



**FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA GOLF
PLAYER'S AND HOSTING CLUB GUIDE
JANUARY 2021 (updated on 15th January 2021)**

Dear Players,

The coronavirus pandemic has put the world – not just the golf industry – in front of challenges that we have not faced in our lifetime. After the so called “first wave” last summer, we all thought that the worst was over, but the second wave stroke us in the autumn; and it is not finished yet. It is therefore vital that we keep behaving in a very responsible way knowing that the wellbeing of you and your families is always our priority as the Italian Golf Federation.

We have spent months developing a comprehensive health and safety plan with the guidance of our National Government, medical advisors, national and local health authorities. Now we have a vaccine, but we know that we still cannot mitigate all risk whether at work or in our daily lives. However, the plan we are implementing is designed to reduce the risk as much as possible.

This document will provide you with every detail when you are at a tournament organized by the Italian Golf Federation, from pre-travel – before leaving your home – through the conduct at tournaments, both inside and outside the golf course. This document is not meant to substitute the official protocols that the Italian Golf Federation is issuing periodically and that must be followed and respected, but it is certainly in support of it.

As we all did in the worst days of this pandemic, we are expecting from you full commitment to following the guidelines set forth in this document; this responsible conduct is the only way to make sure that all the protocols that the Italian Golf Federation put in place lead to success. Please take the time to read through this document, familiarize yourself with the plan, and understand your responsibilities. This plan cannot be successful unless each of you commits. It starts with taking the proper safety precautions at home, such as social distancing and proper hygiene, and then carrying those forward when you are at the tournament venue.

We all look forward to a return to normality, and, now with a vaccine that has been developed, that day will come soon.

Thank you for your commitment to this effort, and I look forward to seeing you all back on the course soon.

Sincerely,

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA GOLF (Italian Golf Federation)
Championship and Rules Committee



INTRODUCTION

The Italian Golf Federation (FIG) has developed a comprehensive plan to play the National and International Championships organized by the FIG, in a safe, and responsible way. Even if now a vaccine has been developed, every measure that we decided to put in place are meant to reduced and minimize the risk of the spread of the virus, knowing that is impossible to completely eliminate that risk. Compliance with the requirements and procedures outlined in the FIG protocols is critical to our collective success.

Whoever decides to play a tournament organized by (or on its behalf) the FIG, must follow all the safety measures that have been decided to reduce the spread of the virus. These guidelines are considered as “Terms of Competition” and therefore, if breached, the FIG Code of Conduct will activate as outlined in the 2021 Hard Card and the FIG Procedures of Justice. In particular you might be asked to:

- Leave your home country with a self-certification on your current health status.
- Accept that every day, accessing the tournament venue, authorized personnel will check your temperature (if your temperature is higher than 37.5°, you cannot access the tournament venue)
- Maintain social distancing (the current Italian social distance is 1 meter), inside and outside the tournament facilities
- Wear PPEs (such as face masks) all time (indoor and outdoor), except while playing golf, unless when is impossible to maintain the social distancing.
- Frequently wash your hands (for at least 20 seconds) with soap and water and use hand sanitizer any time you touch something that other people can also touch.

The FIG will send each participant, via e-mail or other messaging systems, specific guidelines; it is therefore fundamental that you provide the Italian Golf Federation your updated email address and mobile phone number). To avoid mass gatherings, it will be possible that there will be no official noticeboard, and that all the tournament information will be published on the FIG website (www.federgolf.it). Prize giving ceremonies will be held respecting the FIG health and safety protocols.

This document has been prepared to play all the FIG championships in a safe and responsible way. Some rules, laws and bylaws have been modified and adapted, under the auspices of our medical advisors, following the requirements of the Italian Olympic Committee and the WHO (World Health Organization).

TESTING AND MEDICAL SCREENING

As a condition of competition, the FIG will be implementing a screening program for every player participating in championship or tournament organized by (or on its behalf) the Italian Golf Federation. A component of the pre-tournament preparation will be completing a required daily health questionnaire/temperature check survey. That involves asking about the participant’s current health, specific questions about symptoms related to COVID-19, as well as interpersonal associations. If a player has a temperature higher than 37.5°, will be immediately isolated in the isolation room and another temperature check will be taken after 15 minutes. If, again, the temperature will be higher than 37.5°, all the protocols for a person potentially positive at the COVID-19 will be activated. In any case, if you have even just one of the symptoms, we ask you not to travel to the golf venue.



