



## GOLF ACTIVITIES FOR COUNTIES ASSESSED AT LEVEL 5 UNDER THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S LIVING WITH COVID-19 PLAN

### CLUB ACCESS

As they are not recognised as essential services, the decision of government is that all gyms, leisure centres, swimming pools and other sports facilities including golf courses, practice facilities and driving ranges must close during the Level 5 restrictions.

### EXEMPTIONS

Under the advice issued from Sport Ireland, clubs are permitted to open their facilities including practice grounds, driving ranges and the course for:

**The training of Professional and High-Performance Golfers** as defined by Sport Ireland:

- Professional golfers who participate within professional competitions
- Players on the 2020 Team Ireland Golf Scheme
- A member of a GUI/ILGU National High-Performance Panel

**Structured training sessions of school-aged children** (which includes camps). These training sessions must be conducted under the supervision of designated PGA Professionals/coaches and/or leaders that have experience delivering junior activity and are suitably trained and vetted. In addition, those delivering the activity must comply with the relevant protocols and public health guidance.

**Please note: school-aged children are not permitted to use the course, practice facilities or driving ranges outside the agreed time of the structured activity.**

**Professional and High-Performance players must:**

- Pre-arrange with the golf club/facility to book a tee time and/or practice area/driving range slot. This will assist should contract tracing be required subsequently.
- Ensure the club/facility has their up to date contact details.
- Use toilet facilities in their home before travelling.
- Observe social distancing at all times.

**Clubs setting up training for school-aged children must ensure:**

- There is sign off from the management committee to hold the training/activity
- Training is supervised by a PGA Professional/Coaching and/or junior leader that has been garda vetted
- Training/Activity can take place on the Golf Course and/or Practice facilities
- Training is provided to school-aged children only
- The training session does not exceed the time normally associated with the activity
- Indoor facilities, clubhouses, changing rooms (or any related touch points) are closed

- That juniors are communicated with and encouraged to use toilet facilities in their own home before travelling

More details can be found in appendix one.

Any golf club/facility is not in a position to apply the measures outlined should not hold training sessions. Any golf club/facility that is found in breach of these measures will result in the club being excluded from the exemption.

### TRAVEL

- While the general public must only exercise within 5km of their home, permitted players (as outlined above) can travel beyond the 5km limit.
- PGA Professionals/volunteers involved in the training of professional, high performance players and children partaking in designated activities may also travel beyond the 5km limit.
- It is recommended that, wherever possible, permitted individuals should travel to and from the facility on their own or with members of their own household only.

## APPENDIX ONE

The government has agreed that non-contact training can continue for school-aged children, outdoors in pods of 15. This is outside of the existing provision of Level 5. This guidance document is based on the protocols outlined in the GUI/ILGU and guidance from the HSE and HPSC, it should be noted that this guidance is subject to change.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

Clubs must undertake an up to date risk assessment should be conducted to determine the risk level for Covid-19 transmission related to the particular activity and what additional measures are needed to reduce this risk.

### MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF COVID-19

Whether the supervised training is on or off course, clubs should ensure the following:

- No person (PGA Professional, parent, leaders/supervisors or juniors) should attend junior activities if unwell or any members of their household are unwell with symptoms consistent with Covid-19
- Households should bring their own household members to the junior activity and not share transport to and from the golf club.
- One parent or guardian per child may attend where it is considered necessary for safeguarding or supervisory purposes.
- Limit the risk of juniors congregating with one another prior to junior activity by having staggered arrival and drop off times for junior activity
- All juniors should be encouraged to wash their hands before eating and should not share food or drinks
- Ensure all participants have enough equipment throughout the session such as golf balls and tees as these must not be shared.
- Golf clubs must also not be shared during the training. If clubs have been provided by the club for the training, they must be sanitised before being re-used.
- Social distancing and hand hygiene should be observed by all

In addition, clubs may carry out a self-assessment of well-being of each junior prior to the commencement of junior activity to ensure the well-being of juniors, PGA Professionals, leaders/supervisors and parents.

### JUNIORS WITH DISABILITIES

Juniors with disabilities should also be able to continue to train once they are able to adhere to the risk minimisation measures. If there are any concerns regarding a child's susceptibility to COVID-19 due to an underlying illness, parents/guardians should discuss this with their medical practitioner.

### GROUP ACTIVITY

Training can take place in multiple pods of 15 once sufficient space is available and strict protocols are in place. Pods should remain together and work through stations, rather than switching or mixing groups. That way individuals will only have contact with one portion of the juniors in attendance (exceptions will need to be made for the PGA Professional who may be on a station with the pod rotating to them).

### SUPERVISION RATIOS

In line with golfs safeguarding policy, clubs should ensure there is an adequate adult:child ratio. As a guide a ratio of 1:8 for under 12 years of age and 1:10 for participants over 12 years of age. **There must always be at least two adults present for all activities.** This will change depending on the circumstances, e.g. players with special/additional needs etc. Where there are mixed groups there should be leaders of both genders.

## CONTACT TRACING MEASURES

- A log of all individuals, supervisors/leaders and PGA Professional attending every session, with contact information for contact tracing purposes must be recorded to enable contact tracing, should it be required.
- This log should be electronic and should be completed in advance where possible.
- Someone should be given the responsibility that ensures that the information recorded in advance on the log is accurate each day.
- There should be a system in place where this log is updated in real time for any necessary changes, for example if a child's parent/guardian is unable to accompany them at short notice and they are accompanied by a different person, this should be updated on the online log in real time.
- This log should be readily and quickly accessible for contact tracing purposes.

## COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND CHILDREN

- Communicate all new measures and rules which will need to be implemented related to COVID-19 with participants/parents in advance of resumption of any activities. Ensure that participants/parents and children understand what measures are obligatory.
- Ensure that participant/parents and children are fully aware of all symptoms of COVID-19. The most common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are available on the [HSE website](#).
- Ensure all participants/parents understand the need to immediately self-isolate for 14 days and to phone their doctor in the event of onset of any COVID-19 signs or symptoms or to restrict their movement if they have had recent close contact with a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 case. Further information on when and how to [self-isolate](#) and [restrict movement](#) are also available on the HSE website.

## HOW TO MANAGE A PARTICIPANT, SUPERVISOR/LEADER OR PGA PROFESSIONAL WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Immediately separate any participant or other person displaying or complaining of COVID-19 related symptoms from others
- Ask this person to wear a face covering if possible or if available provide them with a facemask.
- The designated person managing the situation should try to maintain at least 2 metres from the person with symptoms and should wear a face covering and wash their hands regularly.
- Provide the ill person with tissues and hand sanitizer and ensure that all tissues are disposed of in a waste bag that can be tied and marked as separate from other waste.

- If they are well enough to go home, arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible and advise them to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms.
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a COVID-19 suspect.
- All persons who have been in close contact with the suspect case will need to be informed to restrict their movement for 14 days or until further information is available (i.e. a negative test result of the suspect case).