

## DATES TO REMEMBER

	<b>Girls Fall 2025</b>	<b>Boys Spring 2026</b>
Online Rules Review Opens	August 4	February 23
First Allowable Practice	August 11	March 2
Deadline to withdraw from season/post-season for classification purposes.	August 21	March 12
Deadline: Online Rules Review & Coaches Test	August 22	March 13
First Allowable Contest (By-Law 3.9.1 Conditioning requirements must be met prior to participation)	August 28	March 19
Class/District Assignments Released	August 29	March 20
District Entries OPEN	September 22	April 20
District Entries Deadline	October 1	April 29
<b>District Tournament Window</b> – District Mgr and host course availability determines actual date of the district tournament from the four dates options.	<b>October 8-10 or 13</b>	<b>May 6-8 or 11</b>
State Championships	October 20-21	May 18-19
<b>Golf Advisory Committee Meeting</b>	<b>October 29</b>	
Open Facility Period (See bylaw 3.14.7 & Open Facility Board Policy)	Jan 5 – Feb 20	Sept 8 – Oct 24
Out of Season Practice Period (See bylaw 3.14.7)	March 30 – May 15	Jan 5 – Feb 20

Dates throughout the remainder of the manual are based on the MSHSAA Standard Calendar. They will be stated with a day of the week and the Standard Calendar week. This Calendar can be found on the inside front cover of the Official Handbook or in a MSHSAA 3-Year Calendar

Future postseason schedules may also be found at the back of the Official Handbook, located at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)

Dates, times and locations are subject to change under the authority of the Board of Directors.

# MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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Daryl Bradley, Assistant Executive Director  
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**\*\*\*Revised July 2025\*\*\***

DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS & STATE INFORMATION MAY BE FOUND ON MSHSAA WEBSITE ([www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org))

Revisions to the manual are highlighted in **red print and underlined**.

# **GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE** [\(TOC\)](#)

The advisory committee members are appointed by the Board of Director member from their respective board district. Each individual is appointed to a four (4) year term. If an appointee is unable to fulfill their term, a replacement will be appointed to complete the remainder of the term. The purpose of the committee is to represent the schools and coaches within their board district on matters concerning the administration of the sport. Their role is a key component in bringing sport-specific needs, concerns, and recommendations to the Board of Directors. Please make sure to use them as your voice to the MSHSAA Staff and Board of Directors.

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**Terms expire July 1 of the year noted**

**\*Serving out partial term, eligible for reappointment**

# PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY [\(TOC\)](#)

- A. **MISSION STATEMENT:** The MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.
- B. **PURPOSE OF MANUAL:** This manual has been prepared to provide a better understanding of the administration of MSHSAA sponsored events. It will serve as a guide to the participating schools and will provide for greater consistency. All information will be included in this manual except such supplementary or incidental information as may be included in the MSHSAA Journal. The regulations in this manual shall be considered official unless the schools are notified in a Special Bulletin of any changes.
- C. **PHILOSOPHY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES:** Interscholastic activities are intended to supplement the secondary curricular program. These activities can provide the student with educational experiences and learning outcomes that contribute toward the development of good citizenship. This can be accomplished only when the emphasis is placed upon teaching "through school activities." Interscholastic activities can be justified only when this is their primary philosophy and purpose.
- D. **PURPOSE OF DISTRICT AND STATE CONTESTS:** There are two primary purposes that justify and cause district and state events to be desirable. Those purposes are to provide opportunities to demonstrate before the public the best knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns taught through a particular sport; and to evaluate and compare the best of this teaching of knowledge, skills and emotional patterns among schools. Unless these purposes are primary, district and state athletic contests cannot be completely justified.

It is the desire of the MSHSAA Board of Directors that these events be both fun and educational. It is extremely important that competitors, coaches, and the school community make every effort to enhance, and keep in proper perspective, the educational values of these events. Competition merely for "competition's sake" cannot be justified. Only when competition contributes toward worthwhile educational goals can it be considered sufficiently important to be included in the school program.

- E. **SUPERVISION OF COMPETITORS AND FANS:** MSHSAA By-Laws hold a school responsible, both at home and away, for the conduct of its competitors, students, coaches, and fans. Coaches are required to supervise their competitors. A coaches' respect for others and school property is necessary in order to instill this respect in competitors. Students staying overnight in hotels or motels in conjunction with any interscholastic athletic contest should be well chaperoned. The good conduct of students will leave a good impression of the entire school.

A school also should inform its competitors, students, coaches and fans of the value contest officials play in education through athletics. When informing these people of this, the difference in the purpose of high school and professional sports should be emphasized. Lack of respect for officials should not be tolerated. Booing of officials leads to booing of coaches and competitors. This has no place in high school athletics. Athletic administrators are urged to develop a program through any and all communication techniques available to ensure that spectators understand that high school athletics are an educational endeavor as opposed to the games being an end in themselves.

# KEY MANUAL AND BY-LAW/BOARD POLICY CHANGES [\(TOC\)](#)

This section of the manual is to provide a quick summary of by-law/board policy changes impacting Cross Country approved advisory recommendations as well as changes to the manual. This should be utilized as a reference only and you should review the source material either in another section of this manual or the MSHSAA Handbook.

## A. BY-LAW/BOARD POLICY CHANGES:

1. Golf – NONE
2. General:
  - a. SANCTIONING Requirements and Penalties - Adds new By-Laws 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 and all related amendments as indicated in Sections 3 and 4 to adjust the types of interscholastic competitive and/or evaluative events that require a sanction for participation and add penalty language when member schools fail to comply with sanction requirements.
  - b. Freshmen-Only Team Age Restrictions - Amends By-Law 3.5.1 to eliminate the age restriction as it relates to freshmen-only teams.
  - c. Age Restriction for Junior High School - Amends By-Law 3.5.2 to explicitly restrict 4th and 5th grade students from competing against 6th grade and above students, except in cases where they meet the overage criteria.
  - d. Girls Soccer and Fall Non-School Competition Exception - Amends By-Law 3.13.2 to adjust the Fall Non-School Competition Exception and to add the Girls Soccer Non-School Competition Exception to allow for non-school competition through the day before the first allowable contest, with prior approval by a school administrator.
  - e. Review by MSHSAA Office for Specific Ejections - Amends By-Law 5.5.1 to allow for an appeal to the MSHSAA office in instances of an ejection for kicks, strikes, fights, or when a substitute leaves the bench area during an altercation event.

## B. APPROVED ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS: The following are changes in effect for the upcoming season that were recommended by the Golf Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors:

1. Amend language regarding “Coaching”: During all competitions (regular and postseason) - Approved coaches **WILL NOT** be allowed to give advice once the player’s ball is on the green **OR on the fringe/collar of the putting green and the player has reached that area.** (2.K, 5.E.13, 5.F.6)
2. Add language regarding USGA Model Local Rule E-5 (Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds). This USGA rule is **NOT** in effect during all postseason competition. Stroke and Distance for lost ball and Out of Bounds is in play. (5.E.5, 5.F.9)
3. Amend language regarding starting format for District Tournaments. The traditional start of sending players off of hole #1 and hole #10 **OR** the use of a shotgun start is both options at district tournament. (5.E.7)
4. Add an exception for the use of golf carts by competitors on courses that do not allow walking, during the regular season: Exception – During regular season matches or tournaments, student-athletes may use motorized riding golf carts **ONLY** on courses that DO NOT allow walking. (2.N – Exception)
5. Amend language regarding use of golf carts by coaches at the State Tournament: School Coach GOLF CARTS - The school administrator shall submit a letter of request (on school letterhead) and a physician’s letter of necessity, directly to the MSHSAA Office. (Appendix E)
6. Amend language regarding use of Alternates at the State Tournament - The 8 team qualifiers for State (those that finished 1st/2nd in their respective district tournaments) are the **ONLY** schools allowed to use an Alternate to their team roster in the case of an emergency, injury, illness, ineligibility or extenuating circumstances affecting one of their four, or potentially five players, that qualified to the state tournament. Each of the 8 team qualifiers may use a direct substitution for a member of a qualifying team prior to the start of the state tournament. (5.F.2)
7. Amend language in the manual regarding State Pairings - gives the MSHSAA Office flexibility to create pairings while keeping qualifying teams together on Round 1, no matter how many total qualifiers in the field. (5.F.15)

## C. MANUAL CHANGES

1. State Coach’s Meeting – there will **NOT** be a Coach’s meeting on Sunday prior to the State Tournament. All information will be sent through the MSHSAA Golf app or through email prior to the tournament. Qualifier packet pick-up will be 3-5pm on Sunday or prior to the start of the first round. (5.F.3)
2. Media Information - (Appendix D)

## D. MSHSAA POINTS OF EMPHASIS:

1. Pace of Play (Section 2.M & Appendix F – letter D)
2. Care of the Course (Appendix F – letter E)
3. Scoring (Section 2.J)
4. Use of the MSHSAA Golf app (Section 2.I) recommended to be used during the regular season – required in the postseason.

## SECTION 1: ESSENTIAL RESOURCES [\(TOC\)](#)

The information listed/linked in this section relates to MSHSAA By-Laws, Board Policies and information from the Sports Medicine Page as well as any state adoptions or modifications related to the applicable NFHS, USGA or USTA rules codes.

