

IMPORTANT IHSAA RULE CHANGES FOR THE 2018 SPRING SEASON

The IHSAA Golf Advisory Committee met in the IHSAA offices in the summer of 2017 and made the following recommendations which were subsequently passed by the IHSAA Board of Control. These changes are in effect for the upcoming season.

Practice Rounds at State Tournament Site: In review of State Tournament practice regulations, the committee proposed that the weekend (Saturday & Sunday) before the scheduled State Tournament be the cut-off date for practice rounds on the State Tournament course. For Spring 2018 that means Sunday, May 20 is the last possible date to play a practice round at a State Tournament course.

Number of Coaches: The committee proposed that two authorized coaches be allowed to coach players during competition. Schools would not be required to have two coaches, but they would have the option to have two authorized coaches during play who could interact and coach golfers.

The above proposals were passed and will be in effect for the 2018 Spring Golf Season and Postseason.

Sincerely,
Chad Elsberry,
IHSAA

2018 SPRING GOLF

Postseason Golf Manual: A postseason manual for golf will be published online and notice sent via email to Spring Golf Schools once the regular season has begun. The Postseason Golf Manual will contain information related to sectional, district and state tournament play along with tie-breaker procedures, awards, expense allowances, and other pertinent postseason tournament information. Please note that spring sectional & district assignments will be released after the March IHSAA Board of Control meeting.

FIRST PRACTICE DATE AND PLAYING DATES FOR 2018

First legal practice date is Monday, March 12, 2018, **first legal playing date** is Monday March 26, 2018. Each **individual player may participate in 12 dates of competition, excluding IHSAA tournament play.** Sectional tournaments: Class 1A, 2A & 3A will be held May 11, 2018, District tournaments will be held May 18, 2018. Sectional and District assignments will be posted online under golf at www.iahhsaa.org.

COACHES REQUIREMENT: ALL HEAD VARSITY GOLF COACHES MUST VIEW THE ONLINE SPRING GOLF RULES MEETING. Spring golf rules meeting will be online from February 26 until March 29, 2018. **Failure of any Head Fall Golf Coach to view the online rules meeting will make him/her ineligible to coach in the IHSAA state sponsored sectional/district/state golf tournaments.**

SPECIAL NOTE: POSTSEASON INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS (Same as 2017)

The top two overall individual players (plus ties) at each site from among the non-qualifying teams will advance from each Sectional to District tournament. Similarly, the top two overall individual players (plus ties) at each site from among the non-qualifying teams will advance from each District to the State Tournament. This will create opportunities for at least two individuals from among the non-qualifying teams to advance from each site in the postseason. This also creates a uniform qualifying process in the postseason. **The process for team qualifiers from Sectional to District to State remains the same as in the past. Further information and an explanation of tiebreakers will be part of the postseason manual.**

COMPETITION DATES FOR PLAYERS

Each **individual player may participate in 12 dates of competition** during the season. This means a school may schedule 12 varsity matches and 12 junior varsity matches. The point of clarification here is, no player is permitted to participate in more than a total of 12 playing dates. Each day of participation counts toward one of your 12 playing dates. If you get part of that day's competition played and you get rained out, you may come back another day and finish that competition and consider it as one playing date. Competition date is considered 18 holes of play.

SCHOOLS WHO MAKE EXCEPTIONS TO USGA RULES DURING THE SEASON

***NOTE:** Prior to the event, schools that make **exceptions to USGA rules** during the regular season must have them in writing and agreed upon by all the schools involved, otherwise USGA rules apply except for IHSAA manual differences during the regular season and tournament play. All IHSAA sanctioned tournaments will follow USGA playing rules unless otherwise specified in the IHSAA spring golf manual.

***During regular season or IHSAA sanctioned tournament play (sectional, district or state meet), players are not allowed to chip or putt on any hole on the course (before competition begins), this also applies once competition play begins regardless if you have completed the hole in tournament competition, excluding the practice green(s). In regular season, check with meet management pertaining to the opportunity for a player to chip or putt on a completed competition green.**

RANGEFINDER DEVICES (Laser & GPS)

Rangefinders Allowed: Rangefinder devices (laser & GPS) are permitted during the regular season and throughout the IHSAA tournament series. A player may obtain **distance information ONLY** from the rangefinder they are using. Cell phones (including distance apps) are not permitted during competition. Devices designed to measure conditions other than distance are now permitted, PROVIDED the golfer only uses the device for distance measurement and not for the following banned information, which includes but is not limited to, wind speed, slope or club selection. **Players will be penalized if they use their rangefinder to measure anything but distance.** Players and coaches (coaches that are permitted to coach tee to green) are encouraged to share distance information upon request. A player with a rangefinder may shoot distance from their position on the course and relay that information upon request to another player, PROVIDED the process does not delay play. **Spectators will not be allowed to provide or assist golfers with distance information.** The first time the golfer uses the banned functions on the rangefinder (any function besides distance), he will be assessed a two-stroke penalty. Any subsequent use during that round will result in disqualification.

