



## RMJT Plans for Competition

In light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent safety protocols and requirements put in by the CDC and WHO, this document will serve as the “Plan for Competition” for any and all Rocky Mountain Junior Tour tournaments starting May 1, 2020. These policies are in place out of an over-abundance of caution to help provide the safest opportunities for all junior golfers.

These mandatory policies will apply to RMJT staff, players and spectators at any RMJT event, and will be in place indefinitely under the recommendations of the WHO and CDC and the requirements of the state of Texas, the county and city in which the tournament is taking place.

These policies will detail the base standards the RMJT will operate under due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please note, there may be additional policies and restrictions that affect a specific tournament due to county or city guidelines. Those additional restrictions will be communicated and posted on a per-tournament basis.

It is the responsibility of all players and spectators participating in a RMJT event to fully read and understand these policies and abide by them. By registering for and participating in a RMJT event, players and parents are agreeing to all these policies and to accepting any no-tolerance actions outlined in these policies or determined necessary by the Tournament Committee.

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### SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

Below are highlights of some of the main policies, procedures and rules spelled out in this document. **It is the responsibility of the player and spectator to read and understand all the detailed rules, policies and procedures**, not just those highlighted on in the summary.

#### For Players

- RMJT will follow all course and state guidelines as it pertains to group sizes, tee times and practice range availability, and will communicate those points to all players at least 5 days before an event.
- Players will be assigned a specific time when they can arrive before their tee time, and a specific amount of warmup time (if allowed by the course), which will be posted by Noon the day before Round 1

- Caddies may or may not be permitted on a course-by-course, week-by-week basis for any given division; please refer to the tournament info page for caddie status for a given tournament
- All flagsticks must be left in the hole at all times and may not be touched by any player, and the ball is considered “holed” only when it is at rest in the hole, as defined by the USGA
- RMJT will attempt to provide water to players on the No. 1 and No. 10 tee, but it is highly recommended that players also bring their own form of hydration, as water will not be readily available across the golf course
- Players must not shake hands with or touch in any way their playing competitors

#### For Spectators

- RMJT will defer to the golf course regarding spectator presence and the use of spectator carts and will strictly follow the course guidelines and requirements
- The maximum number of spectators allowed will be 2 spectators per player; if a player uses a caddie, the caddie will count as one of the spectators.
- Spectators must at all times stay on or very close to the cart path at all times (unless a caddie)
- Spectators are highly encouraged not to arrive on the main golf course property any earlier than 5-10 minutes before their player's tee time. Any crowding of spectators and violation of social distancing protocols may result in course or RMJT officials asking spectators to return to their vehicles.

#### General Policies & Procedures

- RMJT staff will be required to have a facial covering with them at all times and wear it any time they are engaged with a player or spectator
- Anyone exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend any RMJT event for 14 days after symptoms arise
- All staff, players and spectators are required to maintain proper social distancing at all time
- RMJT will do our best to provide any updates or changes to these policies based on course or county rules 5 days before the tournament begins – please help us by monitoring your e-mail and checking the tournament info page for specific updates related to an event

## **I. RMJT STAFF AND VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

All RMJT staff and volunteers at a given tournament will be required to perform the following:

- RMJT staff members must verify their temperature before each tournament round. Any RMJT staffer or volunteer found to have a temperature over 100 F and/or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms (based on CDC and local guidelines) will not be permitted at the tournament for the duration of the event and will not be permitted at any tournament for 14 days following unless medically cleared by a doctor.
- Any staffer diagnosed with COVID-19, or that has come in contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19, is not permitted at any RMJT event for 30 days following a diagnosis or contact, regardless of symptoms.
- RMJT staff members and volunteers will be required to wear a mask/facial covering that covers the mouth and nose during any interaction with players and/or spectators. These actions include, but are not limited to:
  - o Running check-in, starting on the No. 1 tee and running the scoring area
  - o Issuing any on-course ruling or discussion with players and/or parents
- RMJT staff members will be required to wear clean gloves when handling any item that is to be given to (or placed out for) players or spectators. Any item given to players or parents may also be sanitized via cleaning wipes or cleaning spray. These items include, but are not limited to:
  - o Scorecards on the No. 1 tee
  - o Bottled water & hand sanitizer
  - o Tee gifts
- RMJT staff members and volunteers will be required to sanitize or wash their hands at least every two hours for the duration of a tournament round

## **II. SPECTATOR POLICIES**

The RMJT's main priority for each and every tournament is to provide a safe environment for players to experience the level of play and competition they are accustomed to on the RMJT. We love all our spectators and thank you so much for your support, and sincerely ask that you help all of us by adhering to these new (and temporary) policies. To that end, adjusted Spectator Policies are as follows:

- The RMJT will confirm with each tournament venue 1 week before each event if spectators will be permitted. If the golf course or city/county does not permit spectators, that information will be communicated to all spectators and parents ASAP before the event.

