

Approved April 2020



GOLF CANADA PARENT AND SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Golf Canada takes great pride in the quality of its competitions, which would not be possible without the active support and assistance of its provincial partners, host facilities, sponsors and broad community involvement at each competition. In order to continue making Golf Canada competitions enjoyable for everyone, and to show respect for the involvement of our host facilities and volunteers, Golf Canada requires that all parents and spectators adhere to the Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct at all Golf Canada competitions.

The Golf Canada Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct must be followed throughout the entire competition, including the practice round(s).

Any parent of a player or spectator whose conduct is deemed to be disruptive, in violation of [Golf Canada's Recognition and Prevention of Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Policy](#) or [Recognition and Prevention of Abuse Policy](#) or not conducive to the well-being of the game, may be banned from the course, host facility, and/or future Golf Canada competitions. The Tournament Committee is the sole judge in determining unbecoming conduct and will handle all situations on a case-by-case basis depending on the severity and frequency of the violation(s). All instances of abuse, bullying, harassment or discrimination require an incident report to be compiled by the tournament director who must also notify the Golf Canada Ethics Commissioner of any such Code of Conduct violations, as well as the sanctions imposed as a result of such violations.

Note: For more information on the definition and concepts of bullying, harassment, discrimination and abuse please refer to the [Golf Canada Recognition and Prevention of Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Policy](#) and the [Golf Canada Recognition and Prevention of Abuse Policy](#).

Golf Canada's Expectations from Parents and Spectators on the Golf Course:

- Please do not carry or handle a player's clubs, including their golf bag and/or cart (caddies are prohibited in junior competitions). However, you are permitted to carry other items for players (i.e. a rain suit, umbrella, food and drink).
- No advice is to be given to any player during the entire competition, including practice rounds. Advice is defined as any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining their play, choice of a club or method of making a stroke.
- Make sure to avoid all communication, verbal and non-verbal, which may be construed by others (players, parents and our referees) as advice.
- Please keep your distance from players (approx. 20 yards) while following them during play. Spectators should remain in the rough to the side of the fairway wherever practicable. Parents and spectators are not permitted on the teeing grounds, putting greens, or starting and scoring areas.

- Help everyone maintain the pace of play by assisting to spot golf balls for players.

Mobile Devices:

- Mobile devices are permitted on the course with the volume setting on silent, unless prohibited by the host facility.
- Mobile device usage must always be respectful of play and not interfere with players, caddies or media (i.e. flash or noise when taking pictures/videos is not permitted).
- Usage must also be in accordance with posted signage, if any, and instructions from tournament personnel.
- Mobile devices may be used to capture video, audio and photos only for personal, non-commercial purposes (i.e. for your personal social media accounts), and you may not distribute such content on a live or near-live basis (no live streaming) or use such content to create a real time, stroke-by-stroke or hole-by-hole account of any portion of the competition. Further you shall not use or authorize others to use any such content or other reproduction for any commercial or promotional purpose, or for or in connection with a media outlet (directly or indirectly) unless you and the media outlet have received an official media credential from the Golf Canada Tournament Office.

Regarding the Rules of Golf:

- Allow Golf Canada referees to administer rulings and do not intervene. You will be brought into a situation ONLY if the referee asks you.
- *For parents:* Encourage your child to become familiar with the Rules of Golf and the supplementary local rules (Notice to Players) specific to the competition so that they are aware of the options available to them.

Respecting the Host Facility and Golf Etiquette:

- Respect the host facility policy if cell phones are prohibited.
- Familiarize yourself and adhere to the host facility dress code. Some facilities may not allow blue jeans, T-shirts, etc.

After the Competition:

- *For parents:* Encourage your child to express their thanks by letter, e-mail or other means to tournament officials, the host club and tournament volunteers who contributed to the success of the respective tournament. A thank you list can be found in the competition fact sheet.
- We welcome any and all letters of suggestion to Golf Canada that will ultimately help us in making these competitions even more special for all involved.

This information was compiled not because of recurring problems, but rather in order to serve as a reference for parents and spectators for frequently asked questions. Golf Canada and our host facilities thank you for your cooperation.