

7. GOLF — BOYS AND GIRLS

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) Participation Limitation — 9th-12th Grades — 20 contests (20 days) 7th & 8th grades — 16 contests (16 days). A high school team and/or golfer may participate in a maximum number of 20 regular season contests. Any and all contests participated in by an individual shall count towards the team's match limitation of 20. 7th and 8th grade golfers are permitted 16 matches. Each contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents. No team or individual may play more than two contests per day.
- 1.2) Interrupted Contest (regular season) — When play is interrupted/suspended due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority, the contest may be resumed from the point of interruption that day, provided the golf course can be played in the same layout on which the course was found at the beginning of the competition that day. If play cannot be resumed from the point of interruption on the same day, the match/tournament may be resumed from the exact point of interruption on a future date only when all participating coaches agree. If all participating coaches are not in agreement, the contest shall be replayed from the beginning on a future date and any suspended play will not count. The determination to resume play shall be made by PGA Professional and/or home coach in accordance with OHSAA guidelines.
- 1.3) Interrupted Tournament — Any OHSAA tournament contest interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be resumed from the point of interruption. (At the state tournament, the tournament manager retains the right to determine whether to resume play or revert to an 18 hole event.)
- 1.4) School Representative — No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a contest unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education. Teams or individuals unaccompanied by such school representative will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present throughout the contest.
- 1.5) Caddies — Caddies are not permitted during a contest. Participants will be disqualified if any person assists by caddying or if the participant rides in any type of vehicle.
Note: Course layouts may necessitate the use of shuttles from green to tee. Shuttles may be used during competition provided the shuttles are made available to all competitors.
- 1.6) Motorized Golf Carts - A medically authorized waiver is permitted for the use of a motorized golf cart. A school may request a waiver by submitting a copy of the doctor's statement of need to the OHSAA Golf Administrator by email in advance of any competition. The OHSAA-authorized waiver shall be shown to the referee prior to each competition.
Note: Motorized golf carts may be used during practice with no OHSAA approval needed.
- 1.7) Pull Carts — Pull carts are permitted.
- 1.8) Regular season contest formats – regular season contests may be played in any format by mutual agreement of all participating head coaches not to exceed to 36 holes in one day.

1.8.1) Stroke Play

Scoring — When stroke-play is used for a contest, the team score shall be determined by totaling the scores of the four players with the fewest strokes for the contest. The team with the fewest number of strokes is the winner. During regular season matches, schools may play six individuals and score four by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches, prior to the match.

Ties in team scoring shall be resolved by comparing the scores of the 5th lowest score, and the team with the 5th lowest score shall prevail. If one team does not have a 5th score, the team with a 5th score shall prevail. If the 5th lowest score does not break the tie, schools playing six individuals shall compare the sixth lowest score to break the tie. If the tie remains, the contest shall end in a tie or tied teams may play off the tie using four players selected by the coaches of the tied teams.

In regular season play if a playoff is not feasible, the contest will end in a tie.

In regular season play, ties for medalist or other awards will be left up to the host school.

- 1.8.2) Match Play Contests — Contests may be played in a match-play format mutually agreed upon by opposing coaches prior to the contest, not to exceed 36 holes.
- 1.8.3) Exhibition Match — Schools are permitted to schedule one match anytime during the season in a format of choice, not to exceed 18 holes. This match must be played with/against individuals who are not part of an interscholastic golf team, and would not count towards a team's match limit or against a team's won-lost record.
- 1.9) Conduct — A two stroke penalty shall be assessed for unsporting conduct. Unsporting conduct shall include but not be limited to: club throwing, willful acts which damage property or equipment on the course, use of abusive language, profanity, obscenities, and other unsporting conduct as determined by the Golf Rules Committee. Penalties imposed may include disqualification.

1.10) The home school coach shall serve as referee, enforcing all OHSA regulations and U.S.G.A. rules. Any coach and/or designee serving in that capacity who is giving advice pertaining to these regulations and/or rules must have the regulations and rules book with him/her to ensure the rule/regulation is administered correctly.

1.11) Coaching — The coaching regulation permits two school board-approved coaches/designees assigned to the event to speak with his/her player(s), without delay of play at any time. During the player's stipulated round, coaches are permitted to stand on the green. Coaches may not enter any sand bunker until their player has played out of the sand bunker. Participants will be assessed the general penalty if any other individual assists the participant by coaching and giving advice which could influence a player in determining play, the choice of a club or method of making a stroke (Rule 10.2).

1.11.1) Coaches are permitted to enter the bunker after the player has played their shot to rake the bunker.

Note: A team member is not a partner and may not give advice to or receive advice from another member.

1.12) Cell Phone Policy – Cell phones can be used by players in four specific circumstances:

1.12.1) To use as a distance-measuring device

1.12.2) To input score for live scoring or other scoring programs being used

1.12.3) To call a rules official with questions

1.12.4) To call a coach or tournament manager for a health or safety issue

1.12.5) Cell phones may not be used as a green reading aide

1.13) Distance-Measuring Devices — A player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his or her play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4-3.

2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

2.1) Golfers Who Have Not Competed for Their School This Season:

A sports regulation identified as the Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date stipulates that a golfer who has not participated for the school in golf that season must cease non-interscholastic golf competition prior to Wednesday, September 17, 2025 in order to be eligible for OHSA tournament competition in golf.

