



To: Golf Coach, IHSA Boys' Golf State Qualifiers  
From: Kurt J. Gibson  
Date: October 2023  
Re.: State Finals qualifiers packets

Congratulations on qualifying for the IHSA Boys' Golf State Finals! Over 3,000 golfers entered state tournament play a week ago, and your team's or individual's accomplishment puts them in good company with the other qualifiers for this year's event. I hope that the weekend is an enjoyable one for you, your player(s), and your school.

Some of the following information is aimed at your fans (*Golf Cart Policy, Welcome Statement, and the Spectator Code of Conduct*), and we would ask that you share those with them as needed prior to this weekend. Doing so will help ensure an even more enjoyable experience for all involved.

- Golf State Final Information
- Bloomington/Normal Visitors Letter
- Golf Cart Policy
- Golf Shuttle Drop Off Map
- Rules of Golf
- Instructions for Map & Directions to Golf Course
- Copy of Spectator Code
- Player Code of Conduct
- Coaches Code of Con
- Spectators Attending the IHSA Golf State Series Welcome
- Thursday Practice Rounds
- Practice Rounds Tee-Time Change Request Form

As in years past, the IHSA has blocked rooms for qualifiers at various properties in Bloomington-Normal. Those schools who qualify either teams or individuals will need to sign into the Schools Center for specific instructions on securing housing. Information regarding housing can be found under 'Case Situations'. As in year's past, schools will be responsible for all costs associated with their room reservations.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the IHSA office.

Congratulations on qualifying for this year's state finals! Best of luck this weekend!



**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL AREA  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

3201 CIRA Drive, Suite 201, Bloomington, IL 61704

800.433.8226 \ VisitBN.org

Dear IHSA golf state finals qualifier:

**Congratulations on making it to the IHSA Boys Golf State Finals!**

The Bloomington-Normal Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and Sports Commission want to welcome you to our community. We are excited to host the elite golf teams and individuals in Illinois at this exciting event.

There are many things to do in the area, so check out our Visitors Guide, which will be located at our information table inside the clubhouse. Or you can check us out online at [www.visitbn.org](http://www.visitbn.org).

If you have questions about Bloomington-Normal, any attractions, or your hotel accommodations, please feel free to contact us at (800) 433-8226.

Good luck, and have fun!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Hawkins".

Matt Hawkins

Vice President of Sports and Events

# IHSA State Final Information

## Boys Golf

<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax</b>
Kurt Gibson	Associate Executive Director, IHSA	309-663-6377	309-663-7479
Kurt Gibson	Class 1A State Final Management Contact	309-663-6377	309-663-7479
Tom Szymoniak	Class 2A State Final Management Contact	309-438-8912	309-438-3967
Matt Hoder	Class 3A State Final Manager	309-557-4402	309-557-4594
Nicolas Kearfott	Class 3A Co-Host Athletic Director	309-557-4570	309-557-4502
Wes Temples	Class 3A Co-Host Athletic Director	309-557-4976	309-557-4594
Matt Kurtz	Clubhouse Manager, Prairie Vista Golf Course	309-434-2217	309-434-2830
Mike Aslinger	Clubhouse Manager, The Den at Fox Creek Golf Course	309-434-2300	309-434-2249

### **Coaches Meeting**

The coach representing each school's qualifying players at the State Final Tournament **MUST** attend a meeting with the IHSA Tournament Committee virtually prior to the first round of the competition.. A complete list of the days/times for each meeting will be announced by the IHSA office. Tee times for Friday will be distributed at this meeting. Contestants will not be permitted to participate if their school representative does not properly check in with the tournament committee.

<b>CLASS 1A</b>	<b>2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.</b>
<b>CLASS 2A</b>	<b>1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</b>
<b>CLASS 3A</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</b>

### **Thursday Practice Round**

Participants are not required to participate in the practice round although they have been assigned a tee time. Refer to the pre-assigned times in the manual. Coaches can switch times with each other provided they use the proper confirmation form.

### **Green Fees**

Member schools are responsible for their practice round green fees.

### **Driving Ranges**

Range balls will be provided for all participants on Friday and Saturday.

### **Dress Code for Players and Coaches**

Be reminded that no denim slacks or shorts are allowed. Also be reminded that the penalty for this is severe and the Rules committee is not given any flexibility in the Terms and Conditions. Please do not place these good people in a position to have to "make the call".

**Coaches are included in the dress code.**

### **Visual Image**

A professional photographer will take pictures. Those photos can be viewed and purchased online. Go to the IHSA website to access VIP Photo.

