

For the purposes of this policy, spectators are defined as a person who is watching the competition. Spectators (including parents, family members, coaches, friends, competitors who have finished play) are an integral part of the Golf Nova Scotia championships. Our tournament staff and volunteers work diligently to ensure the best possible experience for both players and spectators at all events. While our goal is to maximize the spectator experience, we must also ensure that the integrity of the competition is preserved at all times. The following spectator guidelines have been developed to ensure everyone's safety and to preserve the authenticity and integrity of our championships. Spectators shall not engage in any action deemed detrimental to the athlete environment and/or experience.

Coaches must let tournament staff know they will be onsite. This will give them access to the players within the practice areas. Spectator policies will apply to coaches when on field of play.

What you can expect from Golf Nova Scotia:

1. *A safe, professional and welcoming environment*
2. *Friendly, courteous staff and volunteers*
3. *Trained Referees*
4. *Positive competitive experience*

Minimum Distances & Prohibited Areas:

A minimum distance of 30 yards must be maintained between the player and spectator in **ALL** circumstances with the following exceptions:

1. *Once all players have reached the putting green, spectators must remain 10 yards from the putting green.*
2. *Once all players are on the teeing area, spectators must remain 10 yards from the teeing area and on the cart path (if one is present).*

When cart paths are provided, spectators, parents and coaches **MUST** remain on those paths. When no cart paths are available, spectators must stay in the rough on the side of the hole/course.

Spectators are prohibited from the following areas:

1. *Teeing Areas, Fairways, Putting Greens*
2. *Scoring and Starting areas; and,*
3. *Rules Situations – areas where rulings are being provided*

Advice & Communication:

No advice is to be given to any player during a round. Advice is defined as any verbal comment or action that is intended to influence a player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play a hole during a round. Avoid all communication, verbal and non-verbal, which may be construed by others (players, parents, Tournament Officials and Referees) as advice. The following are exceptions:

1. *Asking or giving the player food, drink, umbrella or the like*
2. *Needing to deal with a medical situation*

Lost Golf Balls:

A spectator may help a group's/player's pace-of-play by observing where golf balls stray. Searching for stray balls should only start when the player reaches the area of the strayed ball and indicates that help is required. It should be noted that players may not want to find their original ball in all circumstances.

Dress Code:

Each host facility has its own dress-code policy. Spectators must adhere to the dress-code policy published by the host facility. Failure to do so may result in a spectator, parent or coach asked to leave the golf course/facility.

Cell Phones & Cameras:

All mobile devices must be set to the "vibrate" only or "silent" mode or turned off. It is the responsibility of the spectator to follow the policy of the host facility. Pictures and videos should be taken before or after each round, not during play.

Golf Carts:

The use of golf carts by spectators is not permitted. This includes during any playoff.

Sanctions:

Possible violations of this policy should be reported to a Golf Nova Scotia staff member or Referee, who will inform the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will investigate the details of the incident.

Any spectator whose conduct is deemed to be disruptive or not conducive to the well-being of the competition may be removed from the course, host facility or future Golf Nova Scotia competitions. The Tournament Committee is the sole judge in determining unbecoming conduct and will handle all situations on a case-by-case basis depending on the severity and frequency of the violation(s). All instances of abuse, bullying, harassment or discrimination require an incident report to be compiled by the Tournament Director and submitted to the Golf Nova Scotia Discipline Committee.

An individual who violates this policy may be subject to sanctions pursuant to Golf Nova Scotia's Code of Conduct & Ethics and may be subject to any or all the following sanctions as determined by the Tournament Director:

1. *Verbal warning*
2. *Removed from the golf course and/or property for the round or tournament*
3. *Reported to the authorities*
4. *Banned from future Golf Nova Scotia events*