TDGA COVID-19 Update March 26, 2020, 08:20 AM

Good Morning,

There are anecdotal reports coming in from around the state that some local Health Departments are requiring Golf Operations to close. Although some departments are willing to consider your position, others are not as they lump our Golf Courses into the term "Country Club" within section 3 of the Stay at Home Order.

In conference calls we’ve participated in this week, we have been told that Golf Courses, as opposed to Country Clubs, fall under Section 5.c. as an approved outdoor activity and for safety and security reasons skeleton staffs are in place.

The term “Country Club” refers to much more than golf, it includes social, dining, gathering, perhaps swimming and tennis activities, all of which are prohibited under the Stay at Home order. However, walking on a golf course should be viewed pretty much the same as walking in a park.

You should be prepared to justify ongoing operations. You should proactively create documentation justifying your position under the Stay at Home order, Section 5 Part c:

“For Outdoor Activity. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements, as defined below, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. However, public access playgrounds may increase spread of COVID-19, and therefore shall be closed.”

Additionally, maintenance for golf courses can proceed under Section 12, Part K as they are providing services necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of an Essential Activity as previously outlined (Section 5, Part C).

You can cite these paragraphs for justification. Sound planning would include documenting the steps your organization has taken to ensure your ongoing operation has taken to insure you meet state requirements.

Sincerely,

The Toledo District Golf Association