CONFIRMATION OF SCORES

Confirmation of Scores: Due to the fact all players in the group do not always hear what each player in the group shot following each hole, we need every player to provide **everyone in the group** their previous hole score on the next tee box, before anyone puts their ball in play. All participants are entitled to know what each individual player shot on the previous hole, in case there is any uncertainty. It is the player(s) responsibility to request the previous hole's score if they did not hear one of the group members score from the previous hole.

NEW COACHING RULE ALLOWING TWO AUTHORIZED COACHES

IHSAA coaching regulation: Permit the designated golf coaches (maximum of two authorized coaches) to coach a player up until the player and the player's ball are on the green. **If any part of the player's ball is on the actual green, the ball is considered on the green.** Once the player arrives at the green (no delay by the player) the team or individual designated coach can have no more communication with competing player(s) until all players in the group have holed out. If a player hits a shot from 100 yards out and the ball lands on the green, the designated coach may communicate with this young man up until they reach the green (providing no delay walking to the green). Once the player is on the green, coach/player communication must cease. Keep in mind each team and or individual(s), are only allowed to have **two designated coaches** communicate with players while competition is in progress.

WHEN PROVIDING ADVICE--THE DESIGNATED COACH MUST NOT ENTER A BUNKER.

Designated Coaches are not to assist or instruct a player regarding any putting on the green. If no part of the player's ball is on the actual green, coach instruction is permitted. Coaches must understand that there is to be no **delaying of play** when providing instruction during the prescribed coaching time. The designated coach must understand this is additional time to coach player(s), but when visiting with players the **pace of play shall not be delayed.** This rule also allows the designated head coach an opportunity to address **speed of play** to players who have fallen behind the group in front of them.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF STATS

Head Golf Coaches are required to post team and individual varsity meet STATISTICS following each meet online using the www.quikstatsiowa.com website. Statistical data needs to be entered by 3:00 PM on Tuesday:

Tuesday, April 10 for meets through April 7

Tuesday, April 24 for meets through April 21

Tuesday, May 8 for meets through May 5

In addition, final stats need to be entered at the conclusion of your regular season and after the Sectional, District and the State Meet. The penalty for failure to report on time is as follows:

First offense: a letter/e-mail to the head coach and athletic director from the IHSAA sport administrator giving 3 days to comply with the mandate;

Second offense: a letter to the athletic director with a copy to the principal and superintendent from the IHSAA executive director, giving 3 days to comply with the mandate.

Third offense: IHSAA member school's expense allowances will be withheld by the IHSAA in the sport in which the third offense occurred.

IHSAA LOCAL RULE ALLOWANCE

ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF BALL ON PUTTING GREEN (NEW IN 2017)

The IHSAA will employ the Local Rule that modifies Rule 18-2 by providing that there is no penalty if a player accidentally causes his ball on the putting green to move. Thus, any accidental movement of the ball or ball marker on the putting green will require the player to replace it, but without a penalty stroke.

GOLF SHIRT REGULATION

All varsity participants in regular season and tournament competition must wear similar (color and style) school issued or school approved **golf uniform shirt** (collared or non-collared), during competition. Due to adverse weather conditions, if an individual VARSITY player desires to wear clothing (jacket/sweatshirt) over the top of his shirt, this jacket/sweatshirt does not need to be the same as his teammates. All attire worn at all levels shall be school approved and have no alcohol, tobacco or any inappropriate graphic on the clothing. Please remember the only attire that needs to be the same is the collard or non-collared shirt on each **varsity** participant.

DISQUALIFIED PLAYER FOR UNSPORTING LIKE ACT

If a player is disqualified for any unsporting like act, he is ejected from the entire one or two-day tournament. If a player is deemed disqualified from any two-day tournament on day one, for a misapplication of a rule, illness/injury after he has put his ball in play/started competition (not unsportsmanlike conduct), the player is disqualified and his score will not count the day he is disqualified. This individual would be able to compete and his score would count on the second day only of a two-day event. The three coach rules jury at this particular tournament site would make the final ruling pertaining to any unusual circumstances dealing with a disqualification except for unsportsmanlike behavior.

