

Welcome to the Special Olympics Fall North Carolina Fall Tournament! This document is designed to help Caddies:

1. Have a better understanding of Special Olympics North Carolina Golf
2. Have a better understanding on the role as a Caddie
3. Provide a review of hints and issues

Your role as a caddie is very important. It is the same as caddies on the PGA and LPGA Tours. The USGA defines a Caddie as one who assists the player in accordance with the rules, which may include carrying or handling the player's clubs during play. **For complete USGA caddie rules refer to USGA Rules of Golf section 10.**

### **Be sure to have:**

1. Clean towel
2. Pencils
3. Extra Tees
4. Sun Screen
5. Bottle of Water
6. Divot Tool

### **Rules to know:**

SONC golf competition abides by USGA rules except modifications are noted in the [SOI official golf rules](#) and [SONC golf modifications](#). As a caddie you are responsible for being knowledgeable for these rules and act as a resource for your athlete. If you have a question about the rules you may ask a rules official or contact the competition manager.

Note: Know and use the 10x maximum score rule

- The 10x rule states that if an athlete has yet to hole the ball by after 10 strokes then they must pick the ball up and record the score as 10x

### **Caddie Reminders**

1. Assist only your athlete:
  - a. On how to play shots
  - b. Keep scores as a marker for a fellow competitor and your athlete
  - c. Ensure athletes are teeing off from the correct tees
  - d. Knowing the local rules and when/how to contact a Rules Official
2. Role: Assist in playing shots:

**DO's:**

  - Provide yardage
  - Help in club selection
  - Assist in aiming shots
  - Align players
  - Advise on strategy

- Read putts
- Tend the flag stick

**Don'ts:**

- Stand directly behind your player during a stroke
- Touch the putting green on the line of a put
- Intentionally place your feet as a directional target for players while putting
- Give direction on how to hold the club
- Give direction on how to stand/swing the club

3. Assist Athletes in Keeping Score:

- Every athlete is also a Marker. According to the USGA, a Marker is one who is appointed to record a competitor's score in stroke play. Caddies may assist athletes in recording their competitor's scores.

4. At the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee:

- Exchange score cards with the group assigned with.
  - If not assigned with another athlete, a marker will be assigned.
- Know your Marker and who you are keeping score for
- Initiate efforts to keep your own score

5. At the end of every hole:

- Verbally agree to all scores with each athlete
- Carefully record scores on the official scorecard
- Settle questions before moving on to the next hole. Call for a rules official if needed.
  - If a rules official is not present at the next hole contact the competition manager, Matt Spear at (704) 301-0524

6. At the end of the round, caddies assist to make sure:

- Players and Markers work together to confirm accuracy of scores
- Compare scorecards to ensure accuracy
- Scorecards are turned in to the scoring tent and signed off by each athlete

7. Other reminders

- Help with pace of player. Please keep your player moving. Be ready and walk ahead of your player to keep them moving.
- Caddies should lead in course care, such as replacing divots, raking bunkers, etc.
- Know what type of golf ball your player is using and mark them prior to the round beginning.
- You can advise players on basic rulings, but whenever you have a question contact the rules official or the competition manager.

Common issues to watch for:

1. Mixing up scores between Players and Markers.
2. Accidentally recording a 9-hole total in place of a score for a hole
3. Not recording a score for a hole
4. Not having 2 signatures
5. Not turning in a scorecard – report straight to the scoring tent to submit scorecard at end of round