



2022-2023 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Boys and Girls Golf Rules, Policies, and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page](#) for information regarding the following:

- Multiple Level Teams at Sub-Varsity Level
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather Conditions (heat, cold & lightning)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contest Chart

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 509](#) for information regarding:

- Contests
- Equipment Issued
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Practice Sessions before First Contest Season Begins

CONTEST RULES

Refer to [Bylaw 402](#): Except as modified by the League, the United States Golf Association Rules for Medal Play for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate. See MSHSL Golf Terms of Competition Document for modifications.

END OF SEASON

Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)

- A. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:
 1. The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
 2. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.
- B. School Team Practice and Competition: The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.
 1. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
 2. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.
- C. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.

- D. During the Summer Vacation Period ([Bylaw 208](#) - Non-School Competition and Training - Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S CONTEST

It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another school's game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions and the League's Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL [Bylaw 409](#), RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS, speaks to this issue, directly, and Bylaw 409.2 specifically states that, "School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held."

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site. Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel.

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS

- Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the entire torso. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the arena/stadium if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
- The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school and/or tournament administrators.
- Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.
- Hand-held signs, which do not obstruct the view of others, will be permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs, message boards, "white" boards or other similar items contest/tournament officials deem to be in poor taste will be removed.

- Artificial noise makers (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed.
- Laser lights are strictly prohibited.

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Golf Information – Regular Season

A regular-season match/tournament is not considered to be completed unless all players have played a minimum of nine (9) holes and if the nine (9) holes completed are the same holes for each player.

Golf matches consist of 9-18-27-or 36 holes provided that all players have played the same holes and scores for those same holes are recorded for all players.

In cases of interruptions or delays due to emergency circumstances or weather conditions, scores will become official and will count in the final standings when all entries have completed the same 9-holes and any subsequent holes-in-common whereas those same holes are recorded for all players.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A player who uses vulgar language, throws a golf club, defaces the golf course in any way, or displays any other unsportsmanlike conduct, per Local Rule in conjunction with USGA Rule 1.2, will be assessed a two-stroke penalty for the first infraction and the second offense will result in disqualification.

It is the obligation of the player to make the call on himself/herself. If she/he does not, it is the obligation of the other players in the group to call the penalty. If they do not call the penalty, all players in the group will be subject to disqualification under USGA Rule 1.2

All questions concerning the use of these penalties will be handled by the Rules Committee at the conclusion of the players and/or groups round of play

A player may not ask for advice from spectators nor may the player give advice to another player. Once a player begins play, spectators must maintain a reasonable gallery distance from all players (approximately 25 yards is considered the minimum). Non-adherence may subject a player to the appropriate USGA rule penalty (i.e., advice) and non-players to be removed from the course by the Rules Committee.

During the regular-season and post-season competition, coaches are expected to monitor play and shall not practice or play golf during the time competitors from their school are competing.

FOUR-PERSON SCORECARDS

Participants will trade the official scorecards at the beginning of each round so that each member of the foursome will be keeping another player's scorecard. Each participant would also keep the score of each member of the group during the round. This would be done by having each player announce his/her score to the group upon completion of the hole. At the completion of the round, each group of players will meet with a designated adult to verify all four players' scores.

The player and his/her marker must sign the scorecard at the completion of each 18-hole round. Only the player is responsible for his/her score, and no penalty shall be assessed at any time to a marker or to anyone else in the foursome unless the marker or other members of the foursome intentionally recorded a wrong score.

MSHSL iWanamaker app scorecards must be used at the subsection and section and state golf tournaments. Both the player and the marker must sign the card at the completion of the round.

ELITE ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL EVENT NOT SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY FOR THAT SPORT

Bylaw 207.1 indicates athletes who wish to participate in an Elite or National event sponsored by the USGA, golf's National Governing Body, must make application 30 days in advance of the event to the League for approval.

Bylaw 207.2 indicates that, "Athletes who are invited to participate in Elite National camps or Elite National tournaments which are not sponsored by that sport's National Governing Body may make application 30 days in advance of the event to the League for approval."

