



Updated: 25 April 2022 (**26th Version**)

SGA SAFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Singapore Golf Association (SGA) has established a set of guidelines for golf clubs and public golf facilities to safeguard all golfers, staff and visitors' safety and wellbeing. We seek the golf clubs' and golfers' continued cooperation in ensuring adherence to these guidelines in addition to all other related government advisories.

Owners or Operators of facilities are responsible for ensuring the implementation of safe management measures, and that their patrons/users comply to them. It is vital that venue operators adhere to the spirit and draw up plans to limit the risk of transmission.

Safe Management at Golf Clubs and Facilities

On 22 April 2022, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced the nation's transition of the Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) level from the current Orange down to Yellow, which means that the disease is typically mild and is being contained, causing minimal disruption to our daily lives. Correspondingly, there will be further easing to the community safe management measures (SMMs) from 26 April 2022.

From **26 April 2022** onwards, the following measures will apply:

Mask Wearing:

- For indoor activities:
 - Mask wearing will continue to be required for indoor settings.
 - Masks may be taken off when performing strenuous activity but will have to be put on after the completion of such strenuous sporting and physical activity/class and during rest breaks.
- For outdoor activities:
 - Mask wearing will be optional.
 - Individuals are encouraged to wear their masks for personal protection and to protect others, especially in crowded areas.

Safe Distancing [Updated]:

- Safe distancing will no longer be required between individuals or between groups, regardless of settings.

Group Size Limits [Updated]:

- There will no longer be a group size limit.



Venue Capacity [Updated]:

- There will no longer be a capacity limit for events, i.e. events with >1,000 pax and that are masked will no longer be subjected to a capacity limit of 75%.

Class sizes [Updated]:

- Class size limits for all settings will be lifted. They will be subjected to the prevailing fire safety and capacity requirements of the room/venue.

On-course golfing [Updated]:

- Standard on-course golfing flights based on an 18-hole golf course capacity with normal intervals will be allowed. Shotgun formats will also be allowed.
- Mask wearing is optional. However, individuals are encouraged to wear their masks for personal protection and to protect others, especially in crowded areas.
- Safe distancing is no longer required.
- There will no longer be group size limits.

Driving Range and short game area (outdoor) [Updated]:

- Safe distancing is no longer required (adjacent bay usage is allowed for all driving ranges).
- There will no longer be group size limits.
- Mask wearing is optional. However, individuals are encouraged to wear their masks for personal protection and to protect others, especially in crowded areas.

Vaccination-Differentiated SMMs (VDS) for Indoor Sport Facilities and Sporting Events [Updated]:

- VDS is no longer required for sports facilities. These facilities do not need to implement checks on vaccination status.
- Sporting Events with:
 - ≤500 participants at any one time, irrespective of setting (indoors/outdoors, masked/unmasked), do not need to implement VDS or checks on vaccination status.
 - >500 participants at any one time will have to continue implementing VDS. Event organisers will need to implement checks on participants' vaccination status before they enter the venue.
- VDS Exemptions:
 - Individuals who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection, medically ineligible for COVID-19 vaccination and unvaccinated children aged 12 and below are exempted from VDS and can participate VDS activities similar to fully vaccinated individuals.
- Workforce Vaccination Measures (WVM):
 - In line with the removal of VDS, the Workforce Vaccination Measures (WVM) implemented by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will also be lifted. Nevertheless, employers will still be allowed the flexibility to continue imposing WVM. Please refer to MOM's website for further details.
- In line with the removal of group size, the Team Sport Formats under VDS for up to 30 fully vaccinated individuals at approved sport facilities such as ActiveSG and PA facilities, and SportSG approved private facilities, will be discontinued.



Sunsetting of TraceTogether (TT) and SafeEntry (SE) [Updated]:

- MOH will no longer collect and use TT/SE data and the public will not be required to upload TT data or submit their TT tokens. However, the TT/SE functionality will be maintained as a means of conducting VDS checks for the settings that still require it. The public is strongly encouraged to keep the TT application on their phones and/or hold on to their TT tokens, as a means of remaining resilient and retaining the capability to rapidly step-up contact tracing and VDS checks should these be needed, e.g., in the event of the next Variant of Concern.

Golf events and competitions [Updated]:

- Food & beverage can be supplied and consumed at all sporting events. When indoors, masks can only be removed when eating/drinking or performing strenuous activities.
- Mask-wearing will continue to be required for spectator sporting events held indoors. Masks can only be removed when consuming food and drinks. VDS will be implemented for events with >500 spectators.
- Sporting events that are organised within prevailing SMMs no longer need Sport Singapore's endorsement to proceed.
- Only events with SMM deviations, such as competitions beyond prevailing group size limits, will need to have an endorsement by Sport Singapore before they can be conducted. Organisers will have to submit an application to Sport Singapore at <https://www.sportsingapore.gov.sg/COVID19/Sport-Event-Applications> at least 14 days prior to the start of the event to give time for evaluation and discussion. Organisers are advised not to carry out related marketing/publicity efforts before receiving endorsement from Sport Singapore as the event may require modifications before it may proceed.
- At sporting events where public speaking is necessary, such as by the guest-of-honour or an event emcee, the speaker can be unmasked as long as he/she maintains a distance of at least 1-metre from the audience whilst speaking. The speaker will have to be masked after delivering his/her speech. To be clear, this provision does not apply to an instructor/coach/referee unmasking to give instructions.

