

URGENT CONSIDERATIONS

In a few short weeks our personal and sporting life has been turned upside down by COVID-19 epidemic. We have at all times kept you, the members of NAGC Inc, informed of all developments and requirements from the authorities, Federal, State and Local Government, on regulations that need to be implemented. This is to enable:

1. That golf can be continued to be played at the course
2. That our members can play in a safe environment
3. To protect our members and the staff of the Golf Course

Many of the Council facilities have closed – in conjunction with the Management of the Golf Course we need to cooperate with all measures that may be implemented and take all these regulations very seriously. We hope to continue to provide a safe and secure facility for all our members as we jointly believe that playing golf is one of the few activities that still provides an essential leisure activity in a safe environment, as long as every player follows the new rules that need to be implemented. Let's enjoy our game whilst we can. We are subject to rapid change as is exemplified by Government Regulations with borders closing as I write this newsletter. We all need to be compliant and understanding of this rapidly changing situation.

New Local Rules

We have today implemented new Local rules on the Golf Course:

Preferred drops in sand bunkers – no rakes will be provided to alleviate contamination from handling them. Players have the option of taking preferred drops in bunkers for balls that have landed in footprints. As the only method for smoothing out sand bunkers is by using your foot, we have implemented preferred drops immediately.

Players will notice that all flags on the course are surrounded by a “noodle” at the base of the holes. This enable balls to be easily removed by your putter – flagpoles are not to be touched effective from today. Please remind all players of this new local rule. Players no longer have the option to remove flags.

The Match Committee will be refining the wording but in the meantime could all players act in the intended spirit. We do not want the Course being closed if players start to flout the rules as the Golf Course Management are working closely with the clubs to keep the Course open.

All members need to practise the new rules on “Social Distancing”. In conjunction with the Course management, we are keeping the clubroom open with the regulations of only four people per table and a maximum of 24 people in the clubroom at any time. Members who flout this rule will be banned from entering the clubhouse after sufficient warning. We are taking this issue very seriously in an effort to protect our members against possible contamination and seek your support to comply with these conditions.

We have a number of our members who are in self isolation following return to Australia from overseas and we wish you well in your compulsory confinement. After the due period we hope to see you back on the course once you have been cleared.

Please note that as conditions are changing day by day we will do everything we can to keep our competitions going as normal as possible.

There will definitely be no presentations after golf but all results will be online – there are no exceptions to this rule.

The Management Committee has been working to finalise our budgets for 2020/21 and will be considering the effect of the COVID – 19 situation. I would like to thank the work of the Finance Committee Chairperson, Marlene Boundy and our Financial Officer, Ruth Gordon, who have put in many hours to address this issue. This will be an ongoing exercise and we need to be extremely flexible in our approach.

Club Fees

Our club fees remain at \$290. This payment is due by March 31st.

The Course Management have acknowledged that they will implement a “Pro-rata” policy in relation to green fees, should the course need to be shut down at any time. As normal, members will need to pay their club fee and produce the receipt to pay their green fees.

There has been some delay in the issue of new cards with photos by the Course Management, so we ask for your patience until this issue has been resolved. This does not stop the payment of green fees in any way. You will need to fill out a new form obtained from the counter to pay your green **fees.**

Deferment and cancellation of events

The Lord Mayors Trophy has been deferred to later in the year – you will be updated in due course so all players who have paid will be automatically included. If you wish to withdraw your nomination, there will be no guarantee that you will be included later. Other Social events as per our calendar have been cancelled.

Member Considerations

The continuation of our playing competitions will be dependent on our behaviour and compliance with imposed conditions. It is up to everyone to be diligent as we probably all now recognise that there is no room for complacency.

All members need to take this current situation very seriously – there is no room for complacency so I ask all members to be responsible and diligent to enable continuation of the facilities for as long as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Sahb
NAGC Club President