

Idaho High School Activities Association

2026
State Golf Manual



Dairy West
Official Sponsor of
IHSAA State Championship Events

IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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2026 STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT MANUAL

WELCOME

Welcome to the State Golf Tournament. The Idaho High School Activities Association is proud to sponsor this tournament and we hope it will be an enjoyable, educational, and memorable experience for all players, coaches, and fans. Thank you for supporting Idaho high school activities.

This manual includes policies and procedures for the State Golf Tournament.

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Idaho High School Activities Association
2026 STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT
October 12-13, 2026

TOURNAMENT SITES / MANAGERS

6A

Site: Avondale GC, Coeur d'Alene
Mgrs: Tony Prka/Jeff Lake, Coeur d'Alene HS
tony.prka@cdaschools.org
jlake@cdaschools.org

5A

Site: The Links GC, Post Falls
Mgrs: TJ Clary/Mike Deprez, Sandpoint HS
thomas.clary@lposd.org
deprez.michael@yahoo.com

IHSAA Administrator: Julie Hammons, (208) 375-7027; hammonsj@idhsaa.org

CLASSIFICATION

6A: 1400 and over in grades 9-12

5A: 1399 - 700 in grades 9-12

REPRESENTATION

Representation from district to state is based on the number of complete teams that actually participate at the district tournament. Representation for each district or regional tournament to state competition will be determined as follows:

<u>Teams In District Competition</u>	<u>Teams to State</u>
1-3*	1
4-6	2
7-9	3
10-over	4

* If only one team participates in a district, the IHSAA should be contacted. The following guidelines will be used to determine advancement to state:

- a. Single teams in a district shall automatically qualify for the state tournament as long as they have competed in five regular season matches and have participated in a district tournament.

Teams that miss qualifying by one spot may apply for a hardship. Refer to the golf rules and regulations on the IHSAA website for criteria and procedures.

INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

Individuals may qualify for the state tournament according to the number of complete teams participating in the district tournament. Example: Four teams competing at district, the four lowest scoring individuals qualify for state. In addition, an individual may qualify by scoring at or below the state-qualifying standard at the district-qualifying tournament. State qualifying standards are determined by averaging the previous three years' state tournament 5th place finishers and are listed as "strokes over course rating".

2026 State Qualifying Standards:

6A Boys	.6
6A Girls	11.5
5A Boys	4.8
5A Girls	9.2

Note: Qualifying scores will be rounded down at .4 or lower and rounded up at .5 or higher. Ex. If a 5A girl shoots an 80 at the district tournament where the course rating is 70.5, the formula gives her a 79.7 and she would qualify using the 2026 qualifying standard. If she shoots an 81, she would not qualify.

Honest Effort A golfer who starts, but does not finish, the district tournament, may be counted in determining the number of qualifying teams and individuals provided the manager determines that an honest effort was made and that the non-finish was due to circumstances beyond the golfer's control.

QUALIFIERS' SWEATSHIRT ORDER (alternates are not eligible)

❖ Submit sweatshirt order at www.idhsaa.org

- Under the “Schools” tab CLICK “Rosters”
- Log in with Username and Password used to update school directory
- Select appropriate activity
- Verify School Details – If changes are needed; CLICK “Edit My School” If correct; CLICK “My School is Correct”
- Submit Sweatshirt Order – The total number of shirts requested must be no more than the number of qualified participants. * To purchase additional sweatshirts, contact Ben at McU Sports ben@mcusports.com
- SUBMIT FORM

STATE TOURNAMENT FORMAT

All teams and individuals will play 36 holes.

TEAM SCORING

Each school may enter five players, but the total strokes of four players will determine the team score. Final team scores will be a combined 36-hole score.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions are not allowed after final line-ups are submitted to tournament managers (deadline is Monday prior to the state tournament). In the event of **injury, illness or bereavement**, teams may be allowed to replace a participant with permission of the tournament manager and the IHSAA. No substitutions will be allowed mid-round.

STARTING TIMES

All play will begin at 8:00 a.m., or as modified by the host course and tournament manager.

LINE-UPS

Coaches must declare their team lineup by **Thursday, Oct 8 on the PlusFour Golf platform**. Coaches must submit and confirm prior to the Thursday deadline. No changes to the line-up will be allowed after the deadline.

PRACTICE ROUNDS

There will be no official practice rounds scheduled for any classification on any golf course. Participants may play the golf course on their own any time prior to the starting time of the state tournament.

COACHES MEETING

It is important that all schools are represented at the pre-tournament coaches meeting. The appropriate tournament manager will send details prior to the tournament.

THE RULES COMMITTEE

The rules committee will consist of the Rules Official, an IHSAA representative (tournament manager), and the host course pro or assistant pro.