Additional SMMs [Updated]:

In addition to the SMMs under the preceding paragraphs, other SMMs will continue to be in place, and should be complied with. These include, but are not limited to:

- Frequently disinfect common spaces/equipment and interactive components (e.g., shared exercise equipment, smart kiosks, turnstiles, changing benches, hooks for clothes, etc.). Operators are strongly encouraged to adopt good sanitation and hygiene practices to achieve the SG Clean quality mark.
- Refer to the latest guidance on improving ventilation and indoor air quality in buildings amid the COVID-19 situation, available at <https://go.gov.sg/bca-guidance-note-iaq-26sep> if they are operating indoor facilities.



- Place hand sanitisers in close proximity of the facility entrance and hightouch surfaces like door handles. Attendees should be encouraged to sanitise their hands before entering and upon leaving the facility.
- Ensure that instructors/coaches/participants do not shout while engaging in physical activities. This is because shouting increases the risk of transmission via droplets.
- Ventilate the room after each class ends.

COVID-19 Related Guidance on the Rules of Golf

The R&A has provided guidance on this matter and SGA has decided Committees and clubs may use any or all of the following options for the safety of golfers. It is a matter for each Committee and the discretion of the club to make it clear which of these Local Rules apply to play on the course, otherwise the Rules of Golf will continue to apply.

It should be noted that the purpose of the R&A guidance is not to make recommendations in relation to the playing of golf at this time.

SCORING IN STROKE PLAY (RULE 3.3B)

R&A Guidance:

In view of concerns around handling and exchanging scorecards, on a temporary basis, Committees may choose to allow methods of scoring in stroke play that do not strictly comply with Rule 3.3b, or do not comply with the normal methods used under Rule 3.3b.

For example:

- Players may enter their own hole scores on the scorecard (it is not necessary for a marker to do it).
- It is not necessary to have a marker physically certify the player's hole scores, but some form of verbal certification should take place.
- It is not necessary to physically return a scorecard to the Committee provided the Committee can accept the scores in another way.

SGA Position: *The current processes for score entry in through SGA CHS remains unchanged. However, should there be any, clubs may adopt the examples above.*

FLAGSTICKS

R&A Guidance:

Committees may choose to adopt the following policies on a temporary basis:

- Requiring that players to always leave the flagstick in the hole. It is a matter for the Committee to decide whether it establishes this policy by way of a Code of Conduct or Local Rule, and whether it provides a penalty under the Code of Conduct or for a breach of the Local Rule.



- Not have flagsticks at all.

SGA Position: *A Committee may adopt a Local Rule requiring players to always leave the flagstick in the hole.*

HOLE

R&A Guidance:

No modifications to the Definition of *Hole* are offered, but if a Committee chooses not to follow the requirements in the Definition of *Hole*, which may also have an impact on the Definition of “*Holed*”, the Committee should consult its national association for guidance on whether scores submitted in such circumstances are acceptable for handicapping purposes.

SGA Position: *To assist the golfer in retrieving the ball from the hole without touching the flagstick, cup implants may be inserted into the cup, to prevent the ball from dropping to the bottom of the cup. If the ball were to hit the implant and bounce out, the ball is deemed as “holed”. Scores submitted are acceptable for handicapping purpose.*

SGA Position on Hole-in-one

*While this COVID-19 Rule regarding the **Hole** is in effect, a “hole-in-one” will not be official (**prize cannot be won**) if the ball were to hit the cup implant and bounce out of the hole. However, it will still be deemed as holed for scoring or handicapping purposes only.”*

BUNKERS

R&A Guidance:

If rakes have been removed from the course, or if the Committee has requested that rakes not be used, it is recognized that bunkers may not be smoothed as well as when there are rakes on the course. But it is recommended that no modification is made to the Rules of Golf in such circumstances, and that players are requested to smooth bunkers using their feet or a club.

SGA Position: *The Committee may choose to adopt the following Local Rule relating to bunkers. The following Local Rule **will be acceptable** for handicapping purposes.*

MODEL LOCAL RULE FOR BUNKERS – DUE TO COVID-19

When a player’s ball lies in a bunker, the player may take free relief **once** by placing the original ball or another ball and playing from the relief area.

Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.

Size of the Relief Area: One club length but must not be closer to the hole and must remain in the bunker.

Please note that modifications are for **handicapping purposes only** and should not be used for formal competitions.

Singapore Golf Association