

HWPGT 2020-21 – COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR DOMESTIC TOURNAMENTS

PART - I

The contents of this document have been prepared on the basis of WHO guidelines, received from the Ladies European Tour for their LET and LETAS events. It has been suitably modified for the WGAI domestic Tour, in order to ensure a safe return to professional tournament golf during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It applies to all professional and amateur players, officials and parents / guardians who may be travelling with the players / wards.

1. PRE-TRAVEL COVID TEST

This is mandatory for ALL players including caddies travelling with them. A Covid test involving a swab test through the nose and throat, must be taken within 3 days prior to arrival at the tournament venue. The negative test result, which shall be valid for 2 back-to-back events, may be mailed or screen shot sent to WGAI's Tour manager. All test related costs are to be borne by the players.

PLEASE NOTE : Both player and her private caddie MUST return a negative test. A private caddie is one who is hired from outside the host venue. In case of local caddies sourced from within, host venue regulations will apply. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AT THE TOURNAMENT VENUE WITHOUT PROVIDING PROOF OF A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT.

2. HEALTHCHECK QUESTIONNAIRE

On the morning of the practice and competition rounds, each participating player will receive an email requiring them to carry out a mandatory symptom check and report back, as follows :

In the past 24 hours, have you experienced any of the following symptoms ?

- a. Any new persistent cough
- b. Any new loss of taste or smell
- c. Any new shortness of breath
- d. Any new fever or high temperature
- e. Any of the above symptoms in those in your household
- f. Any contact with a confirmed Covid-19 case in the past 14 days

PLEASE DO NOT TRAVEL TO THE TOURNAMENT VENUE IF YOU EXHIBIT ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS

3. ENTRY TO THE GOLF COURSE

On arrival at the golf course, each player and caddie will have their temperature checked and recorded. Entry will be permitted only if the reading is below 37.8. If the reading exceeds this, the concerned player / caddie will be asked to step away and rest for 20 minutes, after which another reading will be taken. If still high, the player / caddie will be asked to visit a doctor and will be refused entry.

4. SOCIAL DISTANCING & PPE

The following simple precautions can significantly reduce the chances of being infected :

- a. Maintain at least 2 meters distance from each other.
- b. Wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- c. It is mandatory to wear facial masks in indoor spaces when interacting with other players, caddies or officials.
- d. All players, caddies, coaches, parents, guardians, officials at the tournament venue to bring their own PPE.

5. ACCOMMODATION

While local players stay at home, some outstation players use hotels, some stay with friends while a few from defense backgrounds also use cantonment facilities.

For those staying at home, please make sure your family members also take all necessary precautions.

For those who may stay in hotels or any defense accommodation, while single occupancy is ideal, you may share the room with 1 other player. Triple sharing is discouraged. Except during the round when you may be playing in different groups, players sharing a room are advised to also share the same table as well as transport to and from the hotel. It is advisable to either use your personal vehicle or rent a car. Please try and avoid cabs but take all necessary precautions if you must.

6. WHAT IS RECOMMENDED

- a. Strict physical distancing
- b. Wearing a face mask when not on the course
- c. Personal hygiene and frequent hand sanitizing
- d. Limiting exposure to others as much as possible
- e. Stay in a single room or twin-share
- f. Drive own car or rent one, avoid cabs
- g. If sharing a car, use face masks and sit on the back seat
- h. Order room service or take-out

7. WHAT IS PROHIBITED

- a. Hugs, handshakes, high fives, fist bumps or contact of any kind
- b. Visiting local restaurants, markets, pubs or bars
- c. Use of public gym other than exercising facility at golf course
- d. Use of public swimming pool

8. FLAGSTICKS, RAKES & GOLF BAGS

Where caddies are allowed, preferably only 1 caddie should be responsible for attending or removing the flagstick on each hole. This would normally be the caddie whose player is the first to want the flagstick attended or removed, and he should continue to be the only person in that group to have contact with the flagstick. No other player or caddie should touch that flagstick. In case all caddies in the group are handling the flagstick, they must sanitize their hands after every contact. Where caddies are not used, the same shall apply to the players. The player(s) or caddie(s) handling the flagstick should sanitize their hands immediately afterwards. This applies to all stipulated rounds.