AWARDS

- Teams Trophies will be awarded to the top four teams; medals will be awarded to the members of the first and second place teams; Dairy West banners will be awarded to championship teams.
- Medalists Medals will be awarded to the top ten individual finishers.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/DARKNESS PROTOCOL

See guidelines – page 8.

GOVERNANCE

USGA Rules of Golf will govern all tournament play, with allowed local course rules, and as modified by IHSA rules. Please refer to “Conditions for Competitions” document here:

https://idhsaa.org/asset/GOLF/Conditions_of_Competition_2026_27.pdf

PAIRING GUIDELINES – All Classifications

Day 1:

Tournament managers will prepare the pairings and tee times. Teams’ number one’s (as designated by their coaches on the lineup submitted) will be paired together and go off first. Individual qualifiers will be paired together and will go off immediately after the number one’s. Number two’s will follow, and so on.

After the completion of play on Day 1, coaches will be given the option to re-order their lineup. No new players are allowed. Coaches must submit their modified lineup (if they choose to make changes) to the tournament manager *before* leaving the course on Day 1 or no later than 6:00 pm.

Day 2:

Competitors will be repaired the second day of the state tournament based on the team scores for the top four teams, and individual scores for the rest of the field. The four lowest scoring teams from Day 1 will make up the last five groups of four. The number one golfers from these four teams (as designated by their coaches) would be included in the last group of four. The number two golfers in the second-to-last group of four, the number three golfers in the third-to last group of four, and so on. The remainder of the field will be paired according to individual scores from Day 1, with the highest scores teeing off first. No more than two participants from the same school shall be in the same pairing. If that occurs, adjustments will be made by the tournament management.

STATE TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Practice
 - a. Qualifiers are not permitted to play the course, any hole, or to practice putt on a course green the same day as the tournament.
 - b. Practice between rounds 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.
2. Caddies Caddies are not permitted during district or state tournament play.
3. Carts Carts are not permitted, except in case of special medical conditions. Permission to use a cart must be granted by the IHSA or tournament manager.
4. Coaches
 - 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 state tournament is in progress.
 - d. Coaches should make an effort to help all participants abide by the rules of golf and the rules set up for district and state play. It is unethical to try to win a championship by disqualification.
5. Gallery The gallery must be a reasonable distance (at least 25 feet) from the competitors at all times. Penalty for continued breach of gallery distance rule is one stroke.
 6. Aiding a Competitor There shall be no aiding of any competitor, except to look for a lost ball or to provide relief items such as water, sunscreen, etc. Penalty for breach of rule is two strokes.
 7. Sportsmanship A player who violates the sportsmanship rules of golf will be assessed one penalty stroke for each unsportsmanlike act. Such acts include (but not limited to) profanity, throwing a club, damaging the course, etc.
 8. Attire All players must wear appropriate golf attire — slacks or shorts and a collared shirt. Denim jeans are not permitted.
 9. Electronic Devices Competitors are not permitted to wear headphones or use cell phones (except for scoring or hole data purposes on the PlusFour Golf platform) during tournament play. Penalty for breach of rule is two strokes.
 10. Distance Measuring Devices A player may obtain distance information by using a golf-designed device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of USGA Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is two strokes.
 11. Illegal Substances The use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs is prohibited. Penalty for breach of rule is immediate disqualification.

SUPERVISION OF PLAY

1. A Rules Official will supervise district and state tournaments.
2. At the State Tournament, schools are asked to bring one adult monitor for each of their qualifying teams. Host sites will provide adult monitors as well.
3. Adult volunteers will monitor play and assist in keeping score, but will not make rules interpretations. These scorers will be assigned in the following manner:
 - a. The tournament manager will assign one adult volunteer to follow each group. He/she should not be a coach or relative of any player in that group if at all possible.
4. As each group finishes a hole, the assigned scorer will ask:
 - a. Are there any concerns regarding this hole?
 - b. Are you all in agreement on the scores of each player?
5. If there are concerns or reports of rules violations, the scorer will:
 - a. Attempt to resolve concerns through group discussion, or
 - b. Notify the Rules Official via cell phone of a possible rules violation.
 - c. The Rules Official will attempt to resolve issue before the group plays the next hole.
6. After the 18th hole, the scorer will escort each group to the scoring area. Note: Coaches, spectators or other players will not be allowed in the scoring area.
7. The scoring area manager will have each group sit together and double-check their scorecards. He/she will then ask the group if anyone has questions or concerns about their round.
 - a. If there are no concerns, players will sign and turn in their scorecards. Coaches may review their players' scorecards before the cards are signed.
 - b. If there are concerns, players will be moved to a separate location until the issue can be resolved and the Games Committee will convene.
 - The golfer will state his/her concern in front of the entire group. If the concern is accusatory in nature, the committee will gather information and facts surrounding the issue by privately interviewing all players of the group.
 - Once the issue has been resolved, the coaches of each affected school will be notified of the Games Committee's decision, the players will sign their scorecards and will be released. Coaches may review their players' scorecards before the cards are signed.