### **Housing**

Multiple hotel properties have made rooms available to qualifying teams and individuals for the IHSA Boys' Golf State Finals. A list of all properties that have made rooms available for the weekend and their rates can be found by logging into the 'Case Situations' area of the IHSA Schools Center. This list will be posted there no later than October 2, 2023. Schools have until noon on October 5<sup>th</sup> to reserve their housing. After that deadline, rooms will be released to the general public. Schools with qualifiers could also contact other properties in Bloomington-Normal to secure housing for the state finals. Schools that have qualified a team should only request 5 rooms at one of the properties, and schools with individual qualifiers should only request 2 rooms. Schools having difficulty securing rooms should contact Matt Hawkins from the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 309-665-0033.

# IHSA Golf Cart Policy

## I. Statement of Rationale

The IHSA has developed a policy that would provide an equitable way to address the needs of competitors, coaches, tournament personnel, and spectators. The policy is designed to accommodate the unique situations of a disabled parent of a player in the tournament, a disabled spectator, and disabled participant. It remains sensitive to the safety and liability concerns along with maintaining the integrity of the competition by reducing the chances of spectator interference.

## II. Definition

**Disability:** IHSA recognizes and adopts the definition of disability as provided within the Americans with Disabilities Act. The IHSA will not discriminate against students with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

## III. Policy

### A. Participants

Student-athletes may not use caddies, motorized golf carts, or motorized pull carts during the state series unless an individual is permanently disabled.

### B. Permanently Disabled Student-Athlete

**A written request for accommodation from a member school principal must be submitted to the IHSA when requesting the use of a motorized golf cart for a student-athlete. Golf carts are not to interfere with play and must adhere to tournament policies. If approved the player shall ride with an approved adult and not drive the cart.**

### C. Spectator Golf Cart Use for Regionals and Sectionals

**Cart availability during regional and sectional tournament will be determined by the tournament manager and golf course. Golf carts are not to interfere with the integrity of play and must adhere to all tournament and local golf course policies.**

