



# VCJGA SPECTATOR POLICY Handbook

**WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP...**

**VCJGA**  
VISIT: [VCJGA.ORG](http://VCJGA.ORG)

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## Welcome

We are happy your junior is wants to progress as a player!

Please take the time to review the following information. It can only help both the player and the parent/guardian.

## Spectator Code of Conduct Policy

Spectating is a privilege on the VCJGA Tour, not a right. We require that all spectators (including parent/guardian) adhere to the **Spectator Code of Conduct Policy**. This policy is vitally important to the players, volunteers, staff and our partners.

The bottom line about spectator behavior is that it could determine the outcome of the tournament. Spectator conduct not only has rules of golf implications, it can also tarnish the credibility of the competition. Here is the Policy:

### PLAYERS PLAY - SPECTATORS SPECTATE - RULES OFFICIAL OFFICIATE

Parents and spectators are extremely important to the VCJGA; however, it is up to the hosting golf facility as to whether parents and spectators are permitted on the golf course and whether or not to charge a spectator fee. Spectating in golf may appear different than other sports such as little league, however; we expect spectators to give all players as much space as possible so that they may go about their business without distractions. **PLEASE DO NOT GET INVOLVED WITH THE COMPETITION.**

Spectators **MUST** always register in the Golf Shop prior to going on the course. *Golf Carts will be available for rent at some facilities that allow cart rentals.*

1. Spectators may walk or if permitted ride the course and should stay one shot ahead of the group they are following. This allows spectators to follow errant shots and help identify where the ball comes to rest. Spectators are allowed to aid in the search for lost golf balls using care not to improve the lie of the ball. Once ball is found and identified by the player, spectators need to return to the cart path. Spectators must **KEEP OFF** **closely mown areas: tees, fairways and greens** - Stay on cart paths. In the absence of cart paths, we ask that spectators stay in the rough away from players.

- Remember to keep proper distance/space from all players (50 yards or more is recommended).
- **Spectators cannot walk with players** during tournament play and should make every effort to not disturb ANY of the players OR get involved in tournament play.
- Keep in mind that in many situations on certain parts of the course, a spectator may not be able to see the shot played nor are they entitled to see every shot played.

2. Spectators as a rule should NOT speak to players. A parent may speak with their child regarding #4 below.

3. Spectators **MUST RESPECT** all RULES SITUATIONS and NOT to give rulings on the Rules of Golf. You will be brought into a situation only if the Rules Official asks you. If you have a question or information, it should be done away from competitors and in a calm manner.

**USGA Rule 6-1:** The *Player* is responsible for knowing the *Rules*. If the Rules Officials need to change their focus from the players to the spectators, you may be asked to leave the golf course immediately.

4. Spectators are allowed to carry medicine, drinks/snacks for players (not equipment - Do not caddy, handle or go through a player's equipment/bag/hand cart).

5. **Absolutely no alcohol or smoking when spectating.**

**The VCJGA may assess a penalty to the player based on the severity of the spectator violation.** Continuous conversations with player(s) are not appropriate. If a serious breach has occurred, the spectator, without warning, may be asked to leave the golf course, the facility, or the spectator may not be permitted to attend other VCJGA tournaments.

Please note that parents/guardians and spectators agree to let participants compete without giving any advice or counsel during the stipulated round (review USGA Rule 10.2) knowing that a violation may cause a two-stroke penalty against their participant without warning.

For your personal safety, we ask you exercise caution at all times. Golf balls can come from any direction at any time, strike and injure you.

When inclement weather moves into the area, the VCJGA will suspend play by sounding air-horns. Accordingly, you should seek shelter immediately. The VCJGA and Volunteers will assist evacuating players from the course. Spectators must be aware and move to safety on their own.

### SPORTSMANSHIP – PURSUING VICTORY WITH HONOR

## Spectator Cart Policy

Spectator Carts will be allowed at all tournament facilities that allow cart rental and have the cart capacity to serve our spectator cart needs. Some facilities may restrict the number of carts available or not allow spectator carts to be used.

#### **PROCEDURE to Request a Cart:**

1. Upon arrival check-in with the Golf Shop and pay the cart fee. Carts are given out in a first come first serve bases and at the golf shops consent. Some golf facilities might not allow spectator carts. Please check the tournament information page.
2. The Tournament committee, golf course staff, or any tour official reserves the right to remove a spectator or the right to use a cart at any time during an event if a spectator is not following the Spectator Rules.

- The Spectator shall operate the cart in a safe manner, in observance of golf etiquette, following course operation policy and without any unnecessary interference with tournament play.
- The Spectator shall keep the cart on the path and be aware that the players in the group behind may be waiting for them to clear the area.
- The Spectator may not shuttle competitors at any time.
- The Spectator needs to keep open space for Rules Officials to move around the course.

**This privilege may only be used at courses that allow spectators on the course and the Spectator is responsible for the course's cart fee.**

*\*The VCJGA is not responsible for a course with a policy that does not permit any spectator carts\**

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