The Buffalo and Rochester IES Sections have been looking forward to our inaugural joint outing, and our joint golf committee has been doing significant planning and preparation - like our own businesses - to accommodate the unusual, and fluid, situation presented us by the COVID 19 pandemic.

We are excited to provide the particulars of our 2020 golf outing format. This information is current as of the date you have received it – and our Joint Golf Committee stands at the ready to update you if State or Federal regulations compel us to change items or offerings between today and when we see you on Monday, September 14.

It is easy to do the things we have always done, and this year, our Sections had stepped out of our comfort zones to try a joint outing. We believed that by doing so, more friends and colleagues could enjoy a day of networking together and that a larger group would be beneficial to our IES sponsors and supporters. And then, our committee was challenged to reconsider our favorite outing aspects from the perspective of compliance with recommendations for creating a safer environment for us to gather. The format changes we will experience this year are, primarily, a result of these COVID 19 considerations. However, we hope to hear from you (after your round) to learn more about the changes you liked….and, we do expect that we will like some of these changes.

**New This Year! Tee Times**

Current social distancing regulations prevent us from using our traditional “shot-gun” start. By scheduling tee times, we can avoid the large gathering of golfers before we head out to begin the round and as we come in from the round. Scheduling the tee time for your foursome will provide you more flexibility for travel on the day of the outing. Tee time scheduling requests will be managed by the golf committee; please reserve your foursome early to ensure the largest selection of tee times.

**New This Year! Scramble Format**

Golfers of all skill levels (spectator to zero-handicapper) will enjoy a day on the course. In this format, every golfer hits off the tee and from tee to hole, every golfer will hit the next shot from the furthest shot location. So – invite that person who has never before tried golf....it’ll be fun!

**New This Year! Hole-in-One Prizes**

Because of social distancing guidelines and our scramble format, we will forego the more typical “longest drive” and “closest to the hole” skill prizes. Instead, two hole-in-one prize opportunities will be offered on the course. We’ve had a hole-in-one at our outing before; maybe this is your year!
New This Year! Door Prizes
Each registered golfer will be placed in a door prize draw that will occur prior to the day of our outing. The lucky winners of door prizes will receive the door prize at the registration table. This will allow participants to leave the outing on their personal schedules.

New This Year! Box Lunches
Each golfer will receive a box lunch for enjoyment on the course. With your box lunch, you will be able to pre-purchase beverages for the course and remain compliant with new service regulations. Every cart has a cooler that can be stocked with ice from the ice machine prior to heading out to the Number 1 tee.

New This Year! Half-Way House
Thirsty after nine? Hunger pangs that won’t wait until dinner? Need more ice for your cooler? The half-way house has hot dogs, hamburgers, snacks, ice, and assorted beverages; call in your order at the Number 9 tee and pick it up after your foursome drops the putt for a bird.

New This Year! Drink Tickets
Each registered golfer will receive two drink tickets for use following the round. Drink orders and service will be provided by wait staff in the patio areas...relax, we will bring the drinks to you!

New This Year! Plated Dinner
Each registered golfer will receive a plated steak dinner following the round. Sit with your foursome or sit by yourself – the patio areas of Stafford Country Club are large enough for appropriate social distancing for our entire group.

We do understand that this year’s outing may have a smaller turnout - but our Sections need your support. The golf outing is a keystone for the health and vitality of our Sections and the work we do in our communities to promote lighting. The success of the event is dependent on the participation of our sponsors and the attendance of our Members and guests. This outing provides significant financial stability to our Sections, allowing us to invite speakers, provide educational opportunities, and support students and emerging professionals.

Registration and Sponsorship Opportunities are now available online.

Buffalo Section: https://buffaloies.org
Rochester Section: http://www.iesrochester.org

Please register your foursomes with your Section (Buffalo or Rochester) as early as possible so that our committee can ensure appropriate arrangements for our day. Also, please consider a Tee Box sponsorship; this marketing opportunity for your company helps our Sections tremendously.

See you at the Outing!