### A. MSHSAA HANDBOOK REFERENCES [\(MSHSAA Handbook\)](#)

1. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USAGE AROUND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES (Board Policy)
2. CHARITY/AWARENESS EVENTS (Board Policy)
3. CONDUCT – REMOVAL OF TEAMS & EJECTIONS (By-Law 5.5)
4. GUIDELINES FOR FAN SUPPORT ITEMS (Board Policy)
5. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION (By-Law 1.7)
6. NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION (By-Laws 3.13.2 & 3.14.2)
7. ON-SITE PROTEST PROCEDURES (BOARD POLICY)
8. SANCTIONING (By-Laws 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 3.18.1, 3.18.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.4, 4.4.4, 4.5.10, & 4.6.4)

### B. SPORTS MEDICINE REFERENCES [\(Sports Medicine Page\)](#)

1. CONCUSSIONS EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL [\(LINK\)](#)
2. HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS/LIGHTNING GUIDELINES [\(LINK\)](#)
3. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION [\(LINK\)](#)
4. OXYGEN USE POSITION STATEMENT [\(LINK\)](#)
5. WET BULB GLOBE THERMOMETER USE [\(LINK\)](#)

### C. STATE ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

<b>USGA Possible State Association Adoption Chart – Missouri Adoptions</b> <i>*refer to the sections of the manual for exact language</i>		
USGA Rule	Language of Rule	Missouri Adoption
Local Rules		Local Course rules, even when those rules may differ from standard procedure (penalty areas, etc) will be followed.
1.1	Each hole starts with a stroke from the teeing area and ends when the ball is holed on the putting green (or when the Rules otherwise say the hole is completed).	A stroke limit may be used during regular season contests at the discretion of the event host. An optional 10-stroke maximum may be used at the District Tournament.
Model Local Rule E-5	When a player’s ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance.  For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3)	This rule may NOT be used in Postseason events
Rule 10.3	Coaches acting as a “caddie”.	During all competitions (regular and postseason): Approved coaches WILL NOT be allowed to give advice once the player’s ball is on the green OR on the fringe/collar of the putting green.

## SECTION 2: REGULAR SEASON [\(TOC\)](#)

- A. ELIGIBILITY ROSTERS:** Your school administrator must submit a golf eligibility roster through the MSHSAA website no later than one day prior to the school's first regular season contest.
- B. REGULAR SEASON LIMITATIONS:**
1. A senior high school shall schedule and participate in no more than 14 competition dates per season at each level of competition (varsity, junior varsity or freshman).
  2. In order for a school to be eligible to participate in the district tournament, it must schedule/participate in at least **5** regular season contests dates.
  3. Each student must participate in at least **1** regular season competition date to be eligible to participate in the district meet.
- C. HEAT ACCLIMITAZATION & CONDITIONING REQUIREMENTS:** As fall sport, the Heat Acclimatization process defined in By-Law 1.7 and outlined in Diagram 1.7 of the MSHSAA Handbook must be followed. Please review with all coaches and athletes. Athletes must have completed 14 days of conditioning practice prior to being eligible to compete (By-Law 3.9).
- D. RULES OF THE GAME:** USGA & MSHSAA adopted rules shall be followed in all regular season and postseason events. Coaches shall thoroughly instruct their golfers of the following regulations. MSHSAA adopts the most current USGA Rules with each USGA publication date, which was January-2023. The USGA releases new rules during the month of January and the next new USGA Rules of Golf rules book will be published and released in January – 2027.
1. **LOCAL RULES:** Local course rules, **even when those rules may differ from standard procedure, (penalty areas, etc.)** will be followed. Please become familiar with these rules.
  2. **BALL PLAYED AS IT LIES:** The ball will be played down "according to USGA Rules" (may not be moved) unless the tournament rules committee determines that the course conditions are such that this is not possible. When it is not possible to play the ball down it shall be played in the following manner:
    - i. **2nd choice** – Lift, clean and place, in the same spot, in your own fairway only unless the course has temporary water over the general area in which case;
    - ii. **3rd choice** – Lift, clean and place, in the same spot, through the general area.
  3. **PRACTICE DURING ROUND:** A player shall not practice between holes. This includes on or near the putting green of the hole last played and on or near the course practice green or driving range. Penalty-2 strokes at the next hole. (USGA Rule 5.5)
  4. **PENALTIES:** Penalties shall be called according to USGA Rule 1.3 in regards to claims and penalties. In the event there is a need for clarification of the rules, a second ball may be played when a player is doubtful of their rights or procedure. The scores for both balls shall be kept until the tournament committee has an opportunity to provide clarification. The penalty for all out-of-bounds and lost balls shall be one stroke and loss of distance. (USGA Rule 18.2.) No penalty shall be rescinded, modified or imposed after the competition has closed. A competition is deemed to have closed, when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the committee.
  5. **LOST BALL:** A maximum of **three** minutes will be allowed to search for a lost ball. All members of the group are expected to assist in searching for balls that are lost. Others in the group should not advance until the lost ball is found or another ball is put into play. **Players hit their ball, then look for opponents' ball.**
  6. **ADVICE BY PLAYERS DURING COMPETITION:** Per USGA Rule 10.2a, in summary, players are not permitted to give advice to other players, including teammates, during competition. This includes asking what club they used on a shot. Distance may be given as it is not defined as advice.
  7. **USGA LOCAL RULE: ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF BALL OR BALL-MARKER WHEN ON THE PUTTING GREEN** – If a player, partner or player equipment accidentally moves a ball or ball marker on the putting green, there is no penalty and the ball should be replaced. (USGA Rule 9)  
**Examples:**
    - i. When preparing to make a stroke, player accidentally causes ball to move. Ruling – No penalty, ball must be replaced.
    - ii. A player accidentally drops their ball, which hits and moves ball-marker. Ruling - No penalty, ball-marker must be replaced.
    - iii. A player accidentally drops their ball-marker, which hits and causes ball to move. Ruling No penalty, ball must be replaced.
    - iv. A player accidentally kicks and moves their ball. Ruling – no penalty, ball must be replaced.**NOTE: THIS USGA LOCAL RULE WILL BE USED AT ALL REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON CONTESTS.**
- E. CO-ED TEES:** Girls participating on boy's teams must play from the same tees as all other participants.
- F. UNIFORMS:** Players must wear appropriate golf attire in all interscholastic matches (regular and post season), preferably in the school's colors. Any lettering or artwork on uniform tops must pertain to the school's name or emblem. Exception: A single manufacturer's reference and/or one American flag (no more than 2x3 inches in size) is permitted on each piece of the uniform. If the course has a dress code, golfers must abide by the stated dress code and schools must be notified in advance regarding the requirements. At a minimum, participants should wear shorts/skorts or slacks and a collared shirt. Each competitor must wear a shirt during the entire time of play (it is recommended by the advisory committee that the shirt be tucked in). No jeans, athletic shorts or cutoffs (jean shorts). T-shirts are prohibited. In the event of inclement weather appropriate layers may be worn.

- G. ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Golfers may use electronic devices for the purposes listed below:
1. USGA Model Local Rule G-8 - Rule 4.3.a.(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 (including cell phones).
  2. With the exception of restrictions noted in the USGA Model Local Rule G-8 above, players may use a cell phone or any other type of electronic device (i.e., Apple watch, GPS handheld device, GPS watch) in accordance with Rule 4.3.a, including getting information on distance or direction and the entry of hole-by-hole scores into a match/tournament application.
  3. The penalty for Breach of this Rule (see Rule 4.3): First breach for single act or related acts – General Penalty (two penalty strokes); second breach unrelated to first breach: Disqualification.
  4. Non-competitors with cell phones must put them in silent mode. Those who do not will be asked to turn off the phone and risk being removed from the golf course.
- H. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES:** Golfers and coaches may use distance measuring devices, and share information that measure distance only.
1. Rule 4.3.a.(1) permits the use of equipment that provides information on distance or direction (such as from a distance measuring device or compass). These devices are not allowed if they measure elevation changes, interpret distance, 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) or an alignment device to help align the ball.
  2. Cell phone distance measuring apps, GPS handheld devices, GPS watches and other similar types of devices are permitted.
  3. It is acceptable for coaches and players to share distance information upon request as long as the process does not unreasonably delay play.
    - a. Spectators are not permitted to share or assist players with information obtained from a distance measuring device.
- I. LIVE SCORING PROGRAMS/DEVICES:** Participants, coaches, or approved personnel are allowed to use electronic devices (cell phone, tablet, etc.) to make live scoring updates during a competition in both regular season and postseason contests. Live scoring results shall be unofficial and an official written scorecard must be turned in and signed by both participants (verified as a correct scorecard) at the end of each round.
1. **MSHSAA Golf App (live scoring app powered by iWanamaker)** – During the **REGULAR** season, it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that each coach and player download the MSHSAA Golf app (free) and sign up. Information regarding the app can be found at [wanamaker.com](http://wanamaker.com). The use of the app will be required in the postseason.
    - i. The app is used for live scoring purposes, but other features are available including yardage, keeping stats in practice, a ranking system and tracking all rounds throughout the season.
    - ii. One player in each group will be required to enter their group's scores after each hole is completed.
    - iii. Live scoring is an unofficial score as the players' scorecard is their official score. Upon completion of the event, the manager shall compare the official scorecard to the live results in [wanamaker.com](http://wanamaker.com) and make any necessary adjustments.
    - iv. Coaches, school administrators and media may follow scores for free, but must all sign-up through the app.
      1. Spectators may follow live scoring for a fee (outlined on the MSHSAA website). This is NOT an event admission fee.
- J. SCORING:** Each player in the group shall be responsible for his/her own score and for keeping and verifying the hole-by-hole score of another player in that group. Scores should be recorded immediately after moving to the next tee. At the conclusion of the round each player should make sure his/her score card is correct and signed before the cards are turned in at the scoring table. Each player is responsible for the hole-by-hole score on his/her scorecard. Spectators are to NOT get involved in any scoring discussions. Coaches may be allowed to aid in resolving issues.
1. All putts shall be holed out.
  2. A stroke limit may continue to be used during in regular season contests.
  3. Remind them of the "BIG 3"
    - i. Show up for your tee time on-time
    - ii. Sign a CORRECT scorecard - Player integrity comes into play. If you know something is incorrect, fix it. Do not sign the scorecard if you have any questions on rules.
    - iii. If in doubt of what to do, play a 2nd ball and declare which ball you want to score. When a Rules Official is needed and can be located: Ask them, "What are my options"?
- K. COACHING:** All coaches giving advice must be LISTED and APPROVED through the MSHSAA website. Coaching of golfers during competition during the regular season shall be in accordance with USGA Rule 10, including acting as a "caddie". During all competitions (regular and postseason): Approved coaches WILL NOT be allowed to give advice once the player's ball is on the green OR on the fringe/collar of the putting green and the player has reached that area.
- L. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** Any student who uses tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substances (other than prescription), in any high school golf match shall be disqualified. Any player who, in anger, throws or breaks a club, throws a ball or other equipment, bets on the course or uses inappropriate or profane language or gestures will be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct. Further, it is considered unsportsmanlike to use baiting or taunting acts or words or wear insignias which engenders ill will. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall be called by spotters, markers and/or the rules committee members. Based on the seriousness of the incident the penalty shall be either a warning (one per event) or a two-stroke penalty. Once warned any additional occurrences would result in disqualification. Any flagrant act of unsportsmanlike conduct shall result in immediate disqualification. Players may not call unsportsmanlike conduct on each other but should bring inappropriate behavior to the attention of the tournament manager or officials. This applies any time the competitor is on the course grounds until awards have been presented.

