

MSHSL GOLF TERMS OF COMPETITION

(Adopted by the Golf Advisory Council March 10, 2021)

COACHING ON THE COURSE

Each participating school may have one (1) Head Coach and one (1) Assistant Coach (duly hired by the school board of that school) provide advice to the players from that school while on the golf course.

Coaching on the course is permitted until the player(s) step onto the putting green. Coaches are not permitted to step into any bunker or onto any putting green to provide coaching assistance to their player(s).

Coaches are permitted to provide assistance to players on shots on a putting green only if it is a matter of a Rules clarification or inquiry. In order to do so, the player must step off the putting green to receive rule clarification from his/her coach. The player(s) within the group must announce to all members of the playing group of their intention to talk with their coach or Rules Official.

SCORING FORMAT – REGULAR SEASON ONLY

The Host Coach may elect to conduct an event using a "Maximum Score" format of their choosing, including Double Par and Circle 10. This information MUST be included on the "Local Rules Sheet" for the event. In addition, Conferences also may elect to adopt a scoring format policy for any and all Conference events with the approval of Conference schools.

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES & OTHER SIMILAR EQUIPMENT

The MSHSL Rule for Distance-Measuring Devices and other Similar Equipment follows Rule 4.3a of the Rules of Golf as follows. (NOTE: The entire Rule, despite not being included here, is in effect.)

Distance and Directional Information

- **Allowed** Getting information on distance or direction (such as from a distance-measuring device or compass).
- **Allowed Devices** Stand-alone distance measuring devices (such as laser and GPS rangefinders) as well as distance measuring apps (such as GolfShot and GolfLogix) loaded on personal devices are permitted. Devices that contain the functionality to calculate measurements other than distance are permitted as long as the functionality remains turned off throughout the entire round.
- **Not Allowed**
 - Measuring elevation changes, or
 - Interpreting distance or directional information (such as using a device to get a recommended line of play or club selection based on the location of the player's ball).

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Information on Wind and Other Weather Conditions

- **Allowed**
 - Getting any type of weather information (including wind speed) that is available from weather forecasts, or
 - Measuring temperature and humidity at the course.
- **Not Allowed**
 - Measuring wind speed at the course, or
 - Using an artificial object to get other wind-related information (such as using powder to assess wind direction).

Information Gathered Before or During Round

- **Allowed**
 - Using information that was gathered before the round (such as playing information from previous rounds, swing tips or club recommendations), or
 - Recording (for use after the round) playing or physiological information from the round (such as club distance, playing statistics or heart rate).
- **Not Allowed**
 - Processing or interpreting playing information from the round (such as club recommendations based on current round distances), or
 - Using any physiological information recorded during the round.

Audio and Video

- **Model Local Rule G-8**
 - 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.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 4.3:

- **Penalty for first breach from single act or related acts: Two (2) Strokes**
- **Penalty for second breach unrelated to first breach: Disqualification**

CELL PHONE USAGE POLICY

Tournament Staff & Coaches

Cell phone use is permitted for MSHSL tournament staff and sectional/state tournament coaches under the following conditions:

1. Access to the MSHSL Golf app.
2. Communication with other tournament staff and/or coaching staff members.
3. Communication amongst coaches of the same school in regard to assistance with a player on the course as long as it does not disrupt or slow the pace of play.
4. Emergency situations on the course or in the clubhouse.

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Players

Cell phone use is permitted at all levels of play under the following conditions:

1. Electronic scoring through the MSHSL Golf app from green to next tee box only.
2. As a Distance-Measuring Device through an app, such as GolfLogix or Golf Shot.
3. If a Rules Official is needed, one can be requested through the MSHSL Golf app only. All players within the group must be aware of the Rules Official being requested.
4. Emergency situations on the course or in the clubhouse.

PACE OF PLAY

The following conditions and policies govern the MSHSL pace of play at all Subsection, Section and State Tournament play.

The penalty for Breach of this Rule, in accordance with Rule 5.6a, is as follows:

**First offense – Verbal Warning; Second offense - One (1) stroke;
Third offense – Two (2) strokes, Fourth offense - Disqualification."**

READY GOLF

"Ready Golf," or the process of playing a stroke when ready and not waiting until it is "your turn" based on the honor on the teeing area or distance from the hole, is the MSHSL standard. When doing so, players always should be playing in a safe and responsible way.

PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY

A player must not unreasonably delay of play (Rule 5.6a: Unreasonable Delay of Play), either when playing a hole or between two holes. Each player is responsible for his/her group's maintaining proper position on the course in relation to the rest of the field, and this is the standard expected by the MSHSL.

Players should walk directly and quickly when walking to their next shot, and prepare for the next stroke while others are playing, in order to be ready to play when it is their turn.

GROUP OUT OF POSITION

Each group should be approximately one (1) starting interval behind the preceding group throughout the entire round. The position of the following group has no bearing in determining whether or not a group and/or player's pace of play is satisfactory. It is the responsibility of each player to be aware of his/her position on the golf course.

A group that is deemed out of position by the Rules Committee will be given a verbal warning regarding their pace of play for its first offense. Should the same group need to be addressed a second or subsequent time by the Committee regarding pace of play,

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each player in the group will be assessed a one stroke penalty per Rule 5.6a. However, if it is obvious to the Committee that the group is out of position due to the play of one or more players (but not all) within the group (such as consistently taking more than 40 seconds to play a stroke as stated below or not walking quickly between shots), the Committee may assign the penalty to those players and not the entire group as outlined in the penalty statement above.

DEFINITION OF "OUT OF POSITION"

A group will be considered to be out of position if it (a) has taken more time than has been allotted to reach that point on the course and (b) has a clear par 3 or par 4 in front of them, or the group in question arrives on the teeing ground. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position. A group is expected to keep up with the group in front of it.

TIMING

A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke. Timing starts when the player has a reasonable time to reach his/her ball, it is clearly the player's turn to play, and nothing interferes with the player's ability to play the stroke. Time taken for determining yardage, club selection, wind conditions, etc. will count against the player's overall time. On the putting green, timing begins after a player has had a reasonable amount of time to repair ball marks and remove loose impediments on the line of putt. Timing may start before a player has replaced the ball on the putting green.

Any player taking an excess of 40 seconds to play a given shot, except in extraordinary circumstances, is subject to a penalty for undue delay as prescribed above.