- If spectators are permitted, there will be a maximum of 2 spectators allowed per player at any given time. Spectators may rotate out among a player/group at any time, as long as the maximum number of spectators per player and group is not exceeded.
- If a player is allowed to elect to use a caddie, the caddie will count as a spectator
- Spectators are highly encouraged not to arrive on the main golf course property any earlier than 5-10 minutes before their player's tee time. Any crowding of spectators and violation of social distancing protocols may result in course or RMJT officials asking spectators to return to their vehicles.
- Spectators MUST practice social distancing at every opportunity and stay 6-10 feet away from all other spectators and players in the group they are following.
- Spectators are required to stay on the cart path or in very close proximity (1 step) from the cart path at all times. There will be no exceptions.
- Spectators are permitted to carry food, drink and other items (umbrellas, outerwear, sunscreen, etc.) for their player/child and permitted to give such objects to players as long as it is done quickly, and they quickly return to social distancing.
- Spectators will not be permitted to assist in looking for lost balls with players, but may communicate an entry point or approximate location to any player verbally, as long as social distancing is maintained and the spectator remains on the cart path.
- The allowance/use of spectator carts will be regulated completely by the golf course and strictly enforced by the RMJT. Exceptions will not be made by the RMJT for any reason.
- Any spectator exhibiting any symptoms associated with COVID-19 is not permitted at any RMJT event for at least 14 days.
- Any spectator diagnosed with COVID-19, or that has come in contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19, is not permitted at any RMJT event for 30 days following a diagnosis or contact, regardless of symptoms.
- Any spectator found to be in violation of any of these policies will be asked to vacate the primary golf property immediately, without exception. Egregious offenses may result in an extended or permanent ban from RMJT events for the spectator and, if necessary, the player.

### **III. GENERAL PLAYER POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

These general Code of Conduct policies will apply to all players participating in a RMJT event. The RMJT reserves the right to remove any player from an event and suspend them 1 additional event if these policies are not followed to the best of the player's ability.

These are general player policies that are required at all RMJT events; additional policies and practices that may be specific to a given tournament venue will be communicated in a tournament-specific Plan of Competition document to all players 3 days before the event.

- Any player experiencing a temperature above 100 F and/or exhibiting symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 is not permitted to participate in a RMJT event for 14 days once symptoms present unless specifically cleared by a doctor. Any player exhibiting any symptoms is encouraged to seek medical attention and doctor's recommendation as to a return to play.
- Any player diagnosed with COVID-19, or that has come in contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19, is not permitted to participate in any RMJT event for 30 days following a diagnosis, regardless of symptoms or contact, and must present a note from a doctor clearing them to participate to the RMJT Executive Committee.
- Any player found in violation of the above policies, or found to have purposely hidden or not disclosed symptoms or diagnosis, will be banned from the RMJT for a length to be determined by the RMJT Executive committee.
- Players must not shake hands with or touch in any way any fellow player or non-related spectator. Players must also not share any equipment, food or drink with other players or non-related spectators.
- Players will not exchange scorecards and must supply their own writing utensil to keep score. Specific starting, score recording, and reporting procedures will be outlined in subsequent policies below.
- Players must, at all times, maintain proper social distancing (6-10 feet) from one another and from spectators. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - o Not walking closely down the fairway together and not standing by other player's golf ball.
  - o Not standing near other players while on the tee box or green.
  - o Keeping proper social distancing while searching for golf balls.
- We understand that there may be instances where accidental violations of social distancing occur within the course of a round, and RMJT staff will attempt to constantly remind players of proper social distancing practices. However, any player found to be in continued violation of the social distancing practices outlined in this document and communicated by RMJT staff may be disqualified from the tournament at the discretion of the Rule Committee.

