



2025 BOYS GOLF MANUAL

DATES TO REMEMBER

| | Girls Fall 2024 | Boys Spring 2025 |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Online Rules Review Opens | August 5 | February 24 |
| First Allowable Practice | August 12 | March 3 |
| Deadline to withdraw from season/post-season for classification purposes. | August 22 | March 13 |
| Deadline: Online Rules Review & Coaches Test | August 23 | March 14 |
| First Allowable Contest (By-Law 3.9.1 Conditioning requirements must be met prior to participation) | August 29 | March 20 |
| Class/District Assignments Released | August 30 | March 21 |
| District Entries OPEN | September 23 | April 21 |
| District Entries Deadline | October 2 | April 30 |
| District Tournament Window – District Mgr and host course availability determines actual date of the district tournament from the four dates options. | October 9-11 or 14 | May 7-9 or 12 |
| State Championship Coaches Meetings | October 20 | May 18 |
| State Championships | October 21-22 | May 19-20 |
| Golf Advisory Committee Meeting | October 28 | |
| Open Facility Period (See bylaw 3.14.7 & Open Facility Board Policy) | Jan 6 – Feb 21 | Sept 9 – Oct 25 |
| Out of Season Practice Period (See bylaw 3.14.7) | March 31 – May 16 | Jan 6 – Feb 21 |

NOTE – the Golf Advisory Meeting was held in the fall after the girls season. Any Board approved recommendations will go into effect at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year, prior to the Girls Golf season.

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

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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Stacy Schroeder, Senior Associate Executive Director
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Lou Mazzocco, Assistant Executive Director
***Doug Fessler, Assistant Executive Director**
Marty M Marsh, Assistant Executive Director
Daryl Bradley, Assistant Executive Director
Stephanie Turner, Coordinator of Sport
Craig Long, Chief Financial Officer
Andrew Kaufman, Communications Director

****MSHSAA Contact Person for Golf***

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*****Revised January 2025*****

DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS & STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
MAY BE FOUND ON MSHSAA WEBSITE (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

Girls

| Kansas City (2026) | South Central (2026) | Southwest (2027) |
|---|---|---|
| Seth DeRose Oak Park Seth.derose@nkcschools.org | *Brandi Byrd Sullivan byrdb@sullivan eagles.org | John Giebler Reeds Spring jgiebler@wolves.k12.mo.us |
| Southeast (2027) | Northwest (2028) | Northeast (2028) |
| Garrett Pannier Cape Central pannierng@capetigers.com | Melody Barnett Tarkio barnel@tarkio.k12.mo.us | *Alex McFadden Salisbury HS amcfadden@salisbury.k12.mo.us |
| St. Louis (2025) | Central (2025) | |
| Katrina Clark Lafayette (Wildwood) clarkkatrina@rsdmo.org | *Craig Harvey Smith-Cotton callenharvey@hotmail.com | |

Boys

| Kansas City (2026) | South Central (2026) | Southwest (2027) |
|--|---|---|
| Joel Peace North Kansas City joel.peace@nkcschools.org | *Nathan Boeh Waynesville nboeh@waynesville.k12.mo.us | Jeff Boyles Clever boylesj@cleverbluejays.org |
| Southeast (2027) | Northwest (2028) | Northeast (2028) |
| Brad Downs Farmington bdowns@farmington.k12.mo.us | Gary Belcher Lawson belcherg@lawsoncardinals.org | Kevin Mitchell South Shelby kmitchell@cardinals.k12.mo.us |
| St. Louis (2025) | Central (2025) | |
| Ben Meyer St. Charles West bmeyer@stcharlessd.org | Rob VanderLinden Boonville rob.vanderlinden@boonville.k12.mo.us | |

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 & BY-LAW CHANGES [\(TOC\)](#)

