

Hello,

My name is Aaron DeVries, and I play competitive disc golf. To emphasize my experience in disc golf, at the 2019 Advanced Men's World Championships I placed 2nd out of 278 competitors from 11 different countries. I am currently backed by the number one manufacturer in the sport and I look forward to traveling across the United States on the Disc Golf Pro Tour next Summer. By reflecting on my experiences in tournament play, as well as some of my experiences during COVID-19 readers should be able to see a clear parallel between disc golf and the pandemic.

Saturday, 5/23/20 - Today's Poor Competition Etiquette

As I stepped up to my final putt, all I could think about was how badly I needed to make it to secure a 3rd place finish. However, as I was trying to focus, all I could hear was the muttering of my disappointed competitor after he just messed up his shot. He was standing only 10 feet away from me, which was poor etiquette, so I politely asked him to stand further away from me.

Tuesday, 5/26/20 - Today's Poor Social Distancing

As I stood in line at Kwik Trip all I could think about was how excited I was to eat my delicious cheese filled breadsticks. However, as I waited for the next cashier, I could almost feel the breath of another customer behind my back. Knowing that they should be doing a better job of social distancing, I politely asked them to keep a further distance from me.

Saturday, 6/6/2020 - The Midwest Championships

Scores in the tournament were getting tight. While walking up the fairway a child approached me to ask for an autograph. While he did not know any better, it is very important to keep a proper distance from competitors in high pressure situations. Since the tournament was at high risk, I needed others to keep their distance from me so I could focus.

Monday, 6/22/2020 - My Disappointment In Public

As I was walking through Target, I watched an elderly couple walk past multiple people who chose not to wear masks. While they could not help that fact, it is very important for them to keep a proper distance from others in our nation's current state. Since the elderly are at a high death risk to COVID-19, it is important they keep their distance from potential carriers.

Saturday, 7/11/2020 - Proper Course Cleanliness

Today was a hot and humid tournament day. When I forgot a disc lying next to the teepad, my competitor picked it up and handed it to me. While it was a nice gesture, some people prefer it if others do not touch their discs. This is because the sweat and oils from another person's fingers can slightly alter the texture of a disc. I had to wipe down my disc to get it to feel perfect again.

Wednesday, 7/22/2020 - Proper Safety With My Grandparents

Today was a hot and humid day in July. As it had been a month since seeing my grandparents, I felt an urge to visit them again. While we wore our masks and kept our distance, I knew it would be a meaningful gesture to give them both a hug. However, I did not want any form of germs from my body to transfer to theirs, so I refrained. I had to wash my hands in order to give my Grandpa a mere handshake.

Thursday, 7/23/2020 - Keeping My Discs Clean

As I woke up today I knew it was going to be a long, rainy day. However, In order to play well in any weather I knew I needed to go practice in the rain. By the time I was done with my round of 18 holes my discs were caked with mud. In order for my discs to fly correctly I soaked them in soap and water to get the mud off.

Sunday, 7/26/2020 - Keeping My Hands Clean

As I woke up today I knew it was going to be a long day at work. However, In order to make a living I knew I needed to hike up my pants and go to work. By the time I had worked 30 minutes I had handled the filthy dollar bills of many different customers. In order to maintain proper sanitation, and avoid tracing to COVID, I thoroughly washed my hands with soap and water.

Friday, 8/7/2020 - Close Contact and Disc Golf

Today was a sad day. One of my best friend's, a star quarterback, broke his left arm during football practice. This made me realize how lucky I am to compete in a non-contact sport. When I compete in disc golf I am never at risk of others hurting me.

Tuesday, 8/11/2020 - Close Contact During the Pandemic

Today was a sad day. One of my best friend's Grandma recently tested positive for Coronavirus and passed away in quarantine. Knowing the risks of going out in public, I feel very lucky that my grandparent's understand the importance of social distancing. My grandparent's strictly limit their time in public, which lessens their chance of others infecting them.

Thursday, 8/20/2020 - My Great Morning Outdoors

I woke up at 8:00 today and quickly headed to the disc golf course to practice. As I finished my round of 18 holes I felt very thankful to enjoy some of life's best simple pleasures. It felt so refreshing to spend time outside and have the course to myself.

Friday, 8/21/2020 - The Importance of Getting Outside

I woke up at 8:30 today and turned on the local news channel. I was pleasantly surprised to see a colleague of mine being interviewed about disc golf. Michael addressed the viewers very well by saying:

"Thanks for having me, Jessica. In order to stay sane during our pandemic I began to play more disc golf. By playing disc golf I have gotten to connect myself with the outdoors and learn to appreciate time by myself. Even while playing in a group, it is easy to maintain social distancing and spend time with others. Disc golf is a safe, inexpensive sport that anyone can play. While the Coronavirus still flies, get outside and give disc golf a try!"