TOURNAMENT SAFETY MEASURES

At the tournament venue, among other safety measures, the hosting Golf Club will provide:

- Hand sanitizer stations on the golf course
- Provide thermal scanning equipment and personnel at all tournament entrances

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The foundation of this plan is the knowledge that we can safely conduct an event organized and run by the FIG, with everyone practicing social distancing. Players must have social distancing requirements in the forefront of their minds, always staying at least one meter away from others, whenever possible (two meters while practicing or playing). Tournament facilities will comply with, Italian mandated occupancy limits so that players may practice social distancing. Players may interact with support personnel on-site provided they adhere to social distancing guidelines. Support personnel should never have any direct contact with the player or touch the player with any instrument or device. The tournament might create player restricted areas where nobody – apart from players – can access.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PROTOCOLS - SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing, also called “physical distancing”, means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To correctly practice social or physical distancing:

- Stay at least one meter from other people
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings

In advance of a FIG Tournament, participants should follow this guidance and minimize exposure, to reduce exposure to potential infection.

TEMPERATURE SELF-SCREENING

The FIG has mandated a precautionary self-screening strategy for all players participating in a Tournament. Individuals traveling to a tournament are required to take their own temperature during seven days prior to travel. Pre-tournament screening will include a daily questionnaire concerning current health and symptom assessments and known COVID-19 exposures. People with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms reported; this may range from mild symptoms to severe illness. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus (incubation period) and may include: Fever, Cough, Fatigue, Anorexia, Shortness of breath, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat, New loss of taste or smell. Participants should be symptom and fever free for a minimum of 72 hours before the event day without the use of Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen or similar drug used to prevent or reduce fever.

Individuals with a confirmed COVID-19 infection, with known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case in the last 14 days, exhibiting physical symptoms of COVID-19 or experiencing a fever **MUST NOT TRAVEL** and will be excluded from the tournament.

REGISTRATION

Participants must register as outlined in the current “Normativa Tecnica” Players that will not register their participation before the entry deadline, will be excluded from the tournament, without exceptions.



PRECAUTIONS WHEN TRAVELLING PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS DURNIG YOUR TRIP

Please read carefully the below procedures that should be followed before travelling:

- Clean your hands often. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching object that could have been touched by other people, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid close contact with others (keep at least one meter of physical distance from others), if not belonging to the same family unit.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public (in Italy is mandatory indoor and outdoor)
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow

TRANSPORTS

Each participant is responsible for his or her own trip to/from the tournament venue (when leaving home to the tournament venue and /or hotel).

ON-SITE EXPERIENCE AT THE HOSTING VENUE

Only individuals which name is in a list prepared by the Tournament Director are permitted to access the tournament venue; this includes:

- Tournament participants that are registered – before the deadline – as outlined in the “Normativa Tecnica” (whoever missed the registration deadline will be automatically excluded from the tournament without exception).
- In case of under 18 players, parents or authorized guardians. Otherwise, any companion is not permitted.
- Helpers for players with disabilities.
- Players’ coaches, instructors and trainers.
- Tournament staff (TD, referees and observers).
- Medical staff.
- The Italian Golf Federation staff.

The hosting golf club staff and members will be subject to the Golf Club regulations and protocols and may access the golf facilities under these regulations.

A fix quota has been established to access the golf club; a player may get into the golf club not before 60 minutes before his/her tee time and must leave the venue within 30 minutes after he/she returned the scorecard. There will be exception in case the tournament will be played for one day only, the last round of a tournament over more than one day and on a case-by case as decided by the Tournament Director (i.e., in case of a play-off or groups of participants travelling together).

As explained above, access to the tournament venue will be granted to:

- players that fill out the daily questionnaire concerning current health and symptom assessments
- players which, after a thermal screening run by authorized personnel, have a temperature not exceeding 37.5°.



