



PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION 2024 MHSAA BOYS GOLF

1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The MHSAA LP Boys Golf Tournament is conducted in four equal divisions by enrollment. Each sponsoring school is assigned to one of 6 Regional tournaments in each Division as determined by MHSAA staff based on geography, enrollment and travel considerations.

Regional tournament assignments will be in the spring **“Tournament Notification Form”** and posted on the MHSAA Web site with host schools and courses.

At the Regional tournament, competition will be stroke play over 18 holes. At the Finals tournament competition will be stroke play conducted over 36 holes, 18 holes each day. In team competition, the best four scores of a team will count. Shotgun or modified shotgun starts will be used at the Regional and Finals tournaments. The top three teams and top three individuals not with a qualifying team will advance to the MHSAA Finals.

A school must compete in a minimum of four meets during the season to qualify for the MHSAA Tournament. A school team consists of four or five golfers with the best four scores counting toward team score. A school may enter less than four golfers in the Regional, but may not contend for team scoring or team advancement. Each school coach must submit a roster/ranking form and Master Eligibility List to tournament management (see Opt-Out procedures). **Coaches should not enter players who cannot regularly score 60 or better for nine holes.**

TOURNAMENT & SEASON DATES – 2024

First practice (includes tryouts) – March 11, 2024

First contest – March 18, 2024

Regionals – May 28, 29, 30, 31 or June 1

Finals – June 7-8, 2024

FINALS COURSE ASSIGNMENTS – 2024

D1 – Bedford Valley – Battle Creek

D2 – Forest Akers West – MSU, East Lansing

D3 – Katke Course – Ferris State University

D4 – The Meadows – GVSU, Allendale

2. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

CADDIES - Caddies are not allowed for players during MHSAA Tournament competition.

CART POLICIES – During MHSAA regular season and tournament golf competition, use of motorized carts by competitors is not allowed. **EXCEPTION:** Permission for use of motorized carts for medical reasons may be granted by the MHSAA when a written request is made by a school administrator. The written request must include a physician’s statement specifying the medical need. Permission will be granted only when the medical need is due to a legitimate physical disability, recovery from a serious surgical procedure or a chronic medical illness such as a serious heart condition or debilitating illness. A physicians’ statement alone does not automatically allow for use of a motorized cart. Fees associated with such use are the responsibility of the student and/or school. The letter of permission does not mandate that the local course provide a cart for the player. This is subject to cart availability and local policies. Players may use non-motorized pull carts at their own expense. **Coaches** may use carts at the Regional or Finals tournament at their own expense with rental fees to be determined by local course management.

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES – Cell phones can be used by players in four specific circumstances. (MHSAA Local Rule)

- To call a coach or tournament manager for a health or safety issue
- To call a rules referee with questions
- To input scores for live scoring or other scoring programs being used
- To use as a distance measuring device

NOTE: See “Distance Measuring Device” language regarding approved use of conforming device. Any player who receives information using electronic devices is subject to a two-stroke penalty for each occurrence (Rule 10.2, Advice). Continued violation of this rule will result in disqualification. Spectators who use cell phones or other electronic devices on the course to communicate with players or coaches are subject to removal from the course.

COACHING PRIVILEGES & RESTRICTIONS – During the MHSAA Regional and Finals golf tournaments, the following regulations govern coaching privileges, responsibilities and restrictions:

Coaching Privileges Defined – During the MHSAA tournament **two** school designated coaches with proper lanyard ID will be allowed to coach players from his/her school team during play. The coaching period will be anytime during play except when the coach’s player’s ball has physically reached the green, at which time coaching is no longer allowed. While players are conducting tee shots, it is recommended that coaching and/or communication with players in a group be kept to a minimum. Coaching shall not slow pace of play. Coaches shall exhibit good sportsmanship, monitor sportsmanship of players, keep spectators at a reasonable distance and keep pace of play moving. Violation of conduct expectations shall result in the loss of coaching privileges.

