

IBGA COMPETITION GUIDANCE

[updated November 2018]

WHAT TO DO	WHAT NOT TO DO
DO be familiar with the Rules of Golf, Modifications, Local Rules of the course and Competition Rules.	DO NOT forget to have a copy of the Rules in your golf bag.
DO arrive at the tee at least 5 minutes before your start time and exchange scorecards with your playing partner(s).	DO NOT arrive late to start. You may be penalised or even disqualified.
DO have a unique identifying mark on any golf ball you use in the round and show the golf ball with identification mark to your playing partner(s) and marker.	DO NOT rely on the make and number of the ball alone as its identification.
DO make sure that the Local Rules allow the use of smartphones on the course.	DO NOT use a smartphone or similar device to measure wind direction, temperature etc.. Possible penalty - Disqualification.
DO allow Coaches/Guides to use Laser DMDs.	DO NOT use any optical devices including Laser DMDs if you are a player. Possible penalty - Disqualification
DO allow only Coaches/Guides to drive a buggy.	DO NOT drive a buggy if you are a player. Possible penalty - Disqualification
DO ensure the Rules of Golf are strictly followed.	DO NOT agree to waive a rule. Possible penalty - Disqualification
DO use only recognised golf equipment to help alignment and remove the equipment prior to the stroke.	DO NOT use a rod or white stick for alignment.
DO remember to be courteous to your playing partners at all times.	DO NOT speak or make any noise that may disturb a player making a stroke. Coaches/Guides should make players aware that a stroke is being made.
DO ensure the player alone swings the club.	DO NOT allow the Coach/Guide to help by touching the club during the stroke.

DO play a provisional ball if you think your first ball has gone out of bounds or may be lost outside a water hazard.	DO NOT forget to inform your playing partner(s) that it is a provisional ball you are going to play and to announce the make, number and identifying mark on the ball.
DO keep up with the game in front and not just stay ahead of the game behind.	DO NOT hesitate to let the game behind through if you have lost a ball or lost a hole on the match in front and those behind are waiting to play.
DO take a practice swing far enough away from where the ball lies so that it does not disturb the ball or improve the line of swing.	DO NOT forget to replace a ball if it moves as the result of a practice swing.
DO have the player drop the ball (with guidance if needed) with an outstretched arm at shoulder height.	DO NOT have the Coach/Guide drop the ball.
DO ground the club in a hazard preparatory to the stroke if you wish.	DO NOT touch the surface of a hazard with a practice stroke.
DO play the ball as it lies unless permitted otherwise by the Rules.	DO NOT take a preferred lie or free drop unless it is permitted by the rules, local rules or competition rules.
DO ensure your guide is not indicating the line of putt while the stroke is played.	DO NOT touch or tap the hole or allow your Coach/Guide to do so even though rattling the flagstick is permitted.
DO count all shots and penalties on each hole	DO NOT forget to count air shots (missed balls).
DO agree and record the scores for each hole at the next tee.	DO NOT discuss the score on the green and hold up the match behind.
DO check that the correct gross score for each hole is properly recorded on the scorecard.	DO NOT forget to sign the scorecard and ensure it has your correct handicap on it.
DO complete and sign your card promptly after completion of the round.	DO NOT forget to hand in the card signed by you and your Marker as soon as possible.