1. CHANGES FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON (USGA):

None – Next Rulebook comes out in January of 2027

2. MSHSAA BALLOT CHANGES (ALL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS):

- A. INELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND FORFEITURES - Removes By-Law 5.5.4 and amends By-Law 1.2.3 to consolidate language and clarify the penalties for playing an ineligible player during the regular season and in the MSHSAA District/State Series.
- B. Bona Fide Student Rule and Penalty-- Amends Section 2 and By-Law 2.1 to add clarity to the definition of a Bona fide student, what constitutes a change in Bona fide student status, and the associated penalty for violating By-Law 2.1.
- C. Name, Image and Likeness -- Amends By-Laws 2.6 and 3.6 to allow students to receive a benefit for their name, image or likeness if the promotions do not represent an affiliation to a member school or utilize names, marks, etc. they do not own, and also to prohibit "NIL Collectives."
- D. Transfer Student Participation Eligibility -- Eliminates By-Law 3.4.2 in the Certification of Eligibility subsection and amends By-Law 3.10.7 in the Residency and Transfer subsection to allow transfer students to possibly become eligible the first day classes are attended, instead of the fifth day, provided the proper transfer form has been submitted and processed.
- E. Elimination of 250 Mile Travel Restriction-Athletics -- Amends By-Law 3.18.3.c to eliminate the one time per year 250- mile travel limitation for sports
- F. First Allowable High School Contest Start Day for All Sports Seasons -- Amends By-Law 3.29 to change the first allowable contest date for all sports seasons from Friday to Thursday.
- G. Penalty for Ejections -- Amends By-Laws 5.5.1.c and 5.5.1.d to indicate that participation after an ejection at any level is prohibited until the one-contest suspension at the level at which the ejection occurred has been served.

3. Changes for the Upcoming Season (Advisory Committee): 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.

- A. 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 use an electronic device (i.e. cell phone, personal audio or video devices) for the purpose of talking, texting, listening to or watching content of any nature.
 - 2. With the exception of restrictions noted in 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 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 carrying cell phones on the golf course must turn off the ringer. Those who do not will be asked to turn off the phone and risk being removed from the golf course by tournament or meet officials.
- B. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES: Golfers and Coaches may use distance measuring devices, and share information, in high school golf 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 or interpret distance or directional information (such as using a device to get a recommended line of play or club selection based on the location of the player's ball).
 - 2. Cell phone distance measuring applications, GPS handheld devices, GPS watches and other similar types of devices are permitted.
 - 3. It is acceptable for advice givers (coaches) and players to share distance information upon request as long as the process does not unreasonably delay play. **Spectators are not permitted to share or assist players with information obtained from a distance measuring device or compass.
- C. Electronic Scoring may be used and enter by the participant during the regular and postseason. Participants will still be responsible for turning in and signing and official written scorecard issued by the course or event mgr as their official score.
- D. An additional day has been added on the front side of the District Tournament Window. The Girls District Tournament may now be played October 9-11 or 14, 2024.

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 (SMP). The information is not sport or activity specific but is necessary for the safe and proper conduct of your sport/activity.

Source Locations:

[MSHSAA Handbook \(HB\)](#)

[Sports Medicine Page \(SMP\)](#)

- A. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USAGE AROUND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES (HB-Board Policy)
- B. CHARITY/AWARENESS EVENTS (HB-Board Policy)
- C. CONCUSSIONS EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL ([SMP](#))
- D. CONDUCT – REMOVAL OF TEAMS & EJECTIONS (HB-By-Law 5.5)
- E. GUIDELINES FOR FAN SUPPORT ITEMS (HB-Board Policy)
- F. HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS/LIGHTNING GUIDELINES ([SMP](#))
- G. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION (HB-By-Law 1.7 & [SMP](#))
- H. ON-SITE PROTEST PROCEDURES (HB-Board Policy)
- I. OXYGEN USE POSITION STATEMENT ([SMP](#))
- J. SANCTIONING (HB-By-Law 3.18)
- K. WET BULB GLOBE THERMOMETER USE ([SMP](#))