In order to participate, the following information must be submitted to the League office a minimum of 30 days in advance of the event by the Designated School Representative of the member school:

1. The completed Elite Athlete Form.
2. A letter of invitation specifically inviting the athlete to participate in the identified event.
3. If, however, the event is a qualifier for the US Open or the MGA Players Championship, the required handicap for entry must be observed, and copy of the student's handicap must be submitted to the League with the participation application.
4. A complete description of the organization submitting the invitation including:
 - the event's connection to the USGA
 - the event's criteria for extending the invitation to the athlete
 - The website where information about the organization can be found.

If the above information has been submitted in a timely manner, the athlete may be permitted to participate in the event during the high school season provided, however, that

1. No athlete may compete in more than sixteen (16) events (either 9 hole or 18 hole matches) during the high school season. If the athlete's school has scheduled a 36-hole tournament, the athlete may participate in an outside 36-hole event if he/she has not/will not participate in the 36-hole event scheduled by the athlete's school.
2. Each 18-hole event, whether played with the athlete's high school team or in an MSHSL approved outside event, will count as one of the athlete's maximum sixteen (16) team events during the high school season. (i.e., A 36-hole event will count as two (2) 18-hole events; a 54-hole event will count as three (3) 18-hole events.) The US Open and MGA Open qualifying events **do not** count as one (1) of the sixteen (16) golf matches during the season.
3. A 9-hole golf match scheduled by the school will count as one (1) of the school's sixteen (16) regular-season events, and a combination of 9-hole events may not be used to gain additional golf matches.

Athletes are limited to a maximum of two (2) outside events during the high school season that have met with MSHSL approval.

Some conferences only permit their schools to play 9-hole matches, while others allow 18-hole matches. And, in some cases, schools will participate in a 36 hole event. So that there can be no mistake about how these matches count toward the total number of matches allowed, please note the following.

1. Each school may only have one (1) varsity team.
2. If a varsity team plays a 9-hole or an 18-hole match on the same day and scores are kept and a winner is identified, that match counts as one (1) of the 16 allowable matches for the season.
3. EVERY TIME a school's varsity team plays a golf match that match counts as one (1) of the 16 allowable matches for the year. If a school JV or "B" squad team plays against any varsity team the match counts as a varsity match for both teams. (Bylaw 411-4-F).
4. Each school may have a JV and/or "B" squad team(s). Each team is limited to a maximum of 16 matches during the year.
5. Each player is limited to a maximum of 16 matches, whether the matches are varsity, JV or "B" squad, during each golf season.
6. If a school plays a 2 day/36-hole match/tournament the school could count the match as one (1) regular-season match:
 - **Provided that** the two days on which the match/tournament is played are consecutive; and
 - **All teams** that played on Day 1 must also play on Day 2 of the 36-hole match/tournament; and
 - **All players** on all the teams in the 36-hole match/tournament must be the same players listed as team members on both days of the scheduled match/tournament and a final score and a winner is identified; and
 - **All schools** must have the 2-day/36 hole match/tournament listed on their season schedule.

If any of the items above are missing, the event will count as two (2) matches for all schools in the match/tournament.

Golf Information – Post Season

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS - SUBSECTION, SECTION & STATE

Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1.d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Refer to [Bylaw 405](#): A member school must schedule and play a minimum of three (3) interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

CADDIES

Caddies are not permitted.

PULL CARTS OR MOTORIZED CARTS

Golfers may not use a motorized cart during the regular-season or during tournament competition. The only exception will be in the event that a student meets the criteria identified in federal law, the Americans with Disabilities Act. That diagnosis must be presented, in writing, to the Executive Director of the League, and the written response from the Executive Director must be presented at each competition when the exception to use a motorized cart is to be exercised.

Golfers may use a non-motorized pull cart during the regular-season or during tournament competition unless such use is prohibited by the golf course where the competition is played.

