all participants prior to departure for the event —via website, email or phone.

• All players will be required to give a phone number or email address to enable contact tracing, details are to be submitted at the time of application/entry into an event or competition.

• All participants will be made aware of any specific measures prior to visiting the club.

• Golf equipment should be washed and cleaned before players leave their unit or place of residence.

• Members should travel to the club alone, or with members of the same unit where Army policy allows.

• Ample car parking spaces must be available to ensure social distancing, the event organiser must ensure this is achieved by nominating additional staff to assist in the management of the event.

• Arrival at the course should be no more than 20 minutes prior to allotted tee time.

• Always observe social distancing and do not congregate into groups.

• Locker rooms are likely to be closed, arrange golf attire and footwear at the car.

• Report to one of the event organisers upon arrival, to check-in.

4. Check-in Protocol

• Mandatory check-in with the event organiser for all players.

* The clubhouse, Pro-Shop, half way house (including toilets), practice ground, putting green, practice nets and locker rooms may be closed. Additional protocol must be in place to enable access and use of such facilities.
* If the event/competition involves two rounds of golf in the same day, the Army has imposed additional rules over and above those of the Government and England Golf. No group gatherings are to take place in the clubhouse during the lunch period. Packed lunches or pre-arranged walk through facilities are to be in place.
* All entry fees are to be paid by Bank Transfer as notified by the event/competition organiser as stipulated in the event Admin Instruction.

5. Use of the 1st & 10th Tees

• Play to be in 3 or 4 balls at 12 minute intervals or in line with the host golf club guidance. This is to be annotated on the event/competition booking sheet.

• Tee times to be strictly observed to ensure minimum 12 minute spacing.

* In the event there are both military and civilian participants Tee Times are to be arranged that all civilian’s play in the same flights and in the same block, either at the front or the back of the start list. Military and civilian players are not to be mixed.
* Arrive at the tee no more than 5 minutes prior to reserved tee time.

• An event organiser will be on hand to ensure social distancing in the car park and on the 1st & 10th tees where the 10th tee is used simultaneously.

• Social spacing signage identifies tee waiting areas

• Players starting on 10th tee are to comply with the host golf club rulings.

6. On the Course

• Physical distancing must be observed throughout, particularly on tees and greens

• Rubbish bins, ball washers and benches may be covered or taped off

• Bunker rakes will usually be removed, players are to smooth sand with feet (prior to shot if necessary)

• Par three holes should be compulsory call up holes to avoid player congestion

• Flagsticks to remain in the hole and must not be touched

• Hole cups should be inverted for simple, contact free ball retrieval

• Once a hole is completed, the group in front must have exited the tee box before players can progress to the next hole

• Do not double back to play again if a ball is lost, unplayable, or in a penalty area.

• Equipment, food and drink must not be exchanged between players.

• Players must not pick up another players equipment, balls, tees etc (including broken tees).

• Players must refrain from handshakes following game.

* There will be no exchange of score cards at the conclusion of the round.
* If score cards are to be used they are to be set into a suitable box overseen by the event Organiser or submitted electronically.
* Players are to announce their score to the event organiser on completion of their round, adhering to social distancing restrictions in place at the time.
* The event organiser will publish results electronically post the event, there will be no prize giving or presentation of trophies of any kind.

• All golfers must walk in from the course when completing their round.

7. Getting Home Safely

• Post-round, players must return straight to their cars.

• Hands may be washed with facilities provided, event organiser will indicate locations.

• The event organiser will be on-site for up to 30-min following the conclusion of the event.

• Ensure clubs and equipment are cleaned thoroughly after use.

• Players must call or email the golf club with any post-round health issues or any COVID-19 related queries, at the earliest opportunity