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

- A. ELIGIBILITY ROSTERS:** Your school administrator must submit a golf eligibility roster through the MSHSAA website (www.mshsaa.org) 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. USGA RULES:** USGA Rules and MSHSAA Rules shall be followed in the district and state tournaments and all interscholastic meets. Coaches shall thoroughly instruct their golfers of the following regulations. **The MSHSAA will adopt the most current USGA Rules with each USGA publication date/year. The USGA releases new rules during the month of January and publishes new rule books every three years; therefore, the 2023-2024 Girls Golf and Boys Golf seasons will be under the guidance of the current USGA Rules of Golf and the Rules of Amateur Status, released in January-2023.**
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. 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.**
- D. 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.
- i. **Remind them of the "BIG 3"**
 1. Show up for your tee time on-time
 2. 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.
 3. 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"?
- E. PUTTS HOLED:** All putts shall be holed out. **An optional 10-stroke maximum rule has been reinstated and may be used at the district tournament. Any player using the optional stroke limit cannot advance further in the postseason.** A stroke limit may continue to be used during in regular season contests.

- F. CADDIES and GOLF CARTS:** Golfers may use pull carts but shall not use caddies or motorized golf carts.

APPROVAL FOR USE OF GOLF CART

A formal request for a student athlete to be granted approval to use a golf cart during practice or 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 practice or competition
Note: Any student receiving permissions in writing from the MSHSAA to use a golf cart during interscholastic golf practices or 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 to use a golf cart during interscholastic practices or competitions “does not” meet the age requirement for operating a golf cart that a course may have in place, a school approved golf coach or administrator must be the operator of the golf cart due to the coaching/instruction 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.

- G. ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Golfers may use electronic devices for the purposes listed below:

5. USGA Model Local Rule G-8 & Rule 4.3.a.(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not use an electronic device (i.e. cell phone, personal audio or video devices) for the purpose of talking, texting, listening to or watching content of any nature.
6. With the exception of restrictions noted in 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 tournament application.
7. 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.
8. Non-competitors carrying cell phones on the golf course must turn off the ringer. Those who do not will be asked to turn off the phone and risk being removed from the golf course by tournament or meet officials.

- H. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES:** Golfers and Coaches may use distance measuring devices, and share information, in high school golf that measure distance only.

4. 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 or interpret distance or directional information (such as using a device to get a recommended line of play or club selection based on the location of the player's ball).
5. Cell phone distance measuring applications, GPS handheld devices, GPS watches and other similar types of devices are permitted.
6. It is acceptable for advice givers (coaches) and players to share distance information upon request as long as the process does not unreasonably delay play. **Spectators are not permitted to share or assist players with information obtained from a distance measuring device or compass.

- I. LIVE SCORING PROGRAMS/DEVICES:** Live Scoring programs, which allows participants, coaches, or approved personnel, to use an electronic device (cell phone, tablet, etc.) to make live scoring updates during a competition are permitted for 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.

- J. CO-ED TEES:** Girls participating on boy's teams must play from the same tees as all other participants.

- K. 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 the spotters, markers and/or the rules committee members. Based on the seriousness of the incident the penalty shall be either a warning (one per tournament) or a two-stroke penalty. Once warned and penalized 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. Provisions of this section apply any time the competitor is on the course grounds until awards have been presented.

- L. SLOW 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. After a warning, persistent slow play may subject a participant to a two-stroke penalty and then disqualification.
- M. 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 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.
- N. NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION:** Per MSHSAA Bylaw, during the school golf season, a student may, after fulfilling all requirements, practices and competitions of the school team, compete as an individual participant in two (2) organized non-school golf competitions.
1. *Priority shall be given to all school team practices and competition. Should a non-school competition be in direct conflict with the school scheduled practice/competition the school practice/competition shall take priority. Prior approval by the school administrator may grant an exception to a student to participate in the non-school competition if in direct conflict with the school program.*
 2. *No school time shall be missed to compete, practice or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.*
- O. NEWS 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.
- P. 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.
- Q. COACHING:** All coaches 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. During the postseason series (Districts & State): The coach will not be allowed to give advice once the player's ball is on the green AND player has reached the green area (10 yards). Golf 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.
- R. 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). During the state tournament practice round, only state qualifying golfers are permitted to play during the Sunday practice round. Penalty: The coach could be subject to losing their MSHSAA approved coaching status.
- S. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** The school of a competitor with a disability or special need may request specific 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 accommodations being requested. The letter should include the rule references of applicable USGA or MSHSAA Rules that 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:
1. the sport is not fundamentally altered by the accommodation,
 2. the accommodation does not create a risk to either the athlete or others, and
 3. 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 Web Site under their School's District Entries.
 - a. **Entry forms** - 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 and/or head coach 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 the MSHSAA regarding any late entries for the tournament.
3. **ALTERNATES/SUBSTITUTIONS:** Only students properly certified by the principal or superintendent on the online Eligibility Roster shall be eligible to compete in the district tournament. 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/Substitutions 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.
4. **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.
5. **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.

