

Golf Facilities Reopening and the ADA

Advice from John McGovern, W-T Engineering

As a smart practice, I'd urge you to not simply accept a statement by a golfer that he or she has a disability and is therefore, under the EO, entitled to a golf car on your golf course. Do your due diligence, and that includes an interactive process (that's in the words of the US Department of Justice), or in simple terms, ask some questions. You have, in NWSRA, one of the best assessment teams in the entire United States.

The golfer asking for a golf cart because of disability is effectively asking for a reasonable modification due to his or her disability. Of course, golf course staff cannot ask what the disability is. But once the golfer opens the door by asking for a golf cart because he or she has a disability, ask:

- Do you have a Secretary of State issued accessible parking placard or license plate?

If yes, get the number and have local law enforcement run it and see to whom it is issued. If it is in the name of the golfer, they get a golf car on the course.

If not, ask the second question below.

- Do you have a letter from a physician that says you cannot walk the course?

If the golfer says yes, you could allow them to use a golf cart for golf today but produce the letter before the next tee time. I suspect you don't want to send them home without playing.

If the golfer says no, they are not entitled to a golf cart until the EO changes.

I know my advice is slightly different than what you see from your risk pool. I am just trying to make sure the District does not get stuck by allowing anyone who claims to have a disability use a golf cart.