DURING SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS

Participants will use the MSHSL iWanamaker app for each round so each member of the foursome will be keeping another player's score. At the completion of each hole, the player will announce his/her score for that

hole to his/her marker. If there is a question regarding the number of strokes played on any hole, the marker (1) may use the other players in the foursome to recount the strokes for the player in question or (2) may announce to the group that he/she has a rules/stroke question that will need to be addressed to the rule interpreter before the scorecard is signed. The player may meet with a subsection or section identified adult to verify each scorecard at the completion of the round. The player and his/her marker must verify the scorecard at the completion of each 18-hole round.

The scores on the MSHSL iWanamaker app will be deemed official once all scores have been verified by each player in the group, and confirmed with the scoring committee.

CLASSES

Tournaments in golf shall be conducted in three classes, A, AA and AAA.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENT

Coaches are responsible for proper team attire.

- Clothing must be appropriate to golf. No clothing or hats displaying products that are inappropriate to MSHSL principles will be acceptable.
- No running shorts, short shorts or cut-offs are acceptable.
- Shirts must be worn. Tank tops are not acceptable.
- Shoes shall be worn.
- Coaches should encourage uniformity in team dress.
- Collared shirts are preferred and, in some cases, are required by golf courses.

LENGTH OF PLAY - SUBSECTION AND SECTION TOURNAMENTS

A minimum of thirty-six (36) holes will be scheduled for play. In the event of emergency circumstances or inclement weather, the Tournament Director, in consultation with the Committee, may adjust the number of holes that will be played. In cases of interruptions or delays due to emergency circumstances or weather conditions, scores will become official and will count in the final standings when all entries have completed the same 9-holes and any subsequent holes-in-common whereas those same holes are recorded for all players. Tie-breaker criteria will utilize these adjusted scores to determine a winner as applicable.

FIRST-LEVEL TOURNAMENTS

Subsection; or section, if no subsection tournaments are conducted.

ENTRIES

Each member school may enter from one (1) to six (6) individuals in the tournament.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

All contestants are eligible to win a place in the individual portion of the tournament.

TEAM COMPETITION

A team shall consist of a minimum of four (4) players and a maximum of six (6) players in the tournament.

TEAM SCORING

The score of a team shall be determined by combining the scores of the four (4) lowest finishers on the team during each day of the tournament. The team with the lowest aggregate four (4) scores is the winner.

SUBSTITUTION IN LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

A. DISQUALIFICATION/WITHDRAWALS DURING TOURNAMENT PLAY

If a player is disqualified or withdraws (DQ/WD) from a round in a team competition in which not all scores count towards the team's total score, the DQ/WD applies only to that round of the competition. As such, the DQ/WD player may return to play in the State Tournament if their respective team qualifies and that player would be eligible to compete for individual tournament honors.

However, if a player is disqualified/ejected for failing to meet the Code of Conduct standards under USGA Rule 1.2b or MSHSL bylaws, that player will be ineligible for the duration of time/events as stipulated in bylaw 206.00.

CERTIFICATION OF ROSTER TO THE COMMITTEE

Team Rosters for Section Tournaments may be altered up to 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled tee time unless otherwise stipulated by the Section Manager and/or Administrative Region. Once this time has passed, substitutions are not permitted except under the following conditions:

1. That a physician indicates that a student listed on the certified roster must not participate.
 - a. This student may be returned to the tournament squad upon certification, in writing, by the physician to the governing committee.
 - b. When such a player is returned to the tournament squad, the player replaces the substitute.
2. That the governing committee determines that a justifiable emergency indicates a need for the withdrawal of a certified player.
 - a. This student may be returned to the tournament squad upon certification, in writing, by the physician to the governing committee.
 - b. When such a player is returned to the tournament squad, the player replaces the substitute.

The State Tournament Roster is certified to the Committee upon verification of the Section Tournament Results by the Section Committee. Only substitutions as identified above will be honored for State Tournament play once the Section Tournament Results have been certified.

