

2024 Regulations for Boys and Girls Golf Tournament
Boys and Girls – Sectional and District

The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. They have been adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on August 29th. The Executive Director is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. Changes from 2023 to 2024 tournament regulations are shaded in yellow.

I. Organization of Tournaments

- A. The District Athletic Boards organize and conduct Sectional and District Tournaments in their respective districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors.

II. Eligibility

- A. All participants must be eligible in accordance with the OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations.
- B. A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids.

III. Divisions

- A. There will be three divisions (I, II, III) of competition in the boys tournaments and two divisions (I, II) in the girls tournament.

IV. Tournament Entry and Paperwork Requirements

A. Tournament Entry/Withdraw

Member schools wanting to participate in the 2024 OHSAA Golf Tournaments must indicate their intent to participate on their 2024-25 OHSAA Sports Participation Card in myOHSAA. Schools that change their tournament participation after September 2, 2024 will be subject to a \$50 penalty per sport.

A school may enter a maximum of one team only in the tournament, with a maximum of five (5) players and no fewer than four (4) players. Individual entries (3 or less) may be entered when there is no team entry.

An individual who starts on a team in a Sectional, District, or State Tournament must continue until that tournament is completed.

A team may change their lineup / roster between levels of tournament competition (Sectional, District, State).

B. Electronic Entry of Participants

1. Athletes and coaches must have accounts on the OHSAA Golf App powered by iWanamaker.
2. Rosters must be submitted online at www.iwanamaker.com.
3. Athletes must be submitted in seed order and must include the name and grade of each athlete.
4. Electronic entries must be completed no later than 12:00 noon, one week prior to the start of the tournament or at a later date and time if established by the district athletic board.
5. If the completed entry is not submitted by the designated time and date, the school's participant(s) will not be accepted without payment of a \$150 late fee and approval by the OHSAA.
6. Any late fees administered for late participant entry shall be reported to the OHSAA Membership Services department
7. Changes to a team's line-up/roster can be made until the scheduled tee time for competition.

V. School Representative

No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a tournament unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the board of education. Teams or individuals unaccompanied by such school representatives will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present throughout the tournament.

VI. Admission

- Tickets can be purchased via
 - Hometown Ticketing or the OHSAA Ticket Site (<https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets>).
- The ticket prices for the sectional and district tournaments shall be: \$5 for students, \$8 for adults.

VII. Rules

- A. The Rules of Golf, as approved by the United States Golf Association and R & A, for Stroke Play and OHSAA tournament regulations shall prevail for all tournaments sponsored by the OHSAA.
- B. The Rules of Golf include an optional Local Rule that allows players to drop a ball with 2 penalty strokes in an area near where the ball was lost or estimated to go out of bounds. The Local Rule is not one of the 24 Rules of Golf; it is an optional Local Rule. This 2-stroke optional Local Rule may **NOT** be used at the OHSAA Sectional, District, or State tournaments.
- C. OHSAA Local Rule – **Sectional Tournaments Only** – Maximum allowable score of 12 strokes shall be used during OHSAA tournament play at the sectional level. Should a player reach 12 strokes on a hole, the player shall stop play on that hole and record their score as a 12. A player's score who has used the 12-stroke limit may still contribute their score to a team / individual score.
- D. USGA Rule 4.3.4 – No headphones should be used during play.

VIII. Stroke Play

Stroke play for 18 holes will prevail. There will be no handicap.

IX. Scoring

- A. **Team Score**
 1. The team score will be determined using the lowest 4 scores for each round of the competition.
- B. **Electronic Scoring**
 1. Players are responsible for live scoring using the OHSAA Golf App during play.
 2. In the event the competitor does not have a mobile device, an alternate person such as a fellow competitor, coach, or authorized representative may enter the scores in as timely a manner as possible.
 3. It is the Golf Manager's responsibility to ensure the accuracy of the scoring information on the OHSAA Golf Application
- C. **Official Scorecard**
 1. It is the responsibility of the Golf Manager to provide printed official scorecards.
 2. During the round after each hole, the player should keep track of their scores and the player they are marking for on the official score card.
- D. **Scoring Area**
 1. When the round has ended, the player shall immediately proceed to the Scoring Area with their Official Scorecard and their Mobile Device and
 - i. Should carefully check the hole by hole scores entered on the Official Scorecard by the marker and raise any issues with the Committee.
 - ii. Must make sure that the marker certifies the hole by hole scores on the official scorecard.
 - iii. Must not change a hole by hole score entered by the marker except with the marker's agreement or the Committee's approval.
 - iv. Must certify the hole by hole scores on the scorecard by signature and return it to the Committee, after which the player must not change the scorecard. Upon returning the scorecard to the committee, do not leave the scoring area until the scoring official confirms the scores are correctly recorded on both the Official Scorecard and OHSAA Golf App.