- M. PACE OF PLAY:** Slow play will not be tolerated. Each player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines by the Committee. MSHSAA has published a suggested Pace of Play policy which can be found in the Appendix F. After a warning, persistent slow play may subject a participant to a two-stroke penalty and then disqualification.
- N. CADDIES and GOLF CARTS:** Golfers may use pull carts but shall not use caddies or motorized golf carts in regular or postseason events without prior approval from the MSHSAA Office due to a medical accommodation.

**EXCEPTION - FOR COMPETEITOR USE OF GOLF CART - During regular season matches or tournaments, student-athletes may use motorized riding golf carts ONLY on courses that do not allow walking by anyone. These courses are few and far between, but do exist in the State of Missouri. This exception would not require a medical accommodation.**

#### **MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION APPROVAL FOR USE OF GOLF CART**

A formal request for a student athlete to be granted approval to use a golf cart during competition shall be addressed with upmost concern for "all" competitors due to the potential fundamental advantage that the use of a golf cart may create. There are three required documents that the MSHSAA must receive from the administration of a member school as it relates to an approval for the use of a golf cart.

1. A letter in writing from a physician documenting what the student's disability/condition is as defined by the ADA and why the player must use a golf cart during interscholastic competition.  
**Note: Temporary conditions/injuries do not warrant approval for the use of a golf cart. Note: A condition not defined by the ADA will require a review by the physicians on the MSHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for approval for the use of a golf cart during interscholastic competition. (Allow 7-10 days).**
2. A letter in writing from the school administrator confirming the student's disability/condition that results in the need/request for a student to use a golf cart during interscholastic competition.
3. A letter in writing from the parent/guardian of the student releasing the school and MSHSAA from any and all liability from any accident that occurs while using the golf cart.
4. A school/student must have a letter of approval from MSHSAA prior to using a golf cart during competition  
**Note: Any student receiving permissions in writing from the MSHSAA to use a golf cart during interscholastic golf competitions are still obligated to abide by local course rules that may be in place for establishing an age requirement for operating a golf cart. If a student receiving permissions "does not" meet the age requirement for operating a golf cart, a school approved golf coach or administrator must be the operator of the golf cart due to the coaching restrictions that are in place for high school golf competition. Lastly, there may be settings when a course does not allow use of carts, (weather related conditions on the course), that results in the player not being permitted to use a cart on that day.**

- O. HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS/LIGHTNING GUIDELINES:** See Section 1 of this manual, **Essential Resources**. Recommend that all coaches carry air horns as a warning device in case of lightning or severe weather.
- P. GOLF COACHES PLAYING DURING SCHOOL COMPETITIONS:** Golf coaches are prohibited from playing golf during all school golf competitions (this includes all regular season matches and tournaments as well as postseason matches). Penalty: The coach will be subject to losing their MSHSAA approved coaching status.
- Q. MEDIA:** News media personnel, with the permission of the tournament manager, may be allowed on the course with instructions not to converse with participants and to stay out of the way on camera shots. Whenever possible, news media personnel should be accompanied while out on the course, by a member of the committee.
- R. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** The school of a competitor with a disability or special need may request specific special accommodations or to use special equipment. **The following items are required before accommodation requests can be reviewed and considered.**
1. A written request from the school, describing the competitor's special needs and the specific accommodation being requested. The letter should include the rule references of applicable NFHS Rules which would be violated without the accommodation.
  2. A letter from the parent(s) or guardian confirming the need for an accommodation and approving the accommodation request.
  3. A letter from the student's doctor or applicable caregiver describing the medical circumstance or special need, and confirming the need for an accommodation.
  4. Photographs of 1) the special equipment, and 2) the student wearing the special equipment, if applicable.

Subsequent requests (after a student is initially approved for an accommodation) will only require the school request (number 1 on the list above).

Written approval from the MSHSAA office is required prior to any competition. During the regular season, the letter of approval from MSHSAA must be presented to meet officials before any accommodations may be used. **Please allow ONE WEEK for requests to be reviewed prior to the first competition.**

MSHSAA will consider requests if:

- i. the sport is not fundamentally altered by the accommodation,
- ii. the accommodation does not create a risk to either the athlete or others, and
- iii. the accommodation does not place opponents at a disadvantage.

## SECTION 3: POSTSEASON CRITERIA [\(TOC\)](#)

### A. SCHOOLS/INDIVIDUALS

1. Postseason is for member senior high schools only
2. Schools must register for the post season by the annual deadline
3. A school must have competed in the minimum number of contests for the sport/activity concerned as outlined in Diagram 3.29.6
4. An individual must have represented their school in interscholastic competition in that sport during the current season.

## SECTION 4: POSTSEASON ENTRY PROCEDURES [\(TOC\)](#)

A. **GENERAL INFORMATION:** All district golf tournaments will be held as qualifying events for the for the state tournaments.

B. **ENTRIES:** Only those schools submitting the sports registration fee for golf are eligible to enter a district tournament.

1. **CO-ED TEAMS:** MSHSAA By-Law 3.20 permits member schools to sponsor co-ed teams in the sport of golf. However, under MSHSAA Board of Directors Policy, if a school only sponsors one team and permits both boys and girls to compete on that team, they shall be eligible to enter only the boys postseason. All players on a co-ed team shall play from the same tees.
2. **ENTRY PROVISIONS:** Schools shall submit the required entries on the MSHSAA website under their school's District Entries.
  - a. **District Entries** - shall be completed via the MSHSAA website by selecting district entries that is located on each school's home page. The entry process shall be completed by 4:00 pm on the established deadline. Failure on the part of the school to complete and submit the proper entries could result in the elimination of the school from the MSHSAA district and/or state championship series.
  - b. **Late entries** - A late entry penalty fee of **\$50.00** shall be assessed for late entries. No entries will be accepted after the tee times have been set. The district manager shall notify MSHSAA regarding any late entries for the tournament.
3. **NUMBER OF ENTRIES:** Each school may enter a maximum of five players in district team competition and count the four best scores for the team total. A school may enter less than four players for district individual medalist play only.
4. **ORDER OF ENTRY:** Coaches are instructed to list the golfers in order of their ability on the district entry page with the best golfer in the number one spot, second best next, etc. The nine-hole season average (for matches and tournaments only in relation to par—no practice scores shall be included) shall be listed on the entry blank beside the name of each golfer entered.
5. **ALTERNATES:** Only students properly certified by the principal or superintendent on the online Eligibility Roster shall be eligible to compete in the postseason. Any number of players may be certified eligible. **Each school is requested to list Alternates as part of their online District Entries but the school's Eligibility Roster is their master alternate list.** Alternates may be used up to the completion of the coaches meeting prior to the start of the district tournament. If an Alternate replaces a player originally listed in the team's top five of the district entries, the online district entries must be edited to remove the Alternate from the alternate list and add them to the top five player roster

# SECTION 5: CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES [\(TOC\)](#)

(District Tournament thru the State Championships)

- A. POSTSEASON BROADCASTS:** MSHSAA holds exclusive ALL-PLATFORM DISTRIBUTION rights for AUDIO, DATA and VIDEO for all postseason contests or festivals (beginning with district level through state) in all activities. Any transmission or production of any portion of these events, without the consent of MSHSAA is prohibited. Events are defined as the competition or performance. This includes, but not limited to, using programs such as Facebook Live or YouTube.
- B. CLASSIFICATIONS (FRIDAY OF WEEK #8-GIRLS, #37-BOYS)**
1. Schools will be divided into classes as determined by classification procedures outlined in Board Policy.
  2. Tournament Format
- C. DIGITAL TICKETS:** Hometown Ticketing is the official partner for digital ticketing.
1. Districts: Use of digital ticketing will be a **host school option**
  2. State Series: Use of digital ticketing will be REQUIRED. No paper ticketing will be available.
  3. Contact: [digitaltickets@mshsaa.org](mailto:digitaltickets@mshsaa.org)
- D. ADMISSION CHARGES:** Required for all spectators ages six (6) and up
- District Meets: **\$6.00**  
Final Site (per day): **\$12.00**
- NOTE - Spectator cart rental & availability will be a local course decision.**  
**NOTE – Admission charges DO NOT include any MSHSAA Golf App live scoring fees.**
- E. DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS:** There will be four (4) districts in each classification. Girls District tournaments are to be scheduled the **Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of week 14 or Monday of week 15.** Boys District tournaments are to be scheduled the **Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of week 44, or the Monday of week 45.** When it becomes necessary to postpone an event, the local manager must check with the MSHSAA Office. Rescheduling on Sunday should be avoided unless absolutely necessary and then only after gaining approval from the principal of all participating schools. **No team shall compete on the same golf course more than once during the MSHSAA Postseason. Example: A team cannot play their District tournament at the same golf course that will host the State tournament for that classification.**
1. **HOST COURSE:** Courses hosting a State Tournament, may not host a District Tournament in that class
    - a. **MEDICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP):** An EAP for the venue being used for hosting a postseason contest must be uploaded to the website under the District Mgr Options. The medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page of the website.
    - b. **COURSE ACCESS: All Schools must have reasonable access to the golf course from the date of determining the host site course up to the start of the district tournament.** It is the responsibility of each school to plan accordingly for securing a practice round at the district course prior to the start of your district tournament.  
**NOTE:** Practice round access the day before the district tournament is not mandatory.
    - c. **GREENS FEES:** If greens fees are to be charged, the tournament manager shall notify all schools in advance of the tournament. Greens fees shall be paid before a school or golfer will be allowed to participate. It is recommended that a maximum greens fee rate for District tournaments be \$30.00 per player.
    - d. **GOLF COURSE PROPERLY MARKED:** The golf course shall be properly marked prior to the tournament. Penalty Areas, Out of Bounds, abnormal conditions, and obstructions shall be properly marked.
      - i. **Notice to Players and Local Rules:** District hosts are required to submit tentative Local Rules and Notice to Players to all participating schools a minimum of five days in advance of the contest. A finalized Local Rules and Notice to Players must be given to all coaches at the Coaches Meeting and to each participating player prior to the start of the tournament.
      - ii. It is recommended that the district tournament yardage be played at a distance to prepare the golfers for the approximate distance of the state tournament: Girls - 5200-5500 yards Boys - minimum of 6000 yards  
**NOTE:** Local course rules, even when those rules may differ from standard procedure, (penalty areas, etc.) will always be followed.
  2. **GALLERIES:** Shall be permitted to follow the golfers around the course. The galleries shall be confined to the cart paths, if available, or to the rough if cart paths are not available. Spectators shall stay even with the last player in each group. There shall be no coaching and/or no talking to the players individually. Spectators may, however, clap or cheer following a good shot. For spectators: there is an assumed risk when on the golf course and failure to abide by the above rules shall result in a warning on the first offense and removal from the course on the second offense. Lack of cooperation by spectators could result in the athlete being disqualified.
    - a. Use of carts by spectators and any rental charges at the district tournament is at the discretion of the host course.
  3. **MARKERS:** Markers shall be used for all district tournaments, for all groups playing. Markers may be coaches, club volunteers, school faculty members or school approved volunteers. Parents of participating players may not be used as markers. If a school is asked to provide a marker and one is not provided, the coach may have to serve as the marker.

