

COVID-19 Safe Plan Guidance – Queensland Effective 1st October 2020

INTRODUCTION

Golf Australia in conjunction with Golf Queensland provides the following COVID-19 Safe Plan Guidance for all golf clubs and facilities in Queensland to utilise. Golf Australia understands that some clubs/facilities have created internal resource documents to assist this process and seeks to provide, through this document, further detail that can be utilised by clubs/facilities to finalise their return to play plans under the updated government guidelines.

This guidance addresses how golf clubs and facilities in Queensland can successfully manage operations under the loosening of Queensland government restrictions.

To see stage 4 of the Roadmap to easing restrictions, in effect from 1 October 2020, [click here](#).

To access the Queensland Government Queensland Return to Play website, [click here](#).

To date Queensland Golf Clubs have done an amazing job in managing the strict restrictions in place due to COVID-19 which has allowed many golfers to have access the game they love through these extraordinary times. That being said, Golf Australia and our clubs/facilities must ensure that the Queensland Government Guidelines continue to be met to ensure that the risk of transmission continues to be minimised.

In addition to this golf specific guidance, clubs and facilities should refer to the Queensland Governments Return to Play Guidelines. The Guidelines can be found here; <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/roadmap-to-easing-queenslands-restrictions/sport>

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QUEENSLAND OVERVIEW

As of 1 October, Queensland progressed to Stage 4 easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The following advice is based on those restrictions.

COVID-19 Safe Plans

In most cases, clubs and facilities are required to have two COVID-19 Safe Plans in place;

1. [The Industry COVID Safe Plan for Queensland Hotels and Clubs](#)
2. [The Industry COVID Safe Plan for Outdoor Sports](#)

Moving to Stage 4, the Industry COVID Safe Plans remain largely unchanged, however the plans have been updated to include:

- clarification around COVID Safe events
- updated contact tracing requirements.

Any organisation undertaking activity in accordance with an industry plan must print, sign and display a [Statement of compliance](#).

COVID Safe Events

Regular seasonal golf fixtures and competitions (including championships) should operate in compliance with [The Industry COVID Safe Plan for Outdoor Sports](#) and [The Industry COVID Safe Plan for Queensland Hotels and Clubs](#)

Any other events run outside of regular seasonal fixtures or competitions, larger than 500 people (indoor events) or 1000 people (outdoor events) and operating in compliance with an Approved COVID Safe Plan (industry, site-specific or professional sporting code plan) other than a COVID Safe Event Plan must notify the Public Health Unit of the event a minimum of 10 business days before the event by emailing COVID-19.Industryplans@health.qld.gov.au.

Where an event is outside of the scope or not solely covered by the Approved COVID Safe Plan, read the [Industry Framework for COVID Safe Events \(PDF, 1.4 MB\)](#) which provides further guidance on organising COVID Safe Events.

[The Community Gathering and Sporting Events Guidelines](#) also provide further assistance to Industry around delivering COVID Safe Events.

GOLF OPERATIONS

Under the Industry COVID Safe Plan for Outdoor Sports, clubs & facilities need to be aware that flagsticks, rakes, NTP markers and scorecards, fall into the definition of shared equipment. Shared equipment needs to be sanitised effectively after each use.

As a result, Golf Australia recommends that golf clubs & facilities continue to apply the local rules within the Play Management guidelines that avoid the need to handle shared equipment.

<https://www.golf.org.au/club-guidance-managing-play-in-the-covid-19-environment>

In stage 4 clubs & facilities may;

- play in groups of four (or more)
- hold shotgun & multi-tee starts
- have two people per cart

Clubs & facilities must ensure that;

- if available, bookings should be made online, via phone or via text message. There should be no 'roll-up play'.
- scorecards, if in use, should be distributed and collected using PPE
- motorised carts, rental clubs, push buggy and sand bucket handles and air compressor handles are sanitised before and after every use
- the collection of ALL attendees contact details is occurring and can be provided to a public health official within the required 60 minutes of the request. Public Health Units across the State as well as Queensland Police have the ability to check-in and request information surrounding your club or association compliance any time.

General hygiene principles required, including cleaning of facilities

Golf Australia has previously communicated to clubs that their staff and volunteers should exhibit a heightened awareness of personal hygiene as has been encouraged by state and federal health departments and they should display a heightened regard for the sanitation of surfaces, of which their cleaning chemical provider will be able to provide guidance on.

Golf Australia has provided Club & Facilities with specific easy to implement changes to regular operations to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. These include:

- Placing social distancing signage around the clubhouse along with hand sanitisers
- Sanitise motorised carts, rental clubs, push buggy and sand bucket handles and air compressor handles before and after use on all occasions.
- Sanitise all greenkeeping machinery before and after use on all occasions
- Removal of rakes from bunkers
- Refer temporary modification of the rules section which gives clubs the choice to adopt policies around flagsticks and bunkers.

- Remove cash transactions and encourage 'Pay-Wave' transactions where no contact is required
- Remove small pins from practice putting greens
- No dollar bets
- No hand shaking

Clubs and facilities are encouraged to view the Business health and safety resources for coronavirus (COVID-19) which are available at the Queensland Government website

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>

Participation Programs

Clinics are able to be conducted, provided return to sport, ie sanitation of shared equipment, and physical distancing requirements are met.

TEMPORARY MODIFICATIONS TO THE RULES OF GOLF

On 19/3/2020, the R&A (who are the ruling authority of golf throughout the world except in north America) announced a series of temporary measures to combat the hygiene implications associated with some of the requirements of the Rules of Golf. These temporary measures allow the Rules of Golf, and Model Local Rules, to be modified as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

This information can be accessed at <https://www.golf.org.au/club-guidance-managing-play-in-the-covid-19-environment> and it is recommended that clubs/facilities familiarise themselves with these modifications.

When considering these new options, clubs should be mindful of the following:

- In order to take advantage of these new Local Rule options, your club will need to announce which options it is bringing into effect for play at your facility – these options do not automatically come into effect at your facility as a result of the R&A announcement.
- Scores returned from competitions with any of the new Local Rules in effect must be processed through GOLF Link unless your club has been instructed otherwise by Golf Australia or your State Association.
- These Local Rule options are temporary and are related to COVID-19 concerns. They will be available to clubs until Golf Australia advises otherwise.

CLUBHOUSE OPERATIONS

In most cases [The Industry COVID Safe Plan for Queensland Hotels and Clubs](#) will apply to Clubhouse operations including the serving of food and beverages across your facility.

For further information on Businesses, activities and undertakings, including a comprehensive Question and answer section and updates restrictions please [CLICK HERE](#)

Kind Regards,



Robert Armour
Interim CEO
Golf Australia



Andrew Newbold
Chair
Golf Australia