#### **IV. TEMPORARY RULES & CODE OF CONDUCT CHANGES**

These temporary rule(s) or Code of Conduct changes are in accordance with guidelines and recommendations put forth by the USGA during the COVID-19 outbreak.

A simplified version of each of these policies/rules will also be printed on each tournament's Conditions of Competition sheet.

- Players will be required to leave the flagstick in at all times and are prohibited from touching the flag in any way (to the best of their abilities).

- A violation of this rule will result in a warning upon first occurrence and the general penalty (2 strokes) upon subsequent occurrences.
  - If it has been determined that a player has touched a flagstick, tournament officials will attempt to determine the level of the occurrence (accidental/unavoidable contact vs intentional/unnecessary) when deciding to issue a penalty.
  - Accidentally touching the flagstick while retrieving the ball from the hole will not be considered a violation of the policy, although players are encouraged to do their best to avoid contact with the flag in all instances.
- Players will not be permitted to use bunker rakes, regardless of whether rakes are provided by the golf course or not. Players are encouraged to smooth out their disturbances in the sand with their foot or club.
  - Any disturbed area in a bunker will be deemed Ground Under Repair, and players may take full relief under GUR procedures (USGA Rule 16.1c) but must stay inside the bunker.
    - Disturbed areas include (but are not limited to) footprints, divots, ball marks and other disturbances that may have been caused by players/caddies/spectators.
    - Reminder – under Rule 16.1c, the player must drop the ball from knee height, and is not permitted to place the ball. The player does also have the option to play the ball as it lies.
    - Players are encouraged to use their best judgement when determining if an area in a bunker is disturbed, and to confer within their group for confirmation.
  - Players will be permitted to use their cell phones to contact a rules official and discuss a ruling scenario over the phone if necessary.

## **V. RMJT TOURNAMENT PROCEEDURES**

Below are the details concerning the changes to standard tournament, day-of procedures, such as check-in and arrival times, warming up, the first tee, scoring and others. These are general policies that will be in place at every RMJT tournament, but may look slightly different event to event given the nature/layout of the golf course.

### **A. Player & Spectator arrival times and check-in**

- All players will be required to check-in before warming up or beginning their round
- Specific player arrival times will be posted on the Tournament Info page and e-mailed out to players by Noon (12pm) the day before the event begins.
- Players will only be permitted on check-in/arrive at (a)specific arrival time, to be determined by the Tournament Committee – those arrival times will range roughly from 10-45 minutes before your tee time depending on facility layout and practice facility availability.

- Any player attempting to enter the primary golf property before their designated arrival time will be required to return to their vehicle and stay in the parking lot until their designated arrival time.
- Spectators are highly encouraged not to arrive on the main golf course property any earlier than 5-10 minutes before their player's tee time. Any crowding of spectators and violation of social distancing protocols may result in course or RMJT officials asking spectators to return to their vehicles.

## **B. Player Warm Up**

- The RMJT will strictly follow each golf course's rules regarding practice facilities. There may be many instances where the practice facilities at a course are closed due to local government guidelines, and that status will be communicated to players by Noon (12pm) the day before the event.
- The RMJT reserves the right to close off any practice areas to RMJT players that may be open to the public in an effort to further promote safety and control social distancing. The closure of any specific practice area will be communicated to players by Noon (12pm) the day before the event.
- As noted above, no player will be permitted on any practice area until he or she has checked in before their round at their allotted arrival time.
- If practice facilities are open, players will be specifically instructed on the amount of time they are allowed to spend on a specific facility (range, putting green, etc.) and when they are allowed to do so. For example, after a player arrives and checks in, he may be informed that he has 20 minutes for range time, followed by 10 minutes on the putting green. RMJT staffers will be strictly enforcing these instructions and time limits in an effort to minimize the number of players on a given practice facility and promote social distancing.
- Any player or spectator who blatantly disregards these rules or instructions from a RMJT staffer on site may be asked to leave the premises immediately and removed from the tournament. Players may also be subjected to an additional 1-tournament penalty.
- If a player has an alternative, safe, site in which to warm up, we encourage them to do so. No concessions will be made, however, for arrival after your tee time.

