



**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. 2020-15c**

**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF  
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING REQUIRED BEST  
PRACTICES FOR TENNIS, PICKLEBALL AND GOLF**

**(PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE)**

**DATE OF DIRECTIVE: October 27, 2020**

By this Directive, the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the “Health Officer”) issues industry-specific direction that people engaged in outdoor tennis, pickleball or golf (up to a foursome) must follow as part of the local response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic. This Directive constitutes industry-specific guidance as provided under Sections 4 and 11 of Health Officer Order No. C19-07I issued on October 27, 2020 (the “Stay-Safer-At-Home Order”) and, unless otherwise defined below, initially capitalized terms used in this Directive have the same meaning given them in that order. This Directive goes into effect immediately upon issuance and remains in effect until suspended, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer. This Directive has support in the bases and justifications set forth in the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. As further provided below, this Directive automatically incorporates any revisions to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order or other future orders issued by the Health Officer that supersede that order or reference this Directive. This Directive is intended to promote best practices as to Social Distancing Requirements and sanitation measures, helping prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and safeguard the health of workers, customers, and the community.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE  
SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER DIRECTS AS  
FOLLOWS:**

- 1. This Directive applies to:**
  - a) All people engaged in tennis, pickleball or golf (“Players”) in the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”); and**
  - b) All owners, operators, managers, and supervisors of any public or private tennis, pickleball or golf facility in the City that are Outdoor Businesses permitted to be open to the public under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order (the “Facility”).**
- 2. Attached as Exhibit A to this Directive is a list of best practices that apply to Players and Facilities (the “Best Practices”). Each Player and Facility must comply with all of the relevant requirements listed in the Best Practices.**
- 3. Each Facility must, before it begins to offer tennis, pickleball or golf services, create, adopt, and implement a written health and safety plan (a “Health and Safety Plan”). The Health and Safety Plan must be substantially in the form attached to this Directive as Exhibit B.**
- 4. If an aspect, service, act or operation of a Facility or Player is also covered by another Health Officer directive (all of which are available at [www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives)), then the Facility or Player must comply with all applicable directives, and must complete all relevant Health and Safety Plan forms.**



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5. Each Facility must (a) make the Health and Safety Plan available to a member of the public and Personnel on request, (b) provide a summary of the plan to all Personnel working on site or otherwise in the City in relation to its operations, and (c) post the plan online at any storefront and at the entrance to any other physical location that the Facility operates within the City. Also, each Facility must provide a copy of the Health and Safety Plan and evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing this Order upon demand.
6. Each Facility subject to this Directive may be required to provide items such as Face Coverings (as provided in Health Officer Order No. C19-12c issued on July 22, 2020 and any future amendment to that order), hand sanitizer or handwashing stations, or both, and disinfectant and related supplies to Personnel and/or to the public, all as required by the Best Practices. If any such Facility is unable to provide these required items or otherwise fails to comply with required Best Practices or fails to abide by its Health and Safety Plan, then it must cease operating until it can fully comply and demonstrate its strict compliance. Further, as to any non-compliant operation, any such Facility is subject to immediate closure and the fines and other legal remedies described below, as a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
7. For purposes of this Directive, “Personnel” includes all of the following people who provide goods or services associated with a Facility: employees; contractors and sub-contractors (such as those who sell goods or perform services onsite or who deliver goods for the business); independent contractors; vendors who are permitted to sell goods onsite; volunteers; and other individuals who regularly provide services onsite at the request of the Facility. “Personnel” includes “gig workers” who perform work via the business’s app or other online interface, if any.
8. This Directive may be revised by the Health Officer, through revision of this Directive or another future directive or order, as conditions relating to COVID-19 require, in the discretion of the Health Officer. All Players and Facilities must stay updated regarding any changes to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and this Directive by checking the Department of Public Health website ([www.sfdph.org/healthorders](http://www.sfdph.org/healthorders); [www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives)) regularly.
9. Implementation of this Directive augments—but does not limit—the obligations of each Facility under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order including, but not limited to, the obligation to prepare, post, and implement a Social Distancing Protocol under Section 4.d and Appendix A of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Each Facility must follow this industry-specific guidance and update all guidance or other requirements as necessary for the duration of this Directive, including, without limitation, as this Directive is amended or extended in writing by the Health Officer and consistent with any extension of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, any other order that supersedes that order, and any Health Officer order that references this Directive.