After the health check, participants must go to the Tournament Office to get their tournament scorecard.

GOLF CLUB FACILITIES

There will be modified/limited access to the golf club, indoor facilities and they players obey, at any time, to social distancing and all the guidelines established by the FIG. Locker room due to square footage allowances. The hosting Golf Club has full jurisdiction on that.

PRACTICE FACILITIES

The FIG will utilize the entire layout of the areas to allow for maximum distance between Players and player support personnel, to ensure social distancing (at least three meters in between “practice bays”). The FIG will limit the number of persons permitted on the practice areas at a given time. Entering and exiting areas will be executed in a staggered manner and movement will be confined to marked, directional paths to better maintain proper social distancing parameters.

Golf Instructors/Coaches/parents/guardians will be permitted but must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

On practice putting greens, players must use their own golf balls and they must pick them up any time after their practice session. It is not allowed to share golf balls to practice with other participants.

Players must book their practice tee time on the FIG website (or as otherwise indicated). Participants who do not book the practice tee time, will not be allowed to access the golf course, without exception.

The last available tee time is at 3pm, after that time tee 1 and tee 10 will be closed.

THE TOURNAMENT

In an effort to maximize the health and safety of all participants and demonstrate best practices for playing golf players must make every effort to adhere to recommended social distancing guidelines (distance of 2 meters from others) throughout the round and limit interaction as much as possible. No shaking hands or contact of any kind (fist bumps/high fives), nor golf club, golf balls lasers etc. sharing. Players may elect to wear a cloth face cover during the round, but it is not mandatory, in which case social distancing must be respected.

The Player must always carry the sanitizer and use it anytime (before and after) he or she is:

- Removing and replacing flagsticks.
- Raking bunkers.

The “regular” Rules of Golf applies, without any special COVID-19 Local Rule

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

The maximum number of players – men and women – at all Championships organized by the FIG, is 120. At all other tournaments, the maximum number of players – men and women – can be up to 144 participants, but the hosting club must guarantee that the social distancing protocols are, at all time, respected and followed.



CADDIES

Caddies are not permitted, with the exceptions for golfers with disabilities.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Course maintenance will be performed in a socially distant manner (including staff and volunteers) and as outlined in the safety plan with the guidance of our National Government, medical advisors, national and local health authorities. All course accessories, including flag, flagstick, cup liners, bunker rakes, and range accessories, can be removed after each round and disinfected before play.

STARTING/SCORING TENTS

Starting tents will be replaced by umbrellas to provide more spacing for social distancing protocols.

Starters will tell the players to exchange scorecards (the marking procedure will be done as usual) and will handle players the additional local rules, the evacuation plan and the hole locations sheet. It might be possible that the documents will be sent to players in a digital format. Players must bring their own pencil, tee pegs and other tools (i.e., pitchfork), because will not be provided by the Tournament.

The Recording Area will be in a large and covered area; preferably a large room in the clubhouse that could service both the 9&18 scoring areas. Individual tables (High top tables preferred) for each player with no chairs. A staff person – wearing PPEs at all time and protected by a plexiglass screen – will be responsible for appropriate cleaning/disinfecting tables between each group, but players must sanitize hands before accessing the recording area. Scorecards will be handled to the scorer that will input the results in the Tournament System and will place the scorecards in a box that will be accessible to authorized personnel only.

COURSE EVACUATION

During all National and International Championship, the Tournament Committee will be responsible to evacuate the course. The Tournament Director, with the help of the hosting golf club, will pre-determine “safe areas” in the club house, including the parking areas, to send the players to, ensuring that social distancing guidelines and protocols are respected. In case of an evacuation, players and whoever is at the tournament venue must wear face masks. In every other event, the responsibility of the course evacuation sits with the hosting golf club.

CONCLUSIONS

These guidelines, alongside the FIG protocols, has been written to minimize the risk of a spread of COVID-19 infection during a Championship or a Tournament organized by the Italian Golf Federation.

Beside these guidelines, other information can be shared with participants via mail or other messaging systems. It is therefore vital that the Tournament Committee has your updated email address and mobile phone number.

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA GOLF (Italian Golf Federation)

Championship and Rules Committee