4. **STROKE LIMIT:** The optional 10-stroke maximum rule may be used at the district tournament. Any player using the optional stroke limit cannot advance further in the postseason.
5. **LOST BALL OR OUT OF BOUNDS:** The USGA Model Local Rule E-5 (Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or ball Out of Bounds) is NOT in effect during the postseason. Stroke and Distance for lost ball and OB is in play.
6. **PAIRINGS:** District Managers have 2 options for making the pairing assignments:
  - a. Group teams together by pairing the #1 players from each team by their season average, then pair the #2 players, #3 players, etc. (players may be grouped in groups of 3 or 4). This allows the coaches to have their players in consecutive groups.
  - b. Pair all golfers by their season average to par. No two players from the same team may be paired in the same group. Groups of 3 or 4 players per group may be used.
7. **STARTING FORMAT (TRADITIONAL & SHOTGUN):** The traditional start of sending players off of hole #1 and hole #10 OR the use of a shotgun start is both options at district tournament under the discretion of the district manager due to several different variables that may need to be considered, which includes but not limited to: course availability, inclement weather, player skill/pace of play, etc.
8. **LIVE SCORING PROGRAMS/DEVICES:** Participants, coaches, or approved personnel are allowed to use electronic devices (cell phone, tablet, etc.) to make live scoring updates during a competition in both regular season and postseason contests. Live scoring results shall be unofficial and an official written scorecard must be turned in and signed by both participants (verified as a correct scorecard) at the end of each round.
  - a. **MSHSAA Golf App (powered through iWanamaker)** – For the postseason, it is **REQUIRED** that each coach download the MSHSAA Golf app (free) and signup. Coaches will be asked to have all postseason, participating players listed in the app as it is required for live scoring purposes. One player in each group is required to enter their group's scores after each hole is completed. Other features are available, but are not required to use. Live scoring is an unofficial score as the players' scorecard is their official score. Upon completion of the tournament, the manager shall compare the official scorecard to the live results in iwanamaker.com and make any necessary adjustments. Those results are then automatically uploaded to MSHSAA.
  - b. Coaches, school administrators and media may follow scores for free, but must all sign-up through the app. Spectators may follow live scoring for a fee (outlined on the MSHSAA website). This fee is NOT the tournament admission fee.
9. **QUALIFIERS: Teams and individuals will qualify from Districts to State as follows:**
  - a. **TEAMS:** The District Champion and Runner-up teams will automatically advance their top four player scores from district tournament play to the state tournament. If a team's fourth and fifth player score is a tie, both players will advance to the state tournament but will not count as part of the top 13 individuals. If a team's fifth player score is within top 13 individuals OR within +10 strokes of the top 13 individuals cut line, the fifth player will advance to the state tournament and WILL NOT count as part of the top 13 individuals.  
**NOTE:** A school that qualifies 4 or 5 individuals will be permitted to compete in team competition.  
  
When there is a team tie, for first or second place, the tie shall be broken using the following criteria:
    - i. The teams tied shall compare the score of the fifth golfer (the golfer whose score was not used in computing the team score); \*(Any team reduced to four players for any reason will lose the tiebreaker.)
    - ii. If still tied and daylight, weather or course restrictions permit the teams shall play one additional hole, counting the score of all five golfers.
    - iii. If daylight, weather and/or course restrictions do not permit further play or if the teams are still tied after playing one additional hole, the tie shall be broken by a scorecard playoff, starting with the #1 handicap hole, followed by the #2 handicap hole, etc. until there is no longer a tie using all five scores.
  - b. **INDIVIDUALS:** After removing the player scores from qualifying teams (district champion, runner-up), the remaining TOP 13 individual player scores, including ties, will advance to the state tournament. When there is a tie for the last individual qualifying position, all individuals tied shall be individual qualifiers to the state tournament.
10. **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:** If the district tournament is postponed due to inclement weather, the tournament shall be played on the next available day, with fewer holes being played if necessary. A minimum of 9 holes must be completed on the scheduled date (or on any rescheduled day) in order to count as a tournament and all players must have played the same 9 holes; otherwise, the tournament would have to be restarted the next available day. If bad weather is forecast, all golfers should tee off from the first hole. **If all competitors have played the same 9 holes, the tournament is deemed to be completed as a 9-hole score and participants shall not come back on a different day to finish the tournament.**
11. **DISTRICT TOURNAMENT AWARDS:**
  - a. **MEDALS:** District medalists deemed to be All District will be the Top 15 individual scores, including ties, in the District Tournament. Individual medals will be awarded at the District Sites.
  - b. **PLAQUES:** District Champion and District Runner-Up plaques will be awarded to the schools placing first and second in the district tournament. When there is a team tie for first or second place, the tie shall be broken using the criteria in **#9a Qualifiers - Team**

12. **POSTSEASON BROADCASTS:** MSHSAA holds exclusive ALL-PLATFORM DISTRIBUTION rights for AUDIO, DATA and VIDEO for all postseason contests or festivals (beginning with district level through state) in all activities. Any transmission or production of any portion of these events (actual competition or performance), without the consent of MSHSAA is prohibited. This includes, but not limited to, using programs such as Facebook Live, YouTube or Periscope.
13. **COACHING:** Each school may appoint up to two (2) MSHSAA approved coaches to give advice during the postseason. One of the appointed coaches must be the Head Coach. Each coach shall receive a coach's hangtag, at the pre-tournament meeting, to be visible at all times.

**Coaching of golfers during competition during the regular season shall be in accordance with USGA Rule 10, including acting as a "caddie". During all competitions (regular and postseason): Approved coaches WILL NOT be allowed to give advice once the player's ball is on the green OR on the fringe/collar of the putting green and the player has reached that area. Coaches may coach their athletes at the District Tournament provided all duties assigned for the tournament are filled by the site manager and all coaches are given the same opportunity to fulfill the assigned responsibilities as delegated by the site manager.**

14. **ADVICE BY PLAYERS DURING COMPETITION:** (See Section 2.D.6)
15. **USGA LOCAL RULE: ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF BALL OR BALL-MARKER WHEN ON THE PUTTING GREEN:** (See Section 2.D.7)

**F. STATE TOURNAMENT:**

**Girls State Tournament:** held on October 20-21, 2025 at the following sites;

- Class 1: Tanglewood Golf Course, Fulton
- Class 2: Meadow Lake Acres Country Club, New Bloomfield
- Class 3: Twin Hills Golf & Country Club, Joplin
- Class 4: Sedalia Country Club, Sedalia

**Boys State Tournament:** held on May 18-19, 2026 at the following sites;

- Class 1: Rivercut Golf Course, Springfield
- Class 2: Bogey Creek Golf Club (Crowne Pointe), Farmington
- Class 3: Sedalia Country Club, Sedalia
- Class 4: Columbia Country Club, Columbia
- Class 5: Country Club of Missouri, Columbia

- a. There will be a \$65.00-\$100.00 green fee charged at each course for each player entered. This fee will help defray the rental cost of the course and will cover the cost of the practice round plus both rounds of the state tournament. The exact fee will also be listed in the Championship Information that is issued to all qualifying schools.
  - b. **Teams will be responsible for their own meals, cost of transportation and hotel costs (if necessary).**
1. **ENTRIES:** Team and Individual state qualifiers will be posted on the MSHSAA website and the MSHSAA Golf app. Coaches with qualifiers must use the "STATE" qualifiers link on their school's homepage on the MSHSAA website to verify the name, year in school, and district score of each golfer on their team qualifying to the State Tour. For qualifying teams, coaches must verify their four, or potentially five players, and the list of Alternates for the State Tour.
  2. **ALTERNATES:** The 8 team qualifiers for State (those that finished 1st/2nd in their respective district tournaments) are the **ONLY** schools allowed to use an Alternate to their team roster in the case of an emergency, injury, illness, ineligibility or extenuating circumstances affecting one of their four, or potentially five players, that qualified to the state tournament. Each of the 8 team qualifiers may use a direct substitution for a member of a qualifying team **prior to the start of the state tournament**. The alternate must be listed on the school's eligibility roster on the MSHSAA website. The Tournament Committee and the MSHSAA Executive in charge of Golf shall determine if the substitution is allowed. **No alternates/substitutions are allowed for individual qualifiers; this includes those schools that qualify 4 or more individual qualifiers to the state tournament.**
  3. **COACH'S MEETING: There will NOT be a coach's meeting at the State Tour. All information will be sent through the MSHSAA Golf app or through email prior to the tournament. Qualifier packet pick-up will be 3-5pm on Sunday or prior to the start of the first round.**
  4. **NUMBER OF HOLES:** Competitors will play up to a total of 36 holes in the state tournament.
  5. **TEAM SCORING:** The four best individual scores recorded each day will be counted in determining final team scores.
  6. **COACHING: (See Section 5.E.13)**
  7. **LIVE SCORING PROGRAMS/DEVICES:** (See Section 5.E.8)
  8. **ADVICE BY PLAYERS DURING COMPETITION:** (See Section 2.D.6)