X. Ties

A. Team

1. Ties in team scoring qualifying positions that affect the number of qualifiers shall be resolved by comparing the scores of the 5th team member and the team with the lowest 5th score shall be declared the winner. If one team does not have a 5th score, the team with the 5th score shall be declared the winner.
2. If teams remain tied after comparing the 5th scores, a playoff to determine the winner shall be held using four players selected by the coaches of the tied teams.
3. If the tie does not affect the number of qualifying teams, the following will be used to determine order of play in the next tournament: Better 5th score, better 4th score, better 3rd score, better 2nd score, better 1st score, coin toss.

B. Individual (Medalist and Qualifiers)

1. Individual ties for qualifying positions that affect the number of qualifiers, shall be resolved by playing an additional hole or holes until the tie is broken by the tied individuals.
2. If the tie does not affect the number of qualifying individuals, the USGA Tiebreaker based on the **Last 9, 6, 3, 1 holes played versus par** will be used to determine the order of play for the next tournament. OHSAA tournaments will designate **Holes 10 to 18** as the last holes regardless of the starting hole.

XI. District Qualifiers

- A. Each District Board shall determine the number of qualifiers from the sectional tournaments to the district tournaments.
- B. Rosters for teams that qualify for advancement to the district tournaments will be advanced in the same playing order as the sectional. Changes to a team's line-up/roster can be made until the scheduled tee time for competition.
- C. Teams and individuals that qualify for a district tournament are permitted to practice on their district course at any time in the regular or tournament season.

XII. State Tournament Qualifiers

Boys Teams

<u>District</u>	<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>	<u>Division III</u>
Central	3	1	1
East	1	2	1
Northeast	4	3	3
Northwest	1	2	4
Southeast		2	1
Southwest	3	2	2
	12	12	12

Individual Qualifiers - individual qualifiers to the State Tournaments will be the individual low scorers not on a qualifying team equal to the number of teams qualifying.

Girls Teams

<u>District</u>	<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
Central	2	1
East	1	1
Northeast	4	2
Northwest	2	4
Southeast		2
Southwest	3	2
	12	12

Individual Qualifiers - individual qualifiers to the State Tournament will be the individual low scorers not on a qualifying team equal to the number of teams qualifying.

XIII. Awards

- A. Team – There shall be District Championship and Runner-up trophies presented.
- B. Individual – Individual awards shall be presented to the members and coach of the winning and runner-up teams and to the medalist and runner-up in each class.

XIV. Rules of Golf

Rules of Golf, as approved by the United State Golf Association (USGA) and R & A, will be played in the OHSAA Tournaments. In case of inclement weather, the Tournament Rules Committee may authorize preferred lies or winter rules.

XV. Greens Fee

Participating schools will not be charged green fees for competition rounds of play.

XVI. Weather Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- **Evacuation-** If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
 - **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is **mandatory** to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.

XVII. Interrupted Tournament

Any OHSAA tournament interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

XVIII. Caddies

Caddies are not permitted during the stipulated round. Participants will be disqualified if any person assists by caddying or if the participant rides in any type of vehicle. Participants may use pull carts to carry golf clubs. 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.

Exception: A medically authorized waiver is required for the use of a vehicle. A copy of the doctor's statement must be filed with the OHSAA and the OHSAA authorization shown to the referee.

