



# Philadelphia PGA Section Junior Tour Spectator Handbook

*Updated As Of: 11/15/2024*

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## **Welcome!**

We are excited to have you as part of our community for what promises to be an enjoyable and memorable season. Your support plays an essential role in creating a positive and encouraging environment for our young athletes. We look forward to sharing many great moments with you throughout the season.

To ensure you have the best experience while attending events, we kindly ask that you take a moment to review our Spectator Handbook. It includes important information about event protocols, rules, and how you can contribute to the success of the tour by being a supportive and respectful presence.

Thank you for your involvement and for being a key part of the Philadelphia Junior Tour family. We can't wait to see you at our events and look forward to a fantastic season together!

## **Spectating Guidelines & Policies**

- Spectators are permitted to:
  - Spot balls
  - Give players food and water
  - Walk on the cart path
  - Applaud players
  - Be at least 30 yards away from the players at all times
  - Rent carts as long as course permits it
- Spectators are NOT permitted to:
  - Walk or drive in the fairways
  - Walk or drive on the tee boxes
  - Be on the greens
  - Give advice to players
  - Help with rulings
  - Be in the scoring process with players
  - Spectators are not official score keepers

## **Spectator Policies**

- PJT events are family friendly events. Inappropriate use of foul language, disrespect towards another individual (spectator, player or staff) or other poor behavior will not be tolerated.
- Spectators are to remain at least 30 yards away from players and should stay on cart paths. In the absence of cart paths, we ask that spectators stay in the rough. Please stay off fairways, tees and greens.
- Spectators are permitted to carry food, beverages, umbrellas, golf apparel, etc. for all competitors

- Spectators are NOT allowed to give rulings on the golf course even if they are 100% sure of a ruling. Competitors have the option to play two golf balls under Rule 20.1c or contact the nearest Rules Official for further assistance.
- It is appropriate for spectators to applaud successful strokes and give words of encouragement, but it is recommended to limit all conversations to prevent any suspicions or accusations of advice being given to competitors.
- Please silence all cell phones at PJT events and refrain from taking phone calls during the round around players as this can be rude and distracting
- For your personal safety, we ask you to exercise caution at all times. When inclement weather moves into the area, the PJT will suspend play by sounding air horns. Accordingly, you should seek shelter immediately. The PJT staff will evacuate players from the course first and then spectators. Scorecards must be turned into the staff members on site.
- The PJT leaves the availability of spectator carts to the discretion of the facility, and all spectator cart info will be available via the Tournament Portals
- All players and spectators are prohibited from riding on the back of a golf car at anytime during PJT competitions
- Spectators are encouraged to assist in the search for a lost ball. It is recommended that all spectators follow 1 shot ahead or near the landing area of all golf balls for errant shots to prevent lost balls. Once the ball is located and the player is made aware spectators must leave the area and continue staying 30 yards away from competitors
- If an issue arises during competition, spectators should not confront or interact with players that are not their own children. Any issues during a PJT event should be handled and mediated by PJT Staff only.

### **Spectator Code of Conduct Penalties**

- Spectator Penalties:
  - **1st offense:** Official Warning
  - **2nd offense:** 2 stroke penalty for player and removal of spectator
  - **3rd offense:** Disqualification of player and spectator suspended from play until Player and Spectator meet with Director.
  - Penalties are cumulative for 1 season

### **Care for the Course**

We would like to remind all our players how important it is to be diligent about replacing divots, fixing ball marks, and keeping up with the general care for the golf course at our host facilities.

It is imperative to the success of our tour that we respect the facilities that have opened their door to host events. Due to the increase in play over the past few seasons, course access has become more challenging, and we strive to be perfect guests.

We are asking our members to be mindful of course care, and to step in and remind your playing partners to do the same. Replace your divots, fix your ball marks, rake the bunkers, and become a group that our facilities want to host each year.

## **Starting**

Players are required to arrive at their starting tee 10 minutes before their tee time to hear starting announcements and receive their scorecard for the round

- Players cannot tee off until they are announced by the starter otherwise they will receive a two-stroke penalty
- Any player that arrives prior to 5 minutes after their tee time will receive a two-stroke penalty
- Any player that arrives past 5 minutes from their tee time will be disqualified and will not be issued a refund
- Players are responsible for being at their starting tee on time and no circumstances will allow for a player to move to another tee time

## **Scoring**

After finishing their round players must come into the scoring area to return scorecards. Scores are considered official after both the player and the marker have reviewed and signed their respective cards and left the scoring area. Players will act as markers and are responsible for scoring for another player in their group as well as themselves. Being a marker is a big responsibility as they are protecting themselves and the rest of the field. Spectators are not permitted in the scoring area. Players are responsible for reviewing scores and should work with tournament officials to resolve any discrepancies.

