



## PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION 2026 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 and travel considerations. Regional tournament assignments will be in the spring “**Tournament Notification Form**” sent to all member schools and posted on the MHSAA Web site with host schools and courses in August.

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 form identifying their two-school designated coaches and Master Eligibility List to tournament management (see Opt-Out procedures). Coaches will also be responsible for setting their lineup in iWanamaker no later than seven (7) days prior to the Regional tournament. **Coaches should not enter players who cannot regularly score 60 or better for nine holes.**

### TOURNAMENT & SEASON DATES – 2026

First practice (includes tryouts) – March 9

First contest – March 16

Regionals – May 27, 28, 29, or 30

Finals – June 5-6

### FINALS COURSE ASSIGNMENTS – 2026

D1 – Katke GC – Ferris State University

D2 – The Meadows – Grand Valley State University

D3 – Bedford Valley – Battle Creek

D4 – Forest Akers West – Michigan State University

### NOTE: REGULAR SEASON FORMAT

All MHSAA competition will be conducted using the USGA Rules of Golf (See #10 Playing Rules/Adaptations).

MHSAA regular-season matches or tournaments should be played using the Team Stroke Play format. Players from competing teams must be paired together in less than fivesomes, and scoring must be done by a fellow competitor from a different school in the group. Only results in events using the regular team stroke play format will be used for iWanamaker rankings (iWR).

Any event not using the regular team stroke play format as defined above will be considered an Alternate Event format. Alternate Event formats—Team Scrambles, Team Match Play, Better/Best Ball, Four-Ball

Match Play, Foresomes Matchplay, Singles Match Play, iWanamaker Cup, Alternate Shot, Best Ball, Scrimmages, Team Qualifying rounds, Team 5-somes playing in one group, Practices Rounds—are allowed but will not be included for the purpose of iWR.

*Regardless of the format – regular stroke play counting towards iWR or any alternative format – any regular season competition/event involving players from another school will count towards the maximum regular season limits – 16 dates of competition; 4 scrimmages.*

For additional information on Regular Season events and set-up in iWanamaker/MHSAA Golf app, please see [Regular Season & Alternative Formats Clarification](#).

## 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 physician's statement alone does not automatically allow for the 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 Devices" language regarding the approved use of conforming devices. Any player who receives prohibited information using electronic devices is subject to a two-stroke penalty for each occurrence (Rule 10.2a, 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:

- During MHSAA Regionals and Finals, participating teams will be allowed **TWO** coaches with coaching privileges on the course. During the MHSAA Finals, individual qualifiers will be allowed **ONE** coach with coaching privileges on the course.
- All coaches must be school-designated, meeting all of the necessary MHSAA requirements for participation in the MHSAA tournament. Only school-designated coaches with proper ID lanyards or wristbands will be allowed to coach players from their school team during play.
- A player may not have more than one coach providing coaching at any one time. Two coaches coaching a single player simultaneously during play is not permitted.
- The coaching period will be anytime during play except when the coach's player has physically reached the putting green, at which time coaching is no longer allowed.

- Coaching and/or communication with players in a group should be kept to a minimum while players are conducting tee shots.
- Coaches shall exhibit good sportsmanship, monitor sportsmanship of players, keep spectators at a reasonable distance, and keep pace of play moving. Coaching shall not slow pace of play.
- Violation of conduct expectations shall result in the loss of coaching privileges.

**Additional clarification on coaching:**

- Coaches **should** monitor sportsmanship and report player conduct issues to the Tournament Manager immediately
- Coaches **should** be on the course checking scores on the golf app, keeping galleries at a reasonable distance, and helping with pace of play.
- Coaches **may not** carry a player's clubs or be physically on the green to perform duties such as reading or lining up putts, or tending the flagstick. Coaches should keep a reasonable distance from the putting green while players putt.
- **Coaches are allowed to rake bunkers to facilitate the pace of play.**
- Coaches **may** "intervene" with their own players and other players when advising or reminding a player to consult USGA rules and be proactive in matters of rules compliance. When doing so, coaches should not pose as a Rule Referee, or as a member of the rules committee.
- Coaches **may not** give rules interpretations; only remind players of options and the need to follow rules.
- Coaches **may** communicate to a player they can request a Rule Referee and assist in summoning a Rule Referee for the player.
- Coaches **may not** assess penalties to players.
- Coaches **may not** use carts to transfer players or spectators. Exception: Transport of players and/or spectators to safety in bad weather/lightning situations.

**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 referees when necessary.

**DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES** – Distance-measuring devices are permitted for use during MHSAA Regional and Finals tournaments in accordance with USGA Rule 4.3a, provided the device is used to measure **distance only**.

Devices shall not be used to access information beyond distance measurement. Prohibited information includes:

- The gauging or measuring of slope.
- The gauging or measuring of variable environmental conditions that might affect play, such as wind speed at the course or altitude.
- 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, or any other advice-related matter).
- Calculating the effective distance between two points based on slope or other conditions affecting shot distance.