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. 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 Post Season Series. Example: A team cannot play their District tournament at the same golf course that will host the State tournament for that classification.**
1. **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. 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.**
 2. **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.
 - a. **NOTE:** Practice round access the day before the district tournament is not mandatory due to the multiple dates window for hosting districts.
 3. **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.
 4. **PAIRINGS:** District Managers have three options for making the pairing assignments.
 - a. Pair 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).
 - b. Pair by teams: Pair the 3 or 4 best teams together, then the next 3 or 4 teams, etc. Pair the #1 players together, then #2, etc. This allows the coaches to have their players in consecutive groups.
 - c. 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.
 5. **STARTING FORMAT (TRADITIONAL & SHOTGUN):** The traditional start of sending players off of hole #1 and hole #10 is recommended for the district tournament. The use of a shotgun start is an option 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.
 6. **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.
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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:
 - i. 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.
 7. **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.
 8. **STROKE LIMIT:** An optional 10 stroke limit may be used at the district tournament. Any player using the optional stroke limit cannot advance further in the postseason.
 9. **DIGITAL TICKETS:** Hometown Ticketing is the official partner for digital ticketing.
 - a. Districts: Use of digital ticketing will be a host school option
 - b. State Series: Use of digital ticketing will be REQUIRED. No paper ticketing will be available.
 - c. Contact: digitaltickets@mshsaa.org
 10. **ADMISSION CHARGES:** Required for all spectators ages six (6) and up
 - i. District Tournament: **\$6.00**
 - ii. State Championship Tour (per day): **\$12.00**

*Spectator Cart Rentals will be a local course decision.

11. 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.

12. 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.**

13. DISTRICT TOURNAMENT AWARDS:

- a. **MEDALS:** District medalist 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 following criteria: **See #10 Qualifiers - Team**

14. 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.

15. COACHING: Each school may appoint up to two (2) MSHSAA approved coaches, one of the appointed coaches must be the Head Coach, who have met ALL coaching requirements. 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 10.2-b. During the state series (Districts & State), coaches will not be allowed to give advice once the player's ball is on the green AND player has reached the green area (10 yards). Golf Coaches may coach their athletes at District Tournaments 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.

16. ADVICE BY PLAYERS DURING COMPETITION: Per USGA Rule 10.2, in summary, players are not permitted to give advice to other players, including teammates, during competition.

17. LIVE SCORING PROGRAMS/DEVICES: Live Scoring programs, which allows participants, coaches, or approved personnel, to use an electronic device (cell phone, tablet, etc.) to make live scoring updates during a competition are permitted for both regular season and postseason contests. Live scoring results shall be unofficial.

MSHSAA Golf App (powered through iWanamaker) – each player and coach are required to download the free MSHSAA Golf app and sign up prior to the District Tournament Entry Deadline. The use of the app is required during the District and State Tournaments for live scoring purposes. Spectators may then follow live scoring for a fee (outlined on the MSHSAA website). Coaches, school administrators and media may follow scores for free, but must all sign-up through the app. 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.

18. **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.

