



Conditions of Competition and Local Rules for all IHSAA 2023-24 Golf Competitions

The 2023 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 & 24.4)—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 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.

Scorecard Certification-- **Rule 3.3b(2)** is modified in this way: If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified (signed) either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the **general penalty (two penalty strokes)**.

The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's *round*.

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 check the Rules App, 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 18.3**).

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.

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."

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).

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.

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.

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.