- Coaches may not call rules violations or assess penalties but are encouraged to remind players and rules referees of possible rules violations or penalties when they occur, and/ or assist in preventing any such rules violation.
- Coaches may not be physically on the green to perform duties such as reading or lining up putts, or tending the pin and coaches may not rake bunkers or carry a player’s clubs. Coaches should keep a reasonable distance from the green while players putt.
- **Coaches may check player scorecards for accuracy and verification.**

COACHING REQUIREMENT – All players are required to have school designated coaching supervision at all levels of the MHSAA Golf Tournament. Coaches are required to facilitate check-in of their team/individuals, distribute scorecards to team/individuals, make substitutions, attend the coaches meeting and be on-site throughout the round to communicate with tournament management and/or rules officials when necessary.

DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES – Distance Measuring devices that measure **distance only** will be allowed for use in the MHSAA Regional and Finals tournament in 2024 as a “local rule” adopted by the MHSAA under USGA Rule 4-3, Appendix IV as follows:

“...the device must be limited to measuring distance only. Features that would render use of the device contrary (i.e. illegal) to the local rules include:

- The gauging or measuring of slope.
- The gauging or measuring of other conditions that might affect play (e.g. wind speed or direction or other climate-based information such as temperature, humidity, etc.).
- Recommendations that might assist the player in making a stroke or in his/her play (e.g. club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading or any other advice related matter).
- Calculating the effective distance between two points based on slope or other conditions affecting shot distance.

If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.

DRESS CODE- Proper golf attire, including a golf shirt, will be required at all MHSAA tournament series. Bermuda shorts are permitted. Short shorts, cut- offs, jeans, jean shorts and tank tops are NOT permitted. Hats worn backward are not legal. Mock turtleneck shirts designed and sold as golf attire are allowed. **Coaches** - Please enforce this dress code with players at MHSAA Regional and Finals competition. Managers will ask to have all golfers on your team change clothing prior to tee time if they are not dressed properly. Any player not dressed properly WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE. It is the coach’s responsibility to familiarize players with the rules of play and etiquette.

GALLERIES – Golfers are not permitted to converse with members of gallery (except at the turn in clubhouse area). Should communication between golfer and gallery member be necessary during play, it shall be a duty of tournament management to talk to gallery in golfer's behalf. When player-gallery conversation pertaining to advice, counsel or suggestion which could influence play, choice of club, or method of making a stroke (Rule 10.2) is detected by another player in that foursome, penalty should be enforced. Violation of rule must be reported to tournament management by another golfer in foursome, and tournament officials shall record violation when it occurs. Penalty for such violation shall be:

First Offense - General
Penalty Second Offense -
Disqualification

In addition, team members are discouraged from conversing with one another while playing the tournament course.

PACE OF PLAY - Each player is responsible for playing without undue delay under USGA Rule 5-6. An acceptable time frame for playing a stroke is no longer than 40 seconds once a ball has been found and identified and it is clearly his/her turn to play. Each player is responsible for his/her group maintaining a proper position on the course, i.e. no more than approximately one starting interval behind the preceding group throughout the round. When a group is out of position due to slow play, tournament management will issue a warning prior to penalties being assessed.

PLAYER GROUPINGS – Tournament managers will group players in threesomes or foursomes by team “waves” at all levels of the tournament. At the Regional level, team waves will be determined by the average regular season 18-hole team score submitted. At the Finals, team waves (threesomes) will be based on the Regional team place on day one and first round scores on day two. Students competing as individuals will be placed in groups based on their average score for the entry level and Regional place for Finals as they advance (see accompanying examples). In some cases, threesomes will be used and there may be some circumstances where a twosome is allowed (late withdrawal, DQ, etc.). **Managers are not allowed to have players grouped in fivesomes.**

PRACTICE AT TOURNAMENT COURSE– at the Regional level, practice at the assigned tournament venue is allowed on days prior to the tournament, but not allowed on the day of the competition. Regional host courses should allow reasonable and equitable access to courses for practice rounds by participating school teams and individuals.

At the Finals level, qualifying teams and/or individuals are allowed one practice round at the designated Finals course after the conclusion of their Regional and before the first day of the Finals. Violations of the practice round limit will result in disqualification from the tournament. Note: Players may use the range and/or practice green at the Finals course without penalty.

PROTESTS – There are no protests allowed in MHSAA Tournament competition. All rules issues must be resolved at the tournament location by the Rules Committee on the day of competition.