D. STATE TOURNAMENT:

Girls State Tournament: will be held on **October 21-22, 2024** at the following sites;

Class 1: **Crown Pointe Country Club, Farmington**

Class 2: **Fremont Hills Country Club, Nixa**

Class 3: **Rivercut Golf Course, Springfield**

Class 4: **Dalhousie Golf Club, Cape Girardeau**

Boys State Tournament: will be held on **May 19-20, 2025** at the following sites;

Class 1: **Meadow Lake Acres Country Club, New Bloomfield**

Class 2: **Sedalia Country Club, Sedalia**

Class 3: **Twin Hills Golf & Country Club, Joplin**

Class 4: **Silo Ridge Golf & Country Club, Bolivar**

Class 5: **Rivercut Golf Course, Springfield**

- 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:** All state entries for players who qualify from the district tournaments shall be verified on the MSHSAA Website. Team and Individual state qualifiers will be posted and verified by the district manager on the MSHSAA website through the process of posting district results. The MSHSAA will access state qualifier school names, player names and district scores using the MSHSAA website. Coaches with Individual 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 STATE. Coaches of Qualifying Teams must use the "STATE" qualifiers link on their school's homepage on the MSHSAA website to verify their four, or potentially five players, and list of Alternates for the State Golf Tournament.
 2. **ALTERNATES:** The 8 team qualifiers to State (those that finished 1st/2nd in their respective district tournaments) are the only schools allowed to use an Alternate/Substitution to their team roster in the case of an emergency, injury, illness, ineligibility or extenuating circumstance 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 up until the close of the coaches meeting prior to the start of the state tournament. The substitute/alternate must be listed on the school's eligibility roster on the MSHSAA website. The Rules Committee will 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. **Coaches Meeting:** A coaches meeting will be held at **4:00 pm** on Sunday (day prior to the beginning of the tournament) at the course club-house, Girls - Week 16; Boys – Week 46.
 4. **Number of Holes:** Competitors will play a total of 36 holes in the state tournament with 18 to be played each day.
 5. **Team Scoring:** The four best individual scores recorded each day will be counted in determining final team scores.
 6. **Practice Round:** Each team or individual entered in the state tournament shall be allowed on the state course, for physical practice (including putting on the practice green or hitting on the driving range), **ONE TIME after qualification for the state tournament.** **Note: 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.** Only one practice round on the course is permitted as previously noted.
 - a. **During the state tournament practice round, only state qualifying golfers are permitted to play during the Sunday practice round.**
 - b. **EXCEPTION:** Individuals entered in the state tournament shall be allowed to use the putting green and/or 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 taken on a previous day.
 - c. Teams or individuals wishing to play a practice round shall call the course following district qualification, preceding

- the state tournament, to arrange a tee time.
- d. Any class time missed by teams or individuals for a practice round shall be acceptable, only if permitted by that school's principal.
- e. Individuals or teams violating the one-time practice shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including disqualification from the state tournament.
- f. Groups of five are permitted during the practice round. (IF PERMITTED BY COURSE)
- g. **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.**

7. **COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- a. MSHSAA Approved Head Coaches and Assistant coaches who have met ALL coaching requirements and who have athletes participating in the State Tournament shall receive a coaches pass. **Per USGA rules each school may appoint up to two MSHSAA approved coaches to coach (give advice) at the state tournament. One of the appointed coaches must be the Head Golf Coach. The appointed coaches must be the same for both days of the tournament and must meet all MSHSAA requirements to be an approved golf coach.**
- b. Golf Coaches are not allowed to give advice once the player's ball is on the green AND the player has reached the green area (10 yards).
- c. Markers shall be used at the District Tournaments but not at the State Tournaments.

8. **Tee TIMES:** Tournament play on Monday and Tuesday will start **at 8:30 am for the Girl's and at 8:00 am for the Boy's Tournaments.** Players who report late for their tee time shall be disqualified. Tee times will be posted on the MSHSAA website. Day 1 – posted Thursday prior to the tournament. Day 2 (based on Round 1 scores - posted by 6pm on Monday (weather permitting).

