

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION  
NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S STATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Play is governed by the USGA Rules of Golf Effective January 2016 and where applicable the Local Rules, NCHSAA Conditions of Competition and the NCHSAA Handbook.

**SUPERVISION:** All individuals participating in regional and state playoff competition must be supervised. If not, they should be eliminated from competition. This is stated in the NCHSAA Handbook, page 79. If anyone other than school personnel accompany the participant(s), a letter must be sent from the principal to the NCHSAA, as well as with the participant(s) to have available at the site.

**SUBSTITUTES:** Once entries have been submitted to regional director, coaches can substitute for any/all team members up to start of tournament. Individuals cannot be substituted.

**TIME OF STARTING:** If the competitor arrives at their starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after their starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is a two-stroke penalty on the first hole to be played. Penalty for lateness beyond five minutes is disqualification.

**THE GOLF BALL:** One-Ball-Rule is not in effect.

**PACE OF PLAY:** Groups that are found to be out of position (not having completed the hole being played by the time the preceding group has completed the play of the next hole) will be informed of that fact and individual players will be timed. Competitors will be allowed forty-five seconds to complete a stroke. Time will commence when it is the competitor's time to play and no outside distractions are present. Penalty for breach of Rule 6-7 will be:

First offense: -----One stroke

Second offense-----Two strokes

Third offense-----Disqualification

\*Penalties are applied individually, but more than one competitor in a group may be penalized\*

**COACH REGULATION:** The NCHSAA will allow TWO designated coach from each school to coach during the regional and state finals. It is the conference's option during the regular season. The following regulations must be followed:

- There must be some way to identify the TWO coach who is allowed to give advice (armband, neck tag, etc.).
- TWO designated school coaches may give advice, of a short and quick duration, from the tee off to the greens and the walk between holes. NOTE: Coaches may not provide continuous coaching while walking with a player. Once finished, coach must return immediately to the cart path.
- Any violation of the coaching rule can result in a TWO STROKE PENALTY and may cause the coach to lose his privilege to communicate with players the remainder of the event during the round/rounds.
- Prior to any stroke, the coach must step back from the player.
- Coaches may not be on the tee box or enter onto the green(s) at any time.
- Use of radios, walkie-talkies, cell phones and other electronic devices by players or coaches is NOT ALLOWED. All cell phones must be turned to silent. Violation may result in disqualification. **A cell phone with a range finder application is illegal.**
- Use of USGA approved range finders is permitted at any time (except for cell phone applications). Yardage measuring devices and information may be shared among players. **A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect play (e.g., slope/gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is two strokes, then disqualification for subsequent offense, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.**

\*\*Others will not be allowed to give advice and must limit conversations to words of encouragement only. Any other types of conversations could be considered advice, which would result in a TWO STROKE PENALTY.

**PARENT/SPECTATOR GUIDELINES:** All spectators will be restricted to cart paths (Spectators may leave the cart paths to assist in finding lost balls). Spectators may carry umbrellas, food, water, medicine or a change of clothing for a competitor. Please limit all conversations to words of encouragement only. Any other types of conversation could be considered advice, which would result in a TWO STROKE PENALTY.

**PULL CARTS:** Non-motorized pull carts are permissible if the course allows.

**LOCAL COURSE RULES WILL APPLY**

**ADVICE:** *NCHSAA rule is Advice cannot be given by anyone except the designated coaches.*

STARTING TEES: Single tee or double tee starts shall be used. "Shotgun" starts should only be used in emergency situations.

SCORING: Stroke play will be used. (Triple Bogey Maximum will NOT be in effect)

SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO A DANGEROUS SITUATION: When the NCHSAA Committee suspends play for a dangerous situation, if the competitors are between play of two holes, they shall not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they shall discontinue play immediately and shall not thereafter resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If a competitor fails to discontinue play immediately they shall be disqualified unless circumstances warrant waiving such penalty as provided in Rule 33-7.