COACH, PLAYER & SPECTATOR CELL PHONES

If a coach/spectator cell phone rings while a player's swing is in progress, the player may take his original shot or hit a second ball. If the player elects to hit a second shot, the player must take the second shot regardless of the outcome. Understand, if a **player's cell phone** rings during competition the player is disqualified. **Player Cell phones are prohibited during regular season and all tournament play.** No cell phones may be used by a player until his round is completed and the scorecard is turned into the official scorer. Penalty will result in disqualification of the player. One exception to player use of a cell phone is in case of an emergency during the course of play.

FOOD AND DRINKS AT GOLF SITES

Coaches may provide water or sport drinks for the players throughout the one or two-day event. Coaches will be permitted to provide a sandwich or energy bar for the players. Golf courses are hosting events for a minimal green fee and we need to respect their opportunity to sell food and drink at their courses. **Coaches are not to place coolers out on the course**, they are to keep only a small portable cooler with them in their car or on their cart and provide food to their players only as they see fit. Coaches are not to provide food for spectators nor will spectators be allowed to bring food or drink on the premises. We appreciate your cooperation pertaining to this regulation. **Please notify your spectators in advance of this regulation.**

SPECTATORS

Spectators are not to interfere in any way, should not carry on conversations with players, should keep their distance from the players, and have no influence on the results. If any interference occurs, spectators may be asked to leave.

COACHES MAKING RULINGS

Coaches must understand that they are **not** rules consultants during the course of competition. **Coaches are not to rule on something they see, even if you feel it may have been a rules infraction.** Let the players play and if any questions arise, players should notify a member in their group and resolve the problem or hit a second ball and get a ruling when competition is completed and before any member in the group signs off on a scorecard. We appreciate coaches wanting to assist in making rulings, but there are times when a wrong ruling is provided and there is no recourse. Once all scores are posted and approved at the end of that days' competition by coaches/players, all scores for that day are final.

TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE ROUND DEPARTURE TIME

When a golf team or individual desires to go to an IHSAA tournament site for a practice round during school time, the coach needs to have **local school administrations approval**, in accordance with the IHSAA Handbook Practice Regulation (page 11). If you desire to practice during school time, this practice round policy is now a local school administration decision.

HOLE BY HOLE SCORE

The individual hole by hole score is what counts on a player's scorecard. Even if the score is added incorrectly, the hole by hole score is the player's score for that round. Most scoring programs total the score once all the hole by hole scores have been entered.

STROKE PLAY -- COACH AND PLAYER INFORMATION

Local Rules: For all regular season and post-season tournament play, USGA playing rules will be followed unless modified by the local course management or IHSAA manual. All golf matches shall be played in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf in accordance with rule 13-1 of the USGA Rules of Golf Book: The ball shall be played as it lies, except as otherwise provided in the rules.

Ground under repair: USGA rules allow for areas of the golf course to be marked and defined as Ground under Repair (rule 25-1). If it is determined that areas of the golf course are unsuitable for play, the committee shall define these areas as Ground under Repair. The ground under repair shall be marked and defined accordingly so no questions will arise as to the boundaries of said areas. Poor turf conditions do not necessarily equate to ground under repair. Ground under repair is defined as abnormal ground conditions. If an area is abnormal in relation to the entire golf course, then it should be defined as ground under repair.

Errors or Discrepancies: Any errors or **discrepancies** that take place during stroke play are to be corrected **PRIOR to signing the scorecard** and turning it in. **The round begins with the first tee of the competition and ends when the scorecard has been attested to, signed, and turned in**, then it is too late to make corrections and all scores stand as turned in. Coaches should verify with the tournament manager the scores are correct when posted, by verifying this individually following the posting of the scores. If the head coach elects not to attend the posting of the scores and verifying his team score(s) are posted correctly, player(s) scores stand as posted. This will not preclude circling a given hole(s) score for the committee or jury of coaches to review at the conclusion of play, but it would permit a correctable situation at the completion of play, prior to signing the scorecard and turning it in for recording. **Coaches**, remind your golfers to record the score after completion of each hole (all players involved). **If there is any discrepancy, players should make every effort to resolve this discrepancy before playing the next hole. If the discrepancy can't be resolved, circle the hole/score and when you finish the round the player involved should not sign his card, nor turn it in, until the jury has made a ruling. At the completion of his round, the player should inform the scorer he has a ruling that needs to be resolved before all members in his group, including the player with the rule question, signs and turns in his scorecard.**

At the conclusion of play (each day, one or two-day tournament) every player in the group needs to verify that all scores are correct, attested to, and **signed by each member in that group**. This procedure will allow all members in your group at the conclusion of play that day to verify and agree on what each individual shot that day. If there is any discrepancy, it should go to the rules jury (appointed by the tournament manager) to rule on before any group member signs or turns in a scorecard.