9. **PAIRINGS:** The following pairing criteria will be used based on the number of qualified players at each site:

More than 90 Players: When the playing field is greater than 90 players (Foursomes) (Note: a threesome(s) may be necessary to prevent having a twosome).

For the first day of the state tournament, competitors on qualifying teams will be paired in groups of four, based on district team scores in relation to par and player scores from district, while individual qualifiers will be paired in groups of four, based on individual district scores in relation to par. 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.

- a. **First day of state tournament** - 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.
- b. **Second day of state tournament** - Pairings shall be done 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)

90 Players or Less: When the playing field consists of 90 or less players (Threesomes) (Note: a foursome(s) may be necessary to prevent having a twosome).

For the first day of the state tournament, competitors on qualifying teams will be paired in groups of three based on each individual's district score in relation to par while individual qualifiers will be paired in groups of three based on individual district scores in relation to par. 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.

- a. **First day of state tournament** -The pairings for teams on Day 1 will be based on each individual's district score in relation to par, not team score or team district placement. Team qualifiers will tee-off of the front nine, first tee, on Day 1. Next, the top Individual qualifiers, not on a qualifying team, will be paired based on each individual's district score in relation to par. Individual qualifiers will tee-off of the back nine, tenth tee, on Day 1. 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.
- b. **Second day of state tournament** - Pairings shall be done 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 49-69, Wave 2 Players 24-1) (10th tee: Wave 1 Players 70-90, Wave 2 Players 25-48)

10. **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 REMIND mass messaging system in addition to posts/updates on the MSHSAA website. Coaches will be asked to join the REMIND messaging system when in attendance at the State Coaches Meeting.

11. **GALLERIES and ADMISSION:** 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. **Admission shall be \$12.00 each day of the state tournament.** 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 D)

- a. Spectators will not be allowed to use golf carts unless they have a verifiable handicap or disability.
- b. Spectators requesting a cart due to a handicap or disability shall be required to submit a letter from the school administration **verifying their handicap or disability** to the Golf Pro Shop on a first come, first serve basis.
- c. The operator of the cart must be at least 21 years of age.
- d. The cost of the cart must be borne by the individual requesting the use of the cart.
- e. Spectators may only use their cell phone in a texting capacity on the golf course.

12. **AWARDS:**

- 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 state, 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; 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).
- c. The Golf Advisory Committee has recommended the above 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.

13. **COACHING:** Coaching of golfers during competition during the regular season shall be in accordance with USGA rule 10.2b. During the state series (Districts & State): The coach will not be allowed to give advice once the player's ball is on the green AND player has reached the green area (10 yards). Golf Coaches may coach their athletes at State provided all duties assigned for the tournament is 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:** Per USGA Rule 10.2, in summary, players are not permitted to give advice to other players, including teammates, during competition.

15. **LIVE SCORING PROGRAMS/DEVICES: (See Section 5.C.16)**

16. **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.

MSHSAA STATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

COURSE ROTATION 2024-2030

| <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> |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 24-25 | Crown Pointe | Fremont Hills | Rivercut | Dalhousie | Meadow Lake | Sedalia CC | Twin Hills | Silo Ridge | Rivercut |
| 25-26 | Tanglewood | Meadow Lake | Twin Hills | Sedalia CC | Rivercut | Crown Pointe | Sedalia CC | Columbia CC | CCMO |
| 26-27 | Paradise Pointe | Tanglewood | Meadow Lake | Rivercut | CCMO | Rivercut | Meadow Lake | Twin Hills | Sedalia CC |
| 27-28 | Sedalia CC | Columbia CC | Tanglewood | Meadow Lake | Crown Pointe | CCMO | Rivercut | Sedalia CC | Meadow Lake |
| 28-29 | Meadow Lake | Paradise Pointe | Rivercut | Tanglewood | Meadow Lake | Sedalia CC | Columbia CC | Rivercut | Twin Hills |
| 29-30 | 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 follows 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 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 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, CD's, etc. 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 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 (Appendix F) 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.**
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. Specific 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. 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.**
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 host Golf Sites

1. 18 holes - preferred - could 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.
 - a. Note: It is no longer mandatory for a host course to guarantee course access the day before the district tournament.
5. The site facilities must follow the Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation.
6. Galleries shall be permitted to follow players around the course.
7. The course shall be located in Missouri. No district shall be held on an out-of-state course.
8. The golf course should be properly marked and inspected by the tournament manager.
9. No team shall compete on the same golf course more than once during the MSHSAA Post Season Series.
10. 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.
11. 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.