9. **LOST BALL OR OUT OF BOUNDS: The USGA Model Local Rule E-5 (Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or ball Out of Bounds) is NOT in effect during the postseason. Stroke and Distance for lost ball and OB is in play.**
10. **USGA LOCAL RULE: ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF BALL OR BALL-MARKER WHEN ON THE PUTTING GREEN: (See Section 2.D.7)**
11. **PRACTICE ROUND:** Each team or individual qualified for the state tournament shall be allowed **ONE practice round on the state course after qualification. In the event that a state championship course is a school's home course, the practice facilities (putting green, driving range, chipping green, etc.) may be used by golfers from that school multiple times,** however, only one practice round on the course is permitted as previously noted.  
**NOTE:** Individuals entered in the state tournament shall be allowed to use the practice putting green and driving range at the state course on the Sunday of the coaches meeting in addition to their one practice round, in the event the practice round was played previously.
- During the state tournament practice round, only state qualifying golfers are permitted to play during the Sunday practice round.**
  - Teams/individuals wishing to play a practice round shall call the course to arrange a tee time following district qualification.
  - Any class time missed by teams or individuals for a practice round shall be acceptable, only if permitted by that school's administration.
  - Individuals or teams violating the one-time practice shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including disqualification from the state tournament.
  - Groups of five are permitted during the practice round. (IF PERMITTED BY COURSE)
  - Parents are not permitted to play the official practice round with the golfer. However, parents may accompany the golfer (must stay on cart path) around the course.**
12. **GALLERIES:** Galleries shall be permitted to follow the golfers around the course. The galleries shall be confined to the cart paths, if available, or to the rough if cart paths are not available. Spectators shall stay even with the last player in each group. There shall be no coaching and/or no talking to the players individually. Spectators may, however, clap or cheer following a good shot. For spectators: there is an assumed risk when on the golf course and failure to abide by the above rules shall result in a warning on the first offense and removal from the course on the second offense. Lack of cooperation by spectators could result in the athlete being disqualified.
- USE OF CART - GUIDELINES (See Appendix E)**
    - Spectators will not be allowed to use golf carts unless they have a verifiable medical condition, handicap or disability.
    - Spectators requesting a cart shall be required to submit a letter from the school administration **verifying their medical condition, handicap or disability** to the Golf Pro Shop on a first come, first serve basis.
    - The operator of the cart must be at least 21 years of age.
    - The cost of the cart must be borne by the individual requesting the use of the cart.
    - Spectators may only use their cell phone in a texting capacity on the golf course.
13. **TEE TIMES:** Tournament play shall start **at 8:30 am for the Girl's and 8:00 am for the Boy's, unless otherwise noted.** Players who report late for their tee time shall be disqualified. Tee times will be posted on the MSHSAA Golf app and website, as well as sent to coaches and players via the golf app. Round 1 – posted/sent on Wednesday, prior to the start of the tournament. Round 2 (based on Round 1 scores – posted/sent by 6pm following round 1 (weather permitting).
14. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** If the first day of the state tournament is suspended with the last group having four holes or less to play, the first round will be continued at the beginning of the second day prior to playing the second round. If the first day of the state tournament is cancelled or if all players fail to complete at least 14 holes of play because of inclement weather, the tournament will be contested the second day as a one day 18-hole tournament. If 18 holes are played the first day and the tournament is canceled or not completed the second day, scores from the first day will determine the winners, both team and individual. For a tournament to count, a minimum of nine holes must be completed and all players must have played the same nine holes.
- In the event of changes to tournament play due to inclement weather or other circumstances, coaches will be notified via text or email using the MSHSAA Golf app in addition to posts/updates on the MSHSAA website. All coaches need to verify their phone numbers on the MSHSAA Golf app in order to receive text alerts.**

15. **PAIRINGS: The following pairing criteria will be used based on the number of qualified players at each site:**  
**More than 92 Players:** When the playing field is greater than 92 players (Foursomes) (Note: threesome(s) may be necessary to prevent having a twosome).
- i. **Round 1** - The four first place teams in the district tournaments will make up the first five groups of four teeing off the first tee. The second-place district teams will make up the next five groups of four teeing off the first tee. The number one golfer from these four teams (based on player scores from district) would be included in the first group of four. The number two golfers in the second group of four, the number three golfers in the third group of four and the number four golfers in the fourth group of four. Next, the top individual qualifiers would be paired based on their district scores in relation to par and would tee off the tenth tee. If there is a tie with the individual qualifiers it will be broken by conducting a blind draw. If there are more than 20 groups, then the highest scoring individuals from districts will follow the teams off number 1 tee.
  - ii. **Round 2** - Pairings shall be based on the first day of play. Pairings of individual team members and pairings of individuals will be based on the first day of play and will be paired in reverse order with the lowest scoring golfers paired last. Example: (1st tee: Wave 1 Players 76-53, Wave 2 Players 24-1) (10th tee Wave 1 Players 96-77, Wave 2 Players 52-25)
- 92 Players or Less:** When the playing field consists of 92 or less players (Threesomes) (Note: foursome(s) may be necessary to prevent having a twosome).
- i. **Round 1** - competitors on qualifying teams will be paired in groups of three. **For those 8 qualifying teams, pairings will be based on each team's total score from the District Tournament, grouping the three best scoring teams first, followed by the next three teams, followed by the next two teams. (Paired with this group will be any extra qualifying team or individual's qualifiers, comparable to individual district scores.)** Team qualifiers will tee-off of the front nine, first tee. Next, the top Individual qualifiers, not on a qualifying team, will be paired based on each individual's district score. Individual qualifiers will tee-off of the back nine, tenth tee. If there is a tie with the individual qualifiers it will be broken by conducting a blind draw. The highest individuals will follow the teams off number 1 tee.
  - ii. **Round 2** - All competitors will be paired the second day of the state tournament, by the state tournament manager, based on individual scores from the first day and will be paired in reverse order with the lowest scoring golfers paired last. Example: (1st tee: Wave 1 Players 47-69, Wave 2 Players 24-1) (10th tee: Wave 1 Players 70-92, Wave 2 Players 25-46)
16. **AWARDS:** The Golf Advisory Committee has recommended the awards policy. The philosophy of the committee in regards to breaking team ties is that a complete team of 5 golfers should be favored in the tie breaking procedure. Teams that have four golfers have a chance to win or place as a team but if a tie occurs the benefit or advantage should be given to the team with five golfers.
- a) Medals will be presented, at the state tournament, to the Top 15 players. Head coaches and players of the first, second, third, and fourth place teams, if applicable, will be awarded a medal. Medals will be awarded at the conclusion of the tournament.  
**Note:** Teams placing in the top four at the state tournament, may purchase & order additional team place finish medals for the other school team members from the MSHSAA Office or through the website.
  - b) Trophies will be awarded to the schools placing first, second, third, and fourth in the state tournament, if applicable. If a tie occurs for a team place(s), the tie shall be broken using the following criteria: 1) the teams tied shall count the score of the fifth golfer, if applicable, (the golfer whose score was not used in computing the team score) from the second day of competition; **\*(Any team reduced to four players for any reason will lose the tiebreaker.)** 2) if still tied the teams tied shall count the score of the fifth golfer, if applicable, from the first day of competition; 3) if still tied the teams shall remain tied. If a tie occurs for a team place(s), a representative from each team involved will flip a coin and the winner will receive the available trophy. If additional trophies (because of ties) are needed, they will be ordered after the tournament and sent directly to the appropriate school(s).

# MSHSAA STATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

## COURSE ROTATION 2025-2030

<u>Year</u>	<u>Girls - C1</u>	<u>Girls - C2</u>	<u>Girls - C3</u>	<u>Girls - C4</u>	<u>Boys - C1</u>	<u>Boys - C2</u>	<u>Boys - C3</u>	<u>Boys - C4</u>	<u>Boys - C5</u>
<b>25-26</b>	Tanglewood	Meadow Lake	Twin Hills	Sedalia CC	Rivercut	Bogey Creek (formerly Crown Pointe)	Sedalia CC	Columbia CC	CCMO
<b>26-27</b>	Paradise Pointe	Bogey Creek (formerly Crown Pointe)	Meadow Lake	Rivercut	CCMO	Rivercut	Meadow Lake	Twin Hills	Sedalia CC
<b>27-28</b>	Sedalia CC	Columbia CC	Bogey Creek (formerly Crown Pointe)	Meadow Lake	Bogey Creek (formerly Crown Pointe)	CCMO	Rivercut	Sedalia CC	Meadow Lake
<b>28-29</b>	Meadow Lake	Paradise Pointe	Rivercut	Bogey Creek (formerly Crown Pointe)	Meadow Lake	Sedalia CC	Columbia CC	Rivercut	Twin Hills
<b>29-30</b>	Bogey Creek (formerly Crown Pointe)	Meadow Lake	CCMO	Twin Hills	Paradise Pointe	Meadow Lake	Sedalia CC	Columbia CC	Rivercut

\*subject to be adjusted as needed

## **APPENDIX A:** [\(TOC\)](#)

### PROGRAM INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

The MSHSAA staff strives to publish the most accurate materials for all Championship events. Since a majority of the information contained in Championship publications is submitted by qualifying schools, it is imperative that the MSHSAA office receive correctly-spelled names, accurate classifications (year in school), season results, statistics of participants and coaching information. The MSHSAA Board of Directors has approved a fine process for all late, incomplete or illegible submissions for MSHSAA Championship publications. Schools that do not submit their information to MSHSAA in a timely, legible, complete and accurate manner will be fined \$25 per offense (Board Policy). Electronic reports must be submitted by the appropriate deadline in the format and style included with the report instructions. It is the responsibility of the school to verify that MSHSAA has received its program information, team photo and any other required information by the appropriate deadline.

