



GOLF TOURNAMENT PROTOCOLS

COACH CART POLICY — Coaches may rent carts at their own expense with tournament manager approval. Courses may restrict or prohibit cart use by coaches due to weather conditions. When carts are rented by coaches they shall not be used to transport players, clubs, or equipment except in cases of emergency (bringing players to shelter during lightning, severe weather). While two school designated coaches are allowed per team, each team is only allowed one cart. Coaches who rent carts may share with other coaches but under no circumstances shall more than two school coaches be on a single cart. Carts are not to be used to provide transport for spectators. Any abuse of the cart policy will result in loss of cart use for the school coach for the remainder of the tournament.

MEDICAL NEED CART POLICY — During MHSAA 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 with a written request that 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 by itself does not automatically allow for use of a motorized cart. Fees associated with such use are the responsibility of the student and/or school.

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 Referees when necessary.

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.

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.

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 official 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 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.

PACE OF PLAY — Each player is responsible for playing without undue delay under USGA Rules. 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.

RULES AUTHORITY — During the MHSAA Tournament competition, assigned Referees, in conjunction with tournament management, are the sole authority for enforcement and interpretation of USGA playing rules. The 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 MHSAA Regionals and Finals, in addition to making rulings, Referees may assess penalties when they observe (first hand) violations of playing rules.

RULES COMMITTEE — At all MHSAA Tournament events, a rules committee shall be appointed consisting of the tournament manager, MHSAA head Referee, 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.

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 8-1) with players.

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

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- 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.

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