QUALIFIERS TO FINALS - From each Regional, the top 3 teams and top 3 individuals not on a qualifying team advance to the Finals. The Finals field will consist of 18 teams and 18 individuals in each Division. All ties must be broken to determine advancing teams and individuals.

RETURNING TO THE COURSE RESTRICTION - After a player’s score is verified at the scoring area, they may return to the course as a spectator, where they are governed by MHSAA spectator rules and guidelines.

RULES AUTHORITY - During MHSAA Tournament competition, assigned rules referees in conjunction with tournament management are the sole authority for enforcement and interpretation of USGA playing rules. Rules referees may assist in keeping pace of play moving and monitoring sportsmanship and spectator conduct. They shall consult and cooperate with MHSAA Tournament managers on all matters of rules application. At the MHSAA Regionals and Finals, in addition to making rulings, MHSAA rules referees may assess penalties when they observe (first hand) violations of playing rules.

RULES COMMITTEE - At all MHSAA Regional Tournament events, a rules committee shall be appointed consisting of the tournament manager, MHSAA rules referees, local PGA professional, and participating school coaches, the number to be determined by the tournament manager. The committee will determine penalties for playing rules violations, MHSAA sportsmanship violations and make final decisions on all disputes. Members of the rules committee that will be directly affected by a committee’s decision or deliberation shall be excused from the committee.

SCORING - Tournament competitors will keep score for each other at MHSAA Regional and Finals Tournaments using the MHSAA iWanamaker app. Each player in the group must download the MHSAA app and use this to score during the round. Live scoring is mandatory for each player.

- **Maximum allowable score of 10 strokes will be used in MHSAA play.**
- Each player will score their own round as well as serve as a marker for another player within their group using hole-by-hole scoring on the MHSAA iWanamaker app.
- Scores will be entered using the players own personal devices as used all season. For some reason if a player does not have a device, then a coach may enter the scores for that player, a fellow competitor may enter the scores or the scores may be entered at the end of the round by a coach or tournament administration.
- All live scores are considered unofficial until the close of competition and all scorecards are turned in.
- A live scoreboard with team and individual scores will be available on the MHSAA Golf app.
- Digital scorecards are required for players in MHSAA events. Paper scorecards are recommended as a backup for the digital scorecard.
- A single player may keep score for the whole group. Players may attest to scores during each round using their personal devices.
- Score shall be verbalized by players so all in group, including the scorer for that player, can hear. If there is a discrepancy between score marked and score announced, the marker shall ask the player to review strokes in presence of other players in foursome.

All questions on number of strokes shall be settled before starting play on next hole. Score must be verified before first tee shot is made on next hole. At the end of the round all members of the playing group shall bring scorecards to the scoring table together and review scores and questions with tournament management and score recording personnel. Scoring issues can be corrected while players remain in the scoring area. All players in the group shall remain in the scoring area until scorecards are signed, scores are posted and confirmed.

The following shall be the procedure after a round is completed at all MHSAA Golf venues.

- 1) At the completion of the round, the competitors in a group sit down at the scoring table. On the opposite side of the table, there will be at least one committee member or their designee.
- 2) The competitors confirm their hole-by-hole scores with their marker (this can also be done prior to going to the scoring table).
- 3) The competitors are asked if they have any rules questions. The competitors are also asked if a second ball was played under Rule 18-3 at any time during the round.
- 4) The committee member will ask the competitors to sign their scorecards and turn them in when they are satisfied that their hole-by-hole scores are correct. The competitors remain at the table.
- 5) As the committee member is totaling, they can ask the competitors for clarification, if there are any questionable scores (Ex. "Is that a 3 or an 8?"). The committee member who totals the scores for a card will write the totals on the card. The committee informs the competitors of their totals and if a competitor disagrees, he/she can voice their concern and have the card rechecked and recalculated. Once all competitors' cards have been totaled and verified, the competitors leave the table and the cards are then moved to the board for posting.

Player Scoring Responsibilities Statement - All players in the MHSAA Tournament are responsible for the accuracy of their own score and that of the player for which they are scoring. Players who record false scores for themselves or knowingly allow other members of their group to record false scores or violate USGA rules are subject to penalty and/or disqualification.

Teams may play a maximum of five players, with the top four scores counting for team score. All competition is stroke play.