Discontinue Play Immediately---One prolonged note of siren/horn.  
Discontinue Play-----Three consecutive notes of siren/horn repeated.  
Resume Play-----Two short notes of siren/horn, repeated.

TRANSPORTATION: Competitors shall walk at all times during a stipulated round. NOTE: Rules officials may transport competitors back to a tee in the event of a lost/out-of-bounds ball in order to expedite play. **Penalty for breach of condition:** Two strokes for each hole at which breach occurred. Maximum penalty per round four strokes. In the event of a breach between play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. NOTE: Use of any unauthorized form of transportation shall be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach occurred. Otherwise, the competitor shall be DISQUALIFICATION.

CADDIES: No caddies will be allowed.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Any competitor found to be guilty of poor sportsmanship, i.e., use of profanity, throwing of clubs in anger or general misbehavior as deemed by the NCHSAA Committee will have their playing privileges revoked and they will be dismissed from the tournament.

DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE: Rule 3-3. In stroke play, if a competitor is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his marker or a fellow competitor that he intends to play two balls and which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit. If he fails to do so, the provisions of Rule 3-3b(ii) apply. *The competitor must report the facts of the situation to the Committee before returning his scorecard. If he fails to do so, he is disqualified.*

PREFERRED LIES: It is up to each course to determine if ball will be played down, or if adjusting the ball for preferred lies will be allowed. At the state tournament, the ball will be played down.

EMBEDDED BALL: "Through the green" a ball which is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, other than sand, may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the "course through the green".

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE--- Two strokes.

WATER HAZARDS: Water hazards are identified by yellow stakes and defined by yellow lines. Lateral water hazards are identified by red stakes, defined by red lines and include unmarked drainage ditches and other open water courses. When a lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When water hazards and lateral water hazards are bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by white lines. Fire ant hills and French drains are ground under repair. White-lined areas tying into cart paths are part of those obstructions. Sod seams (not the sod itself) are deemed to be ground under repair, and relief is available under Rule 25-1 if the ball lies in or touches a sod seam or the sod seam interferes with the area of intended swing. All seams and edges within the sodded area are considered the same seam or edge.

PRACTICE BETWEEN HOLES: Between the play of two holes, a player shall not play any practice strokes on or near the putting green of the hole last played. PENALTY: Two-strokes at the next hole.

## **DECIDING TIES AT THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:**

Individuals – Ties for 1st place will be broken in the following manner:

If the course is available for a playoff:

- A sudden victory playoff of the tied individuals. The NCHSAA Tournament Director will select holes for the playoff.

If the course is not available for a playoff:

- A scorecard comparison of tied individuals beginning with the #1 handicap hole.

Teams – Ties for 1st place will be broken in the following manner:

If the course is available for a playoff:

- Coach of each team would choose four (4) golfers for the playoff.
- These four players would be ranked #1- #4 by the coach.
- **Coaches cannot change golfers after the first playoff hole.**
- First playoff hole, golfers #1 & #2 from each team would tee off and complete the hole. Golfers #3 & #4 would then tee off and complete the first playoff hole. All four team scores would count to break the tie.
- If the sum of the 4 scores are equal after the first playoff hole, proceed to second playoff hole and use same playing procedure as previous hole.
- Continue until tie is broken and State Champion is declared.
- If more than two teams are in the playoff, pair golfers by rank (i.e., 3 #1 golfers in first pairing, 3 #2 golfers in next pairing, 3 #3 golfers in next pairing, and 3 #4 golfers in last pairing and complete first playoff hole.
  - If after first playoff hole 2 teams are still tied but one team has higher score, team with higher score is eliminated.
  - Keep pairings the same and proceed to 2nd hole and continue playoff.
  - Keep playing holes counting all 4 team scores until the tie is broken and a Champion can be declared.

If the course is not available for a playoff:

- If two or more teams are tied, go to 5th golfer's scores and compare. Lowest score wins.
- If still tied, Co-Champions will be declared.

**RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION:** When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the NCHSAA Rules Committee, the results of the competition shall be deemed to have been announced and the competition officially closed