12. The District Tournament for the **(GIRLS)** shall be scheduled on the Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of week 14 or Monday of week 15. The District Tournament for the **(BOYS)** shall be scheduled on the Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of week 45 or the Monday of week 45. In the event of rain, the tournament should be rescheduled on the first possible date.
13. It is recommended that a maximum greens fee for District Tournament be \$30.00 per player.
14. **2024 Girls Districts, by Classification, may not be held at the following sites due to hosting the State Tournament in that class:**
 - Class 1: Crown Pointe – Farmington
 - Class 2: Fremont Hills – Nixa
 - Class 3: Rivercut – Springfield
 - Class 4: Dalhousie – Cape Girardeau.
- 2025 Boys Districts, by Classification, may not be held at the following sites due to hosting the State Tournament in that class:**
 - Class 1: Meadow Lake – New Bloomfield
 - Class 2: Sedalia CC – Sedalia
 - Class 3: Twin Hills - Springfield
 - Class 4: Silo Ridge – Bolivar
 - Class 5: Rivercut - Springfield
15. 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:
 - a. Girls - 5200-5500 yards Boys - minimum of 6000 yards
16. The Manager's Fee is the only allowable expense for District Golf Tournaments.

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

MSHSAA STATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

COACH/FAN/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.

1. **Fan/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 fan/spectator. The written request from the school administrator must provide (first/last) name of fan/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 fan/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 fan/spectator. Each course/site do not have the same amount of available golf carts for fan/spectator use; therefore, carts will be issued based on availability. The amount of the cart rental fee is under the jurisdiction of the host site course, not the MSHSAA.

2. **School Coach GOLF CARTS:** must communicate to the school administrator the need for a written request to be submitted to MSHSAA on school letterhead indicating the necessity for permitting the use of a golf cart by the coach during competition days at the state championships. The written request from the school administrator must provide (first/last) name of the coach, reason for request (medical condition, handicap, disabled), description of the change in the medical condition/disability from the regular season to the postseason and the state championship site they will be attending. The school administrator will submit the letter of request directly to the MSHSAA Office (Doug Fessler). An approval letter from MSHSAA will be considered and submitted back to the school administrator. The school coach will be required to bring the approval letter to the state championship manager at the site of the state championship being attended. The state tournament manager will then communicate with the club/club administrator the approval for the use of a golf cart for the named fan/spectator.

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

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

PACE OF PLAY GUIDELINES – STROKE PLAY

Rule 5.6a Unreasonable Delay - A player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes. A player may be allowed a short delay for certain reasons, such as:

- When the player seeks help from a referee or the Committee,
- When the player becomes injured or ill, or
- When there is another good reason.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.6a:

- Penalty for first breach: warning
- Penalty for second breach: One penalty stroke.
- Penalty for third breach: General Penalty (two strokes).
- Penalty for fourth breach: Disqualification.

If the player unreasonably delays play between two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

Rule 5.6b Prompt Pace of Play - A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace. Each player should recognize that their pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their rounds, including both those in the player's own group and those in following groups. Players are encouraged to allow faster groups to play through.

1. **Pace of Play Recommendations** - The player should play at a prompt pace throughout the **round**, including the time taken to:

- Prepare for and make each stroke,
- Move from one place to another between strokes, and
- Move to the next teeing area after completing a hole.

A player should prepare in advance for the next stroke and be ready to play when it is their turn. When it is the player's turn to play:

- It is recommended that the player make the stroke in no more than 40 seconds after they are (or should be) able to play without interference or distraction, and
- The player should usually be able to play more quickly than that and is encouraged to do so.

