



Golf Club and Facility Guidance (COVID-19)

Guidance updated: Friday 14 August 2020

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This guidance covers:

- **Contact Tracing**
- **Recovery Funding**
- **Operational Guidance for Golf Clubs and Facilities Alert Level 2**
- **Rules of Golf Modifications**

Contact Tracing

The Ministry of Health has created a tracing app — NZ COVID Tracer. This app works by scanning a QR code on a poster at participating businesses. The app then keeps track of where someone has scanned so they know where they have been. Under Alert Level 2 and 3 every facility that is open must ensure that a copy of the QR code for the facility is displayed in a prominent place. This requirement comes into force at 11:59am on 19 August 2020. Further information on the QR code and how to obtain one can be found [here](#).

Recovery Funding

A reminder that the Community Resilience Fund Version 2 is still open to all clubs and facilities in the golf sector. Details [here](#). The fund is open until 4 September 2020 and offers financial support up to a limit of \$25,000 for those clubs and facilities who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

Current Guidance for Golf at Alert Level 2 - Guidance for Golf Clubs, Facilities and Golfers

Golf clubs, facilities and golfers must take appropriate steps to make sure they minimise the risk of infection from the COVID-19 virus. The number one priority at all times should be to consider the health, safety and wellbeing of your staff, members, golf participants and the wider community

Alert Level 2 for Golf - Specific Operational Guidance

At Alert Level 2, playing of golf can be undertaken. Whether a golf club opens for play is entirely decision for each golf club to make.

The most important principle is to stay safe. The health, safety and wellbeing of your staff, members, golf participants and the wider community is of paramount importance.

If your club or facility does decide to open, it should do so under the following guidelines:

General Guidance

1. The golf course, clubhouse, pro shop, changing rooms and any other facility at the golf club can open at Alert Level 2.
2. All staff, players, visitors must adhere to general government advice; particularly all recommended hygiene measures. [Click here](#) for further hygiene and sanitisation information.
3. For golf clubs, strict hygiene and sanitisation practices must be maintained throughout the facility including all common touch points and surfaces.
4. A system to record and retain the contact details of all staff, players and visitors should be in place to enable contact tracing should it be required. The NZ COVID Tracer QR code must be displayed.



5. Physical distancing (2 metres encouraged) between all staff, players and visitors should be maintained. Distancing should be maintained on the golf course and throughout all club facilities.
6. All indoor facilities at a club need to restrict entry to a maximum of 100 people. Operations across indoor facilities must follow government guidelines as published at <https://covid19.govt.nz>.
7. All groups should be seated, have separation from other groups, and be served by a single server if possible. When customers are entering/exiting the clubhouse or paying, clubs should manage these processes in line with the distancing and serving guidelines.
8. Any staff who are on site should be provided with any appropriate personal protection equipment to ensure they can remain healthy and safe.

General Golf Operations Guidance:

9. All players should wash and dry their hands before and after play.
10. Shotgun or multiple tee starts can be held if they can be managed in a manner that does not see groups of golfers congregating.
11. Groups of golfers should maintain a minimum distance of 2 metres between themselves and other groups on the course.
12. Club events and competitions can be held so long as there is strict adherence to hygiene, distancing and gatherings regulations.
13. While the national handicap system will be operational, physical scorecards should be avoided if possible. If scorecards are used, exchanging of cards should not occur. See related guidance to the Rules of Golf below.
14. All pins should be removed from practice putting greens.
15. Pins / flagsticks can be on the course however they should be left in the hole and should not be touched or removed by any player. See related guidance to the Rules of Golf below.
16. Bunker rakes can be on the course however a local rule will be provided by New Zealand Golf for bunker play should clubs not want to have bunker rakes on the course. See related guidance to the Rules of Golf below.
17. All drinking fountains, ball washers, and shared sunscreen stations should be closed.
18. Any shared club equipment must be cleaned after each use.
19. Coaching can be undertaken on a contactless basis and with strict 2 metre distancing being observed.

COVID-19 Related Guidance on the Rules of Golf at Alert Level 2

With the support of the R&A, New Zealand Golf has developed guidance on the playing of golf during the COVID-19 pandemic that your club should consider adopting. These modified rules promote more hygienic practices at golf clubs around scorecards, the hole, the flag stick and bunker rakes.

We understand that the culture in New Zealand is to return all of our scores for handicapping and we would like that to be able to continue during this unprecedented time. These Local Rule options are temporary and are related to COVID-19 concerns.

Please note:

- The modifications are for handicapping purposes rather than for competitive play.
- The modifications to be used by clubs operating at Alert Level 2 until New Zealand Golf advises otherwise.

[Click Here](#) to view **COVID-19 RELATED GUIDANCE ON THE RULES OF GOLF**.

If you have any questions please on this Rules of Golf guidance, please contact Dave Mangan on dave@nzgolf.org.nz



Further Information

For official government information, visit <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

For specific sport sector information, visit <https://sportnz.org.nz/>

Please be in touch with New Zealand Golf for any general queries.

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