Caddies or players who handle the bunker rakes should sanitize their hands immediately afterwards. This applies to all stipulated rounds.

Only the player and her caddie should touch the golf bag and its contents. Care should be taken that no one else touches it at any time and the bag should not be left unattended. Between tournaments players are expected to transport their own clubs and should not hand them over to a 3rd party for transportation. When handling the clubs, caddies should avoid touching the grip, and players should try to avoid touching the shaft and clubhead. **NO CLUBS OR PLAYERS' PERSONAL POSSESSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR SAFEKEEPING IN THE TOURNAMENT OFFICE.**

9. DRIVING RANGE, PUTTING GREEN, LOCKER ROOM, BAG STORAGE

Players are requested to strictly adhere to and follow the golf club's internal rules and regulations as well as safety protocols, if any, for use of the above facilities at all times.

10. DURING PLAY

Any player who exhibits or reports any obvious symptoms of Covid-19 at any time during the course of play shall be asked to step aside and will not be permitted to continue. Such player will be required to isolate herself and get herself tested immediately. The other players in the group may continue their round subject to their not showing any symptoms, but will need to monitor their health closely, having been in close contact with an affected player. The same will apply to the affected player's roommate. The affected player must submit a negative test report before the next event in which she wishes to participate. Sometimes a player may be fatigued or exhausted, or simply show symptoms not related to Covid-19. In such case the player will be asked to step aside while a preliminary health check is carried out. The other players in the group will be asked to wait, and following groups will be allowed a pass. The group may resume when the affected player is either able to continue or withdraws from the event.

11. SPECTATORS & VISITORS

Till further notice, no spectators including parents, family members, guardians etc shall be allowed to walk with the players or ride on carts during any scheduled WGAI event or Pro-Am. Coaches will be allowed to walk with players only if they are also caddying for them. All visitors accompanying the players shall restrict themselves to the lounge areas in the clubhouse, and are requested to observe all safety protocols including social distancing and wearing of face masks.

12. SCORECARDS & RECORDING

Players will handle their own scorecards only. Going forward, the practice of recording the fellow competitor's score on the upper or main portion of the scorecard and recording one's own or marker's score on the perforated portion shall be reversed. Henceforth the player shall record her own score on the upper portion and the marker's score on the perforated portion. There will be no exchange of scorecards at tee-off. Players will sign their own scorecards without marker's signature. The scores shall be recorded, verbally confirmed with each player and signed by the score recorder.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT & PENALTIES

Players are requested to cooperate and strictly adhere to all safety protocols. Taking the necessary precautions will keep players, caddies and officials safe and mitigate the chances of infections. Violations of the Safety Protocols listed in this document will result in an INTERMEDIATE PENALTY of Rs.10,000.00 under the WGAI R&R Season 2020. Violators shall be immediately reported to WGAI's Disciplinary Committee.

- a. Abusive, improper or unbecoming conduct by a member or caddie towards any official in connection with or related to Covid-19 testing.
- b. Evading, refusing or failing to submit to Covid-19 testing, or required temperature screening.
- c. Falsifying, withholding or failing to provide truthful and accurate information on required medical questionnaires.
- d. Violation of WGAI guidelines on social distancing / PPE and flouting restrictions on visits to public places.

