

MGA GUIDELINES FOR MOBILITY IMPAIRED SPECTATORS AT MGA EVENTS

The MGA offers a number of accommodations to allow guests with mobility impairments the opportunity to watch our events. For the purposes of these guidelines, an “individual with a mobility impairment” means any person who is subject to any physical impairment or condition regardless of its cause, nature or extent that makes it difficult or impossible for a person to move about without the aid of crutches, a wheelchair or any other form of support, or that limits the person’s functional ability to ambulate, climb, descend, sit, or rise, or to perform any related function.

1. Individuals with mobility impairments that utilize a wheelchair may move through the course on their wheelchair in any area opened to pedestrian use by other spectators. Individuals with mobility impairments who require some form of motorized transport other than a wheelchair will generally be permitted to move through the course on whatever form of transport they regularly use if they have brought their motorized transportation device (“Device”) with them, unless it has been determined by an MGA staff member, the Official in Charge (“OIC”) or by a senior club official (“Host Club Official”) that a particular Device would present a hazard to other spectators, players, caddies, or course officials or would damage the golf course. Examples of permitted Devices regularly used as a mobility aid by an individual with mobility impairment include a single rider cart (or scooter), which is a four-wheeled, stabilized, battery-powered personal transportation device operated in a fully-seated position, or a single rider device that is operated in a standing or semi-standing position. The Devices may be operated within the tournament site in any areas open to pedestrian use by other spectators, unless the individual has been advised in advance that topography or course conditions in certain areas are not conducive to the use of Devices. The Device, whether brought by the spectator or provided on the course, must be operated in a manner that does not compromise the safety of the user, other attendees, spectators, players, caddies, or course officials or damage the golf course.

2. Individuals with mobility impairments who are unable to transport themselves on their own through their own wheelchair or Device can upon request be brought to a viewing area on the course. The number of viewing areas available will depend on the course set up, availability of transport, course topography and other conditions. It is not generally the intention of these guidelines to provide those who have not brought their own wheelchair or Device with hole-by-hole viewing of any individual player or players.

3. Although, there is no requirement under the Americans With Disabilities Act that the MGA provide mobility impaired spectators with a personalized mobility device, or with personalized services, the MGA, with at least fourteen days’ (14) advance notice, will seek to arrange for the host club at an MGA event to provide individuals with mobility impairments with the use of a full-size golf cart where the host club has carts available and is willing to accommodate the request. At the discretion of the host club, a full cart fee may be charged. Requests should be submitted to the MGA office via email (see form below) no later than two weeks prior to the event in question. While it is the policy of MGA to take a flexible approach, no assurance can be made that carts will be available from the host club at the tournament to mobility-impaired spectators who have failed to reserve the use of a cart in advance pursuant to this procedure. Mobility impaired spectators granted the use of a host club’s full-size golf cart in the host club’s discretion may operate the cart under the following guidelines.

- The cart must be operated in a manner that does not compromise the safety of the user, other attendees, spectators, players, caddies, or course officials or damage the golf course.
- The MGA and the host club shall not be responsible or liable for the actions of any individuals, including spectators, or for any individual’s failure to properly use a golf cart, or to maintain his or her use on safe topography.

- All cart rules specific to the host club on any given day must be abided by, which could include cart path only, fairways only, rough only, and avoiding native grasses.
- No golf equipment may be carried by the spectator or their cart. However, the transport of extra clothing, an umbrella, food and drink would be permitted.
- Carts may only move forward on the golf course (from tee to green) except in the case of a weather evacuation.
- Carts must not move while competitors in any group are playing a stroke.
- Only the person who is granted the use of the cart is permitted to operate and ride in the cart.
- The cart will not be used for the shuttling of players unless stated on the Notice to Players (Local Rules Sheet)
- At all times, any MGA staff member, OIC or senior club official reserves the right to temporarily prohibit the use of the golf cart for safety or other legitimate reasons.

4. In the event any MGA staff member, OIC or senior club official observes the unsafe operation of a Device or golf cart, or interference, interruption or undue delay of play as a result of using the Device or golf cart, these individuals shall remind the user of their responsibility for the safe operation of the Device or golf cart. Should an individual using a Device or golf cart continue to operate it in an unsafe manner or otherwise interfere with, interrupt or unduly delay play, at the direction of an MGA staff member, the OIC or senior club official the user shall be asked to remove the Device or golf cart from the course (including the forfeiture of the cart fee), but may be allowed to return to the course without the assistance of the Device or golf cart.