SPECTATOR CONDUCT – During play, spectators may not give advice to a player, nor shall players ask for advice from spectators. Once play begins, spectators shall maintain a reasonable gallery distance from all players, approximately 25 yards is considered the minimum distance while observing play between tee & green. Violations are subject to penalties under USGA rule and spectators may be removed from the course. General encouragement of players is acceptable but there shall be no communication between spectators and players. At the turn, a spectator/family member may have appropriate communication (non-golf advice not in violation of rule 10-2) with players.

SUBSTITUTIONS – At the Regional Tournament substitutions may be made at time of check-in, provided the substitute player is on the Master Eligibility List. Substitutes will take the position of the player being replaced, no re-ranking of players will be allowed. At the Finals Tournament substitutions will be allowed for team members only at time of check-in each day of the Finals, provided the substitute player(s) is on the Master Eligibility List. Substitutes will take the position of the player being replaced, no re-ranking of players will be allowed. Players who qualify as individuals for the Finals Tournament may not be replaced by substitutes.

TIEBREAKER POLICIES – At the **Regional level**, ties are to be broken ONLY if the tie is for the Team Champion or Individual Medalist, or the last team or individual qualifying spot (3rd place at Regional).

For the **team competition**, the first tie-breaker is comparing scores of each team's fifth golfer. If the tie is still not broken:

1. The 5 players from each team shall compete in a sudden victory play-off to break the tie.
2. All 5 players scores count in the play-off to break the tie.
3. Two members and three members from each team will be placed in fivesomes.
4. The tournament manager and host course will determine the starting hole.
5. If a team with four players ties a team with five players, the five player team wins the tie by default.

For the **individual competition**, ties will broken by a sudden victory playoff starting at the hole chosen by tournament management. **TEAM TIES SHALL BE BROKEN VIA PLAYOFF BEFORE INDIVIDUAL TIES.**

At the **MHSAA FINALS**, the team champion is based on the total score of Friday and Saturday competition. The lowest 4 scores from each day comprise the total score regardless of whether or not they are the same 4 players.

When a tie for Finals team championship honors occurs, the tie shall be broken by adding the 5th scores from Friday and Saturday competition. If the tie is still not broken:

1. The 5 players from each team shall compete in a sudden victory play-off to break the tie.
2. All 5 players' scores count in the play-off to break the tie.
3. Two members and three members from each team will be placed in fivesomes.
4. The tournament manager and host course will determine the hole where the play-off will determine the starting hole.
5. If a team with four players ties a team with five players, the five-player team wins the tie by default.

When a tie for team runner-up honors occurs, the tie shall be broken by adding the 5th scores from Friday and Saturday competition. If there is still a tie after checking 5th player scores, co-runners up will be declared, there is no playoff and both teams receive trophies & medals.

The medalist honor will be awarded to the player with the lowest total score over the 2-day event. Only ties for medalist will be broken by a sudden victory playoff with the Finals host determining the starting hole. **TEAM TIES SHALL BE BROKEN VIA PLAYOFF BEFORE INDIVIDUAL TIES.**

3. OPT OUT POLICIES & PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY LISTS, and ROSTERS

The following items must be mailed to the Regional Manager of the Tournament where your school is assigned:

1. Master Eligibility List
2. Roster/Ranking of Players
3. Average team score of players (Ranking & scores used to determine player groupings)

ALL ABOVE ITEMS MUST REACH THE TOURNAMENT MANAGER BY THE OPT- OUT DUE DATE, Wednesday, May 8, 2024, by 4 p.m. If materials listed above are late, they can be accepted by payment of a \$50 late fee before players are arranged in foursomes. No materials will be accepted after the foursomes have been established. **THE LATE FEE WILL BE RETAINED BY THE HOST SCHOOL.** No additions to Master Eligibility List can take place after foursomes have been set by the Regional manager. **It is recommended that a check for greens fees, made out to the respective golf course, be sent in advance to the Regional Manager. However, fees may be paid prior to competition at check-in time.** To be eligible for MHSAA sponsored meets and tournaments, a school must have a bona fide team, which is one that has an actual schedule in that sport for current school year and has participated against MHSAA member schools in four or more contests in that sport during the current year,