The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his scorecard. If the participant returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, he is disqualified. If the participant turns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score turned in stands.

Coaches, **scorecards** are to be turned into the official scorer immediately following the round, once signed and attested to. **Coaches may view a player's scorecard immediately following that player's round, but are not to hold on to this team member's scorecards while waiting for other team members to finish.**

RULES FOR PLAYERS/COACHES

The following rules will govern all interscholastic golf in Iowa.

1. In the case of gambling between players during matches, the players involved are disqualified in that particular meet.
2. Cheating would be reason for disqualification as well.
3. The players in their groupings will keep score--no player keeping his own score. All players are required to provide their previous hole score to the entire group on the next tee box, before anyone puts a ball in play. Players in the group are responsible to secure each other's score. Coaches may be asked to help monitor certain holes on the course. **Coaches are not to make rulings on the course**, let all players in the threesome or foursome decide. If the players are unable to agree, have the player involved play a second ball and let the rules committee make a ruling when he finishes the round (before any member in the group signs the scorecard). We now have Iowa Section Certified PGA staff members on hand at our state sites to assist in rulings on the course.
4. Any player who uses tobacco (including smokeless) on the course is disqualified.
5. Disputes on rules: The coaches' jury selected from the assembled schools will decide on all disputes. The coaches' jury should follow the USGA Rules of Golf and may seek assistance from an Iowa Section Certified PGA Pro and/or Club Pro when available.
6. In the state meet, the Iowa Section Certified PGA and/or Club Pro will make all final USGA golf rule decisions.
7. Any player who fails to finish play is considered to have withdrawn from the meet/tournament and his score(s) will not count.
8. In regular season, district and state competition, **no caddies are allowed. No motorized golf carts will be allowed except for disability reasons and must be pre-approved in writing by the IHSAA. Non-motorized pull carts** are permitted, individuals desiring to use pull carts must supply their own non-motorized pull cart at each meet. This rule applies to regular season and/or tournament play.
9. There shall be no coaching of golfers by parents or spectators. Spectators are to remain a reasonable distance behind the golfers while watching so as not to hinder play. Should there be any interference by spectators with play in any way, shape or form the spectator(s) are subject to being asked to leave the premises by the management. Spectators should remain approximately 30 yards behind the golfers on the course or on the cart path when observing play other than to cross fairways without interfering with players. No spectator may instruct or advise a player about any shot selection a player is going to make. Once the players reach the green area, spectators should move over to the cart path, even with the green, to allow the next group of players to continue play.
10. In multi-team and district meets, the tournament manager should make every effort to avoid the necessity of having players from the same town, even though from different schools, play in the same threesomes and foursomes. This is impossible in some cases, but wherever it is possible to avoid this, it should be done.
11. All schools are expected to start play as scheduled.
12. At the conclusion of a given competition, coaches should verify the scores posted. When the teams/individuals leave the course and the team standings have been posted there will be no changing the results of play.
13. Any player who plays without a shirt is automatically disqualified.
14. In regular season and all tournament play, if a player is injured or becomes ill, there shall be no substitute for him **during** the round.
15. The use of cell phones is prohibited during regular season and tournament play. Penalty will result in disqualification of that player. Coaches are encouraged to collect the cell phones before the competition begins. No cell phones may be used by a player until his round is completed and the scorecard is turned into the official scorer. Penalty will result in disqualification of the player. One exception to player use of a cell phone is in case of an emergency during the course of play.
16. A player disqualified from a meet/tournament for unsportsmanlike conduct is disqualified for the entire event (rest of the tournament or multiple day event), whether it is a one-day or two-day event.
17. Coaches, during regular season and tournament play, players are required to walk or be transported from green to tee with no more than **two players riding in the cart (plus a driver)**. If carts are used as a means of transportation from green to tee, players must be **seated inside the cart. Players may be transported to their starting holes by car, van, or golf carts.**