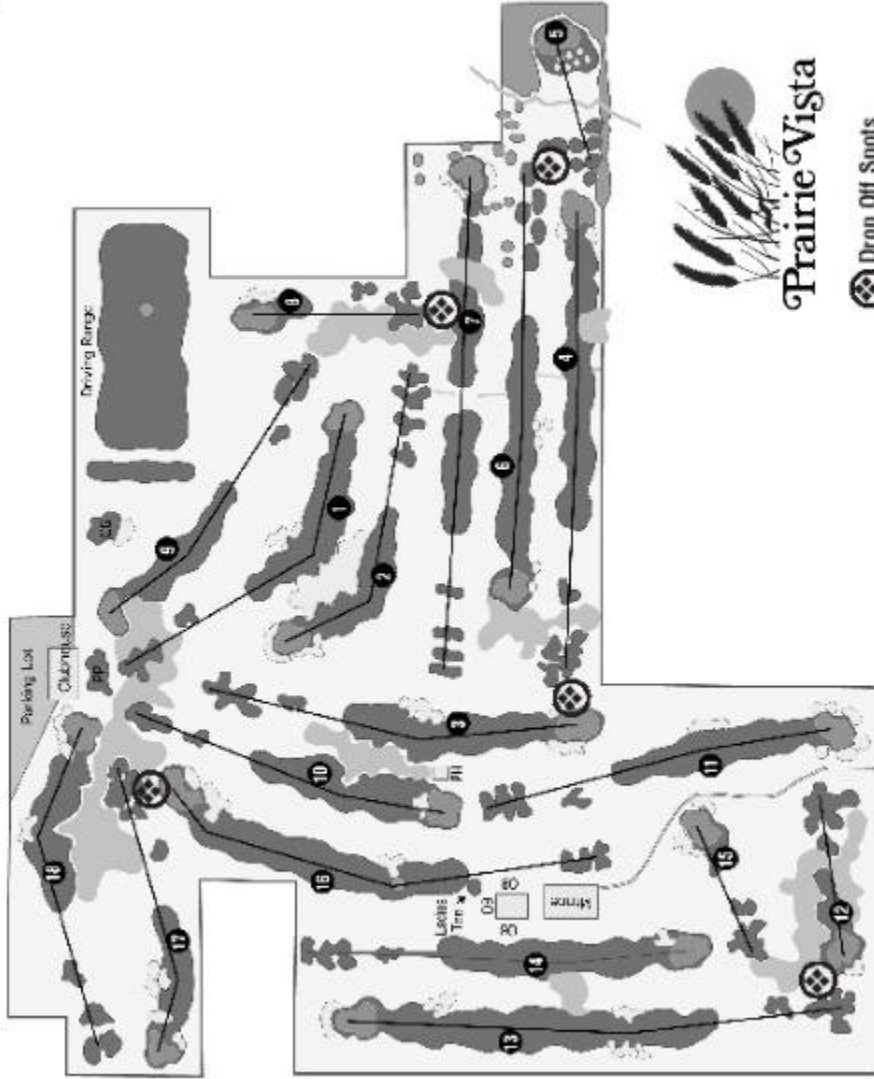
### D. State Final Practice Round

1. Golf carts will not be available for spectators at the state final; instead, a shuttle will be available to transport spectators to pre-determined viewing sites at each state final's venue. A wristband will be provided to handicap spectators who will be given priority on the shuttle.
2. **State Tournament Practice Round - Golf Cart Policy**

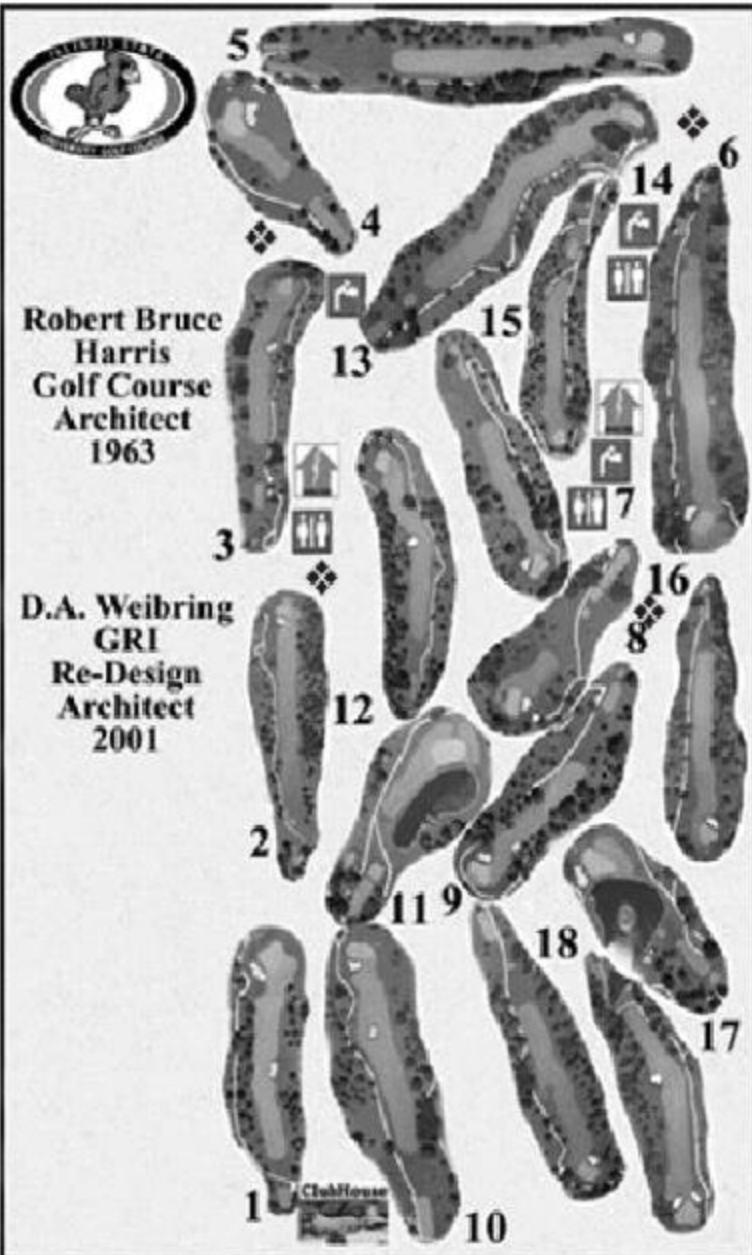
Student-athletes and spectators may not rent a golf cart for the Thursday practice round at the state tournament. Coaches from each competing school with a team or individual in the state finals will be allowed to rent one cart per school during the practice round. Only two (2) people may ride in the cart at one time. The cart is rented at the expense of the school. Golf carts may be requested in advance on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once the golf carts are rented out, no additional carts will be available.
3. **School Team Request for a Practice Round Golf Cart - Procedure**
  - a. School personnel from state final qualifying teams must submit the name of the adult school representative that will be responsible for a cart. Requests should be submitted in advance of the tournament, for approval by the IHSA.
  - b. Once approved, the golf cart will be issued to the person designated by the school.
  - c. The school designee shall check in at the pro shop to rent the cart.
  - d. The school is responsible for the rental fee at that time.
  - e. The carts will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once the fleet of golf carts are rented, no additional carts will be brought in.
  - f. Personal carts are not allowed.