A member school will be allowed to enter less than a full team (four golfers) into Regional competition. Therefore, a member school may enter one to five golfers in the MHSAA golf tournament series. A school entering four or five golfers will be competing for team honors and individual honors. A school entering one, two or three golfers will be competing for individual honors ONLY. **The MHSAA Golf Committee and Representative Council recommend that schools enter only golfers who are able to score an average of 60 or better for 9 holes.**

4. DRAW PROCEDURES – N/A

5. TIME SCHEDULE

Managers will notify competing schools of the starting time of their Tournament (9 to 10 a.m. recommended). All contestants and coaches or designated adults must be present and checked in with the Tournament Manager 30 minutes prior to the designated starting tee off time and have all changes made. There shall be no delay of the start of the Coaches/Players Meeting or tee off time due to unexplained team/coach absences. The procedure for “Members of Foursomes Who are Not Ready to Play at Scheduled Times” will prevail. A shot-gun start is recommended for Regional competition.

Finals Tournaments can begin between 8 and 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday. All qualifiers and coaches or designated adults must be present and checked in and have all changes made 30 minutes prior to tee off time. There shall be no delay of start of Coaches/Players Meeting or the start of the tee off time due to unexplained team or coach absences.

The following method is to prevail at all MHSAA Golf Tournaments when any member of a scheduled foursome is late at the starting tee when a shot-gun start is used:

Using USGA Rule 5-3 Note - The MHSAA shall be considered the committee who determines the conditions and penalty for a player not ready to play at the scheduled time.

1. If a player arrives at tee within five minutes after scheduled starting time, a two-stroke penalty will be invoked.
2. If a player arrives at tee more than five minutes after scheduled starting time, disqualification occurs.

NOTE: The "scheduled starting time" is when the siren, gun, or cannon is sounded. It is the responsibility of the tournament management to allow players time to get to their designated tee area. It is the responsibility of tournament management or his/her designees to check tee areas to see that foursomes have arrived at their designated tee area.

6. AWARDS

Regionals - Team champions receive a trophy and 5 team member medals. The medalist, and second through fifth place finishers each are awarded medals as well. The same student-athlete may receive a team medal and an individual medal. TIES FOR FIRST PLACE MEDALIST MUST BE RESOLVED BY A PLAYOFF TO DETERMINE WHO WILL RECEIVE THE MEDAL. Ties for second through fifth place medalist honors will remain. The tournament host will order extra medals for ties from the MHSAA.

Finals - Championship and runner-up teams in each Division receive a trophy and team member medals. The medalist and second through 10th place finishers in each division are awarded medals. TIES FOR FIRST PLACE MEDALIST MUST BE RESOLVED BY A PLAYOFF TO DETERMINE WHO WILL RECEIVE THE MEDAL. Schools desiring to order additional team medals at their expense may do so by completing team medal order form and returning to MHSAA along with payment.

7. LIMITS OF COMPETITION

Teams and individuals may have a maximum of 16 dates of competition during the regular season. Playing dates may be used after the Regionals and before the Finals. MHSAA tournament dates do not count against season maximums. After a student first participates for their school team in a meet or scrimmage, they are allowed to participate in a maximum of two outside events without penalty.

8. FINANCES

Admission for spectators is \$10/car at the Finals Tournament. Teams assume all costs of participation at the Regional and Finals Tournaments.

GREENS FEES – Participating schools are responsible for all greens fees at all levels of the MHSAA Tournament (Regional & Finals). It is recommended that payment be made in advance to the tournament manager, prior to participation at the Regional event, but payment may be made at check-in. School and/or personal checks should be made out to the host golf course, not the host school or MHSAA. Separate checks and payment should be made for cart use by coaches and practice rounds at finals sites.

9. OFFICIALS SELECTION/ASSIGNMENTS – N/A

10. PLAYING RULES/ADAPTATIONS

Playing rules for all MHSAA Tournament competition will be those of the USGA & R&A – The Rules of Golf. In areas where the MHSAA has jurisdiction (sportsmanship, conduct, amateur status, awards, etc.) such MHSAA regulations will supersede. Local rules and tournament rules will be stated and reviewed at the coaches & players meeting prior to competition. Pace of play is the responsibility of and shall be monitored by tournament managers.

