

SADGA

Covid – 19 Tournament Risk Mitigation Plan (TRMP)

As we look forward to the hosting of tournament golf in 2021, SADGA has the expectation and indeed responsibility to ensure that Tournaments and Championships hosted by SADGA are played in compliance with the National Government Regulations, GolfRSA Consolidated Risk Mitigation Guidelines **and** this SADGA Provincial Challenge TRMP relative to Covid-19.

In order to allow for the playing of competitive golf whilst providing the golfer the option to attend the pin and experience the true challenges of the course, SADGA in conjunction with GolfRSA have created this TRMP document for implementation at the Canon Open Series SADGA Events allowing for the use of specific products under specific conditions which would allow the game to be played in a manner permitting the handling of pin flags and the re-introduction of bunker rakes. (Pls note that this document may be used in addition to other documents which may collectively make up the Tournament Risk Mitigation Plan)

It is important to note that although each player has an obligation to act in a responsible and considerate manner in regard to reducing the risk to themselves and others that exists from Covid-19 (including adherence to any and all Risk Mitigation Measures or Government Regulations which are applicable), it is the Tournament Organising Committees responsibility to put into place and ensure adherence to measures which are designed to mitigate the risk of transmissions between all persons in attendance of any Tournament or Championship. These measures, in the form of a comprehensive Tournament Risk Mitigation Plan (RMP) are intended to be additional to and enhance the host facilities existing RMP.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL REGULATIONS – NO SPECTATORS WILL BE PERMITTED AT THE CANON OPEN SERIES AND ANY EVENTS.

Player, Caddie, Tournament and Club Staff Health and Care:

SADGA and the host venue will have a collective responsibility for the capturing and retention of details relating to the screening of players and caddies participating in any Tournaments and this requirement may be even more important as changes to the Risk Mitigation Plan are made in accordance with this provision.

The process or means of screening and capturing details will be conducted by SADGA.

In terms of the Government Covid-19 Regulations, it is a criminal offence to withhold information or provide false information about your Covid-19 status.

Should a player be found to intentionally or wittingly withhold information relating to an increased risk of Virus transmission, SADGA and GolfRSA reserve the right to take further action against such a player including but not restricted to reporting such a player to the authorities.

Participation in and Travel to Tournaments:

Players are expected to abide by and enforce Covid-19 Regulations as required by National Government which includes all actions relating to travel, social interactions and gatherings and the wearing of masks and sanitisation as is required.

Although every Golf Club in South Africa is required to have a Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Plan which is aligned with the National Government Regulations, the Risk Mitigation Guidelines and safety measure toolkits as issued by GolfRSA, it is

essential that additional protocols be introduced where necessary to further enhance the facility RMP and further mitigate the risks during the tournament.

Player / Caddy / Equipment and Staff Sanitization:

Golf Clubs are Covid-19 ready as part of the agreement between GolfRSA and in accordance with Government regulations this includes access screening, sanitation of facilities and providing sanitiser dispensers at relevant areas of the clubhouse. The Tournament Committee is required to compliment these measures with its own efforts to ensure a safe and healthy environment for players and others involved with the event.

To this end, in order to allow for the removal of the pin or the reintroduction of bunker rakes etc, all persons participating in the Tournament (players / caddies and staff) will have their hands sanitized with a residual polymer based, broad-spectrum antimicrobial protector which kills the virus and protects for 24 hours. **To date, the only product which has been submitted for consideration and approved for use is the Zoono Antimicrobial protector and GermFree 24.**

Pin Flags and Cups (holes):

With the resumption of play under Tournament Conditions, SADGA regards the opportunity for a player to have the pin attended / removed as a basic choice suitable for Provincial level Challenge matches

In order to comply with this, SADGA in hosting this event will ensure the following;

- All pins, pin flags and holes **MUST** be treated with the application of Zoono prior to the start of each round. This product must be re-applied daily prior to play (this application is to include the flag pole / flag and inside of the “cup”).
- **ALL** Players and Caddies must have the GermFree24 product applied to their hands prior to the start of play (this can be administered either at screening, registration or on the tee box prior to teeing off.)

Bunkers:

With the resumption of play under Tournament Conditions, SADGA regards the opportunity for a player to play from a reasonably prepared and maintained bunker a basic requirement for the Provincial Challenge.