**This Directive is issued in furtherance of the purposes of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Where a conflict exists between this Directive and any state, local, or federal public health order related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, without limitation, the Social Distancing Protocol, the most restrictive provision controls unless otherwise specifically provided. Failure to carry out this Directive is a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home**



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**Order, constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.**

*Tomás Aragón*

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Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH,  
Health Officer of the  
City and County of San Francisco

Date: October 27, 2020



**Exhibit A to Health Officer Directive No. 2020-15c (issued 10/27/20)**

**Best Practices for Tennis, Pickleball and Golf**

**In addition to preparing, posting, and implementing the Social Distancing Protocol required by Section 4 of Health Officer Order No. C19-071 (the “Stay-Safer-At-Home Order”), each Facility that operates in the City must comply with each requirement listed below and prepare a Health and Safety Plan substantially in the format of Exhibit B, below.**

**Requirements:**

**1. Section 1 – Facility Requirements:**

- 1.1.** Ensure that the following aspects of Facility premises are shut down and not accessible by Players or the public: clubhouses, restaurants, bars, dining areas, seating or lounge areas, common areas not required to reach outdoor facilities, fitness facilities, shower facilities, locker areas, and retail space, unless specifically allowed under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and any directives or guidance issued by the Health Officer.
- 1.2.** Without limiting Section 2.7, if an aspect of Facility premises is allowed to operate under another directive (for example, a pro-shop or retail space may or may not currently qualify as Retail Business with Curbside Pickup, which is covered by Directive No. 2020-10b), then the Facility must comply with all applicable directives, and its Health and Safety Plan must include all applicable components from those directives. Copies of other directives are available online at <https://www.sfdph.org/directives>.

**2. Section 2 – General Sanitation Exemptions for Public Facilities:**

- 2.1.** Private Facilities are required to implement all applicable sanitation requirements of the Social Distancing Protocol.
- 2.2.** Public Facilities are required to implement all applicable sanitation requirements of the Social Distancing Protocol with the following exceptions:
  - 2.2.1.** If it is not feasible for a public Facility to provide hand sanitizer or a handwashing station to Players in accordance the Social Distancing Protocol, public Facilities must require Players to bring their own hand sanitizer.
  - 2.2.2.** If it is not feasible for a public Facility to continuously disinfect shared or high-touch surfaces and devices as required by the Social Distancing Protocol, then the public Facility must post signage requiring Players to bring their own hand sanitizer to use after touching high-touch surfaces like gates.
  - 2.2.3.** Except with respect to bathrooms, public Facilities are not required to clean and decontaminate premises in accordance with Sections 3.11 and 3.13 of the Social Distancing Protocol, but are strongly encouraged to clean and disinfect premises to the maximum extent feasible.
  - 2.2.4.** Public Facilities are not required to clean and decontaminate premises in accordance with Section 3.17 of the Social Distancing Protocol, but are strongly encouraged to clean and disinfect premises to the maximum extent feasible.