## **Rulings**

If a player needs a ruling, they can either:

- Flag down a rules official
- Play two balls after conferring with the other players in the group

Players should not talk to a spectator in regards to a ruling. The player could be subject to disqualification by following incorrect information.

## **Cheating Policy:**

If you see something, say something to a tournament official as soon as possible. If a player knows another player is cheating and they sign off on their score, both that player and the cheating player are at risk for disqualification

- Both the player accused and the accuser will be investigated

Different types of cheating can happen by either a player or the parent/spectator of a player, and to report cheating during the round a spectator or player can either

- Alert a rules official
- Call the pro shop
- Call the Junior Tour Rules Hotline
- Talk to a tournament official in scoring as soon as possible
- Player Penalties
  - **1st offense:** Disqualification and official warning
  - **2nd offense:** Disqualification and Player of the Year Points Penalty. Player and Parent or Guardian to meet with the Director.
  - **3rd offense:** Suspension from Junior Tour Membership
- Spectator Penalties:
  - **1st offense:** Warning and disqualification for player
  - **2nd offense:** Disqualification for player, and spectator is suspended for the remainder of the season. Player suspended from play until Player and Spectator meet with Director.
  - **3rd offense:** Suspension from Junior Tour membership.

**Giving Advice** - USGA Rule 10.2a/2: A player must try to stop ongoing advice that is given voluntarily

Neither spectators nor competitors are allowed to give advice to competitors. Advice is any verbal comment or action that is intended to influence a player in choosing a club, making a stroke, and deciding how to play a hole or round. This includes any conversation between player/spectator in their native language. Players are fully responsible for the actions of their relatives and spectators in regards to this rule. To assist in the understanding of this definition, here are some examples of giving advice that are violations:

1. I think you should hit a 6 iron.
2. Take an unplayable lie.
3. Keep your head down.

Information on the Rules of Golf or on matters of public information, such as positions of penalty areas or the flagstick are not advice. The following are not examples of giving advice and are acceptable under USGA Rules:

1. A penalty area crosses the fairway at the bottom of the hill.
2. There is the 150 yard marker.
3. The location of the flagstick is in the back of the green.
4. One of your options is to take an unplayable lie. (Please note: while this is not considered advice under USGA Rules, making rulings is prohibited under Philadelphia Junior Tour Spectator Policies.)

USGA Rule 10.2a/2: A player must try to stop ongoing advice that is given voluntarily. If a player gets [advice](#) from someone other than their [caddie](#) (such as a spectator) without asking for it, they get no penalty. 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, they are treated as asking for that [advice](#) and get the penalty under [Rule 10.2a](#). In a team competition ([Rule 24](#)), this also applies to a player who gets [advice](#) from a team captain who has not been named an advice giver.

- Consequences for spectators caught giving advice:
  - **1st Offense:** General Penalty of two strokes. Official warning given to spectator and players
  - **2nd Offense:** General Penalty of two strokes. Spectator is removed from the course.
  - **3rd Offense:** General Penalty of two strokes. Spectator is suspended until the player and spectator meet with the Director.
  - Penalties are cumulative for 1 season

### **Caddying**

As of 2022, the PJT no longer allows caddies on the full tour. All players are responsible for carrying/pushing their own clubs, keeping their own score as well as another player's score in the group and making their own decisions regarding their shots, and rulings in the absence of a rules official. Any spectators found to be caddying will be removed from the golf course and the player given a two-stroke penalty.

### **Suggestions, Comments, or Concerns**

To better serve all involved with the Philadelphia Section PGA Junior Tour, we have provided a suggestion box below for your convenience. Suggestions should be submitted in a professional manner. The Philadelphia Section PGA Junior Tour reserves the right to assess any penalties that are in breach to the Junior and Spectator Code of Conduct. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you need to request a certain tee time, or pairing for carpooling, this request must be emailed to [info@phillyjuniortour.com](mailto:info@phillyjuniortour.com) before the pairings are sent out, as adjustments will not be made after they have been sent out to the field.

PJT staff reserves the right to remove spectators from events that display conduct deemed detrimental to the event. Removal of a spectator may be temporary or permanent based upon the severity of the actions.

**Contact**

- The best way to contact the Philadelphia Junior Tour is via our email:  
[info@phillyjuniortour.com](mailto:info@phillyjuniortour.com)
- Staff may be reached via phone during office hours. The office is open from 8:30am-5:00pm Monday - Friday