In order to allow for bunkers to be played in the manner intended whilst recognizing the threat that the Covid-19 Virus still poses SADGA will take the following steps to allow for this whilst mitigating the risk for the transfer of the virus;

- Treatment of all on course bunker rakes with the appropriate Zoono Product prior to the start of each round. This will allow for bunker rakes to be placed on the course for players and their caddies to care for the bunker on completion of playing from a bunker. (NB -The approved Antimicrobial product must be re-applied each day prior to play)
*The Local Rules will include a note which advises players and caddies to sanitize their hands regularly during the round and especially after handling bunker rakes and pin-flags.
(The Organising Committee is also to ensure that clubs are advised to remove the bunker rakes for the return to social/club golf on the completion of the tournament)

As a comment to players – it may be beneficial to raise awareness that although greens staff are assumed to present the course in the best possible condition prior to the start of play, recent events and constraints brought with it may impact a club’s ability to have the course manicured or prepared to the standards that players were accustomed to prior to the Pandemic.

At the moment, the only product which has been submitted for consideration and approved for use, by Provincial Unions subject to the following conditions is the Zono Antimicrobial protector and GermFree 24:

- The Zono Product to be applied to pins / flags / holes (cups) / bunker rakes **MUST be applied each morning prior to play.**
- The GermFree24 product (hand sanitiser) **must be applied to each player / caddie and tournament / course staff members hands prior to accessing the course.** This product is to be applied each day prior to these persons handling any pins / flags / bunker rakes etc.

(It is important to note that despite the claims of the manufacturer relating to the period of effectiveness, it has been agreed that clinical trials indicate that the time period of effectiveness acceptable to the GolfRSA Compliance Officer is 24 hours after which re-application MUST be done.)

The product submitted to and accepted by the GolfRSA Compliance Officer for this purpose which may be purchased by the Organising Committee is available on the following link;

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/IGTGolf1/GolfRSAZONOOOrderForm>

Once application has occurred, the hands can still be washed with soap regularly and additional alcohol-based sanitizer products may and should be used during the course of the day. This will not affect the protection by the antimicrobial spray but as an additional measure will further protect all parties.

All relevant tournament operational areas such as the registration desk, score recording area, starters desk, rules carts as well as equipment on the golf course including pin flags and bunker rakes (where applicable) must be sanitised with the antimicrobial protector. It is advisable to require golfers and caddies to ensure that despite these additional measures, they continue to be vigilant of the requirement to sanitize at regular intervals throughout the day.

Caddies:

In order to limit the risk of virus exposure and ensure physical distancing objectives, the resumption of tournaments must be done with due care under the following.

- Only the host golf club caddies will be allowed at your own expense.
- Personal Caddies are for the golfers account and are to register with SADGA two weeks prior to the tournament

Tournament Office / Score Recording / Administration:

In order to consider the safety of all persons on site (including tournament staff and officials):

- The tournament office/score recording area may only be accessed by staff and tournament officials, and by players for score verification purposes. (management of the number of persons within this facility is essential and masks must be worn at all times by persons within the scoring area)
- It is the decision of the Organizing Committee as to the manner in which Tournament Information is both displayed and distributed to players and Tournament Rules Officials/Officials and this is to include – draws, pace of play guidelines, pin sheets, local rules and Terms of Competition. It is recommended that the applicable documents are distributed to players and Tournament Officials and Rules Officials electronically where deemed possible and or appropriate. Documentation should be displayed in areas available to players which provides a suitable amount of space and is preferably “open air”.
- In the event that information is printed, consideration must be given for the safe display or distribution of this information.

Physical Distancing and Wearing of Masks:

Although the sport of golf and thus the course itself provides suitable opportunity to ensure physical distancing, it is recognized that human nature is one of camaraderie and social interaction. Players/caddies are however reminded that these tournaments take place under the auspices of SADGA whom are responsible for the implementation and monitoring of Risk Mitigation Guidelines and National Regulations and to assist with this, all attendees are required to comply with these requirements.

In this regard it is recommended that;

- Players be advised not to arrive at the venue too early (at most 1 hour prior to play)
- Practice areas must be setup in accordance with the GolfRSA Risk Mitigation Guidelines relative to physical distancing and that Organizing Committees ensure that the number of players on practice putting greens and other more contained spaces are limited to comply with physical distancing requirements.
- On the tee, only the match that is “next to play” will be permitted and subsequent groups (participants and caddies) must wait at a safe distance until it is their turn on the tee.
- If it is decided that the “GermFree24” application will be done on the tee, it is a requirement that all players and caddies report to the tee for the product to be administered. (caddies may not proceed down the fairway until this process has been completed)
- All players, staff and caddies arriving on site must wear masks. The masks must be worn at all times inside and around the Clubhouse and practice facilities, given the congregation of persons in these areas.
- Players and Caddies may remove masks on the golf course during their rounds, but if physical (social) distancing of at least 3 meters and in windy conditions (i.e. >24km) at least 5m cannot be maintained on the course, players are advised to wear their masks.

Before and after the round, the player / caddie must wear his/her face mask when entering the clubhouse or score recording area, when entering any club facilities, using the practice facilities or when physical distancing of greater than 2 meters cannot be maintained.

