



Return to Sport - Plan for Golf in Tasmania

Golf Australia is the governing body for golf in Australia and provides the following 'Return to Sport - Plan for Golf in Tasmania' to Clubs to help them return to full activity over the coming weeks.

Golf is a sport that lends itself naturally to social distancing, with players rarely within 1.5 metres of each other, and low density over a larger playing surface than most other sports. The sport is uniquely positioned to be played during times of social distancing and is set up well to cater for all government requirements through the COVID-19 period and beyond.

INDEX:

- 1.) AIS Framework
- 2.) General Considerations for Golf in Tasmania
- 3.) Social Distancing Measures
- 4.) Temporary Modifications to the Rules of Golf

SECTION 1 - AIS FRAMEWORK

The below outlines the AIS Framework for Rebooting sport in a COVID-19 environment, as well as each level's application specific to golf in Tasmania. Tasmanian sport is moving to Level B

	Level A	Level B	Level C
AIS framework recommendation	Solo or pairs only (if permitted by Local Government) Maintain at least 1.5m between players	Full training. Maintain at least 1.5m between players.	Full training and competition. Maintain at least 1.5m between players
Application in Tasmania	Two people per hole (18 on a 9-hole course, 36 on an 18-hole course). No club competitions. No amateur/professional events	Groups of four allowed. Club competition allowed. No amateur/professional events	Groups of four allowed. Club competition allowed. Amateur/professional events can be run whilst adhering to social distancing principles



SECTION 2 - GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

How can golf ensure groups of 10 are spaced and maintain 1.5m social distancing?

Golf is played as follows:

- Social round of golf - an individual participant can play a round by themselves or in a group with up to three other players.
- Club competition round of golf - requires at least two players to be in a group with a maximum of four players per group. Note that competition golf is no different to social golf, only the submission of a scorecard for competition and handicapping purposes defines the format.
- Golf Australia recommends to clubs that golfers can only enter competitions at their home club, as well as recommends that no visitors are allowed to participate in competitions at another club.
- The easing of restrictions at stage two would not change the way golf is played in Tasmania. Eg. there are no additional formats of the game that would violate social distancing or mass gathering principles that would/could be introduced at this time.

Entry level participation programs will also be limited to nine people or less i.e. nine participants and one deliverer. This includes the MyGolf (junior) and Get into Golf (adult) program

A communication plan to inform members:

Clubs must ensure that they effectively communicate the relevant restrictions that are in place at their facilities as per these guidelines. The use of electronics forms of communication, to do so prior a players arrival at the club is recommended. I.e. Website Post, Email & SMS.

General hygiene principles required, including cleaning of facilities

Clubs, 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 already 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, push buggy and sand bucket handles, air compressor handles, before and after use
- Removal of rakes from bunkers
- Encourage golfers to wear their glove when removing the flag stick and when. 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
- Rental equipment to only be allocated once per day before being returned for thorough cleaning.

Management of people who present who are unwell, experiencing any cold, flu or fever type symptoms

As per health guidelines Golf Australia has been recommending to clubs and facilities to advise their members and guests if they are experiencing any cold, flu or fever type symptoms they must not visit the golf facility. Additionally, we will recommend that these persons should seek to get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Access and egress protocols

Clubs and Facilities should implement policies specific to their venue for members around the following:

- Upon arrival in the car park, players to head directly to the Pro Shop or check-in area, whilst adhering to density protocols, no earlier than 10 minutes before your tee time
- Collect score card and head to tee.
- At the conclusion of the round or activity immediately return to your car.

These procedures will ensure that there is no gatherings taking place outside Pro Shops, near clubhouse entrances or on the practice range/putting green.

How support staff might be minimised

Many clubs and facilities have implemented split shifts across greenkeeping staff and this will continue to be encouraged by Golf Australia.



Requirements of non-sporting attendees such as parents

Golf Australia's recommendation to all clubs and facilities will be as per AIS Principles. Community sport and recreation activities should limit those present to the minimum required to support the participants (e.g. one parent or carer per child if necessary), who are to keep away from all participants and observe social distancing guidelines of 1.5 metres per person. This direction will be given to all Golf Australia program deliverers, such as those running a MyGolf program.