XIX. Coaching

- A. Coaches are permitted the use of golf carts for coaching purposes at the **discretion of each District Athletic Board**. Should a Board give the approval to use carts, each school would be permitted one cart for the school approved coach. The OHSAA is not responsible for the cart fee. Each school or coach will be responsible for the cart fee.
- B. The coaching regulation permits **two** school board approved coach/designee assigned to that event to speak with his/her players without delay of play at any time. Participants will be disqualified 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 8).
Note: A team member is not a partner and may not give advice to or receive advice from another member of the team.

The following procedures govern on-course coaching:

1. During the player's stipulated round, coaches are not permitted to physically stand on any green or in any sand bunker. Players may receive instruction from coaches while on the green **and in the sand bunker. The coach may enter the sand bunker after the player has played out of the bunker to rake the sand bunker.**
2. If a group should "lose their position" the group must be playing at a pace slower than 15 minutes per hole. To fall behind the group in front does not always mean a group is playing slow.
3. If the group fails to regain their position on the course within a reasonable time established by officials then the group should be notified that they are "going on the clock". At that point, any player who does not complete his/her turn to play in the allowed forty-five seconds is assessed a two-stroke penalty. A second violation is another two-stroke penalty, and a third violation results in a disqualification.
i.e. "45 second rule" – once a player reaches their ball, and their turn has arrived to play, they must complete their shot within the 45 seconds allowed.

C. Penalties for violation of the coaching regulation:

1. A warning is issued.
2. Player is assessed a two-stroke penalty and the coach loses his/her coaching privilege.
3. Coach is disqualified/ejected.

Note: Following a coach ejection, if there is not a person authorized by the Board of Education present at the contest, forfeiture would result (Bylaw 3-2-1- school representative must accompany team). *In addition to the penalties listed above, a coach who violates the coaching rule may face additional disciplinary action.

XX. Violations

- A. **Tobacco.** Participants (coach, players, managers, etc.) are prohibited from using any form of tobacco on the golf course, in the clubhouse, or caddy house during any tournament. Penalty for violation of this rule will be disqualification. Managers are instructed to inform all coaches beforehand that this rule will be strictly enforced.
- B. **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 result in disqualification.
- C. **Electronic Devices** - The use of any electronic communication devices for purposes other than those described in OHSAA Golf Regulation 1.12 (Cell Phone Policy) shall be prohibited on the course during any competition. All phones including those used by spectators shall remain on silent. New OHSAA Regulation 1.125 states "Cell phones may not be used as a green reading aide". Penalty:

Player - 1st offense two (2) strokes
2nd offense disqualification

- E. **Distance-Measuring Devices** - A player and their school coach 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. This rule will allow the coach/designee authorized by the Board of Education present at the contest and his/her players to use a range finder during the event. This device should not violate any OHSAA or USGA rules since yardage information is not considered advice and is permitted during an event.

XXI. Unsporting Conduct Penalty

- A. During participation in OHSAA Tournaments, any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection.
- B. Individuals ejected for unsporting conduct shall be reported to the OHSAA Executive Director by the tournament manager. The Executive Director will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11.
- C. Participation in an athletic contest is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct himself or herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

XXII. Property Damage

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators to physical facilities and equipment, etc. the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. The tournament manager is authorized to deduct from the school's share the cost of any damages caused by competing schools. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and may be deducted from tournament receipts. If damage is extensive, the District Board or Board of Directors will become involved. Student crowd control at state-sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the administrative heads of the competing schools.

XXIII. Sponsorship and Rights

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is the sponsoring association for the Golf Tournaments. The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items or any audio-visual reproductions. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for Sectional or District Tournaments and the OHSAA Executive Director for the State Tournaments.

2024 Regulations for Boys and Girls Golf Tournaments

Boys and Girls - State

State Tournament Managers

The State Golf Tournaments are under the supervision and sponsorship of the Ohio High School Athletic Association with the:

Firestone Country Club, 452 East Warner Road, Akron, Ohio 44319. (330) 644-8441
Site Manager: Dale Davis; dale.davis@invitedclubs.com

NCR Country Club, 4435 Dogwood Trail, Kettering, Ohio 45429. (937) 299-3571
Site Manager: Rob Karnes; rob.karnes@ncrcountryclub.com

NorthStar Golf Club, 1150 Wilson Road, Sunbury, Ohio 43074, (740) 524-4653
Site Manager: Nate Curtis; (740) 524-4653

A. Dates and Locations

October 11-12, 2024 – Division III Boys - NorthStar Golf Club

October 13-14, 2024 – Division II Boys & Girls – Firestone Country Club

October 14-15, 2024 – Division I Boys & Girls – NCR Country Club

B. Regulations

The regulations for boys and girls Sectional / District Tournaments shall apply to the State Tournaments.