B. CERTIFICATION AND SUBSTITUTION FOR TEAM/INDIVIDUAL SPORTS WITH COMBINED CHAMPIONSHIPS

After an official squad for a section tournament in cross country running, Nordic ski racing, and golf has been certified to the governing committee of that tournament, substitutions for that tournament and for the state tournament are not permitted except as specified under A. 1-2 above. Team and individual members who participate in the section meet and advance to the state meet as an individual or team member are eligible for individual awards at the state meet.

C. SUBSTITUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Substitutions may occur prior to the start of the first round of competition at the first-level tournament – subsection tournament; or section when no subsection tournament is conducted.

TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURE FOR ADVANCEMENT FROM SUBSECTION TO SECTION OR FROM SECTION TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT

Unless otherwise established, the following tie-breaking procedures will apply:

A. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

If at the end of regulation play, a tie exists, the individuals involved will play sudden death until the tie is broken. The tie-breaking procedure will not be used if scores are tied and no advancement is required.

B. TEAM COMPETITION

If at the end of regulation play a tie exists for first place, the following criteria shall be applied in the order listed to determine the winning team if the tied score is based on the same 36 holes at the same course.

1. Add the five (5) lowest scores of the players of each of the tied teams. The team with the lowest total will be determined the winner (i.e., add the score of Player 5 on Day 1 and the score of Player 5 on Day 2. Add that total to the total score of Players 1-4 on Day 1 and Players 1-4 on Day 2).
2. If the score is still tied, add the six (6) scores of each of the players of the tied teams, and the team with the lowest total will be determined the winner (i.e., same process as number 1 above).
3. If the score is still tied, add the three (3) lowest scores of each of the players of the tied teams, and the team with the lowest total will be determined the winner.
4. If the score is still tied, add the two (2) lowest scores of each of the players of the tied teams, and the team with the lowest total will be determined the winner.
5. If the score is still tied, compare the lowest score of each of the players of each of the tied teams, and team with the lowest single score will be determined the winner.
6. If the score still remains tied, a sudden death playoff shall be conducted. The playoff will include the six (6) team members of each of the tied teams. Scoring shall be four lowest scores and, if necessary, criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in order.

If the tied scored is based only on the second 18-holes because the section qualifiers have advanced from different subsection tournament courses, only the score from the final 18-holes will be applied to the tie-breaking procedure above.

ADVANCEMENT TO SECTION TOURNAMENTS

Each Administrative Region Committee shall determine the number of subsections for each class for which they are responsible. The Region Committee shall also determine the number of teams and individuals who will advance from the subsection to the section tournament.

TOURNAMENT ADVANCEMENT

Team and individual members who participate in the subsection and section meets and advance to the state meet as an individual or team member are eligible for individual awards at the state meet.

AWARDS - SUBSECTION

- A. Medals will be awarded to each member of the 1st-place team (6), and to the 1st-, 2nd-, 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-place individuals.
- B. Medals will be awarded to tournament qualifiers who do not finish in places 1-5 and who are not members of the winning team, but who will advance to the section tournament. These medals are for individual tournament qualifiers ONLY. If a member of a qualifying team has received a medal but does not finish in the top five (5) individual rankings, that team member does not receive a tournament-qualifier medal. It is possible that a golfer may receive two medals (i.e., one of the five players with the lowest score who also is a member of the winning team).
- C. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st- and 2nd-place teams.

It is a violation of MSHSL Policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not provided by the MSHSL for subsection, section or state tournaments.

ADVANCEMENT

Sections may permit all schools sponsoring golf teams to advance directly to the Section Tournament and not sponsor separate subsection tournaments. In this event, the policies for first-level tournaments shall apply.

ENTRIES

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

All participants who advance from the first level of tournament play are eligible to compete for individual honors. Wristbands will be issued to duly (MSHSL/Member School) authorized coach(es) under the following parameters:

1. One (1) wristband issued to a coach that has one (1) or two (2) individual section and/or state tournament qualifiers
2. Two (2) wristbands issued to a coach that has three (3) or more individual section/state tournament qualifiers

TEAM COMPETITION

Only the first-place team from each first level tournament is eligible to compete for team honors. A team shall consist of a minimum of four (4) players and a maximum of six (6) players. The score of the team shall be determined by combining the four (4) lowest scores of the six (6) team members during each day of the tournament. The team with the lowest aggregate score is the winner. Two (2) wristbands will be provided for one (1) head coach and one (1) duly hired assistant coach.