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

1. In meets or tournaments sponsored by the IHSAA, a **two-stroke penalty** shall be assessed for conduct unbecoming high school players. Such conduct shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a.) **Club throwing**, defined as releasing the club in a manner to cause harm to any person or the course. **Ball throwing** defined as could cause harm to another participant, spectator, course or means of releasing frustration.
 - b.) **Use of abusive language.**
 - c.) **Willful acts which damage property or equipment on the course.**
 - d.) **Other unbecoming conduct as determined by the Golf Rules Committee.** This rule will be strictly enforced by the rules committee. **Second offense, the player is automatically disqualified.**
2. Any player who uses **tobacco** (to include smokeless) or gambles on the course is automatically disqualified.
3. **Eligibility Rule 36.14(2) Penalties.** Any student disqualified from an interscholastic contest by game officials for flagrant, violent, or verbal misconduct will be ineligible for the next regular scheduled game/meet at the level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties the IHSAA or school may assess. The second violation carries a four games/meets automatic ineligibility. It will be the responsibility of the host school meet manager to

report any disqualification(s) to the IHSAA the day following the meet, if the meet is held on a Friday or Saturday, then on the Monday following the meet. It is the coach's responsibility to inform his/her administrator of any disqualification(s). The administrator will file an official report form with the IHSAA on-line.

4. The IHSAA and the Golf Coaches Advisory Committee feel the code of conduct rules are appropriate, but a concern remains when the players themselves are unwilling to enforce the rule against another player in the group. **If a code of conduct violation is observed (not heard about later) by a golf coach and the group involved does not enforce the rule, the golf coach observing this inappropriate action should get the players together at the conclusion of play at that particular hole and have the players discuss the situation.** If a code of conduct rule has been violated, a two-stroke penalty should be assessed to the individual(s) responsible.

If a golf coach observes any behavior that could lead up to a code of conduct violation, the coach should professionally warn the player of his inappropriate action and inform the player's coach and notify a rules jury member. Coaches make sure your players are aware of this rule, so your team is not penalized by one of your player's inappropriate actions.

GUIDANCE FOR BREAKING OF TEAM TIES

TEAM TIEBREAKER: Breaking of all **team ties** will be decided by using the **fifth player's score of that day**, and if the tie is not broken with the fifth player's score, use the **sixth player's score**. In the event a given team has only four players and the team they are tied with has five players, the team with five players would break the tie and be declared the winner. If a team has only five players and a team tie still exists after using each team's fifth players' score, the team with six players would break the tie and be declared the winner. This makes the fifth and sixth player's score more meaningful in the team concept. In a multi-team tournament scenario, if the team tie remains after using the fifth and sixth players score, a three-hole play-off should take place, using only the players' scores who counted that day. If the three-hole play-off does not break the team tie, then utilize sudden death.

HIGH SCHOOL GOLFERS MAY NEVER ACCEPT MONEY AS A PRIZE: NON-SCHOOL TEAM/INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION/AWARDS RULES

DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:

From the first day of school through the last day of school, you may *not* accept any award or prize which has a value in excess of \$50.00, **NEVER MONEY**. Golfers may participate in non-school events during the year, **if allowed by local school policy**. Check with your Athletic Director.

EXAMPLE: *Ben Jones is allowed by his school to play in a four team best ball tournament in late March. Ben is playing with three individuals who are out of school, Ben being the only High School student. Ben's team wins \$400.00. Each of the three out-of-school individuals could accept \$100.00 cash. Ben could receive a gift certificate for \$50.00. Ben should ask the golf course to document what Ben received and have the course sign that document stating he only received a \$50.00 gift certificate and provide a copy of the document to his Athletic Director, stating what Ben accepted. That way if someone reads/hears about his tournament success, the school has proof that Ben accepted only a \$50.00 in a gift certificate. An individual could receive up to \$50.00 in gift certificates, per tournament.*

SUMMER MONTHS:

During the summer months, you may accept any award or prize any amateur golfer is permitted under USGA rules, \$750.00---**NEVER CASH/MONEY**.

EXAMPLE: *Same scenario as above, but since school is no longer in session Ben could receive \$100.00 gift certificate, but should again document his winnings and provide a copy for the Athletic Director.*

A player could receive up to \$750.00 in gift certificates per tournament.

REMINDER: Summer ends the day after Labor Day, as it pertains to non-school competition.