Requirements related to spectators

Clubs and facilities should ensure that they are not running any events or activities that are attracting spectators of any number.

Use of other club facilities

Clubhouses

For restaurants/cafes in Tasmania, from Monday 18 May, restaurants and cafes will be able to open again, with restrictions, for seated table service for up to 10 patrons, with delivery and takeaway services able to continue.

For a single business with a large premises that may have, for example, multiple dining rooms (eg. upstairs and downstairs, or separate rooms on one level, or an indoor and separate out area), the following principles apply:

- Each premises/single business may have no more than two separate dining areas of 10 seated patrons.
- Each setting where dining occurs must not have a density of seated patrons greater than 1 per 4 square metres. To seat 10 patrons the area must be a minimum of 40 square metres. (1 person per 4 square metres average applying). If the dining area is smaller than 40 square metres, a lower number of patrons will only be allowed.
- Multiple timed settings are permitted as long as at any point in time the seated patrons rules apply.
- Food must be consumed by each patron. It is not alcohol service only.
- In this instance, these dining areas will ideally have separate entry/exits points. If they don't, the venue must take steps to minimise opportunities for people to mix whilst waiting for a table (for example, there can be no waiting lobby and social distancing rules apply to any queuing). This could include staged arrivals for bookings.
- Contact details for the person making the booking must be kept if future contact tracing is needed.
- Each dining area must have separate wait staff.
- There is no requirement for separate kitchens or toilets per dining area. However, appropriate cleaning must be scheduled and undertaken.



Change rooms / Toilets

- Indoor toilets can be used only if all mass gathering restrictions that are in place are adhered to, with a limit of one person per four square metres. Use of locker rooms should be minimised.
- Items such as shoe cleaners, sun creams, hair brushes and combs, hair gel and hair dryers from locker rooms should be removed
- Where possible, leaving doors ajar removing the need to push doors open or turn door knobs

Carparks

- Recommendation for players to remain in (or next to) their cars until close to their starting time eg 10 minutes prior. Some clubs (with available resources) will go to the extent of stationing a staff member (or volunteer) with a microphone/radio in the car park to manage these requirements
- Players to leave the facility immediately after completing their round. No presentations can be held at the conclusion of play.

Readiness to reverse plans should restrictions increase

Should restrictions increase, Golf Australia will make recommendations to clubs based on the strength of restrictions.

SECTION 3 - SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

The following measures are recommended by Golf Australia to assist clubs and facilities to avoid congregation in key areas:

Registration

- Only permit play by people who have pre-booked a starting time not just for time sheet bookings via online time sheets or text message, email, or phone call.
- Clubs should consider to making any registration payments non-contact (where applicable for time sheet bookings and/or for competition entry). For example, by charging to the golfer's club account, or charging to a securely pre-stored credit card at the time of registration (where registration is via the internet, text message, email, or phone call).
- As a result, staff/volunteers may not even need to be at the facility to manage the handicapping of pre-nominated social scores or of casual competitions or to perform some other golf shop functions.
- Note: Some of these options are standard operating procedure for many clubs. They may hold unusual value in the current environment for clubs that would not ordinarily use them.



Scorecard submission points

- Offer/require score submission via electronic communication.
 - For example, via app, email, phone call or MMS (some clubs are encouraging players to take a photo of their scorecard and email or MMS it to the club).

Practice Areas

- Limit (or prohibit) access to practice putting greens and other practice areas, and if limiting, allow only nine people at any one time (nine players plus one marshal) in the area

Starting Times

- Structure the intervals between starting times to ensure there is no congregation.
- Depending on the course layout, starting time intervals will generally range from between 6mins to 10mins.

Regular club competitions

Clubs/facilities can conduct internal club competitions as per normal as these events are essentially a social experience. Board events or monthly medals could be conducted, but presentations can not take place and all submission of scores must be done via non-contact methods.

SECTION 4 - TEMPORARY MODIFICATIONS TO THE RULES OF GOLF

Clubs should refer to the document [Managing Play in COVID-19 environment](#) for the option they have around temporary local rules to comply with these guidelines and the return to competition golf.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact Golf Australia at clubsupport@golf.org.au .

Kind Regards,

Robert Armour
Interim CEO
Golf Australia

Andrew Newbold
Chair
Golf Australia