### E. State Finals

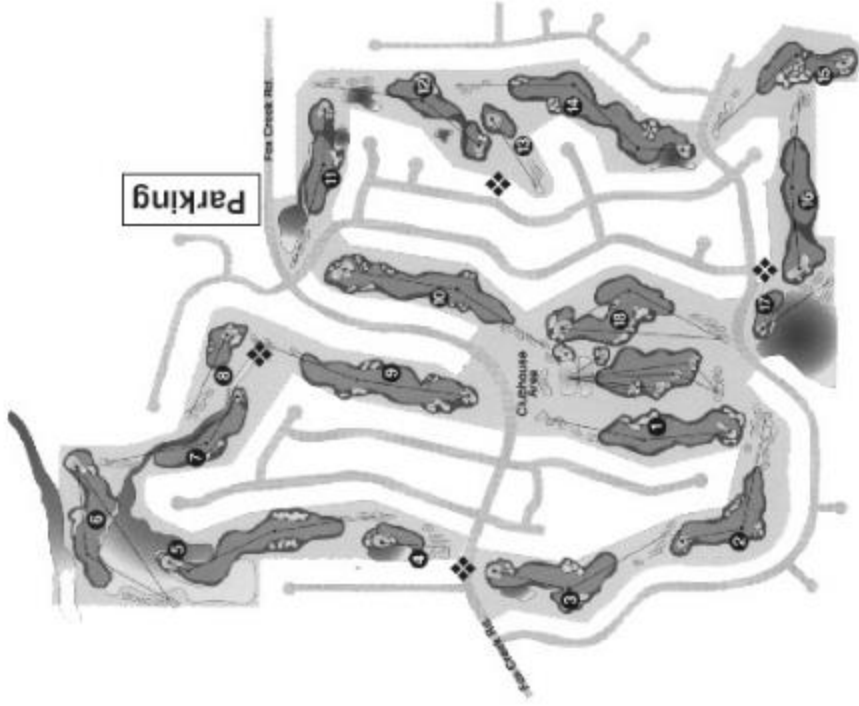
At the state finals, schools who qualify a team or multiple individuals may rent one cart at the school's expense for use by the school's head coach, provided enough carts are available and ground conditions allow for such use.



Drop Off Spots



❖ Drop Off Spots



### Class 1A

Place	Tee Times	School
<b>Teeing off at hole #1</b>		
1st place team from Sherrard Sectional	9:00/9:09	_____
2nd place team from Sherrard Sectional	9:18/9:27	_____
3rd place team from Sherrard Sectional	9:36/9:45	_____
1-3 individuals from Sherrard Sectional	9:54	_____
4-6 individuals from Sherrard Sectional	10:03	_____
7-10 individuals from Sherrard Sectional	10:12	_____
1st place team from Kankakee (McNamara) Sectional	10:21/10:30	_____
2nd place team from Kankakee (McNamara) Sectional	10:39/10:48	_____
3rd place team from Kankakee (McNamara) Sectional	10:57/11:06	_____
1-3 individuals from Kankakee (McNamara) Sectional	11:15	_____
4-6 individuals from Kankakee (McNamara) Sectional	11:24	_____
7-10 individuals from Kankakee (McNamara) Sectional	11:33	_____
<b>Teeing off at hole #10</b>		
1st place team from Auburn Sectional	9:00/9:09	_____
2nd place team from Auburn Sectional	9:18/9:27	_____
3rd place team from Auburn Sectional	9:36/9:45	_____
1-3 individuals from Auburn Sectional	9:54	_____
4-6 individuals from Auburn Sectional	10:03	_____
7-10 individuals from Auburn Sectional	10:12	_____
1st place team from Waterloo (Gibault) Sectional	10:21/10:30	_____
2nd place team from Waterloo (Gibault) Sectional	10:39/10:48	_____
3rd place team from Waterloo (Gibault) Sectional	10:57/11:06	_____
1-3 individuals from Waterloo (Gibault) Sectional	11:15	_____
4-6 individuals from Waterloo (Gibault) Sectional	11:24	_____
7-10 individuals from Waterloo (Gibault) Sectional	11:33	_____

