## 2023-2024

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

## Boys and Girls Golf Rules, Policies, and Bylaws

## General Information

See the MSHSL Handbook Page (www.mshsl.org/governance) for information regarding the following:

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

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 $\mathbf{5 0 9}$ 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.
3. 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.
4. 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

These policies "elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, members schools and their personnel," consistent with the Minnesota State High School League's Founding Purposes and the belief that sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs. The League and its member schools work intentionally to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for fine arts activities and sports in our schools and competitions.

School officials are responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students, and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held. (Bylaw 409).

## Behavior Expectations

To create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments in fine arts and sports in our school and competitions, I will:

- Lead by positive example and demonstrate respect and support for others.
- Follow all MSHSL, school and venue expectations.
- Refrain from using profanity or ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender-based comments, posts or messages directed at participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, or team representatives.
- Act as a responsible and respectful digital citizen who positively uses social media platforms.
- Speak or act in support of others when they are harmed by words or actions.
- Honor each contest and all involved, including participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, and team representatives.
- Hold high standards for myself, engage positively and demonstrate sportsmanship.


## Requirements of Attendees

## Prohibited Items

- Flags, whiteboards, large signs on sticks, signs with vulgar, obscene or inappropriate la nguage or images, or that obstruct the views of others or similar items
- Balloons, confetti, glitter, baby powder, pom poms or other similar celebratory items
- Artificial noise makers (i.e., mega phones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks and other similar items)
- Drones and laser lights
- Firearms or other weapons
- Vapes, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or illicit drugs
- The following a re prohibited at MSHSL postseason events. These may be prohibited as determined by the venue during the regular season:
-Backpacks and other bags $\quad$ Outside food and drink
-Cameras and tripods $\bullet$ Pets
Dress Code/Attire
- Spectators may not wear masks or costumes that limit the ability to identify individuals. Masking for medical purposes is allowed
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the torso
- Clothing worn must not be vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate Behaviors
- No one may interfere with the contest in any way
- Only members of the official squad may be on the contest surface
- The use of appropriate language is always expected. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable
- Respect the Flag and the National Anthem
*Venues may have additional requirements and prohibited items.


## Golf Information - Regular Season

A regular-season match/tournament is not considered to be completed unless all players have played a minimum of 9 -holes and if the 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 1.3

All questions concerning the use of these penalties will be handled by the 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 minimum distance of 25 yards from all players. 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 Committee.

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

## UNIFORM REQUIREMENT

Coaches are responsible for proper team attire.

- Clothing must be appropriate to golf. Clothing or hats displaying products that are inappropriate to MSHSL principles are not permissible.
- Running shorts, short shorts or cut-offs are not permissible.
- Shirts and shoes must be worn.
- Uniformity in team dress is highly recommended.
- All participants must adhere to USGA Rule 4.3, as well as specific golf course expectations for attire.


## 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.

## SCORING

It is strongly recommended that all golfers utilize the MSHSL golf app so that each member of the foursome will keep another player's score. 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 virtually attest the scorecard on the MSHSL golf app 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.

The MSHSL golf app must be used at the subsection, section and state golf tournaments. Both the player and the marker must virtually attest the card at the completion of the round.

## NON-MSHSL COMPETITION

Please note that golfers may participate in up to two events outside of their MSHSL schedule prior to the fourth Friday in May. 18 -holes $=1$ event and 36 -holes $=2$ events. A golfer may not participate in more than 36 holes of non-MSHSL competition. If a golfer is interested in participating in an outside event, they must contact the Activities Director who will complete the necessary link on the Activities Director Dashboard. This information must be submitted by the AD 30 days prior to the event or it will not be approved. If the event is sponsored by the MGA or USGA, it will count as an outside event(s), but it will not count towards the season limit of 16 matches for that golfer. Any other outside event(s) will count towards the match limit of 16. Again, golfers are only allowed two outside events and may not compete in more than 36 holes during the season. After the fourth Friday in May, players may compete in any outside event as long as they have met with coach/administrative approval if that golfer is still playing in the post season. The full policy is below:

Bylaw 207.1 indicates athletes who wish to participate in an Elite or National event sponsored by the MGA or the USGA, golf's National Governing Body, must make an 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 (MGA or USGA) 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 via the appropriate link on the AD Dashboard:

1. A letter of invitation specifically inviting the athlete to participate I the identified event.
2. If 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 link.
3. A complete description of the organization submitting the invitation including: $\bullet$ the event's connection to the USGA (if applicable) • 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 that, 1. No athlete may compete in more than sixteen (16) events (either 9 -hole or 18 -hole matches) during the high school season. 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 18 -hole event will count as one (1) event; a 36 -hole event will count as two (2) 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.

## PARTICIPATION LIMITS

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 program or coop 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) regularseason 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 - Postseason

## 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.

## DURING SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS

Participants will use the MSHSL golf 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 virtually 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 electronic score at the completion of each 18 -hole round.

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

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

## 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. Tiebreaker 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 program may enter from one (1) to six (6) individuals in the tournament. All contestants are eligible to compete for individual honors in the individual portion of the tournament.

## COACHES WRISTBAND POLICY

Each person providing advice to the players from the school must be identified to the Committee prior to the start of the round and must have completed all golf CER's for coaches prior to coaching.

Wristbands will be issued to duly (MSHSL/Member School) authorized coach(es) under the following parameters:

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

## 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 DO/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 1.2 b 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 have a playoff until the tie is broken. The Committee will determine the format of the playoff. 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 the team with the lowest single score will be determined the winner.
6. If the score still remains tied, a 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. The Committee will determine the format of the playoff.

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 tiebreaking 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 and the qualifications necessary for participation in the postseason.

## 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.

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.

## 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 tournamentqualifier 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.

## 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.

## AWARDS - SECTION

A. Medals will be awarded to each member of the 1 st and 2 nd place teams ( 6 ), and to the 1 st -8 th place individuals.
B. Individual qualifiers who do not finish in places 1-8 will receive a tournament qualifier medal. These medals are for individual tournament qualifiers ONLY. If a member of a qualifying team has received a team medal but does not finish in the top eight (8) 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 eight players with the lowest score who also is a member of the winning team).
C. Trophies will be awarded to the 1 st and 2 nd place teams.

## GOLF STATE TOURNAMENT

## STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING SCHOOL INFORMATION

Specific information for qualifying schools is available on Coach and AD Dashboards on the MSHSL Website under Tournament Resources.

## INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

All contestants are eligible to compete for individual honors in the individual portion of the tournament.

## 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. Team qualifiers are eligible to compete for individual honors.

## SITES AND SCHEDULE

The state tournament sites, practice rounds and tournament information will be shared with coaches of tournament qualifiers via the MSHSL golf app and on the golf activity page.

## 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 sign in 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 are allowed.

## 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.

## 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. 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

Ties in the state tournament will not be broken.

## 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 certify their final scores after 18holes of play to the Official Scorers who will be located at tournament headquarters scoring area. All scores will be attested vie the MSHSL golf app.

## AWARDS CEREMONIES

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

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION - STATE

A. Certificates of Participation for each student participant in the State Tournament. Certificates of Recognition for the head coach of each team. Certificates are obtained for the member school Activities Administrator.
B. Medals will be awarded to each member (6) and the head coach of the 1 st , 2 nd , and 3 rd place teams and the top eight (8) individual finishers, including ties.
C. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, including ties.