**3. Section 3 – Requirements Specific to Golf Players and Golf Facilities:**

- 3.1.** Golf Players and Personnel must practice—and Facilities with on-site Personnel must enforce – all Social Distancing Requirements in accordance with the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and applicable directives, all Face Covering requirements as set forth in Health Officer Order No. C19-12c issued on July 22, 2020, and any future amendment to those orders or directives.
- 3.2.** Golf Facilities must conduct all business and transactions involving Players and members of the public in outdoor spaces in accordance with the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
- 3.3.** In Golf Facilities where restrooms are available on the course, Facilities must prohibit Players and other members of the public from using any indoor restroom facilities, such as those located in the clubhouse. For clarity, if no bathrooms are available on the course, indoor bathrooms may be made available to Players and the public. Personnel may use any bathrooms designated by the Facility.
- 3.4.** Groups must be limited to a maximum of four players per group, unless all players within the group are part of a single Household. Groups of players from different Households must comply with the State of California under its Stay-Safer-At Home Order.
- 3.5.** Golf Players must not share equipment with people outside of their Household or rent any equipment unless otherwise expressly allowed for equipment rental as an Additional Business under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and subject to all applicable requirements for sanitization between uses.
- 3.6.** Golf Cart Operations:
  - 3.6.1.** Carts must be limited to one rider and one bag;
  - 3.6.2.** Carts must be sanitized after each use; and
  - 3.6.3.** Hand carts must be sanitized after each use.
- 3.7.** Before the Golf Facility may open its course, all high-touch surfaces and equipment including, but not limited to, water stations, hand towels, ball washers, bunker rakes, scorecards and pencils, must be removed or made inaccessible from the range or course. To avoid contact with a high-touch surface, players must be prevented from reaching into cups for golf balls. Cups must be lifted above the putting surface to ensure there is no retrieval of balls from the cup. Flags may be removed or fixed in place at each hole. Cups may be filled or inverted so that the ball can come to a rest at the cup but also be retrieved easily without touching any surfaces.
- 3.8.** Where possible, designated paths of travel within Golf Facility premises must be clearly marked.
- 3.9.** Tournament style events or competitions are prohibited to the extent they require, encourage or result in groups of Golf Players from different Households arriving and congregating at the Facility at the same time. For example, tournaments that require or allow Golf Players to start or end play at or near the same time – such as a “shotgun” start – are not permitted. But a tournament that staggers start times from the first tee and otherwise complies with this Directive and all applicable State and local health orders is allowed. The Golf Facility must



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continue to ensure that different groups of Golf Players do not congregate at the Facility before, during or after the event, that there is no other mingling between those groups at the Facility, and that there are no scorekeepers, referees or other similar staff who interact in person with the groups as part of the management of the tournament. Spectators are prohibited during any tournament. Professional tournaments without spectators may be allowed with prior approval of the Health Officer. Group instruction or clinics are permitted to the extent they operate as Outdoor Fitness Classes under Section 9 of Appendix C-1 to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Similarly, Players who are attending summer camps for children are authorized to use Golf Facilities in accordance with this Directive to the extent the summer camp is allowed under a separate directive.

- 3.10.** No caddies, spectators, or persons other than Players unless all requirements for Small Outdoor Gatherings under Directive No. 2020-19d, including as that directive is updated or amended in the future, are met. A Golf Player who is a minor may be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian.
- 3.11.** Golf Players must bring plenty of water to drink as water fountains or drinking stations will be closed.
- 3.12.** Only Golf Players with a previously scheduled tee time may access Facility premises. Tee times must be scheduled 10 minutes or more apart. Groups are required to stay away from the starting tee off area until it is cleared by the group ahead of them. All Players must arrive at Facility premises no more than 30 minutes prior to their scheduled tee time and must leave immediately after completing their round.
- 3.13.** Golf Facilities must provide security or patrolling to ensure golfers' compliance with the requirements of this Directive.
- 3.14.** This Directive cannot anticipate every way to make golf safer for everyone in light of COVID-19. Facilities and Players are encouraged to make their sport safer by adding changes to their practices and procedures that are consistent with the intent of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and this Directive. Players and Facilities are also encouraged to implement guidance from athletic associations where applicable (For example, the USGA provides guidance for Players and Facilities here: <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/covid-19-resource-center.html>.) Nothing in this section allows a Golf Player or Facility to replace, supplement, or change any restriction in the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, this Directive, or any local, state, or federal health order or guidance related to COVID-19 with a less restrictive measure. For clarity, all Golf Players and Facilities must strictly implement every measure in this Directive and may only supplement new safety measures to the extent they are more restrictive (i.e., more protective of public health) than any local, state, or federal health order or guidance related to COVID-19.