### Class 2A

Place	Tee Times	School
<b>Teeing off at hole #1</b>		
1st place team from Freeport (H.S.) Sectional	9:00/9:09	_____
2nd place team from Freeport (H.S.) Sectional	9:18/9:27	_____
3rd place team from Freeport (H.S.) Sectional	9:36/9:45	_____
1-3 individuals from Freeport (H.S.) Sectional	9:54	_____
4-6 individuals from Freeport (H.S.) Sectional	10:03	_____
7-10 individuals from Freeport (H.S.) Sectional	10:12	_____
1st place team from Mt. Carmel Sectional	10:21/10:30	_____
2nd place team from Mt. Carmel Sectional	10:39/10:48	_____
3rd place team from Mt. Carmel Sectional	10:57/11:06	_____
1-3 individuals from Mt. Carmel Sectional	11:15	_____
4-6 individuals from Mt. Carmel Sectional	11:24	_____
7-10 individuals from Mt. Carmel Sectional	11:33	_____
<b>Teeing off at hole #10</b>		
1st place team from Peoria (Richwoods) Sectional	9:00/9:09	_____
2nd place team from Peoria (Richwoods) Sectional	9:18/9:27	_____
3rd place team from Peoria (Richwoods) Sectional	9:36/9:45	_____
1-3 individuals from Peoria (Richwoods) Sectional	9:54	_____
4-6 individuals from Peoria (Richwoods) Sectional	10:03	_____
7-10 individuals from Peoria (Richwoods) Sectional	10:12	_____
1st place team from Lemont (H.S.) Sectional	10:21/10:30	_____
2nd place team from Lemont (H.S.) Sectional	10:39/10:48	_____
3rd place team from Lemont (H.S.) Sectional	10:57/11:06	_____
1-3 individuals from Lemont (H.S.) Sectional	11:15	_____
4-6 individuals from Lemont (H.S.) Sectional	11:24	_____
7-10 individuals from Lemont (H.S.) Sectional	11:33	_____



**Class 3A**

<b>Place</b>	<b>Tee Times</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Teeing off at hole #1</b>		
1st place team from Pekin Sectional	9:00/9:09	_____
2nd place team from Pekin Sectional	9:18/9:27	_____
3rd place team from Pekin Sectional	9:36/9:45	_____
1-3 individuals from Pekin Sectional	9:54	_____
4-6 individuals from Pekin Sectional	10:03	_____
7-10 individuals from Pekin Sectional	10:12	_____
1st place team from LaGrange (Lyons) Sectional	10:21/10:30	_____
2nd place team from LaGrange (Lyons) Sectional	10:39/10:48	_____
3rd place team from LaGrange (Lyons) Sectional	10:57/11:06	_____
1-3 individuals from LaGrange (Lyons) Sectional	11:15	_____
4-6 individuals from LaGrange (Lyons) Sectional	11:24	_____
7-10 individuals from LaGrange (Lyons) Sectional	11:33	_____
<b>Teeing off at hole #10</b>		
1st place team from Plainfield (North) Sectional	9:00/9:09	_____
2nd place team from Plainfield (North) Sectional	9:18/9:27	_____
3rd place team from Plainfield (North) Sectional	9:36/9:45	_____
1-3 individuals from Plainfield (North) Sectional	9:54	_____
4-6 individuals from Plainfield (North) Sectional	10:03	_____
7-10 individuals from Plainfield (North) Sectional	10:12	_____
1st place team from Mt. Prospect (Prospect) Sectional	10:21/10:30	_____
2nd place team from Mt. Prospect (Prospect) Sectional	10:39/10:48	_____
3rd place team from Mt. Prospect (Prospect) Sectional	10:57/11:06	_____
1-3 individuals from Mt. Prospect (Prospect) Sectional	11:15	_____
4-6 individuals from Mt. Prospect (Prospect) Sectional	11:24	_____
7-10 individuals from Mt. Prospect (Prospect) Sectional	11:33	_____



2023 IHSA BOYS/GIRLS STATE FINALS  
PRACTICE ROUNDS  
TEE-TIME CHANGE REQUEST FORM FROM:

\_\_\_\_\_

School Name	Sectional you played in
WHO ARE YOU CHANGING TEE TIMES WITH	

\_\_\_\_\_

School Name	Sectional they played in
-------------	--------------------------

Your New Tee-Time(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Their New Tee-Time(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND FAXED BY BOTH PARTIES TO THE RESPECTIVE GOLF COURSE NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023.