Score Recording / Score Verification and Live Scoring:

Due to restrictions and other factors beyond the control of Organizing Committees, it may be decided that live scoring not be done or alternatively, that the manner of live scoring be adapted. Players are requested to comply with the request of Organising Committees.

For the purposes of Official scoring, score recording and verification the following procedure is recommended;

- Tournament Organisers shall ensure that when starting the field that players do not exchange scorecards.
- Each player will complete and sign his/her own score card.
- Each player should have a designated “scorer” appointed by the Organising Committee and the player and scorer would be required to verify the players scores with the score recorder in the score recording area.
- Score recording should be conducted in such a manner that players are not seated.
- It should not be a requirement for the co-signing of score cards at this time.
- Tournament Organisers shall ensure that all scorecards are deposited in a separate container, that shall be disposed of in a safe manner and tournament officials shall sanitize prior to and after touching the scorecards.

Should live scoring be conducted then the Organising Committee shall ensure that:

- Scoring devices are sanitized at all stages during setup of the devices, prior to handing the device to the Starter (if applicable), Starter to the designated player capturing the scores in the match.
- The designated player in the match shall not pass the device onto another player or their caddie (if applicable).
- On completion of the round, the Tournament Organisers shall ensure that safety protocols are in place for the return of the scoring device by the designated player (ie. placed in a designated container), together with the sanitization of the scoring device after use.

Golf Carts:

- The Tournament Committee shall sanitize the golf carts in accordance with their Risk Mitigation Plan.
- Tournament and Rules Officials should not share golf carts.

(At any time that golf carts are shared for whatever reason – any persons occupying the cart must wear a face mask.)

Player Congregation Post Round:

Players are to be reminded that should they remain on the premises after completion of their round and score verification, they are obligated to ensure that they comply with all physical distancing, mask wearing and sanitization requirements that are in effect. Return to practice areas “post round” will have the requirement that players (and caddies if in attendance) wear their masks.

Areas of the club facilities open for catering purposes may be utilized provided the applicable regulations and Risk Mitigation measures are in place and enforced.

NB – It is important to note that where an Organising Committee is using an area / facility within the club house for the purpose of catering / presentation or any other reason, that they become responsible for ensuring that Risk Mitigation measures are enforced.

Food and Beverage Offerings at Facilities:

All players/ caddies and tournament staff are to comply with the Rules and Requirements related to the catering facility and areas (including lounge areas) within the clubhouse and club grounds. Although these facilities may cater for sit-down meals, it is recommended however that player and caddie food and beverages be purchased on take away basis, in order to avoid the congregation of persons in the clubhouse.

All drinking fountains on the courses will be closed and players and caddies are advised to purchase their own bottled drinks and take enough with them on the course for hydration needs.

The disposal of litter / food and beverage containers must be in a safe and tidy manner which may require such items to be carried from the course by the player/caddie and disposed of at the club house.

Organising Committees MUST ensure that:

- In the event of a presentation, in order to reduce the risk of touch transmission, prizes/trophies are to be sanitized and the winner should preferably be required to collect their prize/trophy directly from the prize table.
- Any photos taken which can be associated with the tournament (pre / post round or during play) and displayed or shared must comply with the applicable National Regulations and GolfRSA Risk Mitigation Guidelines. Photographs of prize winners shall be taken either individually (where the player may remove their mask provided, they observe physical distancing of 3m or more) OR for group photos (two or more people) either wearing a mask or maintaining physical distance of 3m or more. (Photos should not include any signs of physical touching e.g. Shaking hands)

Positive Test Result or Display of Symptoms by players / caddies or staff:

GolfRSA has as part of their Covid-19 “Toolkit” on www.golfrsa.com a document relating to a positive test or symptom display (Positive Test Case – What to do) which should be referenced immediately should someone display symptoms or confirm that they tested positive after having attended any day of the tournament.

Any person displaying symptoms must immediately be withdrawn from the Tournament and self-isolate. Should a Covid-19 test be conducted and the result is positive, the person must remain in quarantine for 10 days. If the person displaying symptoms does not undergo a Covid-19 test, the self-isolation period is 10 days.

Contact-tracing will be done to determine the level of contact such infected (or potentially infected) person had with others at the event and further isolation of persons at risk of infection must be considered and if required, undertaken.

Should the risk factors associated with such a positive case require facility/venue decontamination whilst the tournament is ongoing, the impact thereof on the reasonable completion of event will be considered and the Tournament Director will make the final decision after consultation with the Union and Club Compliance Officer and Organising Committee.

Post Tournament Compliance Report:

Organising Committees shall submit a Compliance Report to GolfRSA advising of any incidents and the measures taken to address these.