



Conditions of Competition and Local Rules for all IHSAA 2019 Competitions

The 2019 Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play.

Course signage and local Rules on the scorecard do not apply unless specifically authorized by the host of the event.

These local Rules apply to all IHSAA golf competitions and may be supplemented by additional local Rules particular to the individual courses.

Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is two (2) strokes.

Team Competition – IHSAA golf is a team competition (**Rule 24**). A team consists of four or five competitors with the four lowest scores used for the team score.

Maximum Score – All IHSAA golf will be played under **Rule 21-2, Maximum Score**. The maximum score will be “10” on any hole.

Advice (Rules 10.2 & 24) – Coaches are the only persons allowed to give advice with the following restrictions:

- a. Coaches may talk to players during events only between holes from green to tee box and/or between nines. They may advise players on course management, playing etiquette and offer technical advice and/or instruction. Only two coaches per team are allowed to coach during an event. Communication during the play of a hole is a breach of the rules and is a two-stroke penalty.
- b. Coaches are not allowed to play the course during the hours the state tournament is in progress.
- c. Coaches should try to help all participants abide by the rules of golf and the rules set up for IHSAA play. It is unethical to try to win a championship by disqualification.

Distance Measuring Devices may be used provided they measure distance only. **Rule 4-3a (1)**. In addition, the device must be designed for golf (no cell phone apps). (IHSAA Rules)

Electronic Devices - Rule 4.3a (4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device. Cell phone use is prohibited except to call for a ruling or in an emergency.

Lost Ball – A ball is lost if not found in three minutes after the player or his or her caddie begins to search for it. (**Rule 18.2a (1)**)

Provisional Ball – If a ball might be lost outside a penalty area or be out of bounds, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 14.6).

Embedded Ball – Relief for a ball embedded in the General Area is allowed under **Rule 16.3b**. There is no relief if the ball is embedded anywhere except the General Area but if the ball is embedded on the putting green, the player may mark the spot of the ball, lift and clean the ball, repair the damage and replace the ball on the original spot.

Relief Area – The area where you must drop a ball when taking relief under a Rule. Each relief Rule requires you to use a specific relief area whose size and location are based on these three factors:

- **Reference Point:** The point from which the size of relief area is measured.
- **Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point:** The relief area is either one or two club-lengths from the reference point, **but** with certain limits:
- **Limits on Location of Relief Area:** The location of the relief area may be limited in one or more ways so that, for example:
 - It is only in certain defined areas of the course, such as only in the general area, or not in a bunker or a penalty area,
 - It is not nearer the hole than your reference point or must be outside a penalty area or a bunker from which you are taking relief, or
 - It is where there is no interference (as defined in the particular Rule) from the condition from which you are taking relief.

Club-Length – The length of the longest club of the 14 (or fewer) clubs you have during the round (as allowed by Rule 4.1b (1)), other than a putter. For example, if the longest club (other than a putter) you have during a round is a 43-inch (109.22 cm) driver, a club-length is 43 inches for you for that round.

Dropping Ball –

a. Original Ball or Another Ball May Be Used

You may use any ball each time you drop or place a ball under this Rule.

b. Ball Must Be Dropped in Right Way

You must drop a ball in the right way, which means all three of these things:

- You must drop the ball (neither your caddie nor anyone else may do so).
- You must let go of your ball from a location at knee height so that the ball:
 - Falls straight down, without you throwing, spinning or rolling it or using any other motion that might affect where your ball will come to rest, and
 - Does not touch any part of your body or equipment before it hits the ground.

“Knee height” means the height of your knee when in a standing position.

- The ball must be dropped in the relief area. You may stand either inside or outside the relief area when dropping your ball.

If your ball is dropped in a wrong way in breach of one or more of these three requirements, you must drop your ball again in the right way, and there is no limit to the number of times you must do so.

A ball dropped in the wrong way does not count as one of the two drops required before your ball must be placed.

E-11 Ball Deflected by Power Line

If it is known or virtually certain that a player’s ball hit a power line [or tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line] during the play of a hole the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see **Rule 14.6** for what to do).

A-3 Out of Bounds When Public Road Runs Through Course

A ball which crosses a public road and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.

F-7 Relief from Seams of Cut Turf

If a player’s ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player’s area of intended swing:

- a. **Ball in General Area.** The player may take relief under **Rule 16.1b**.
- b. **Ball on Putting Green.** The player may take relief under **Rule 16.1d**.

But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player’s stance.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after dropping the ball, the player must proceed as required under **Rule 14.3c (2)** even when the ball is still within one club-length of the reference point.

Practice –

a. Players are not permitted to play the course, any hole, or to practice putt on a course green the same day as the event.

b. For multi-day events, practice between rounds on the competition course is prohibited. Penalty for breach of rule is disqualification.

c. During a round, a player shall not play a practice stroke either during the play of a hole or between the play of two holes except that, between the play of two holes, the player may practice putting or chipping on or near any practice putting green or the teeing ground of the next hole to be played in the round, provided such practice stroke is not played from a hazard and does not unduly delay play.

d. Practice on or near the putting green of the hole last played is prohibited - penalty for breach of rule is two strokes. If a breach occurs between the play of two holes, the penalty will apply to the next hole.

e. A practice swing is not a practice stroke and may be taken at any location, provided the player does not breach the rules.

Caddies – Caddies are not permitted during IHSAA events.

Carts – Motorized carts are not permitted, except in the case of special medical conditions. Permission to use a cart must be granted by the IHSAA or the event manager.