



Golf Club and Facility Guidance (COVID-19)

Guidance updated: Wednesday 12 August 2020

[View online](#)

This guidance covers:

- **Operational Guidance for Golf Clubs and Facilities Alert Level 2**
- **Rules of Golf Modifications**

Introduction

The movement of Alert Levels is a fluid situation and we will be consulting with the relevant government departments to get more clarity over the coming days. Beyond the three days to Saturday 15 August 2020, we are unsure what changing Alert Levels will mean from a golf perspective, but as soon as we have more information, we will issue further guidance.

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 opens its facility for play at Alert Level 2, it must 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 must be in place to enable contact tracing should it be required. [Click here](#) for information and guidance on contact tracing.
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.
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.
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.
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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