#### **4. Section 4 – Requirements Specific to Tennis and Pickleball Players and Facilities:**

- 4.1.** Tennis and Pickleball Players must practice – and Facilities with onsite personnel must enforce – all social distancing requirements in accordance with the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and applicable directives, all Face Covering requirements as set forth in Health Officer Order No. C19-12c issued on July 22, 2020, and any future amendment to those orders or directives.



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- 4.2. Tennis and Pickleball Players may only use outdoor courts. Facilities must conduct all business and transactions involving Players and members of the public in outdoor spaces in accordance with the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
- 4.3. Singles tennis or pickleball may be played between members of different Households while maintaining Social Distancing Requirements at all times. Doubles tennis or pickleball may be played between members of different Households only if doubles team members are from the same Household and all players maintain Social Distancing Requirements at all times.
- 4.4. Tennis and Pickleball Players must bring plenty of water to drink as water fountains or drinking stations must be closed.
- 4.5. No equipment may be shared between players outside of their Household, including balls and rackets. Tennis and Pickleball Players should avoid switching sides of the court during play. Players switching sides of the court must maintain social distancing at all times.
- 4.6. Tournament style events or competitions are prohibited to the extent they require, encourage or result in groups of Tennis Players from different Households arriving and congregating at the Facility at the same time. For example, a tournament that requires Tennis Players to wait at the Facility to play in multiple matches on a single day is prohibited. But a tournament that staggers match start times to ensure Tennis Players and Personnel do not gather, mingle or congregate before or after matches and that otherwise complies with this Directive and all applicable State and local health orders is allowed. Spectators are prohibited at any tournament. Professional tournaments without spectators may be allowed with prior approval of the Health Officer. Group instruction or clinics are permitted to the extent they operate as Outdoor Fitness Classes under Section 9 of Appendix C-1 to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Similarly, Players who are attending summer camps for children are authorized to use Tennis or Pickleball Facilities in accordance with this Directive to the extent the summer camp is allowed under a separate directive.
- 4.7. Spectating or gathering is prohibited unless conducted in compliance with all Small Outdoor Gathering requirements under Health Officer Directive 2020-19d, including as that directive is updated or amended in the future. A Tennis or Pickleball Player who is a minor may be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian.
- 4.8. Rental of equipment is not permitted at this time unless otherwise expressly allowed for equipment rental as an Additional Business under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and subject to all applicable requirements for sanitization between uses.
- 4.9. Each Tennis and Pickleball Player must mark their balls with clear and unique markings. Accordingly, Players must use at least six balls (two cans) rather than three balls (one can).
- 4.10. Tennis and Pickleball Players will only serve and touch their own marked tennis balls. When another Player's ball needs to be returned to them, the Player must roll or hit the ball with a racket back to the other Player, without touching the ball in any way.
- 4.11. Tennis and Pickleball Players at private Facilities must have a reservation to play before arriving at Facility premises. Players must arrive no more than 10 minutes before the time expected to play and leave the facility immediate after play. No extra-curricular or social activity may take place.
- 4.12. Where possible, designated paths of travel within Facility premises must be clearly marked.