## **APPENDIX B:** [\(TOC\)](#)

### COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE

#### **MSHSAA Position Statement Regarding U.S. Copyright Compliance**

Educators, coaches, and administrators who wish to use copyrighted material need to understand the privileges and rights of the copyright owner and must abide by defined limitations as expressed in U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the school administration to ensure their school community is in compliance with U.S. Copyright Laws at all times when playing music at your events, reproducing consumable materials, and all other events taking place at school facilities where copyright laws are to be followed. When hosting a MSHSAA postseason event, the host site is responsible for confirming any music being played over a public sound system, used in video clips, etc., has the gained written permission and/or secured the necessary license(s) to play the music, video clips, etc. from the appropriate Performing Rights Organization (i.e. ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, other). The NFHS (National Federation of State High Schools) has created a list of resources and guides available at the following site: <https://copyright.nfhs.org/>

The NFHS (National Federation of State High Schools) has established an agreement with ASCAP to allow schools and non-school sites hosting a MSHSAA postseason event, to perform/play music in which they own the rights (at least 50%) of the work at no charge. It is your responsibility to ensure the music performed onsite is owned by ASCAP. To determine if the music is owned by ASCAP to go [www.ASCAP.com](http://www.ASCAP.com) and select the link 'Repertory' to search their catalog. If the work is not owned by ASCAP (at least 50%), you will need to work directly with the organization that does own the rights (BMI, SESAC, etc.) to secure the necessary license or not use that work. This agreement only extends to the playing of music recordings downloaded to personal electronic devices but does not extend to mash-up recordings or music altered from its original recording without the site obtaining a license to do so.

# **APPENDIX C: [\(TOC\)](#)**

## **SITE SELECTION PROCESS & HOSTING CRITERIA**

### **A. General Process: District Site Selection Process**

1. Following the assignment of all registered schools to classifications and districts, the MSHSAA staff shall select one Athletic Administrator or Principal (per district) to serve as the Site Selection Chairperson for the purpose of coordinating the process.
2. The chairperson shall be contacted and confirmed via email by the MSHSAA staff.
3. Each chairperson shall review the list of schools assigned to their district located on the activity page on [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org) under the "Class and District Assignments" link
4. Each chairperson will contact all athletic administrators of schools and arrange a meeting (email, conference call, Zoom, etc. is acceptable) to select the host site(s). MSHSAA shall incur no expense in conjunction with this meeting.
5. The request shall be to select the host site(s) for only the current classification cycle.
6. Schools wishing to host, shall complete and submit the District Host Submission Form to provide evidence that facilities and staffing meet the necessary and/or recommended requirements to safely, securely and adequately provide for the conduct of the district tournament.
7. The chairperson shall distribute all submitted forms to district members for review prior to the selection meeting.
8. The chairperson shall notify the MSHSAA office, via email, by the established deadline and indicate the selected host site(s) and manager's information and the District Host Submission Form.
9. The MSHSAA staff shall review the submitted host sites for any necessary adjustments and final approval. The MSHSAA staff and/or Board of Directors shall select the host site when a district committee is unable to reach agreement or the Board determines a suggested site is unacceptable due to site constraints. A neutral site may only be used, provided there is prior approval from MSHSAA, due to confirmation of inadequate facilities at the assigned district schools or unusual circumstances. The neutral site shall be at no additional expense to MSHSAA.
10. **Prior to final approval, a medical Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for all state series sites and venues must be confirmed/uploaded to the MSHSAA website prior to hosting. The medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org).**
11. Following final approval, host sites shall be added to the district assignments link and the district managers' packets shall be forwarded to each district manager within an appropriate time frame to allow for proper administering of the event.

### **B. Criteria for District Sites**

1. Facilities must be located within the borders of the State of Missouri.
2. The site facility(s) must follow the Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation
3. **A medical Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the venue being used for hosting a postseason contest must be uploaded and accounted for at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org). The medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org).**
4. Secure location for contest officials to be sequestered from teams and spectators.
5. Ability to take admission for all contests.
6. Seating capacity shall be adequate to accommodate anticipated attendance.
7. Adequate off-street parking available for the seating capacity of the facility – required.
8. Adequate concessions available for spectators – required.

### **C. Specific Criteria for Golf**

1. 18 holes - preferred - may use a 9-hole course if absolutely necessary
2. Grass greens - required.
3. The expectation is that the ball shall be played "down" for the tournament. The course should be of the quality that, if weather conditions permit, the ball shall be played "down".
4. **Course Access:** All schools must have reasonable access to the golf course from the date of determining the host site course up to the start of the district tournament for a practice round(s). It is the responsibility of each school to plan accordingly for securing a practice round at the district course prior to the start of the district tournament. **Note: It is no longer mandatory for a host course to guarantee course access the day before the district tournament.**
5. Galleries shall be permitted to follow players around the course.
6. The course shall be located in Missouri. No district shall be held on an out-of-state course.
7. The golf course should be properly marked and inspected by the tournament manager.
8. No team shall compete on the same golf course more than once during the MSHSAA Postseason.
9. Any school wishing to host the district tournament should contact the site selection manager and should provide the name and location of the course that will be the host site if selected.
10. The golf advisory committee went on record supporting the concept that all teams wishing to host a district tournament have an opportunity to be considered for hosting, even if the majority of the teams are located in a different part of the district.

## **APPENDIX D: [\(TOC\)](#)**

### **MEDIA INFORMATION**

The following sections outline the standards and expectations set by MSHSAA for accommodating and managing media at MSHSAA postseason events. As the site manager, you are responsible for thoroughly understanding and adhering to these guidelines. You may also want to review our Media & Regulations Book on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media).

- A. Eligible Media-** All media representatives must be approved by the MSHSAA communications team via our online credentialing system (See Credentialing in Section C). Please ensure media covering our events are working in a professional capacity and adhering to professional standards of conduct, as well as all MSHSAA media regulations ([mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media)) and event policies.
- B. Eligible School Media-** All school media representatives must be approved by the MSHSAA communications team via our online credentialing system (See Credentialing in Section C). School media is identified as a reporter/photographer/broadcaster who is verified to represent a full-member school. Each school qualifying for a MSHSAA-sponsored postseason event will be allowed school media credentials to gain access to the media areas for the purpose of taking still photography, videography, writing news/feature stories, or broadcasting. It is up to the school administration to decide which students or personnel will be issued these credentials (See Credentialing in Section C). See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- C. Credentialing-** Athletic Directors can apply for **school media credentials** by logging into their MSHSAA administrative account, navigating to the Sports/Activities tab, and selecting “MSHSAA Media Credentials” under the postseason section. From there, athletic directors can add reporters and submit credential requests for postseason events. Schools may receive up to three approved media credentials per event, to be distributed at the school’s discretion. Please note: Schools who wish to broadcast can apply for an additional number of media credentials (More Information in Broadcast Section Below). All media personnel—including, but not limited to, reporters, photographers, writers, broadcasters, and camera operators—must be credentialed to gain entry to the event grounds. Only individuals listed on the official pre-approved media list with a green checkmark are authorized to access your event. There are no exceptions. This list will include each media member’s name, outlet, and email address, and can be found in the **Postseason Manager** portal by navigating to: **(The Event) > Tournament Items > Media Credentials**. Any outlet or individual not marked with a green checkmark, or not appearing on the list, must be treated as a spectator and must purchase a ticket for admission. If there is any uncertainty regarding a person’s media status, please contact Andrew Kauffman or Scott Lunte for verification. See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- D. Conduct-** All members of the media, school media included, should be held to the same standard. MSHSAA expects all media to behave in a professional manner. Any media representative who displays unprofessional behavior may be asked to leave. If a member of the media is found to have a direct association with a team or individual competing in a MSHSAA sanctioned event (such as a coach, team manager or reserve player), the individual’s media credential privileges should be revoked, and an effort should be made to appropriately credential the violating individual should the situation warrant. Designated media areas should be for media use only. No one under 18 years of age (except student media representatives), spouses, friends, coaches or fans will be admitted to media areas. See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- E. Restricted Areas and Procedures-** The player and officials locker rooms, practice areas and dressing areas are closed to all media representatives, including school media, at all times during any MSHSAA-sponsored activity. This policy is in place to protect the privacy of your student-athletes. It is the philosophy of MSHSAA and its member schools that minors in dressing areas do not mix with cameras and reporters, period. There are no exceptions to this rule at any time. Likewise, game officials are restricted from issuing comments to the media before, during or after a contest. Any attempt to pursue an official in the playing area, in the dressing areas or on the grounds of the event itself will be considered a violation of the conditions placed on the representative’s/outlet’s credentials. Rules interpretations may be sought through the site manager, media host or host athletic administrator only. See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- F. Accommodations-** Site managers are responsible for accommodating media representatives and ensuring appropriate working space is provided. Basic accommodations should include, but are not limited to, access to team rosters and brackets, official scoring or results, a writing surface (e.g., a designated press table), weather protection, and access to the competition area after the event concludes. If there are any known limitations that may hinder the ability to properly accommodate media, the MSHSAA communications team must be notified in advance. Known limitations could include lack of broadcast areas, working table space, photography areas, exposure to inclement weather, and other areas that are believed to be at an unsafe distance from the playing surface. Additionally, banners, when permitted at the site manager’s discretion, should be displayed at the station’s originating location, and this banner may only be displayed while the outlet is originating. The banner may not display logos or names of advertisers sponsoring the outlet’s origination. See your Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media) for more information.
- G. Results-** Each site manager has the responsibility to ensure all final results are reported immediately after the conclusion of each postseason game to the MSHSAA website.