2.2) Golfers Who Have Competed for Their School This Season:

A member of an interscholastic golf squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, or regular season/tournament contest) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest or competition as an individual or member of a team in the sport of golf during the school's golf season (General Sports Regulation 7).

Note: Examples of golf contests include, but are not limited to, all events that are organized for stroke play and match play competition such as club or course championships, tournaments, and leagues.

Exception: Three waivers are permitted to participate in non-interscholastic events at any point during the 2025 golf season at the discretion of the school.

2.12.1) Waiver Process

Each waiver must be requested from the OHSA golf administrator prior to the event. Each waiver is valid for one event.

To be considered one event, all play in the event must be held on consecutive days.

2.12.2) Non-interscholastic competition via-waiver will be permitted at any time during the 2025 season.

2.3) Participation in "skills contests" (such as but not limited to "Drive, Chip and Putt") is not a violation of OHSA Non-Interscholastic Individual Sports Regulation 7 for student-athletes.

2.4) Interscholastic golf coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

Exception: 7th-8th grade golfers are permitted to compete in non-interscholastic contests while competing for their school team. No waivers are needed.

3) Sponsorship

3.1) A school that sponsors girls golf, with four or more girls participating, shall have a separate girls team in order to enter the OHSA-sponsored girls tournament competition.

3.2) A school that sponsors girls golf and has less than four girls participating may permit the girls to participate in both boys and girls matches during the regular season, provided they don't exceed the total number of matches permitted. The girls will be permitted to enter and compete as individuals in the OHSA-sponsored girls tournament provided the school is registered for the girls tournament.

3.3) A school that sponsors boys and girls golf and has separate teams shall schedule separate contests, but both may be held at the same time. Girls can choose to play on the boys team only, but must compete with the boys team

in the tournament. Or, girls can play on the girls team in every scheduled girls match, but can then play in any additional boys matches up to the total number permitted and still participate in the girls tournament.

- 3.4) A school that does not sponsor girls golf but has four or more girls participating may permit the girls to participate in both boys and girls matches during the regular season up to the total number permitted, but they must enter the OHSAA-sponsored boys tournament competition.

4) Penalties

The maximum penalty for violation of General Sports Regulation 7, participation on a non-interscholastic golf squad, or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad, EXCEPT a senior, is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic golf season or the ensuing season. For a senior, the maximum penalty may be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

5) Transfer Bylaw

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSAA website at this link, <https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school golf within 12 months of the transfer date, are ineligible starting with varsity regular season contest #11 and for any remaining regular season contests, scrimmages, and the OHSAA postseason tournament.

6) Other Bylaws and Regulations

- 6.1) For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Golf Coaches Guide posted at OHSAA.org.
- 6.2) For information on Out of State Travel competition see Bylaw 9-2 and the Golf Coaches Manual posted at OHSAA.org.
- 6.3) Spectators are permitted to attend, but are NOT permitted to converse with participants. It will be the responsibility of contestants in each group to caution ANY spectator from talking to or interfering with contestants in their group. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of disqualification of contestants involved.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — **July 28, 2025**
- 2) First contest — **July 28, 2025**
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournaments — **September 1, 2025**
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — **September 7, 2025**
- 5) Coaching and Season end — **October 18, 2025**
- 6) Scrimmages — One permitted any time during the season
- 7) Exhibition Match — One permitted any time during the season
- 8) Regular season contests — 20 for team and individual and each interscholastic contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents. (20 days)
- 9) Rules — United States Golf Association
- 10) Uniform Rules — General Sports Regulation 20
- 11) Officials — No requirements

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — **July 28, 2025**
- 2) First contest — **July 28, 2025**
- 3) Coaching and Season end — **October 18, 2025**
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted
- 5) Exhibition Match — One permitted any time during the season
- 6) Regular season contests — 16 for team and individual and each interscholastic contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents
- 7) Rules — United States Golf Association
- 8) Uniform Rules — General Sports Regulation 20
- 9) Officials — No requirements

GOLF CALENDAR

Golf	2025	2026	2027
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	7/28	8/1	8/1
Season Begins	7/28	8/1	8/1
Tournament Draw	9/7	9/6	9/5
Non-Interscholastic Date	9/17	9/16	9/15
Division III Sectional	9/22 - 9/27	9/16-9/26*	9/15-9/25*
Division II Sectional	9/17 - 9/23	9/16-9/26*	9/15-9/25*
Division I Sectional	9/22 - 9/27	9/16-9/26*	9/15-9/25*
Division III District	9/29 - 10/4	9/28-10/3*	9/27-10/2*
Division II District	9/24 - 10/1	9/28-10/5*	9/27-10/4*
Division I District	9/29 - 10/4	9/28-10/7*	9/27-10/6*
Division III State Tournament	10/13 - 10/14	10/12-10/13*	10/11-10/12*
Division II State Tournament	10/6-10/7	10/11-10/12*	10/10-10/11*
Division I State Tournament	10/12 - 10/13	10/11-10/12*	10/10-10/11*
Season Ends	10/18	10/17*	10/16*
Rosh Hashanah	10/3-10/4	9/12-9/13	10/2- 10/3
Yom Kippur	10/11-10/12	9/20-9/21	10/1-10/2

* Indicates that these dates are subject to minor change