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- 4.13.** All court gates and entrances to Facility premises must be roped off (when closed) or left open (during hours of court operation) to prevent touching.
- 4.14.** All furniture in the Facility premises, such as benches and tables, must either (1) be conspicuously marked with an easily readable posting informing people that the furniture is a high touch surface and reminding people to follow all social distancing, masking, and sanitation requirements when using the furniture or (2) be made inaccessible by, for instance, being removed, covered, taped, or roped off to prevent congregating and touching. All water dispensers or water fountains must be made inaccessible by, for instance, being covered, taped, or roped off to prevent touching. Public Facilities are required to implement this section to the maximum extent feasible.
- 4.15.** Use of tennis ball machines is not allowed at this time. The Tennis Facility must make ball machines and other high touch equipment inaccessible for use by Players.
- 4.16.** This Directive cannot anticipate every way to make tennis and pickleball safer for everyone. Tennis Facilities and Players are encouraged to make their sport safer by adding changes to their practices and procedures that are consistent with the intent of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and this Directive. Players and Facilities are also encouraged to implement guidance from athletic associations where applicable (For example, the USTA provides guidance for Players and Facilities here: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/usta-covid-19-updates.html>.) Nothing in this paragraph allows a Player or Facility to replace, supplement, or change any restriction in the Stay-Safe-At -Home Order, this Directive, or any local, state, or federal health order or guidance related to COVID-19 with a less restrictive measure. For clarity, all Players and Facilities must strictly implement every measure in this Directive and may only supplement new safety measures to the extent they are more restrictive (i.e., more protective of public health) than any local, state, or federal health order or guidance related to COVID-19.





**Health Officer Directive No. 2020-15c (Exhibit B)**  
**Health and Safety Plan (issued 10/27/2020)**

Each Facility must complete, post onsite, and follow this Health and Safety Plan.

Check off all items below that apply and list other required information.

*Business/Entity name:*

*Contact name:*

*Facility Address:*

*Contact telephone:*

*(You may contact the person listed above with any questions or comments about this plan.)*

**For All Facilities**

- Business is familiar with and complies with all requirements set forth in Health Officer Directive No. 2020-15c, available at [www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives).
- Shut down clubhouses, restaurants, bars, dining areas, seating or lounge areas, common areas not required to reach outdoor facilities, fitness facilities, shower facilities, locker areas, and retail space.
- Make sure players do not share equipment with anyone outside of their Household. No equipment rental is permitted unless the Facility meets all the requirements for equipment rental under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
- Conduct all interactions with Players or other members of the public in outdoor spaces.
- Where possible, clearly mark designated paths of travel within the facility to help everyone maintain social distance.
- Require Players to bring plenty of their own water because fountains and drinking stations will be closed.
- No spectators or persons other than Players unless spectators strictly follow rules for Outdoor Gatherings. Players who are minors may be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian.

**For Golf Facilities**

- If restrooms are available on the course, prohibit Players and members of the public from using any other restroom facilities such as those located in the clubhouse.
- No more than four players may be part of a single group, unless everyone in the group is part of the same Household.
- Limit golf carts to one rider and one bag. Sanitize motorized carts and hand carts after each use.

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- Remove or make inaccessible high touch surfaces including: water stations, hand towels, ball washers, bunker rakes, scorecards and pencils.
- Take steps to seal off or otherwise remove cups to prevent Players from reaching into cups to retrieve balls.
- Only allow golf Players with previously scheduled tee times to access the premises.
- Schedule tee times 10 minutes or more apart.
- Keep groups away from the starting tee off area until the group ahead is clear.
- Require Players to arrive at the facility no more than 30 minutes before their tee time and leave immediately after finishing their round.
- Provide security or patrolling to make sure golfers are complying.

**For Tennis Facilities**

- Allow tennis and pickleball to be played on outdoor courts only.
- If Players are not part of the same Household, they may play singles tennis or doubles tennis with doubles teams made up only of members of the same Household.
- Encourage Players to avoid switching sides of the court during play and maintain social distancing if they do switch sides.
- Require all Players to mark their balls with clear and unique markings and use at least six balls (two cans).
- Make sure Players touch only their own marked balls. Make sure Players return a ball to another player by rolling or hitting the ball with a racket back to the other Player without touching the ball at all.
- Allow Players on private Facility premises only if they have a reservation to play. Require all Players to arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before their scheduled court time. Require all Players to leave the Facility immediately after the end of their play.
- Keep court gates open at all times during hours of operation. Keep as many other gates and doors as feasible open during hours of operation.
- Either mark all high touch furniture such as benches and tables with posters informing people about high-touch surfaces or remove or make inaccessible high-touch furniture.
- Prevent the use of tennis ball machines at this time.