Multi-functional devices capable of operating prohibited functions (e.g., slope measurement) are

permitted, provided these features are turned off or do not automatically activate and display prohibited information during the round.

If, during a stipulated round, a player accesses prohibited information on a distance-measuring device, the player is in breach of Rule 4.3a. Penalty for the first breach: General Penalty (two-stroke penalty). Penalty for a second breach during the same round: Disqualification.

NOTE: The use of GolfLogix within the MHSAA Golf App is compliant with USGA and MHSAA rules regarding distance measuring devices, and its use is permitted during MHSAA competition.

**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 the gallery (except at the turn in the clubhouse area). Should communication between the golfer and the gallery member be necessary during play, it shall be the duty of tournament management to talk to the gallery on the golfer's behalf. When a player-gallery conversation pertaining to advice, counsel, or suggestion that could influence play, choice of club, or method of making a stroke (Rule 10.2) is detected by another player in that group, a penalty should be enforced. Violation of the rule must be reported to tournament management by another golfer in the group, and tournament referees shall record the violations when they occur. 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 unreasonable 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. All players should usually be able to play more quickly than that and are encouraged to do so. 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 team iWanamaker ranking (iWR) (see accompanying examples). At the Finals, team waves (threesomes) will be based on the team iWR on day one and first-round scores on day two. Players competing as individuals at the Regional will be placed in groups based on their individual iWR. Individual qualifiers at the Final will be placed by individual iWR on day one and first-round scores on day two. Fivesomes are not allowed. Pairings of threesomes are preferred. 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 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 the pace of play 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, rules referees may assess penalties when they observe (firsthand) 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 any and 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** – Teams may play a maximum of five players, with the top four scores counting for team score. All competition is stroke play.

Tournament competitors will keep score for each other at MHSAA Regional and Finals Tournaments using the MHSAA iWanamaker Golf 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 competitor 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 player's own personal devices as used all season. If a player does not have a device, scores may be entered by the tournament administration or a coach. Instructions on this will be given on-site by Tournament Manager. All live scores are considered unofficial until the close of competition and all scorecards are turned in.
- All live scores are considered unofficial until the close of competition and all scores are 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 may be used as a backup for the digital scorecard.

Scores should be recorded before starting play on the play on the next hole. All questions on number of strokes shall be settled before starting play on next hole. Scores should be verified before first tee shot is made on next hole. At the end of the round all members of the playing group must bring scorecards/phones to the scoring area 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 electronic scorecards are confirmed, scores are verified and attested.

The following will be the **hole-by-hole scoring procedure** during MHSAA competition:

- 1) At the end of each hole, the marker should tell their player what score they had on their hole. Specifically, the marker should NOT ask what score they had.
- 2) The score shall be verbalized by players so all in group can hear.
- 3) If there are any disagreements with the number of strokes, the player and scorer should count back the number and location of each shot.
- 4) All questions on number of strokes should be settled before starting play on next hole.
- 5) The score should be verified and entered in the MHSAA Golf App before the first tee shot is made on the next hole.
- 6) If a group cannot come to an agreement on the number of strokes, then a coach or Rule Referee should be called before teeing off on the next hole.
- 7) Players should attest their scores accurately before teeing off on the next hole.
- 8) No changes should be made on any scorecard after those players have teed off on the following holes.
- 9) If a mistake was found after teeing off, the players are to call a coach and/or Rule Referee to explain why the score was not accurately entered and not accurately attested. This is to keep players from changing scores 3-4 holes later where the accuracy of the score could be in question.

The following shall be the **procedure after a round is completed** at all MHSAA competitions:

- 1) A designated scoring area will be established for players to report to at the conclusion of their round.
- 2) At the end of the round, all players are to report to the scoring area with their playing group to attest their complete round using the MHSAA Golf app. A member of the Tournament Management Team or their designee will be present with the group in the scoring area.
- 3) The players are asked to review and verify that all hole scores are correct. Players click on their name in the MHSAA Golf app and it will show all their hole-by-hole scores and total.
- 4) The players are asked if a second ball was played under Rule 20.1c(3) at any time during the round.
- 5) The players are asked if there were any rules questions during the round.
- 6) Once all players in the group have verified their scores, they must attest to their accuracy. This is done by selecting the "Attest: Touch to Sign Your Scorecard" option in the MHSAA Golf app, which serves as their digital signature.
- 7) After scores have been attested, they will be officially posted, and the players may leave the scoring area.

**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. This means that you are to be honest

about your scores and the scores of your competitor. Golf is a game rooted in honesty, integrity, and respect, emphasizing adherence to the rules, good sportsmanship, and fostering friendship.

**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 teeing area & putting green. Violations are subject to penalties under USGA rule for the player 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 10.2a) 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> scores from Friday and Saturday competition. If there is still a tie after checking 5<sup>th</sup> player scores, co-runners up will be declared, there is no playoff – both teams will receive trophies and medals.