SCORING

1. Players in the foursome will be assigned as markers for another member of the foursome. Player 1 will score for 2, 2 will score for 3, 3 for 4, and 4 will score for 1. (Rule 3-3) In addition, one player or hole monitor will be designated as the scorer for the group using the PlusFour Golf platform.
2. After each hole the marker should check the score with the competitor. The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded and shall check his/her score after each hole. Any concerns or possible violations must be reported to the adult scorer assigned to their foursome before proceeding to the next hole. Players should also check the PlusFour Golf platform after each hole and report any needed correction to the group's scorer so it gets corrected before the next hole.
3. After the final hole, the group will be escorted to the scoring area as outlined under "Supervision of Play" and settle any doubtful points with the Rules Official or games committee, ensure that their marker has signed the card, and countersign the card him/herself. Penalty for breach of Rule 3-3b is disqualification. A tournament official will review the scores in PlusFour against the signed cards and certify each one at the end of the round. Certified scores in PlusFour will match the signed cards and serve as the live results and public leaderboard, with the signed paper cards remaining the official record.
4. Monitors will be provided by each school and/or the host site at the State Golf Tournaments.

NOTE: All rounds at State Golf will be played under USGA Rule 21-1, Maximum Score. The maximum score will be "10" on any hole.

SCORECARDS

During all matches and tournaments, coaches should stress the importance of legible and accurate scorecards. Numbers must be written clearly. When a mistake is made in the recording of the hole-by-hole score, the mistake should be crossed out and the correct score written directly below the crossed out incorrect score. The correct score should never be written over the mistake. Before submitting the scorecard to the scoring manager, players must check to ensure scores are clearly legible and correct. **Once the player signs their card and leaves the scoring area, scores are considered final.**

RESOLVING TIES AT STATE

1. All ties that occur at the end of regulation play for 1st – 4th team places and 1st place medalist will be resolved by a sudden-death playoff. The procedure is as follows:
 - a. Teams who are tied will play 5 golfers and score the 4 lowest individual scores. The team with the lowest combined team score after one hole will be declared the winner.
 - b. If the team score is still tied after the first playoff hole, the same procedure will be used for the remaining holes until the tie is broken.
 - c. Ties for first place medalist will be broken in the same manner as (b).
2. Ties for medalist places 2-10 will be resolved by use of a "card-off". The procedure is as follows:
 - a. The scores of the highest rated hole on the course will be compared. Individual with the lowest score on that hole will be declared the winner.
 - b. If a tie remains after the first card-off hole, scores on the second highest rated hole will be compared. This system will be continued until the tie is broken.



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IHSAA Inclement Weather Plan for State Golf

Inclement Weather/Darkness Procedure for State

In the event the state tournament cannot take place in its scheduled format, the following procedure will be used:

1. All modifications will be handled in accordance with IHSAA Rule 20 (below) as modified for golf.
2. If play cannot be completed on Day 1, that round will be completed on Day 2, if possible, prior to the first scheduled tee time. Day 2 pairing priorities may need to be modified.
3. If it is not feasible to complete Day 1 on Day 2 without jeopardizing the completion of Day 2, scores from Day 1 will be recorded through the last hole completed by the entire field (9 hole minimum). Day 2 pairings will be set using those scores.
4. If play on Day 2 cannot be completed, scores will be recorded through the last hole completed by the entire field (9 hole minimum) to determine final placement.
5. All ties, including all medalist positions and all team results, will be decided using a card off.

NOTE: It is very possible that not all classifications will make the same decisions at each step of the protocol above.

IHSAA Rule 20

- 20-1** When state competition cannot be completed due to weather or conditions beyond the control of the host facility, the following procedures will be followed:
- a. Reschedule the event at a site that is in the general vicinity of the scheduled contest. Resume play as soon as possible (same day).
 - b. Consolidate the schedule where the tournament can be completed in the normal time frame by eliminating the consolation game(s).
- 20-2** If the championship game cannot be played during the normal tournament time frame, the following procedures will be followed:
- a. Consult the administration of both schools and the IHSAA to determine if the contest can be played.
 - b. If the contest cannot be played, both teams will be declared co-state champions.
 - c. If the contest can be played, it should be resumed at the earliest possible time with the least amount of travel. If a team refuses to play for reasons that are not school related, the game shall be forfeited.

Lightning Disturbances

NFHS GUIDELINES ON HANDLING PRACTICES AND CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING or THUNDER DISTURBANCES

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Proactive Planning:

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a. When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for thirty minutes and take shelter immediately.
 - b. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel.
5. Inform student athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.