



Statement from the Golf Alliance of Oregon on the State of the Industry

The Golf Alliance of Oregon (GAO) provides a unified voice for golf in Oregon and SW Washington and is committed to helping sustain the health of the game in our region:

Even in these unprecedented times, with the Coronavirus threat affecting all aspects of life as we know it, golf is an outlet for people to exercise and provides one of the few respites from the confines of home. With vast areas of open space containing green grass, ponds and trees, a golf course provides the ability for social distancing in a stress-free environment.

Recently, our game and business has been significantly impacted by the outbreak of Covid-19. The GAO is committed to doing all it can to support its constituents by being a resource of information and a clearinghouse of best practices that will provide guidance to any and all facilities, operators, golf professionals, club officials and stewards of the game.

Although golf, much like hiking, is widely seen as an activity that is viable and relatively low risk, there are still precautions that need to be in place to ensure the safety of players, golf course staffs and club/course officials. The following are examples being implemented at the golf course level to help ensure the regulations laid out by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and WHO (World Health Organization) are being met:

1. Elimination of golf carts and instituting "Walking Only" play, or restricting to one rider per cart
2. Removal of flagsticks to avoid additional touch points or requiring flagsticks remain in the hole
3. Being creative with cup liners to avoid having players reaching into the hole to retrieve golf balls
4. Removal of bunker rakes and other on-course furniture like benches, ball washers, water coolers, etc.
5. Installation of signage to encourage no group congregation, or limiting numbers of people in a certain area of the club or pro shop
6. Continual sanitizing of counter tops, door knobs, other common surfaces, range buckets, golf carts, push carts, cash registers, score posting kiosks, and other frequently touched surfaces
7. Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day
8. Posting professional signage to encourage compliance of CDC regulations such as no hand shaking, frequent hand-washing, etc.
9. Having staff wear protective gloves at all times
10. Restricting payments to credit cards only, so no handling of cash
11. Eliminating scoring areas and/or modifying score card transmissions and returns between players and Committee members
12. Modifying driving range hitting areas to ensure a minimum 6-foot separate between players
13. Increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the clubhouse area and check-in areas
14. Increasing frequency of HVAC system filter changing
15. Educating staff on CDC requirements and proper hygiene and sanitation regulations
16. Keeping up to date on all changes that are happening daily

We are all in this together! The Golf Alliance of Oregon is working on your behalf to help mitigate any detrimental outcomes that might occur during these extraordinarily unprecedented times. Our success depends on all of us banding together to create a synergy that will propel us beyond these dark times into prosperity.

Thank you,

Your Colleagues from the Golf Alliance of Oregon