The medalist honor will be awarded to the player with the lowest total score over the two-day event. Only ties for medalists 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 sent electronically to the Regional Manager of the Tournament where your school is assigned:

1. Master Eligibility List
2. Projected Roster, including identification of school-designated coach(es)

**ALL ABOVE ITEMS MUST REACH THE TOURNAMENT MANAGER BY THE OPT-OUT DUE DATE, Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 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 groupings. 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 groupings have been set by the Regional manager.

Each participating school is responsible for entering its five golfers and assigning player seeds in [iWanamaker](#) by 12 noon, seven days prior to the scheduled date of their Regional.

**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.**

**To be eligible to compete in the MHSAA tournament for Golf, a student must have competed in at least four contests (9 or 18-hole rounds) with his/her school team against other MHSAA member school teams.**

**Waiver Procedure for Individuals** – If a student has been a member of the MHSAA school-sponsored high school golf team (Sub-varsity or Varsity) since the earliest date of practice within the MHSAA season and has been present, dressed, and “on the bench” for most golf meets that season and not been a member of a non-school team during the same season, but has not played in four regular season high school games due to the customary selection of players being entered into a contest by the coach, no waiver request is necessary. The student is eligible for the MHSAA tournament.

An administrator of a school may make a written request to the MHSAA for an otherwise eligible student who has not participated in four contests during the regular season to participate in the MHSAA tournament.

Consideration will only be given if the student did not meet the four-contest minimum due to the cancellation of games caused by weather conditions, or due to the student's injury, illness, family tragedy, or other reason deemed appropriate by the MHSAA (not ineligibility under MHSAA rules or school action for academic, disqualification or discipline reasons). The request must describe the student's involvement with the school team, departure from the non-school team (if applicable) and the reason the student has not participated in four games.

If the MHSAA administrator in charge of the sport and the executive director or his/her designate concur that this is a reasonable request, the school may allow this student to participate in the MHSAA tournament. The request must be received by noon of the last business day prior to the start of competition for ANY team in the first level of that tournament to which the school is assigned.

### 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 Groupings Who are Not Ready to Play at Scheduled Times" will prevail. A shot-gun start is recommended for Regional competition.

Finals Tournaments will begin at 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 that determines the conditions and penalty for a player not ready to play at the scheduled time.

1. If a player arrives at the teeing area within five minutes after the scheduled starting time, a two-stroke penalty will be invoked.
2. If a player arrives at the teeing area more than five minutes after the 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 teeing area. It is the responsibility of tournament management or his/her designees to check teeing areas to see that foursomes have arrived at their designated teeing 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

Individuals must have also played in four regular season contests (9 or 18-hole rounds) to be eligible for the postseason; a waiver procedure can be found at #3 in this document.

## 8. FINANCES

Admission for spectators is \$10/car at the Finals Tournament for each day of the Finals. 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 - NA

### 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 and 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 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.

### 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.

For information on streaming, videotaping, drones, press boxes, post-game practices, locker rooms, souvenir programs, flash photography, and other media items, [click here](#).

**12. SPORTSMANSHIP, PLAYER/COACH CONDUCT** – Unsportsmanlike conduct — including, but not limited to, club throwing, the use of foul or abusive language, taunting, or damaging golf course property — will not be tolerated during MHSAA Tournament play. Coaches who witness such player behavior shall warn the player immediately that their conduct will be reported to the Tournament Manager and Rules Committee. 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 if 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). If the meet has begun, it shall be completed.

Protests will not be reviewed by the MHSAA. All disputes must be decided at the site by tournament management and/or rules referees and rules committees.

### **15. TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY**

For coaches and referees 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. Referees should be reminded of the tobacco policy and reported in writing by the tournament manager to the MHSAA.

**Alcohol:** Historically, referees promptly disqualified coaches, and tournament managers immediately replaced referees 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 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, referees 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**

For the purposes of the policy, the word “drone” applies to all Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The policy is written for all MHSAA tournament contests, while local laws and policies control all regular season contests.

Drones are prohibited for all indoor tournament contests in all sports. For outdoor sports local, state, and federal laws govern the use of drones. Drones may never be flown over spectators, athletes, or the playing surface. All drones must stay outside of the “restraining line” or the normal footprint of the playing surface. This includes never flying over bleachers, press box, or anywhere that spectators sit or gather for a contest. The operator of the drone must be registered with the FAA and follow local, state, and federal law when flying the drone. [Register Your Drone](#).

Drones can never be used to scout opponents' games or practices. Facilities reserve the right to restrict drone use on their property. 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.

## **19. RETURN TO ACTIVITY & POST CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM**

[Return to Play Form](#)

## **20. 50/50 POLICY**

MHSAA tournament hosts can conduct 50/50 raffles provided the host site manager requests and receives the appropriate license from the State of Michigan. [Charitable Gaming Raffle License](#).