

GPJGA Spectator Policy

GPJGA and FTGC take great pride in the conduct of its players and the relationships that it has with the golf clubs in Florida.

Spectator Privileges

Watching an GPJGA event as a spectator is a privilege. Whether you are a parent or a friend of a player, your spectator privileges may be suspended if you fail to follow the spectator guidelines. Spectators must observe the same golf etiquette and respect to the golf course, facilities, and policies of the host club as the players.

Parent and Spectator Policies

General Conduct

Your child or friend is attempting to play top-level competitive golf and this is NOT the time for any coaching. Quietly follow players and keep your expressions of joy and/or disappointment to a minimum. Please do not embarrass your child in front of other players and spectators. Smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages should be kept at a minimum.

Dress Code

Spectators must dress in appropriate golf attire that meets club guidelines. Blue jeans, t-shirts, tank tops, short-shorts, flip-flops and other overly casual attire should NOT be worn at any GPJGA function. Gentlemen should remove hats when entering the clubhouse, pro shop or grill.

Communicating with Players

Spectators who need to talk with a player (for health reasons and handing them sunscreen, food or beverages) should do so in front of other spectators and/or players.

Advice and the Rules of Golf

Rule 1.3b (1) states "Players are responsible for applying the Rules to themselves."

Rules Officials

Rules Officials are to assist players when they are unsure how they should proceed, to monitor pace of play, and for emergency situations. Players and spectators should notify an Official when someone needs assistance. When there is no Official nearby to assist, players should play a second ball under Rule 20.1c (3). **Remember - it is the player's responsibility to know the Rules!**

When an Official is assisting a player all spectators should stay at least 25 yards away and should not get involved in the conversation. Spectators will be brought into a situation only if asked by the Official. Spectators should not confront Officials. If a spectator has a question, or information for an Official, it should be done away from the players and in a calmly manner.

Advice (Rule 10.2)

"Advice is any verbal comment or action (such as showing what club was just used to make a stroke) that is intended to influence a player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play during a hole or a round. Advice does not include matters public information, such as the location of things on the course (hole, putting green, Fairway, penalty areas, bunkers, or another player's ball), the distance from one point to another, or the Rules."

Spectators may NOT give Rules info to players. Violation of the Rules may lead to a penalty. General Penalty for a breach of Rule 10.2 is: loss of hole in Match Play; or two strokes in Stroke Play.

How to Properly Observe a Group (Where you should stand & walk)

- Please help spot balls for all players. Spectators are encouraged to watch each player's shot closely and may assist searching for a lost ball during the three-minute search period.
- Follow your players from a distance (at least 25 yards). Stay ahead of the group and in the rough or on the cart paths. Don't lag behind participants as this delays the group behind.
- The GPJGA encourages spectators to stay ahead of players to help spot golf balls.
- You should NOT be in the fairway.
- 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.
- Putting Green - Spectators must never be on the putting surface and should observe the putting green from a reasonable distance that will not interfere with the players

Spectator Cart Policy

(Failure to follow these policies can result in your cart being taken away at any time and may result in your privileges being suspended for future events.)

- Carts may be rented by spectators based on course availability.
- Spectator carts must stay on the cart path at ALL times (or rough if no cart paths).
- Spectator carts will NOT be used for shuttling of players from green to tee unless stated on the Notice to Players (local rules sheet) that is given to each player. Violation of the transportation policy will result in the player receiving a two stroke penalty. *Exception-* A spectator cart may be used to transport a player that is proceeding under the penalty option of stroke and distance.
- Spectator carts will be used to assist with evacuation of players and spectators, and may leave the cart path as necessary during an evacuation.
- Spectator carts may carry water for players, but no golf equipment, and may carry other spectator's items such as umbrellas

Appreciation of Club Staff and Officials

It is appropriate to express your appreciation to the host club, its staff and the GPJGA officials conducting the event. Please recognize that your actions may influence the future ability of other junior golf organizations to use the club and it is your responsibility to be a gracious ambassador of junior golf. Set a great example for your child and all the people present:

- Say thank you to the golf professional, club staff and members
- Be patient with staff and officials
- Do not wear hats indoors