2. **Playing Out of Turn to Help Pace of Play** - Depending on the form of play, there are times when players may play out of turn to help the pace of play:

- In stroke play, players may play "ready golf" in a safe and responsible way (see Rule 6.4b(2)).

3. **Committee Pace of Play Policy** - To encourage and enforce prompt play, the Committee should adopt a Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy. This Policy may set a maximum time to complete a round, a hole or series of holes and a stroke, and it may set penalties for not following the Policy.

Rule 5H Pace of Play Policy - The Committee can set its own Pace of Play Policy adopted as a Local Rule (see Rule 5.6b). In practice the nature of such a Policy will be dependent on the number of Committee members available to implement it (see Section 8K). Pace of Play Policies may contain:

- A maximum time to complete a round, a hole, a series of holes and / or a stroke.
- A definition of when the first group is out of position and when each other group is out of position in relation to the group playing ahead of it.
- When and how a group or individual players may be timed.

- If and when players may be warned that they are being timed or have had a bad time.
- The penalty structure for breaches of the Policy.

The Committee is responsible for making sure that a competition is played at a prompt pace of play. What is considered a prompt pace can be different based on the course, size of the entry and number of players in each group. To do this:

- The Committee should adopt a Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy (see Rule 5.6b).
- Such a Policy should at least set a maximum time for completing the round or parts of the round.
- The Policy should stipulate any penalties for a player's failure to comply with the Policy.
- The Committee should also be aware of other actions that they can take to have a positive impact on pace of play. These include:
 - Management practices such as reducing group sizes, increasing starting intervals, introducing starter's gaps and using a call-up procedure should there be delays on long par 3's, driveable par 4's or reachable par 5's.
 - Considering fundamental changes to course set up such as widening fairways, reducing the thickness or length of rough, or reducing the speed of greens. When changes such as these are made to the course, the Committee should consult the rules or recommendations contained within the World Handicap System publications or other guidance as provided by the handicapping body operating in the local jurisdiction to assess the impact on the issued Course Rating and follow the procedures to make any necessary adjustments.

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: 18 minutes

It is also suggested to build in a few minutes at the completion of hole #9 for a quick stop at the turn (5-10 minutes)

*EXAMPLE - A course layout of four Par-3's, ten Par-4's, and four Par-5's and 8 minutes at the turn = 4 hrs. 42 minutes

Appeals

Before returning his/her scorecard, a player may appeal "group breach" pace of play penalties to the Committee. An appeal will be considered only if:

- a) the player was delayed by the Committee; or
- b) the player was delayed by a circumstance beyond control of the player or the group; or
- c) the player was delayed by another player in the group.

Note: The Committee reserves the right, at any time, to monitor or time a group when the Committee deems it necessary. An example of this would be a player who delays play between shots or holes.

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

Golf Etiquette – 101 – USGA RULES of GOLF

Introduction - 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 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.

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."

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.

Pace of Play

- **Play at a Good Pace and Keep Up**
 - Players should play at a good pace. The Committee may establish pace of play guidelines to follow.
 - It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If it loses a clear hole and it is delaying the group behind, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group. Where a group has not lost a clear hole, but it is apparent that the group behind can play faster, it should invite the faster moving group to play through.
- **Be Ready to Play**
 - Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn to play. When playing on or near the putting green, they should leave their bags or carts in such a position as will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee. When the play of a hole has been completed, players should immediately leave the putting green.
- **Lost Ball**
 - If a player believes his ball may be lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, to save time, he should play a provisional ball.
 - Players searching for a ball should signal the players in the group behind them to play through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not easily be found. They should not search for five minutes before doing so. Having allowed the group behind to play through, they should not continue play until that group has passed and is out of range.

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.
- **Repair of Divots, Ball-Marks and Damage by Shoes** - Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether or not made by the player himself). On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.
- **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.

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.

The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green.

Local notices regulating the movement of golf carts should be strictly observed.

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.

The USGA website has many resources available @ www.usga.org

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 19.3 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

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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

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MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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