



Conditions of Competition and Local Rules for all IHSAA 2026-27 Golf Competitions

The most updated 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/give advice to their players from the tee to the green, but coaches cannot go onto the green. Once a player steps onto the green, coaching must stop until the player holes out and leaves the green for the next teeing area, regardless of whether the player steps back off the green during that hole. Communicating with the player after they have stepped onto the green is a breach of the rules and is a two stroke penalty. Only two coaches per team are allowed to coach during an event.

b. It is imperative that coaches do not slow the pace of play. Slow play will be penalized as per USGA rules.

c. Coaches are not allowed to play the course during the hours the tournament is in progress.

d. 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 for scoring/stats on the PlusFour Golf platform, 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.