

# Spectator Policy

Points of emphasis for 2024 that will be enforced at all tournaments

**1. Spectators may not walk in the fairways at any time.**

Spectators may not lag the players they are following. They may be in the rough or on the cart path one shot ahead of or parallel with their group, provided they are never in the fairway.

**2. Spectator carts must remain on cart paths at all times.**

Spectator carts are not guaranteed at Prep Tour events. The rental of spectator carts is subject to the availability and discretion of the host venue.

**3. Spectators may not stand on the tee box behind players as players are teeing off.**

**4. Players will be held responsible for excessive conversations with Spectators.**

## Prep Tour SPECTATORS MAY:

- Help search for lost balls.
- Rent carts from the clubhouse but **must keep carts on cart paths** at all times.
- Walk in the rough or on cart paths one shot ahead of or parallel with their player.

## Prep Tour SPECTATORS MAY NOT:

- Lag behind the group they are following.
- Discuss scoring or rulings with the players.
- Offer any playing advice or suggestions during the round.
- Stand on the tee box behind players while players are teeing off.
- Watch players putt from their carts while parked short of the green; **please advance your cart toward the next tee before you watch players putt.**
- Call penalties on players.
- Violate host golf course policies/rules.
- Use profane/abusive language toward players or staff.

Please note that if any of the following guidelines are perceived as broken by a Prep Tour official, the player may be subject to penalty. Please remember that spectating is a PRIVILEGE not a RIGHT. **Spectators attend Prep Tour events at their own risk.**

## Player - Spectator Conversations:

In the game of golf, like any other sport, spectators are a welcome element, but are required to be silent observers of the game, not injecting themselves in any way unless on the request or instruction of a rules official. Being a spectator is a privilege, not a right. Understanding that concept, the The Prep Tour requires of spectators:

1. Advice (Rule 10.2) is any verbal comment or action that is intended to influence you or another player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play during a hole or round. In addition, any conversation between player/spectator may be construed as advice. This includes any conversation between player/spectator in their native language. In either instance, penalty for breach of this rule is two strokes. **Players are responsible for the actions of their relatives and spectators in regards to this rule.**
2. Keeping the above statement in mind, please keep your conversation with the player to words of encouragement as long as advice is not given.
3. Please silence your cell phone while at Prep Tour events or abide by the Host Facilities policy, whichever is more strict.

SPECTATOR/PLAYER GIVING OR SOLICITING ADVICE – As listed above per USGA Rule 10.2, the soliciting of advice by a player or giving advice or discussions between player and spectator that may be construed as advice is prohibited. Advice or construed advice may include:

- Information on what club to hit or distance to a hole/marker/landmark
- Information regarding break or slope on a putting surface
- Information regarding weather, wind direction, elevation change, etc.
- Any digital communication between player & spectator
- **Extended conversations/walking with player of any nature, regardless of actual subject**
- Player sitting in spectator cart when not approved by rules official

If a player gets advice from someone other than his or her caddie (such as a spectator) without asking for it, he or she gets no penalty (on initial occurrence). However, if the player continues to get advice from that same person, **the player must try to stop that person from giving advice.** If the player does not do so, he or she is treated as asking for that advice and gets the penalty under Rule 10.2a. The penalty for breach of Rule 10.2 is the General Penalty (2 strokes).