- H. Photography-** Photographers who need “floor” access must be on the official pre-approved media list. Individuals with a camera who are not on the pre-approved media list with a green checkmark must be treated as a spectator and must purchase a ticket for admission. All photographers must follow NFHS and MSHSAA guidelines. Complete photographer regulations by sport can be found in the Media Regulation and Credential Book on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media). Individuals who fail to follow NFHS and MSHSAA guidelines may be asked to leave the facility.
- I. Broadcasts-** Any entity, including schools, wishing to conduct a video or audio broadcast must request approval through the MSHSAA online credentialing system. Only individuals listed on the official pre-approved media list with a green checkmark are authorized to broadcast your event. Unauthorized broadcasts of postseason games (even from the stands) are strictly prohibited. Once approved, broadcasters must coordinate directly with the site manager **at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled contest**. Broadcasters are solely responsible for securing and installing any necessary internet or phone lines. Site managers may choose to install these lines at their own expense and share costs among all broadcasting entities. **Please note: Do NOT collect any broadcast agreement forms or payment from media. This is all done online ahead of the event through the MSHSAA website and is NO LONGER the responsibility of the site manager.**
- 1. Video Streaming-** All MSHSAA postseason events leading up to the final site are eligible for live video streaming by approved media outlets and schools. Entities who stream to MSHSAA.TV do not have any broadcast fees. All media outlets, including schools, must apply for credentials through MSHSAA’s online credentialing system. If approved, they will show up on your pre-approved media list with a green checkmark. **All live video streaming must be streamed exclusively on MSHSAA.TV.** Video streaming showing game action through third-party platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, GameChanger, or similar services is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply may result in a minimum **\$500 fine** issued to the violating party. **Please note:** MSHSAA holds exclusive rights to all video streaming at the state final site. Media and school media are not eligible to video stream these championship events. For complete details, refer to the **Postseason Streaming Information** page linked on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media).
  - 2. Linear TV-** There is a significant rights fee for all live/delayed linear television broadcasts. All requests to broadcast live/delayed on linear TV must receive prior approval from MSHSAA by contacting Andrew Kauffman at the MSHSAA office. If approved, the linear television stations will appear on your pre-approved media list with a green checkmark. For more information, visit [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media).
  - 3. Radio/Audio Only Broadcasts -** Media organizations and schools seeking to produce a radio or audio-only broadcast must submit a credential request through MSHSAA’s online credentialing system. Upon approval, the outlet will be displayed on your pre-approved media list with a **green checkmark** indicating full authorization. If the checkmark appears **orange**, it means the outlet has **NOT YET** completed the required broadcast rights fee payment. In such cases, broadcasting is **not permitted** until payment is submitted **online only**. Once the fee is received and processed, the orange checkmark will automatically update to green, confirming the outlet is fully cleared to proceed with its broadcast.

**Priority for Broadcast Placement** (assigned by the site manager) shall be assigned in the following order:

- (a) Outlets representing the host school
- (b) Outlets covering participating teams — with equal distribution per school
- (c) Outlets covering the geographic region of the site and participating teams
- (d) All other outlets
- (e) When priorities are equal, preference is given to stations with more frequent regular-season coverage. If still tied, a coin toss will determine placement.

- J. Public Address Announcements-** You can see all our **public address announcements** on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media). Please use these as you see fit during your games and broadcasts.

**NOTE: Please contact Andrew Kauffman, Communications Director, by phone at (573) 875-1077 or by e-mail at [Andrew@mshsaa.org](mailto:Andrew@mshsaa.org), if you have ANY questions concerning the guidelines listed in this section or have any media questions/concerns. You can find our Media Regulations & Credentials Book on [mshsaa.org/media](http://mshsaa.org/media).**

## **APPENDIX E: [\(TOC\)](#)**

### **MSHSAA STATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS COACH/SPECTATOR GUIDELINES – USE OF GOLF CARTS**

The use of golf carts by coaches/fans/spectators as part of the “gallery” at the MSHSAA State Golf Championships is restricted. The only exception to this restriction is the cases of coaches/fans/spectators with a medical condition, handicap or disability. In these cases, the following protocol must be followed in order to receive approval to use a golf cart as member of the “gallery” at the MSHSAA State Golf Championships.

**Spectator GOLF CARTS:** must communicate to the school administrator the need for a written request from the school administrator on school letterhead indicating the necessity for permitting the use of a golf cart for the spectator. The written request from the school administrator must provide (first/last) name of spectator, reason for request (medical condition, handicap, disabled) and the state championship site they will be attending. The school administrator will provide the letter of request to the spectator who will be required to bring the letter of request to the club pro at the state championship site being attended. Do not send to the MSHSAA Office.

**Note: Any rental fee for a golf cart is at the expense of the spectator. Each site does not have the same amount of available golf carts for spectator use; therefore, carts will be issued based on availability, on a first-come, first-serve basis. The amount of the cart rental fee is under the jurisdiction of the host site course, not MSHSAA. Carts must stay on or near the cart path during tournament play.**

**School Coach GOLF CARTS:** The school administrator shall submit a letter of request (on school letterhead) **and a physician’s letter of necessity**, directly to the MSHSAA Office. The request must indicate the following: first and last name of the coach, reason for the request permitting the use of a golf cart by the coach during competition days at the state championships (medical condition, handicap, disabled), and the state championship site they will be attending. An approval letter from MSHSAA will be considered and sent to the school administrator. The school coach will be required to bring the approval letter to the state championship manager on-site for acknowledgement, then communicate with the pro shop regarding the rental of the cart.

**Note: Any rental fee for a golf cart is at the expense of the school. Each site does not have the same amount of available golf carts for use; therefore, carts will be issued based on availability, on a first-come, first-serve basis. The amount of the cart rental fee is under the jurisdiction of the host site course, not MSHSAA. Carts must stay on or near the cart path during tournament play.**

## **APPENDIX F: [\(TOC\)](#)**

### **Golf Etiquette – 101 – USGA RULES of GOLF**

This section provides guidelines on the manner in which the game of golf should be played. If they are followed, all players will gain maximum enjoyment from the game. The overriding principle is that consideration should be shown to others on the course at all times. The USGA website has many resources available at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

- A. **The Spirit of the Game** - Golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. **THE GAME RELIES ON THE INTEGRITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO SHOW CONSIDERATION FOR OTHER PLAYERS AND TO ABIDE BY THE RULES.** All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.
- B. **Safety** - Players should ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club, the ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when they make a stroke or practice swing.
- Players should not play until the players in front are out of range.
  - Players should always alert green staff nearby or ahead when they are about to make a stroke that might endanger them.
  - If a player plays a ball in a direction where there is a danger of hitting someone, he should immediately shout a warning. The traditional word of warning in such situations is “fore.”
- C. **Consideration for Other Players**
- **No Disturbance or Distraction**
    - Players should always show consideration for other players on the course and should not disturb their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise.
    - On the teeing ground, a player should not tee his ball until it is his turn to play.
    - Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or directly behind the hole, when a stroke is made.
  - **On the Putting Green**
    - On the putting green, players should not stand on another player's line of putt or when he is making a stroke, cast a shadow over his line of putt.
    - Players should remain on or close to the putting green until all other players in the group have holed out.
  - **Scoring**
    - In stroke play, a player who is marking the score of their opponent, on the way to the next tee, check the score with the player and record it.
- D. **Pace of Play**
- **See USGA Rules for language and better understanding**
    - Rule 5.6a Unreasonable Delay of Play
    - Rule 5.6b Prompt Pace of Play
    - Rule 5H Pace of Play Policy
  - **Suggested Guidelines**
    - Shot Time: When it's your turn to play, strive to hit your shot within 20-40 seconds. This includes club selection, pre-shot routine, and execution.
    - Ready Golf: Be prepared to play when it's your turn, even if you're not the one furthest from the hole. It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. When on or near the putting green, you should leave your bag in such a position as will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee.
    - Pre-Shot Routine: Keep your pre-shot routine brief and efficient.
    - On the Green: Be ready to putt when it's your turn, and mark and read your ball while others are putting.
    - Lost Balls: Remember that the time to search for a lost ball is now 3 minutes, not 5. Play a 2<sup>nd</sup> ball (provisional) if you believe your ball may be lost outside a hazard or is out of bounds
    - Communicate: If you're unsure about yardage or club selection, ask your playing partners for input to speed up the process.
    - Be Considerate: Be mindful of other players on the course and avoid unnecessary delays.
  - **When making a Pace of Play Time Sheet for Players the following times are SUGGESTED:**
    - Par 3: 13 minutes    Par 4: 15 minutes    Par 5: 17 minutes

#### E. Care of the Course

- **Bunkers** - Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. If a rake is within reasonable proximity of the bunker, the rake should be used for this purpose.
- **Putting Green (Repair of Divots, Ball-Marks and Damage by Shoes)** - Players should carefully repair any divots made by them or others and any damage to the putting green
  - On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.
  - Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.
  - In order to avoid damaging the hole, players and caddies should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of a ball from the hole. The head of a club should not be used to remove a ball from the hole.
  - Players should not lean on their clubs when on the green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.
- **Preventing Unnecessary Damage** - Players should avoid causing damage to the course by removing divots when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of a club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.

#### F. Conclusion: Penalties for Breach - If players follow the guidelines in this section, it will make the game more enjoyable for everyone.

- If a player consistently disregards these guidelines during a round or over a period of time to the detriment of others, it is recommended that the Committee considers taking appropriate disciplinary action against the offending player. Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a limited time on the course or in a certain number of competitions. This is considered to be justifiable in terms of protecting the interests of the majority of golfers who wish to play in accordance with these guidelines.
- In the case of a serious breach of etiquette, the Committee may disqualify a player.

## APPENDIX G: [\(TOC\)](#)

### Penalty Relief (Rules 17-19) - USGA RULES of GOLF

#### **Rule 17 – Penalty Areas**

**Purpose of Rule:** Rule 17 is a specific Rule for penalty areas, which are bodies of water or other areas defined by the Committee where a ball is often lost or unable to be played. For one penalty stroke, players may use specific relief options to play a ball from outside the penalty area.

**Rule 17.1 Options for Ball in Penalty Area** - Penalty areas are defined as either red or yellow. This affects the player's relief options (see Rule 17.1d). A player may stand in a penalty area to play a ball outside the penalty area, including after taking relief from the penalty area.

