

THE ROLE OF A CADDIE

The Special Olympics Golf Rules refer to the Rules of Golf as the guidance for conducting events and specifically in relation to the role of the caddie.

The National Games Coaches Manual does provide a reference to caddies but to avoid any misunderstanding this document has been produced to clarify the role of the caddie and what is and is not permissible.

It should be noted that the overriding objective of this tournament is to ensure that it is fair and reasonable for every athlete and that they fully enjoy the experience. Playing by the rules and complying with the Special Olympics Codes of Conduct (i.e. for players, volunteers and parents) are vital components of that experience and which apply all involved.

The overriding statements of the Rules of Golf are;

- 6.4 The player may be assisted by a caddie but is limited to only one caddie at any one time.
- 8.1(b) Advice; A player must not ask for advice from anyone other than their caddie
- Definitions; A caddie is one who assists the player in accordance with the Rules which may include carrying or handling the players clubs during play.

Caddies may;

- Assist with club selection
- Provide alignment advice both on the fairway or putting green
- Demonstrate the swing providing it is done without affecting the pace of play
- Advise on how best to play the shot
- Assist the athlete with counting strokes and scoring
- Help players with searching for balls, pace of play and etiquette
- Attend the flagstick

Caddies may not:

- Make adjustments to the players grip
- Physically align the player by touching the players body
- Once the alignment has been given remain in line with the direction of the shot when being played. The caddie must stand to the side during the execution of the shot.
- When on the putting green touch the green with the flagstick or any part of his/her body to indicate the line