



TOWN OF YARMOUTH

Golf Division

635 West Yarmouth Road, West Yarmouth, MA 02673
Telephone (508) 760-4878, Fax (508) 760-4806

To: Dan Knapik, Town Administrator
From: Scott Gilmore, Director of Golf Course Operations
Date: May 5th, 2020
Subject: Golf Course Opening (Revised May 7th)

Opening the Golf Course is being considered, and I too would enjoy a nice round of golf. That being said, with the level of maintenance that is currently being performed under the essential operation plans the golf courses are not ready to open up. By hiring back the seasonal maintenance staff, and adjusting full time staff hours, we are doing everything we can to open the golf course for the weekend pending the Governor's approval.

The maintenance level is being ramped up significantly to get the courses into playing conditions. This would normally require roughly a week notice prior to any opening date being set. Current mowing schedule is 1-2 times per week for playing surfaces, this is being adjusted to 3-7 days a week prior to opening. This will allow the maintenance team to acclimate the turf to withstand the traffic of golfers coming back to the course, and provide proper playing conditions.

Every year in the spring the greens go through the aeration process. This is key to having healthy greens which is especially important to accomplish this year. Aeration is happening this week. The timing is to prevent any further shutdowns in the future.

The seasonal staff will need to be trained before any opening date to ensure the health and safety of our staff and golfers as new COVID-19 protocols take place. The new training procedures include PPE requirements, cleaning, and disinfecting surfaces to keep the safety of our employees and golfers priority. Maintenance seasonal staff is out preparing the golf course for opening. Operational staff will be needed a few days prior to opening day for training. Upgraded professional cleaning regiments have been created for facilities and equipment.

All steps are being taken to get the golf courses open as soon as possible. Our targeted date is May 8th for opening at Bayberry Hills, and May 15th for both courses. This may be subject change based on Governor's restrictions on allowing of cart use.

The following is our opening plan with restrictions recommended by the National Golf Course Owners Association, Massachusetts Golf Association, and The United States Golf Association regarding COVID-19 protocols.

GOLF RESTART COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Golf is widely seen as an activity that is viable and relatively low risk, however there are additional precautions that need to be in place to ensure the safety of players, golf course staff and club/course officials. In order to operate, the following requirements will be implemented at the Yarmouth Golf Courses.

Golf Operations *(These items will be assessed, and potentially modified, on a weekly basis.)*

- 1) All Tee Times must be pre-scheduled by phone or the Chelsea Reservation System. Tee time intervals will be 15 minutes. We will adjust reservations accordingly. Please be patient as we implement this new tee time program.
- 2) Payments will be made in the form of CREDIT CARD ONLY. All persons are required to wear a face covering per local and State mandates. Non-members will all in for tee times and pay by credit card over the telephone to limit staff exposure. All customers must sign in and provide contact information for future Covid-19 tracking.
- 3) All staff must wear face coverings while on property.
- 4) Tee time policy must be 15 minute between groups. Golfers must stay in their car until 15 minutes before their tee time and must return to car immediately following play.
- 5) No more than 4 golfer per group.
- 6) Presently the Clubhouse and restaurants are closed to the public. Once lifted, a maximum of four people will be allowed in the clubhouse at any given time, this includes staff. Social distance markings will be place on the floor to allow for six feet increments at all times. All players will be encouraged to continue to schedule tee times and pay on-line.
- 7) All Players must stay at least six feet apart at all times. Course staff will monitor player behavior on the course. Failure to comply with the "6 Foot Rule" will result in immediate removal from course grounds. There will be no warnings. Refunds will not be given in any case. Signs will be posted to encourage no group congregation, encourage social distancing, and limitation of number of people allowed into the facilities.
- 8) No Golf carts are allowed.
- 9) No caddies allowed.
- 10) There will be no club, push cart or other equipment available for rentals.
- 11) Players must not touch the flagsticks, and must leave the pin in at all times. Each player should put continuously until they have putted out. Then the next farthest player should continue in this fashion until all puts have been registered.

- 12) All Golfers must use their own golf clubs. Sharing golf clubs is not allowed.
- 13) Cups will have a foam insert placed inside the cup and around the flag stick to prevent the ball from going down into the cup.
- 14) All bunker rakes have been removed from the course. With the removal of the rakes, players are allowed to place their ball whenever they are in a bunker.
- 15) All ball washers have been removed from the course.
- 16) All water stations have been removed from the course
- 17) All garbage cans have been removed from the course. Please carry out what you carried on.
- 18) Restaurants will remain closed.
- 19) No proshop merchandise can be sold and will remain closed to the public.
- 20) All patrons are required to wear masks or face coverage when entering in any Yarmouth Golf Building per order of the Board of Health and Governor.
- 21) Practice areas will remain closed.
- 22) Practice Greens will remain closed.
- 23) The Driving Range at Bayberry Hills will remain closed.
- 24) Hand sanitizer will be readily available.
- 25) Scoring areas like MassGolf Handicap computers will be removed. Directions will be made available on how to input on home computers, tablets, or phones.
- 26) Golfers are to leave the golf course immediately after playing to eliminate congestion/gathering on the property or in the parking lot.

I am aware of the urgency to open the courses for both financial and recreational reasons. I have been in touch with my peers from around New England and can assure you that we all want to open once it is deemed safe and a level playing field for our neighbors. Opening the courses before the turf is ready will cause damage that will surface later on in the season and may take years to fix. Please extend us the appropriate window of time to make all 45 holes as good if not better than last season. We take great pride in our product and do not want to present anything less than our best for 2020.