## **C. Starting, The No. 1 Tee**

- The first tee and starting area will be set up so as to allow for proper social distancing for all players and starter. Spectators are not permitted anywhere near the starting area.
- Players will only be provided their fellow competitor's scorecard on the first tee and are not permitted to exchange cards or shake hands (or touch their fellow competitor in any way).
- Players must bring their own writing utensil for recording scores, as none will be provided on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and players will not be permitted to share.

- Players and parents will be provided with a digital copy of the Tournament Rule Sheet via e-mail by Noon the day before the tournament (it will also be posted on the Tournament Info Page) for review, and are encouraged to print a copy for themselves and bring it to the golf course.
- A single Rule Sheet will also be set up on the first tee and players will be allowed to take a picture with their cell phone and will be permitted to reference that photo during the round.
- Each player will be provided at least 2-3 bottles of water on the No. 1 and No. 10 tee. Bottles will be set out on a table and thoroughly wiped down with disinfectant for each player/group. Due to safety concerns, there will be no coolers on the golf course, and snacks will also not be provided.

#### **D. End of Round, Scoring and Scorecards**

- Once the round is completed, players must walk straight from the 18<sup>th</sup> green to scoring with all their equipment. They are not to stop to converse with spectators, not to go to their car or the parking lot for any reason.
- RMJT asks that players do not shake hands after the round.
- Spectators must return to their vehicles after the round, they are not permitted to linger anywhere near the scoring area, No. 18 green or No. 1 tee.
- The scoring area will be expanded to properly accommodate social distancing protocols and roped off for players only. Players will be instructed by the scoring official as to where to sit or stand for score reporting.
- Players will not return or exchange scorecards. Player A will read aloud Player B's score, hole-by-hole, and Player B will verify or correct those scores while the official enters them into the computer.
- Once all scores have been reported and verified by players and the scorer, each player will twice sign the scorecard in their possession – once on the “Scorer” line and once on the “Attest” line of the same scorecard.
  - The signature on the “Scorer” line is standard, and the signature on the “Attest” line will signify that the player signing approves his or her own score that was read aloud and verified by the scorer, the player and the scoring official.
  - This process will ensure that every player has signed twice – once as a scorer and once to attest their own score – without having to exchange scorecards.
- Once all scorecards are signed, the scoring official will direct players to drop their scorecard in a box near the scoring table. This action will signify the completion of scoring for the group.

#### **E. Scoreboards, Awards, Award Ceremonies**

- There will be no physical scoreboard at any RMJT event for the remainder of the summer tournaments (through Aug. 31). All scores may be viewed online at [www.RMJT.com](http://www.RMJT.com)
- Awards may be handed out at tournaments, but there will be no large-scale, formal gathering and awards ceremony. Awards will be handed out in a safe manner, if possible.
- There will be no on-course playoffs. All ties, including for first place, will be determined by the USGA recommended method of scorecard playoff, which compares the back 9 of the final round for all players tied.

## **VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **A. Tournament Gifts**

- We are working tirelessly to come up with tee gift options that can be delivered via e-mail to players, such as fast food gift cards, DoorDash or Grubhub certificates, iTunes and movie theater gift cards, Spotify subscriptions, etc.
- Physical tee gifts given out at a tournament will be done so after Round 1 and will be strictly limited to a single item.
- We are communicating with vendors and sponsors to ensure that any tee gifts delivered and distributed are kept sealed and disinfected until given to the player.
- RMJT staffers will be required to wear gloves and a facial mask while handing out tee gifts, as well as use of sanitizing products to keep the gifts and staffs' hands clean.

### **B. Weather Delays**

- Any round that is halted by weather will be canceled and play will reset the following day as a new round.
- In the event of a weather delay horn blast, all players and spectators are to immediately vacate the golf course and go back to their vehicles.
- If an entire division has all played at least 9 holes, RMJT staff will make all attempts to gather and score those 9 holes.

### **C. Mid-Round Withdraws or DQs**

- If a player is forced to withdraw mid-round (or is disqualified) for any reason, the player is to inform their group and then immediately leave the golf course; the player (or spectator) is encouraged to call the head rules official (phone number at the bottom of the Rule Sheet) and communicate the withdrawal instead of physically attempting to locate an official.

- The player is instructed NOT to exchange their scorecard, but to instead verbally communicate the scores to the players remaining in the group so they can be transferred.