



## MINNESOTA PGA JUNIOR GOLF 'SOTA SERIES SPECTATOR GUIDELINES

The Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series encourages spectators and parents to attend events and requires spectators and parents attending to conduct themselves appropriately at all times.

***Spectating is a privilege, not a right.***

We encourage spectators and parents to remain a reasonable distance from players throughout the round. Parents/spectators ***may not*** interact with participants and should remain at least 25 yards away from the competitors they are following. Staying on the cart path, when applicable, is encouraged. Spectators and parents should not interfere with any group advancing from behind, nor should they converse with any competitor besides from encouragement and congratulatory comments.

Parents/spectators CAN do the following:

- Walk only on the cart paths (walk in the rough when cart paths are not available)
- Turn cellular phones on silent or vibrate while on the golf course
- Forecaddie and help your child and other players search for a golf ball
- We recommend that all spectators/parents stay with the group or one shot ahead of the group they are watching. If you are walking behind the group you are holding up the group behind them and might get hit into.

The following actions are UNACCEPTABLE from a parent/spectator:

- Verbally abusing or belittling players for any reason
- Yelling and/or cursing at players/officials/golf course staff
- Hand signals/gestures (These are considered advice!)
- Interfering with players/officials/golf course staff while in the scoring area
- Giving rulings to juniors on the golf course (too often the information is incorrect)
- Spectators are not allowed to rake bunkers for players. Only caddies and players may rake the bunkers.
- Interfering with any player's opportunity to compete fairly and fun while playing the game of golf

**\* Please note that all spectators can assist in a search for lost golf balls, if NO advice is given. Spectators are also permitted to carry food, beverages, umbrellas, etc., and seek the help of MN PGA Junior Golf Rules Officials.**

Interaction with competitors will be considered the giving of advice (Rule 8-1) and could result in penalty and/or disqualification for the competitor. The MN PGA Junior Golf 'Sota series reserved the right to ban any spectator or spectators from one or more events.

The "little league mentality" that has made its way into this game will not be tolerated. Allowing spectators at Minnesota PGA Junior Golf 'Sota Series events is a privilege. We do not want to ban parents/spectators from our events but will if this is what it takes to make the experience more enjoyable for all. Failure to abide by the above guidelines will result in loss of privileges.

Many of you do a great job of following our parent/spectator policy and we thank you for doing this. We hope ALL of you will assist us in emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship, integrity, camaraderie, and most of all FUN while attending our events.