

1. Welcome Message to Golfers

As our staff and management prepared for the 2020 season, we have carefully watched the progress of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have monitored closely the recommendations and precautionary measures of the World Health Organization, Health Canada, the BC Centre for Disease Control and our provincial health officer. While we acknowledge that the absolute best practice is to stay home, given the nature of the sport of golf amidst wide open spaces, and with rigid protocols in place, the game can continue to be played, keeping both golfers and employees safe from the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. It must also be acknowledged that golf does offer health benefits that must not be overlooked. World Golf Foundation studies have shown that playing golf will result in improvements in life expectancy and quality of life, as well as physical and mental health.

The Fernie Golf Club is committed to the ongoing safety of golfers and our staff. As a result, several precautionary measures have been put in place to ensure that everyone will stay safe in and around the Fernie Golf Club. Safety will rely on the full cooperation of golfers and our team members from the time we arrive at the facility until the time we leave. We have implemented several safety measures including:

- ensuring team member health
- practicing physical distancing
- reducing the number of touch points & rigorous cleaning of remaining touch points
- training our team members on enhanced cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing procedures
- and requiring the cooperation of golfers through adherence to our policies and procedures.

A full list of the internal measures we have implemented can be found on our website golffernie.com and these measures are also posted at the golf course. While we do hope that our environment will return to normal soon, for now, this mode of operation will become the new normal for the not too distant future. These measures will be updated as the situation develops. We acknowledge that every golfer will make their own decision as to whether it is in their best interest to golf during these times or not. However, should you choose to join us, we will welcome you and require your full cooperation with regards to the measures that have been implemented for everyone's safety.

Stay safe while enjoying your round,

Max Sherwood

GM Fernie Golf Club

2. General Messaging to Golfers

It is understood that our protocols will be adjusted as we receive updates from our Provincial Health Officer.

If you have underlying medical conditions, it is recommended that you not visit our facility.

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 which primarily displays as a persistent cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath and fatigue will not be permitted on the course. So, if you do not feel well, please stay home, and, call the health line for direction.

If you have traveled outside of Canada, you are not permitted at our facility until you have self-isolated for a minimum of 14 days.

If you live in a household with someone who has COVID-19 or is showing symptoms of COVID-19, please do not come to our facility.

Do not carpool to come to the golf course unless you are from the same household.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES (minimum 2m/6ft apart) NO handshaking, NO hugging etc. from arrival until departure and will be enforced. Failure to observe physical distancing risks the closure of the facility, and as such, you will be asked to leave the premises and may be suspended from future play.

THE CLUBHOUSE, LOCKER ROOMS AND FOOD AND BEVERAGE FACILITIES, OTHER THAN TAKE AWAY ITEMS ARE CLOSED.

Washrooms on the premises are disinfected frequently. We have placed hand sanitizers at the following locations: outside the pro shop entrance, outside lower double doors, outside main clubhouse entrance doors, bottom of stairway and outside the entrance doors to both on course bathrooms. Please use the sanitizer before entering and after exiting.

Please bring your own sanitizer and use it each time you touch a foreign surface (Pro Shop door, washroom door, bathroom fixtures if you are not using the sanitizers provided).

Please bring your own water as we will not be providing any and will have no place for you to fill up your water bottles at this time.

We will not be providing, tees, pencils, water, coolers or sand bottles on the golf carts at this time.

Do not handle each other's golf balls, tees, ball markers etc.

Changes to League play will be communicated closer to the beginning of the season once it is determined what those changes will encompass.

3. Tee Time Policy

Tee times will be spaced further apart at 10 minutes to allow for less back up at the clubhouse and the maintenance of physical distancing for golfers teeing off.

Power carts are single rider only, unless shared with a member of the same household. Coolers and sand bottles have been removed. Note that all power carts and push carts are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after each use.

If possible, bring your own pull cart. Rental pull carts will be available and will be sanitized after each use.

Golfers without a pre-scheduled tee time are not permitted, they must arrange a reservation prior to arriving at the course.