RULES COMMITTEE - Managers will select a Rules Committee prior to the beginning of the tournament which will be available throughout the tournament to make decisions regarding reported rules infractions. It is suggested that the host manager, PGA pro, MHSAA rules referees and coaches as determined by the tournament manager comprise the committee.

DECISIONS MADE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE and RULES REFEREE BASED ON USGA RULES AND MHSAA REGULATIONS ARE FINAL. Any coach whose team is involved in a rules infraction decision shall be excused from serving on the committee. A RULES AUTHORITY IS TO BE PRESENT FOR THE DURATION OF TOURNAMENT PLAY.

INFRACTIONS - The following procedures shall be used when a rule infraction occurs at MHSAA Golf Tournaments:

- A. Each competitor is advised to carry a Golf Rule Book or “Rules at a Glance” for their own interpretation and in case a question arises among players in foursome.

- B. Golfers are reminded to play a second ball, if appropriate, when a rule interpretation is not immediately available to the golfer. (USGA Rule 18-3) The marker shall record on the back of the scorecard that a second ball was used; record type of ball used, and briefly outline the situation.

- C. Record reports of rule infractions on the scorecard before the first player tees off on the next hole. Reports of infractions must be made by any member of the group and may include violations of playing rules or tournament rules such as conversing with the gallery, or returning to the course during regular play.

11. MEDIA

Media credential requests for Regional meets are processed by local managers. Credential requests for the Finals meet will be handled by the MHSAA.

Videotaping- Competing schools may videotape games in which that school competes. The tape is not to be used to second-guess decisions made by game/meet officials. Schools wishing to videotape games at other sites may do so without securing advanced permission, but must tape from the stands unless press box space is available. Spectators may tape games from their normal seating area but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s). The tape may not be distributed, sold, rented, or loaned for commercial purposes.

Souvenir Program Policies – NA

Merchandising/Promotion Policies

Use of MHSAA Logo – The MHSAA logo and acronym are registered trademarks. MHSAA tournament trophy designs are also copyrighted. Use of these legally protected marks requires written permission of the MHSAA. Contact the MHSAA Communications Director for additional information.

Multimedia Policies

Audio/Video/Still Photography Rights – The MHSAA owns the rights to all multimedia (audio-video-still images-Internet) at all levels of its tournaments. Still and video photography is allowed by individual spectators from the seating area of the venue unless the host school district or facility has a previously-existing policy which is more restrictive. The MHSAA has exclusive multimedia arrangements for its Final events.

MHSAA Handbook Regulation II, Section 14(A) reads as follows: “No school may sell or rent videos (DVD, tape or film) or sell still images of contests which are part of an MHSAA tournament without the permission of the MHSAA.”

If a school wishes to authorize an individual(s) to create multimedia content, the principal or athletic administrator must contact the tournament manager for passes and access. Refer to the publication, MHSAA Multimedia Regulations, for more information.

Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet - including using social media platforms like Periscope and Facebook – or any other method.

PARTICIPATING TEAM/SPECTATOR INTERNET STREAMING - The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA post-season tournament events belong exclusively to the N-F-H-S Network, Bally Sports Detroit, the M-H-S-A-A, and those media outlets which have pre-arranged to secure those rights.

If spectator limitations are in place for an MHSAA Tournament sport, live over-the-air television, cable broadcasts and video internet streaming are permitted within the following limitations for events prior to Finals:

1. NFHS Network will have first right of refusal to all games. This includes all participants in the School Broadcast Program hosting games. All rights are exclusive – no third parties allowed.
2. Schools not participating in the NFHS Network wishing to live stream on their own platform must make access information available to all competing teams.

Post-Game Interviews -- Coaches should also be readily available to meet with the media shortly after the conclusion of a contest. It is recommended that approximately five minutes after the game, managers provide a location other than the team locker rooms for post-game interviews with coaches and/or players the coach may wish to designate for interviews. Locker room access should never be allowed to media. Inasmuch as many media outlets are often on deadline following contests, interviews should be granted before any lengthy team meetings occur.

12. SPORTSMANSHIP, PLAYER/COACH CONDUCT –Unsportsmanlike conduct, such as, but not limited to, club throwing, foul/abusive language, taunting or destroying golf course property will not be tolerated at MHSAA Golf Tournaments. Coaches who witness such player behavior shall warn the player immediately that their conduct will be reported to the Rules Committee and Tournament Manager. Coaches must report sportsmanship issues to the tournament manager immediately.

