How to Conduct a Tournament Within Covid-19 Protocol

This document outlines the basic parameters for responsibly conducting a golf competition or tournament within the COVID-19 Protocols outlined by Governor Walz’s Executive Order 20-56 and the associated DNR’s COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation, Facilities and Public Guidelines.

The keys to successfully conducting a golf competition or tournament is maintaining appropriate social distancing and providing a “touchless” golf experience before, during and immediately after the tournament or competition. These tournament guidelines follow closely the existing DNR guidelines currently in place for recreational golf. In addition, until such time that restrictions on social gatherings are modified, certain elements of a competition, such as award ceremonies, scoreboard areas, group meals, social gatherings and shotgun starts are prohibited.

Our objective is to effectively manage the movement of our players to maintain all social distancing space between them, volunteers and staff needed to conduct the competition. The outline below is an extensive, yet not exhaustive, guide of steps to be taken in order to conduct a golf competition or tournament.

**Arrival**

1. Competitors will be assigned a time to arrive at the host site and prepare for their tournament round.

**Warm Up**

1. Restrict the number of competitors on the practice tee and putting green at any one time.
   a. Competitors will have a window of time to warm up at the practice tee, short game and putting green areas.
2. Ensure social distancing protocols are followed in designated practice areas.

**Starting Play**

1. Starting times will be used; “Shotgun” starts are prohibited.
2. Restrict the number of players at the starting hole to only players (and rules officials, if necessary), who are scheduled to tee off at that time and starting location.
3. Eliminate all normally distributed paperwork, and make it available for players in digital/electronic form to read or print at home if desired.
4. Eliminate all other equipment that is normally provided for players – tees, pencils, marking pens.
5. Require all scoring be done electronically through existing systems.

**Playing the Course**
1. Players must follow proper social distancing protocols at all times.
2. Require flagsticks be left in hole with a “hole liner” that allows the ball to fall into the hole a limited distance but allows the player to remove the ball without touching the hole.
3. Remove all bunker rakes.
4. Limit of one rider per golf cart unless players reside in the same household.
5. Caddies are prohibited.
6. Spectators are prohibited.
7. Volunteers will be required to wear PPE in circumstances where social distancing practices cannot be followed. PPE (face masks, sanitizer) will be available for staff and volunteers, as needed. Any other equipment required by volunteers, such as walkie-talkies, golf carts, etc., will be sanitized prior to and after use.
8. Competitors will be given cell phone numbers for on-site staff if they need to reach out for assistance while on the course.

**Conclusion of the Round**

1. All scoring will be done electronically through existing systems.
2. Immediately upon completion of the round, the group of players will review their scores and submit them to tournament staff, all under proper social distancing protocols.
3. Electronic scoreboards, for example, TV or digital monitors, and traditional scoreboards are prohibited.
4. All results will be available online.
5. If food & beverage is available at the host facility, the players may pick up boxed food or order “to go” items from clubhouse.
6. Players should go directly to their vehicle and leave within a reasonable amount of time.
7. Playoffs, if necessary, are conducted either on the course using proper social distancing protocols or by using the recommended USGA method for a scorecard playoff.
8. Awards ceremonies, such as a trophy presentation, are prohibited.
9. Gift certificates will be mailed directly to the player, or delivered to the host facility for distribution to winners at a later date.

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