C. Qualifiers to the State Tournaments

1. Teams and individuals who qualified at their respective District Golf Tournaments will automatically be entered in the State Tournaments.
2. Substitutions may be made in team personnel from the District to State Tournaments.
3. Substitutions may not be made from day one to day two of the State Tournament.
4. Substitutions may not be made for individual qualifiers.

D. Coaches Meeting

A coaches meeting will be held the night before competition begins at each respective venue. More information will be shared with the qualifying coaches about this via email.

E. Admissions

1. Tickets can be purchased via
2. Hometown Ticketing or the OHSAA Ticket Site (<https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets>).
3. The ticket prices for the state tournaments shall be: \$10 for students, \$15 for adults.

F. Coach Passes

Passes shall be provided to competitors and coaches according to the following schedule.

1. Individuals – Number of qualifiers plus one
2. Team – five plus two

G. Green Fees – Participating schools will not be charged green fees for competition rounds of play.

H. Coaching – The use of golf carts for coaching purposes is at the discretion of the Executive Director's Office.

I. Practice Rounds – Team (5 individuals only) and individual qualifiers may play a practice round on **the day** prior to the start of the tournaments. Each individual shall play one ball only during their practice round. Practice rounds are optional and limited to the day before the championship. Tee times will be pre-assigned based on district qualifiers. **Practice round tee times will be shared after qualifying for the state tournament.**

Note: Once teams or individuals have qualified for the state tournament, play on the course where they will play (**Firestone North, Firestone Fazio, NCR North, NCR South**, or NorthStar) in the state tournament is not permitted. Ethics and integrity are of the utmost importance in regard to this regulation. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

J. State Tournaments Schedule

Eighteen holes will be played **over two days.**

Boys Division III Championships will be played NorthStar Golf Club on Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12.

Boys and Girls Division II Championships will be played at Firestone Country Club on Sunday, October 13 and Monday, October 14. Boys Division II will be played on the North Course. Girls Division II will be played on the Fazio Course.

Boys and Girls Division I Championships will be played at NCR Country Club on Monday, October 14 and Tuesday, October 15. Boys Division I will be played on the South Course. Girls Division I will be played on the North Course.

If the first round cannot be started or play is discontinued, 18 holes will be played on the second day to determine a winner.

If the first round is completed and play is discontinued during any part of the second round, winners will be determined by the results of the first round. (For the second-round results to count, ALL contestants must have completed the round).

If postponed both days, the tournament will be postponed until a future date arranged by the OHSA.

K. Scoring

Stroke play for 36 holes will prevail in the state tournaments. Team scores in the State Tournaments will be determined by using the best four of five scores counted each day. Thus, official team totals will be counted at the end of each 18 holes of play. There will be no handicap.

L. Ties

1. Teams

Ties in team scoring **for winning and runner-up positions** shall be resolved by totaling the fifth lowest score for both days of the tournament and the team with the fifth lowest score shall be declared the winner.

If teams remain tied for **first place** after totaling the 5th lowest score, a playoff to determine **first place** shall be held using four players selected by the coaches of the tied teams. **If teams remain tied for runner-up after totaling the 5th lowest score, the teams shall share runner-up.**

2. Individuals

Ties for medalist and runner-up medalist will be awarded if two or more individuals are tied at the conclusion of tournament play.

M. Awards

In the State Tournaments, trophies will be presented to the Championship and Runner-up teams. Individual members of both teams will be presented with gold or silver awards. Awards will be presented to the coach of the Championship and Runner-up teams and to the medalist and runner-up in each division.

N. School Responsibility

Transportation, meals, and lodging shall be the responsibility of the school of the participants.