Upon receiving a report of unsportsmanlike conduct, the Tournament Manager and Rules Committee shall investigate the circumstances with the player and his/her playing partners to confirm the facts and exercise the following options:

Option #1 – If the conduct is deemed to be inappropriate but not serious, a warning, followed by a stroke penalty is satisfactory with subsequent sportsmanship violations resulting in a DQ.

Option #2 – Issue a two-stroke penalty on the player.

Option #3 – A DQ for the remainder of the day/round only.

Option #4 – If the conduct is deemed to be a flagrant unsportsmanlike violation under MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3, a DQ is issued with the player also suspended from the next day of competition, a decision to be made jointly with the Tournament Manager and MHSAA.

A tournament manager may proceed immediately to Option #4 if the conduct is flagrant and unsportsmanlike.

Disqualifications based on USGA rules infractions are not considered violations of MHSAA Sportsmanship policies in Regulation V, Section 3. If a player is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct or taunting, the tournament manager should notify the school administration and the MHSAA of the DQ.

13. WEATHER POLICIES, SUSPENSIONS, POSTPONEMENTS

In the case of inclement weather, competition at the Regional and Finals level will proceed as long as playing conditions are satisfactory. MHSAA policies requiring a minimum 30-minute suspension when thunder and lightning are detected will be followed. Every effort will be made to complete tournament competition on the scheduled day. Should play be suspended, it will resume from the point of suspension when conditions and course availability allow. When play is suspended or postponed it should resume (or start) on the next available day. Sunday may be considered for postponed/rescheduled competition.

At the Finals Tournament, once 18 holes have been completed the competition and results after 18 holes are official if the scheduled 36 holes cannot be completed.

If an emergency or Act of God prevents more than 40% of the contestants (not schools) from competing, the tournament is to be rescheduled for the next available day.

14. INJUNCTION, RESTRAINING ORDER, PROTESTS

If an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition). Protests will not be reviewed by the MHSAA. All disputes must be decided at the site by tournament management and/or rules officials and rules committees.

15. TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY

For coaches and officials at all MHSAA tournaments, use of tobacco products including e-cigarettes or other smoking devices of any kind within sight of players and spectators and use of alcohol during a contest or at any time before it on the day of the contest is prohibited.

Tobacco: It is not intended that a violation of the tobacco policy should lead to immediate ejection of a coach. He or she should be reminded of the policy and reported to his or her school administration after the contest. Only if the coach is unwilling to comply promptly shall he or she be disqualified from coaching at the event. Officials should be reminded of the tobacco policy and reported in writing by the tournament manager to the MHSAA.

Alcohol: Historically, officials promptly disqualified coaches, and tournament managers immediately replaced officials who were under the influence of alcohol; and no change in such procedures is intended by these policies.

16. SPECTATOR POLICIES

The following general policies apply to spectators at MHSAA Tournament events. Tournament managers may also have additional school, facility or institutional restrictions and/or policies.

- Banners are allowed with Meet Manager approval.
- Smoking is not allowed at the tournament site. This includes E-Cigarettes.
- Spectator Videotaping – Spectators may tape but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups; or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s).
- Use of alcohol by spectators is prohibited during MHSAA tournaments.
- Cell phone use by spectators is not allowed during MHSAA tournament when on the course viewing competition.
- The policies of the local host site shall prevail with respect to pets/animals. In the absence of local host policy, animals or pets shall not be permitted to enter MHSAA tournament venues; including spectator and team areas. However, properly marked or documented service animals which are leashed or harnessed at all times may accompany spectators paying admission or attending with other approved team or school personnel. Individuals who bring service animals are asked to bring their own waste disposal bags and request special seating in advance of the event if this is needed.

17. YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

During the MHSAA Tournament events, the MHSAA expects all designated managers, volunteer or paid staff assisting in the event, officials or any other personnel to follow local school district policy and state statute regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse, bullying, hazing and sexual harassment. A report of such activity shall be made to legal authorities and to the MHSAA Executive Director or his designee.

18. UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONE) POLICY

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (“UAV”), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at MHSAA tournament venues. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV until the event has been completed. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device. An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for MHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the MHSAA.