Book online or by phone only. Drop-in golfers are not allowed.

4. Check-In Policy

Please do not arrive at the golf course any earlier than 30 minutes before your tee time. Avoid congregating in the parking lot (physical distancing).

During our peak times we will have an attendant in the parking lot checking that those arriving have a tee-time and have arrived within 30 minutes of their tee-time. For those who arrive early, they will be asked to remain in their cars or return later.

A bag drop station will be setup near the barbeque pit. Power carts and pull carts can be taken to the bag drop station via the paved path at the west end of the clubhouse. Power carts will not be permitted in the main parking area.

Change shoes in the parking lot, clubhouse locker rooms are closed.

Bag services, club storage and club cleaning will not be provided to eliminate touch points where the virus might be transmitted. Be prepared to carry your own bag and, when required, placing it on a pull cart or power cart. A credit will be issued for those who have prepaid for club storage and locker.

Check-in at the pro shop window to let the staff know you have arrived. It is not necessary to come into the pro shop to check-in.

In the case of a frost delay, you will be asked to remain in your vehicle or return to the facility no more than 30 minutes before your tee time.

Two customers at a time will be permitted in the pro shop. We encourage you to touch as few items as possible. Should you wish to try something on and decide not to purchase it we will place it in a closed room for 48 hours before bringing it back onto the rack.

If you need to purchase something prior to your round be prepared to pay by debit or credit card. Cash will be accepted.

PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING ALWAYS (minimum 2m/6ft apart), from greetings upon arrival, in and around practice areas, the tee, putting greens, and at conclusion of the round.

5. Practice Facility Policy

The driving range will only be open for those who have a tee time and not more than 30 minutes before the tee time. Practice balls will be pre-loaded on the trays. Only hitting from the matts is allowed. Do not handle the range balls, pull them onto the matt with the clubhead. Teeing the balls is not allowed.

The range balls will be washed and sanitized after each pick.

As per the BC Centre for Disease Control, the hitting stalls will be spaced a minimum separation of 2m/6ft between them.

The practice greens can only be used by the golfing group considered to be “on deck”. This will limit the number of players at any one time to 4.

Please use your own balls on the practice greens.

6. On-Course Measures

Physical distancing a minimum of 2 meters is mandatory throughout the round.

Ball washers will not be available at this time, so please carry a bottle of water and towel accordingly.

Bunker rakes will not be available, please smooth sand with your foot or the club after your shot. A local rule will allow you to place ball within the bunker should you need relief. A local rule also allows you to remove the ball from the bunker and hit from the nearest point of relief for a one stroke penalty.

Sand/seed containers will not be provided, please repair divots as best you can.

Cups will be filled with a foam roller at a depth that will allow the ball to enter and stay in the hole. The ball can be easily removed using the toe of the putter.

Golfers are encouraged to award gimmes up to 2ft. Continuous putting is also recommended.

The flagstick is always to remain in so please refrain from touching the flagstick.

On course drinking water will not be available. Please ensure you have enough refreshments to keep hydrated.

Garbage cans will be available on the golf course with the spacing of one every few holes.

If in an unlikely event, a group needs to play through, then all players must abide by the physical distancing protocol of a minimum of 2m/6ft.

Should you be required to leave the course during your round due to lightning please go immediately to your car and remain inside until you have been instructed that you can return to your round.

7. After Round Policy

Please return your power cart to the designated cart drop off area.

Garbage and Recycling bins will be available in the designated cart drop off area, however, please consider taking it home with you to minimize potential exposure.

Please COMPLETELY empty your cart of all personal belongings and GARBAGE.

Compressed air for shoe cleaning will not be available.

The scoring handicap computer will not be available for score entry. Please do so from your home computer or smart phone.

Following play exit the course as promptly as possible and avoid excess socializing in the parking lot after your round.

8. Golfer Adherence

All safety policies will be enforced and anyone not in compliance with these policies will be asked to leave the premises and may be suspended from future play.