Each person providing advice to the players from the school must be identified to the Committee prior to the start of the round.

All qualifiers for each level of tournament play are eligible to win individual honors.

SECTION AWARDS

- A. Medals will be awarded to each member of the 1st- and 2nd-place teams (6), and to the 1st-, 2nd-, 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-place individuals.
- B. Medals will be awarded to tournament qualifiers (3) who do not finish in places 1-5 and who are not members of the winning team, but who will advance to the state tournament. These medals are for individual tournament qualifiers ONLY. If a member of a qualifying team has received a medal but does not finish in the top five (5) individual rankings, that team member does not receive a tournament-qualifier medal. It is possible that a golfer may receive two medals (i.e., one of the five players with the lowest score who also is a member of the winning team).
- C. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st- and 2nd-place teams.

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING SCHOOL INFORMATION

Specific information for qualifying schools is available on the MSHSL Administrative Web Site under Tournament Information.

STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

ENTRIES

A. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

All participants who advance from the first level of tournament play are eligible to compete for individual honors.

B. TEAM COMPETITION

Only the qualifying team(s) from each first-level tournament is (are) eligible to compete for team honors. A team shall consist of a minimum of four (4) players and a maximum of six (6) players. The score of the team shall be determined by combining the four (4) lowest scores of the six (6) team members during each day of the tournament. The team with the lowest aggregate score is the winner.

All qualifiers for each level of tournament play are eligible to win individual honors.

SITES AND SCHEDULE

The state tournament sites, practice rounds and tournament information will be shared with coaches of tournament qualifiers.

REGISTRATION

State Tournament qualifiers must be accompanied by the coach or a member of the faculty officially assigned by the school. The coach must register and pick up the registration envelope at the course prior to the player's/team's first tee time.

STATE TOURNAMENT ROSTER

The State Tournament Roster is certified to the Committee upon verification of the Section Tournament Results by the Section Committee. Only substitutions as identified in the substitution section.

START OF PLAY

All players in the State Golf Tournaments will be assigned a tee time by the League office. Player foursomes will be re-assigned for the second day.

Starters will supervise tee boxes on the "front and back" tees.

Uniform requirements will be strictly enforced.

LENGTH OF PLAY STATE TOURNAMENT

Thirty-six (36) holes will be scheduled for play. In the event of emergency circumstances or inclement weather, the Tournament Director, in consultation with the committee, may adjust the number of holes that will be played.

In cases of interruptions or delays due to emergency circumstances or weather conditions, scores will become official and will count in the final standings when all entries have completed the same 18-holes and any subsequent holes-in-common whereas those same holes are recorded for all players.

TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURE

INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM COMPETITION

Ties in the state tournament will not be broken. Duplicate medals and/or trophies will be awarded as follows:

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

If there are ties for the first eight places in the individual scoring, duplicate medals will be awarded.

TEAM COMPETITION

If there is a tie for the first three places in the team scoring, duplicate medals and trophies will be awarded.

TEAM SCORING

The score of a team shall be determined by combining the four (4) lowest scores of the six (6) members for each day of the competition. The team with the lowest score is the winner. If only one day of golf can be played, the four (4) lowest scores of the six team members would be the team score.

REPORTING SCORES

Players should report their final scores after 18 holes of play to the Official Scorers who will be located at tournament headquarters scoring area.

AWARDS CEREMONIES

Award ceremonies will follow the completion of the play at each tournament site.

AWARDS STATE

- A. Certificates of participation will be presented to each participant in the State Tournament. Certificates of recognition will be presented to the head coach of each team.
- B. Medals will be awarded to each member (6) of the 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place teams and the top eight (8) individual finishers.
- C. Medals will be awarded to the head coach of the 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place teams.
- D. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-place teams.