



THE GPJGA/FIRST TEE GULF COAST CADDIE & SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT POLICIES



Junior Golfer Name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Date _____

THE FIRST TEE PARENT/SPECTATOR/CADDIE CODE OF CONDUCT

Respect for Myself

- I will dress neatly and wear golf or athletic shoes.
- I will keep a positive attitude regardless of the outcome.
- I will be honest with myself, including scoring and applying rules.
- I will use proper etiquette and maintain my composure even when others may not be watching.
- I will help clean and take care of my golf equipment.

Respect for Others

- I will follow all instructions and safety rules.
- I will keep up with the pace of play on the golf course.
- I will be friendly, courteous and helpful to all participants and parents.
- I will remain still and quiet while others are playing and have fun without being loud and rowdy.
- I will be a good sport toward others whether my child wins or loses.

Respect for My Surroundings

- I will keep the golf course and practice areas clean and in as good or better shape than I found them.
- I will rake the bunkers, replace divots marks, and refrain from any behavior that might damage the course.

CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

I, as the parent/guardian of a junior golfer (as well as any spectators that I invite), agree to abide by GPJGA/First Tee Gulf Coast Code of Conduct and the following policies at all times during all tournaments that they host.

- I understand that GPJGA/First Tee Gulf Coast tournaments are designed to be a positive, character-building experience for junior golfers. Therefore, I agree to comply with the Code of Conduct (above), which includes avoiding negative interactions with other parents/guardians as well as with any junior golfers including my own child. _____ (initial)
- I understand that adverse situations may arise, and if so, I agree to bring my concerns to the attention of a staff member of GPJGA/First Tee Gulf Coast in a calm manner. I also agree to remove myself from the situation and allow the issue to be dealt with between the Tournament Committee and the player(s). _____ (initial)
- I understand that if this agreement is not adhered to, the GPJGA/First Tee Gulf Coast reserve the right to suspend or revoke my spectator and/or caddie privileges. _____ (initial)

CADDIE AGREEMENT

I understand that GPJGA/First Tee Gulf Coast is a youth development organization that introduces the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. I understand that these tournaments are designed to enable junior golfers to grow and develop. Select one:

- I have a player in the 36-hole open division, and I understand that caddying is not allowed at any time by any person. Parents are encouraged as spectators, but must keep communication minimal (e.g., offering sunscreen, water) and open (allowing other parents to hear). Giving advice that influences play (e.g., club selection) is a breach of Rule 10.2 and the player is subject to a two-stroke penalty. I have read and agree to abide by the Spectator Policies on Reverse. _____ (initial)
- I have a player in the 6 or 9-hole division, and I understand that in this division my junior golfer is permitted to have one caddie. Spectators must stay on the cart path at ALL times. I have read and agree to abide by the Caddie and Spectator Policies on the Reverse side that are designed to ensure a positive experience, individual decision-making and speedy play. _____ (initial)

CADDIE POLICIES

What Is A Caddie? USGA Rule 10.3 states that a caddie is one who carries or handles a player's clubs during play and otherwise assists him in accordance with the rules. A player may only have one caddie at any given time. A caddie may be replaced or eliminated at any time by the player. No other person may offer advice or help to a player other than his/her caddie.

Policies:

1. Caddies are only allowed in the six and nine-hole divisions. Only one caddie per player. Caddie must be at least 15 years old.
2. Caddies can give advice as well as help with rulings and keeping up pace of play (e.g., looking for lost balls, raking bunkers); however, PLEASE try to let the player make decisions such as club selection and reading their own putts whenever possible.
3. Caddies may not stand on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the player's ball *when the player begins taking a stance for the stroke and until the stroke is made* (anywhere except putting green). On the putting green, the caddie may not stand behind or in front of the player's line of play *when the player's stroke is being made*. A caddie may not use an object or mark to indicate a line for putting. Violation of this rule will result in a two-stroke penalty. The caddie may attend the flagstick.
4. Caddies must not interfere with proper pace of play. Therefore, caddies must refrain from over-coaching a player. It is the caddie's duty to help the player hit each shot without undue delay (e.g., do not take more than 40 seconds to play a shot; no more than two practice swings, pick up after double par is reached, arrive at first tee 10 minutes early, prepared for play).
5. Bag policy: Ages 6-11: Caddies may carry their golfer's bag; use a push cart (unless prohibited by the golf course); or place the bag on a rented golf cart. Caddies may ride in a cart; all players must walk from tee to green; however, they may safely ride between holes. TO PREVENT INJURIES, AT NO TIME IS A PUSH CART ALLOWED TO BE TOWED BEHIND A RENTED GOLF CART. Ages 12+ are responsible for their own bags (carry or push cart only). If a push cart is used, player must push their own cart without assistance. Penalties will be assessed for violations. If The Committee makes an exception for shuttle carts between holes, AT NO TIME IS A PUSH CART ALLOWED TO BE TOWED BEHIND A RENTED GOLF CART TO PREVENT INJURIES.
6. A caddie can be removed for Code of Conduct violations at any time for reasons including profanity, abusive language, cheating, disrespect of staff and other parents or players, abuse to the golf course or facilities, and tobacco/alcohol use on course.)
7. Cell phones must not be visible and must be silenced.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CADDIE POLICIES and CODE OF CONDUCT WILL RESULT IN PENALTY OR DISQUALIFICATION:

(First offense: warning; Second offense: two stroke penalty; Third offense: disqualification from event without refund)

Tips:

1. Arrive at the golf course an hour before tee time to check-in, warm up at the range and green and prepare for play.
2. Help your player prepare for the round (apply sunscreen and check supplies: push cart, snacks, drinks, golf balls, tees, pencil, divot repair tool, ball marker).
3. Arrive at the assigned starting tee at least 10 minutes prior to tee time.
4. During play, help all players by looking for lost golf balls, determining distances, raking bunkers, fixing divots in fairways, repairing ball marks on greens, and attending the flagstick. Encourage speedy play by helping with decisions in a timely manner.
5. After play, have player immediately take scorecard to scoring table. Make sure you have all clubs, headcovers, gloves, etc.

CART & SPECTATOR POLICIES

Carts: Carts may be rented by spectators or caddies. Golf courses have a limited number of golf carts available for rent on a first-come first-serve basis, so please be considerate and consolidate whenever possible. A valid driver's license is required to operate a golf cart. Riding anywhere other than the seat of the cart is strictly prohibited. Only two people per cart. Carts must always stay on the cart path, or in the rough, slightly behind the players being watched. Carts may not move while competitors are playing a stroke.

Spectators Following a Group: When following a group, follow your players from a distance (at least 25 yards) and stay in the rough or on the cart paths (NOT the fairway or greens). Please do not go forward and disrupt players in the group ahead or lag behind your players, which can delay the group behind. Spectators may not give players advice or help with scorekeeping during the round. Stay to the side of the action and remain still and quiet while all players play. Move forward to the putting green when all shots have been completed. Please silence your cell phones. You are encouraged to positively cheer all players, not just your own.