INTERACTION BETWEEN RULES OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

PART - II

1. In all instances between a Rules Official, Player and Caddie, both on and off the course, the Rules Official will wear a mask and maintain social distancing as much as possible. Any official exhibiting symptoms will cease to officiate and vacate the venue immediately.
2. Rules Officials will use their carts, sanitized before start of play, assigned for the duration of the stipulated round. During survey and set-up, while on any part of the course which is occupied by others, the officials will wear gloves, masks and face shields when social distancing is not possible. Officials will follow proper disinfecting and hand-sanitizing protocols when touching tee markers, flagsticks, rakes etc.
3. Courtesy rides on the buggy for players and caddies are not permitted at any time either during set-up or outside of stipulated rounds.
4. In any situation warranting transportation of the player and caddie in the cart, e.g. withdrawal during competition, suspension of play requiring course evacuation, playoff, lost ball or out of bounds etc., the Rules Officials should not transport more than 1 player and 1 caddie at a time. Players and officials must wear masks when riding in the same cart. Officials to follow proper disinfecting procedures after transporting a player or caddie. 1 cart should at all times carry extra masks and hand sanitizer. The medical box, if available, should be sanitized each time it is accessed.
5. When called for a ruling by a player or caddie, the official must wear a mask. Social distancing will depend on the level of involvement needed with the ruling.
6. Any damaged club or ball should only be visually inspected by the Rules Official. At no time should the official touch the player's club or ball.
7. Wherever applicable, players and caddies should be encouraged to clean the ball prior to replacing. In case of moveable obstruction, players should be encouraged to properly sanitize hands after its removal.
8. In situations concerning issue of warnings for Pace of Play or penalties thereon, Rules Officials must wear masks while approaching players and maintain social distancing if possible.
9. The scorecard will carry only the player's signature. Marker's signature will be replaced by a verbal confirmation, and the recorder will initial the marker's name on the scorecard. Officials present in the scoring area to wear masks at all times.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PLAYERS

PART - III

1. To avoid handling of currency, players are advised to deposit the tournament entry fee directly into the designated bank account of WGAI. Account details have been shared before and will be circulated again.
2. Players are advised to take out their own health insurance policy offering coverage specific to COVID-19.
3. Gatherings are strictly prohibited – it is in the players' interest to leave the venue as soon as the round has been completed and scores recorded. For service of F&B, host venue regulations are to be strictly observed.
4. Spitting is strictly prohibited and punishable under the law. Throwing of cigarette butts is also prohibited. Please observe host venue regulations for smoking during rounds.
5. Players are advised to arrive at the course no more than 60 minutes prior to their tee time, and report to the starting tee only **10 minutes** ahead of their starting time.
6. Hand sanitizer will be available at starting and scoring areas. Players are advised to also carry their own in their golf bags.
7. No tees, pens or pencils shall be distributed at registration. Players are advised to bring and use their own tees, pens, pencils, ball markers, divot tools, hand sanitizer etc.
8. Local rules and pin sheets will be attached to the scorecard as usual.
9. There will be no notice board outside the tournament office. No notices or scoresheets will be displayed. Draws, scores and any other relevant information shall be sent to each player on her registered email address and posted on the website.
10. WGAI will carry only basic medication. Besides some paracetamol, antiseptic / disinfectant, pain relief spray and some salt supplements to guard against dehydration, the medical box will not contain any other drugs. Players are advised to carry their own medicines in consultation with their family physician.
11. In order to minimize the risk of infection in a gathering, it has been decided to temporarily suspend the prize presentation ceremony. For the media press release, only the winner will pose for a photograph with the giant cheque. All other players are advised to leave the venue as soon as they complete their rounds. There will be no group photograph.

LETTER OF INDEMNITY

PART - IV

(To cover all WGAI Tournaments participated in during the season)

Participant's Name :

WGAI Membership No :

Date of Birth :

Address :

- I hereby acknowledge and understand the risks associated with my participation in professional tournament golf during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- I hereby declare that I have received, read and understood the contents of the HWPGT 2020-Covid-19 Protocol document sent by the Women's Golf Association of India outlining the risks involved, necessary precautions and protocols for resumption of tournaments, and agree to abide by the same.
- I hereby accept that the Women's Golf Association of India and the tournament or host venue(s) cannot guarantee the complete elimination of risks posed by COVID-19 through the implementation of the precautions and protocols identified in the Protocol document or by the host venue(s).
- I hereby give my consent to participate in the tournament(s) conducted by the Women's Golf Association of India at my own risk and under my free will without any third party influence. I undertake to adhere at all times to suggested safety precautions and protocols as may be issued from time to time by the Women's Golf Association of India, sponsor(s), host venue(s), state government(s) & the MHA.
- Having understood the above, I hereby state that I undertake complete responsibility for myself and agree to keep indemnified at all times the Women's Golf Association of India, the sponsor(s) and the host venue(s), who shall not be held liable / responsible in any manner whatsoever for any financial implications arising out of cancellation of the tournament(s) or my being diagnosed with Covid-19 or any other illness / injury.

(Signature of the participant / guardian)

Place :

Date :