- A. **When Ball Is in Penalty Area** - A ball is in a penalty area when any part of the ball:
- Lies on or touches the ground or anything else (such as any natural or artificial object) inside the edge of the penalty area, or
  - Is above the edge or any other part of the penalty area.
- If part of the ball is both in a penalty area and in another area of the course, see Rule 2.2c.
- B. **Player May Play Ball as It Lies in Penalty Area or Take Penalty Relief** - The player may either:
- Play the ball as it lies without penalty, under the same Rules that apply to a ball in the general area (which means there are no special Rules limiting how a ball may be played from a penalty area), or
  - Play a ball from outside the penalty area by taking penalty relief under Rule 17.1d or 17.2.
- Exception** – Relief Must Be Taken from Interference by No Play Zone in Penalty Area (see Rule 17.1e).
- C. **Relief for Ball Not Found but in Penalty Area** - If a player's ball has not been found and it is known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in a penalty area:
- The player may take penalty relief under Rule 17.1d or 17.2.
  - Once the player puts another ball in play to take relief in this way:
    - The original ball is no longer in play and must not be played.
    - This is true even if it is then found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).
- But if it is not known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in a penalty area and the ball is lost, the player must take stroke-and-distance relief under Rule 18.2.
- D. **Relief for Ball in Penalty Area** - If a player's ball is in a penalty area, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area even though not found, the player has these relief options, each for one penalty stroke:
1. **Stroke-and-Distance Relief.** The player may play the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6).
  2. **Back-on-the-Line Relief.** The player may drop the original ball or another ball (see Rule 14.3) outside the penalty area, keeping the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area between the hole and the spot where the ball is dropped (with no limit as to how far back the ball may be dropped). The spot on the line where the ball first touches the ground when dropped creates a relief area that is one club-length in any direction from that point, but with these limits:
    - Limits on Location of Relief Area:
      - Must not be nearer the hole than the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, and
      - May be in any area of the course except the same penalty area, but
      - Must be in the same area of the course that the ball first touched when dropped.
  3. **Lateral Relief (Only for Red Penalty Area).** When the ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in this lateral relief area (see Rule 14.3):
    - Reference Point: The estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area.
    - Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: Two club-lengths, but with these limits:
    - Limits on Location of Relief Area:
      - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
      - May be in any area of the course except the same penalty area, but
      - If more than one area of the course is located within two club-lengths of the reference point, the ball must come to rest in the relief area in the same area of the course that the ball first touched when dropped in the relief area.

**Rule 17.3 No Relief Under Other Rules for Ball in Penalty Area** - When a player's ball is in a penalty area, there is no relief for:

- Interference by an abnormal course condition (Rule 16.1),
- An embedded ball (Rule 16.3), or
- An unplayable ball (Rule 19).

The player's only relief option is to take penalty relief under Rule 17. But when a dangerous animal condition interferes with the play of a ball in a penalty area, the player may take either free relief in the penalty area or penalty relief outside the penalty area (see Rule 16.2b(2)).

## **Rule 18 – Stroke & Distance Relief; Ball Lost or Out of Bounds; Provisional Ball**

**Purpose of Rule:** Rule 18 covers taking relief under penalty of stroke and distance. When a ball is lost outside a penalty area or comes to rest out of bounds, the required progression of playing from the teeing area to the hole is broken; the player must resume that progression by playing again from where the previous stroke was made. This Rule also covers how and when a provisional ball may be played to save time when the ball in play might have gone out of bounds or be lost outside a penalty area.

**Rule 18.1 Relief Under Penalty of Stroke and Distance Allowed at Any Time** - At any time, a player may take stroke-and-distance relief by adding one penalty stroke and playing the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6). The player always has this stroke-and-distance relief option:

- No matter where the player's ball is on the course, and
- Even when a Rule requires the player to take relief in a certain way or to play a ball from a certain place.

Once the player puts another ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 14.4):

- The original ball is no longer in play and must not be played.
- This is true even if the original ball is then found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But this does not apply to a ball to be played from where the previous stroke was made when the player:

- Announces that they are playing a provisional ball (see Rule 18.3b), or
- Is playing a second ball in stroke play under Rule 14.7b or 20.1c(3).

## **Rule 18.2 Ball Lost or Out of Bounds: Stroke and Distance Relief Must Be Taken**

### **A. When Ball is Lost or Out of Bounds**

1. **When Ball Is Lost:** A ball is lost if not found in three minutes after the player or their caddie begins to search for it. If a ball is found in that time but it is uncertain whether it is the player's ball:
  - i. The player must promptly attempt to identify the ball (see Rule 7.2) and is allowed a reasonable time to do so, even if that happens after the three-minute search time has ended.
  - ii. This includes a reasonable time to get to the ball if the player is not where the ball is found.

If the player does not identify their ball in that reasonable time, the ball is lost.

2. **When Ball Is Out of Bounds:** A ball at rest is out of bounds only when all of it is outside the boundary edge of the course. A ball is in bounds when any part of the ball:
  - i. Lies on or touches the ground or anything else (such as any natural or artificial object) inside the boundary edge, or
  - ii. Is above the boundary edge or any other part of the course.

A player may stand out of bounds to play a ball on the course.

### **B. What to Do When Ball is Lost or Out of Bounds**

If a ball is lost or out of bounds, the player must take stroke-and-distance relief by adding one penalty stroke and playing the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6).

**Exception – Player May Substitute Another Ball Under Other Rule When It Is Known or Virtually Certain What Happened to Ball:** Instead of taking stroke-and-distance relief, the player may substitute another ball as allowed under a Rule that applies when their ball has not been found and it is known or virtually certain that the ball:

- Came to rest on the course and was moved by an outside influence (see Rule 9.6) or played as a wrong ball by another player (see Rule 6.3c(2)),
- Came to rest on the course in or on a movable obstruction (see Rule 15.2b) or an abnormal course condition (see Rule 16.1e),
- Is in a penalty area (see Rule 17.1c), or
- Was deliberately deflected or stopped by any person (see Rule 11.2c).

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Rule 18.2: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**

## **Rule 18.3 Provisional Ball**

### **A. When Provisional Ball is Allowed**

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 (see Rule 14.6). This includes when:

- The original ball has not been found and identified and is not yet lost,
- A ball might be lost in a penalty area but also might be lost somewhere else on the course, or
- A ball might be lost in a penalty area but might also be out of bounds.

If a player makes a stroke from where the previous stroke was made with the intent of playing a provisional ball, but a provisional ball was not allowed, the ball played is the player's ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.1). If a provisional ball itself might be lost outside a penalty area or be out of bounds:

- The player may play another provisional ball.
- That provisional ball then has the same relationship to the first provisional ball as the first one has to the original ball

### **B. Announcing Play of Provisional Ball**

Before the stroke is made, the player must announce to someone that they are going to play a provisional ball:

- It is not enough for the player only to say that they are playing another ball or is playing again.
- The player must use the word "provisional" or otherwise clearly indicate that they are playing the ball provisionally under Rule 18.3.

If the player does not announce this (even if they intended to play a provisional ball) and plays a ball from where the previous stroke was made, that ball is the player's ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.1).

But if there is no one nearby to hear the player's announcement, the player may play the provisional ball and then inform someone of their actions when possible to do so.

## **Rule 19 – Unplayable Ball**

*Purpose of Rule: Rule 19 covers the player's several relief options for an unplayable ball. This allows the player to choose which option to use – normally with one penalty stroke – to get out of a difficult situation anywhere on the course (except in a penalty area).*

### **Rule 19.1 Player May Decide to Take Unplayable Ball Relief Anywhere Except Penalty Area**

A player is the only person who may decide to treat their ball as unplayable by taking penalty relief under Rule 19.2 or 19.3.

- Unplayable ball relief is allowed anywhere on the course, except in a penalty area.
- If a ball is unplayable in a penalty area, the player's only relief option is to take penalty relief under Rule 17.

### **Rule 19.2 Relief Options for Unplayable Ball in General Area or on Putting Green**

A player may take unplayable ball relief using one of the three options in Rule 19.2a, b or c, in each case adding **one penalty stroke**.

- Stroke-and-Distance Relief** – The player may play the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made.
- Back-on-the-Line Relief** - The player may drop the original ball or another ball (see Rule 14.3) behind the spot of the original ball, keeping the spot of the original ball between the hole and the spot where the ball is dropped (with no limit as to how far back the ball may be dropped). The spot on the line where the ball first touches the ground when dropped creates a relief area that is one club-length in any direction from that point, but with these limits:
  - **Limits on Location of Relief Area:**
    - Must not be nearer the hole than the spot of the original ball, and
    - May be in any area of the course, but
    - Must be in the same area of the course that the ball first touched when dropped.
- Lateral Relief** - The player may drop the original ball or another ball in this lateral relief area (see Rule 14.3):
  - **Reference Point:** The spot of the original ball. But when the ball lies above the ground, such as in a tree, the reference point is the spot directly below the ball on the ground.
  - **Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point:** Two club-lengths, but with these limits:
  - **Limits on Location of Relief Area:**
    - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
    - May be in any area of the course, but
    - If more than one area of the course is located within two club-lengths of the reference point, the ball must come to rest in the relief area in the same area of the course that the ball first touched when dropped in the relief area.

### **Rule 19.3 Relief Options for Unplayable Ball in Bunker**

#### **A. Normal Relief Options (One Penalty Stroke)**

When a player's ball is in a bunker:

- The player may take unplayable ball relief for **one penalty stroke** under any of the options in Rule 19.2, except that:
- The ball must be dropped in and come to rest in a in the bunker if the player takes either back-on-the-line relief (see Rule 19.2b) or lateral relief (see Rule 19.2c).

#### **B. Extra Relief Option (Two Penalty Strokes)**

As an extra relief option when a player's ball is in a bunker, for a total of **two penalty strokes**, the player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker under Rule 19.2b.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Rule 19.3: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**

## APPENDIX H: [\(TOC\)](#)

### Verification to Uphold Awards Standards

(To be completed only for non-school golf tournaments) - To protect the student's eligibility status this form is to be signed and submitted to the school's Athletic Director before the start of the tournament. THIS FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED.

In order to conform with standards of the MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION AS STATED IN THE MSHSAA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, WE, the undersigned, hereby certify that this is a non-school golf tournament of AMATEUR status. We understand that in order to retain high school eligibility, nothing more than medals, trophies or plaques, or specific merchandise awards with a manufacturer's suggested retail value of \$250.00 or less (as specified in By-Law 3.6.5 and the Q&A section of the MSHSAA Handbook) may be competed for or accepted as prizes.

NAME OF TOURNAMENT AND LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF TOURNAMENT \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tournament Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School

----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

In order to conform with standards of the MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION AS STATED IN THE MSHSAA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, WE, the undersigned, hereby certify that this is a non-school golf tournament of AMATEUR status. We understand that in order to retain high school eligibility, nothing more than medals, trophies or plaques, or specific merchandise awards with a manufacturer's suggested retail value of \$250.00 or less (as specified in By-Law 3.6.5 and the Q&A section of the MSHSAA Handbook) may be competed for or accepted as prizes.

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Tournament Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Tournament Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School

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