

Caddie Tips and Guidelines

Caddies are a valuable and important part of the Kentucky PGA Junior Tour Programs. The caddie experience is designed to help golfers in the 9-Hole and 6-Hole Divisions learn more about proper procedures and etiquette while participating in tournament golf. A meal will be available for the players from the host facility, and that meal may be available before or after play depending on the scheduled start time. To assist caddies with their role during the event, here's some helpful information about each part of the day.

Before the Round

- Arrive at the golf course about 30-60 minutes before your player's tee time, depending on how long he or she needs to warm up. Range ball should be available on the range at most events.
- Find the Player Registration area and check-in with the Tour staff (blue tent likely visible from parking lot area). Players receive their Welcome Gift Suite when playing in their first event.
- Spectators may visit the Pro Shop to rent carts (if available).
- Prepare for a day in the sun with sunscreen and remain properly hydrated on the course (drinks are provided on course for the players).
- Put some tees, a golf ball, a divot repair tool, a pencil, and a coin or ball marker in your pocket.
- After the player warms up on the driving range and practice putting green, arrive at the starting tee at least 10 minutes before the player's tee time. The player's starting hole will be indicated on the list of tee times.

During the Round

- Carry your player's bag or push their cart and enjoy your time walking with them.
- Get to know all of the players and caddies in your group.
- You may help players look for their golf ball, determine distance to the hole, rake bunkers, fix divots in fairways, repair ball marks on greens, and remove/replace the flagstick on the green.
- After every hole, write down the scores of your player (marker line on scorecard) and the score of the fellow-competitor assigned to your player (on correct hole next to their name).
- Help your player with making strategies and decisions in a timely manner.
- Encourage your player after both good and bad shots, and make sure he/she is having fun.
- Maintain an appropriate pace of play consisting of no more than 40 seconds to hit a shot (including consulting with caddie), and no more than 12 minutes on Par 3s, 15 minutes on Par 4s, and 18 minutes on Par 5s. Searches for lost balls are included in that timing.
- Encourage players to play "Ready Golf" meaning they can hit when it is safe for them to do so even if they are not the farthest from the hole. Walk toward your player's ball with a purpose to arrive as soon as possible and prepare to make the next stroke from that location.

After the Round

- Immediately go to the scoring area with the other player(s) in your group.
- Check your scorecard and verify that each hole-by-hole scores is correct.
- Only the players are allowed in the scoring area, so properly listing hole-by-hole scores on the competitor score line and marker line (own player's score) will greatly assist that process.
- The players will sign two scorecards in the scoring area: his/her official scorecard, and the scorecard he/she kept for another player in the group.
- Results will be posted on scoring monitors located near the scoring area at each event.
- Talk with other players and parents while you wait for the Awards Ceremony to begin.
- The Awards Ceremony for each division will be held after all players from the age group have completed play.

In conclusion, caddies should focus on being positive while keeping up with the group in front of them. Players should always see the group in front of them on the hole being played as they reach the teeing ground... especially on the Par 3s. More information about Caddies can be found in the Kentucky PGA Junior Tour Handbook available under the Junior Golf tab at kygolf.org. Additional USGA Caddie Related Rules are listed for your convenience on the next page.

USGA Caddie-Related Rules

A rules violation by a caddie is the same as a rules violation by a player. A caddie must be aware of the rules and assist his or her player in accordance with the rules. Rules officials are in place throughout the course to help players when needed. Here are some examples of what NOT to do to avoid penalties to the player:

- **Do NOT stand directly behind the line of the player's shot.** Rule 14-2b states that in "making a stroke," a player shall not allow his caddie to position himself on or close to an extension of the line of play or the line of putt behind the ball. A caddie may position himself in this manner before the player commits to beginning his swing but must move away once the player is set to begin his swing. Failure to do so could result in a two-stroke penalty.
- **Do NOT touch the putting green when showing the line of a putt while on the green.** Rule 8-2b states that when a player's ball is on the putting green, the player or his caddie may before, but not during, the stroke, point out a line for putting, but in doing so the putting green shall not be touched. No mark shall be placed anywhere to indicate a line for putting. Violation of this rule will result in a two-stroke penalty.
- **Do NOT let the flagstick strike the ball for a shot made from the putting green.** Rule 17-3 states that the player's ball shall not strike the flagstick or attendant when the flagstick is attended or the flagstick is in the hole, unattended, or when the ball has been played from the putting green. Should this occur, the player is assessed a two-stroke penalty, and the ball is played as it lies.
- **Do NOT have more than one caddie at a time.** Rule 8-1 states that a Caddie is one who carries or handles a player's clubs during play and otherwise assists him in accordance with the rules. A player may only have one caddie at any given time. A caddie may be replaced or eliminated at any time by the player. No other person may offer advice or help to a player other than his caddie. This includes any spectators who are not allowed to give advice to the players or caddies.

Caddies unfamiliar with the Rules of Golf can still be a positive influence on the players by maintaining pace of play and giving positive reinforcement. Caddie badges are provided on the starting tee which must be visibly displayed when serving in the caddie role. Additionally, a Kentucky PGA Junior Tour Caddie bib may be purchased and worn to further enhance the Tour experience. If you have any additional questions, please ask a Tour staff member or Rules Official at one of our events. Thank you for supporting the Kentucky PGA Junior Tour!