Boys Class 1A      Prairie Vista Golf Course  
Boys Class 2A      Weibring Golf Club at Illinois State University  
Boys Class 3A      The Den at Fox Creek Golf Course

Email Matt Kurtz: [mkurtz@cityblm.org](mailto:mkurtz@cityblm.org)  
Email: [weibringgolfclub@ilstu.edu](mailto:weibringgolfclub@ilstu.edu)  
Email Mike Aslinger: [maslinger@cityblm.org](mailto:maslinger@cityblm.org)

Girls Class A      Red Tail Run Golf Course  
Girls Class AA      Hickory Point Golf Course

Email Ben Irwin: [birwin@decparcs.com](mailto:birwin@decparcs.com)  
Email Andy Potts: [apotts@decparcs.com](mailto:apotts@decparcs.com)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Coaches Name (Please Print)**

# Boys and Girls Golf Spectator Behavior

**Background:** Over the past decade, high school golf in Illinois has become a more attended sporting activity. Possibly, the increase in the number of junior tournaments and satellite tours have helped spur the interest of parents, grandparents, other family members, and classmates in attending high school golf events to support their favorite participants. Having increased attendance is welcomed by event organizers, like high schools and the IHSA, and undoubtedly enjoyed by participants.

High school golf, though, is different from junior events and satellite tours. Like other high school athletic and activity events, high school programs are considered education-based, which implies that school personnel are working with young people in a setting that focuses more on participation and enjoyment of the activity than the outcome of a given performance. When the outcome of the performance becomes the primary focus, the value of the activity can easily be lost. In all education-based programs, like high school golf, the role of the spectator should be one of encouragement. As attendance at high school golf events has risen, so, too, has the 'involvement' of spectators, generally parents, during play. This increased involvement has, in some cases, negatively impacted the ability of the local high school coach to positively influence his/her players and created unnecessary situations on the course or scoring areas at high school events.

For years, the IHSA has made available to schools and the public a "Spectator Code of Conduct" that has outlined basic expectations for fans who attend high school golf events in Illinois. While the policy seemingly provides clear guidelines to fans, the IHSA Golf Advisory Committee commissioned the creation of this document to offer a 'deeper dive' into the allowable types of behaviors fans can demonstrate at high school golf events.

## *A look at the rules of Golf*

All high school golf events in Illinois follow United States Golf Association (USGA) rules. USGA Rule 10.2a addresses 'advice', and this is the key rule that fans need to be aware of when they attend a high school golf event. According to the USGA, advice is any verbal comment or action (such as showing what club was just used to make a stroke) that is intended to influence a player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play during a hole or round. In high school golf in Illinois, high school coaches are the only individuals who have been granted the authority to coach players during a round (in other words, "offer advice"), which is why the IHSA's Spectator Code of Conduct Policy stipulates, "There can be no communication between players and spectators that could be deemed advice of any nature for the duration of (the event)." Refraining, then, from making advice-like comments to a player has become the challenge for spectators, and for event organizers/rules committees, who are increasingly finding themselves trying to determine whether a spectator has offered advice during an event. The penalty for receiving 'illegal' advice is two strokes for a player, which is significant. The IHSA's Policy first warns an offender for this behavior but subsequently ejects the spectator for a repeated offense, which is also significant. As the USGA's definition points out, advice can be more than offering suggestions for the execution of a shot; it can also include making suggestions regarding rules and their application. Spectators who offer advice of any kind, no matter how well-intentioned their motives may be, are putting their player and themselves at unnecessary risk.

Golf is a unique (and challenging) game where participants can only rely on their execution and performance for their finish in an event, while acting as officials of sorts for themselves and other competitors in their group. And for high school students who are still learning about themselves as people and golfers, accepting that level of responsibility and dealing with the adversity that can occur during a round of golf, competitive or friendly, is hard, and watching someone you know struggle can also be hard, which may be the root of this increased type of behavior by spectators. From a golfer's perspective, a poor (whatever that may mean to the individual) performance is only a failure if the player doesn't learn from the experience and allowing players to struggle/lose/'fail' is perhaps the hardest lesson for spectators to learn.

### *Acceptable Spectator Behaviors*

- Clapping for a player after a good/great shot
- Cheering for a player after a good/great shot
- Assisting in the search for a lost ball
- Offering encouragement to players like:
  - “Hang in there”
  - “You’re okay”
  - “It’s alright”
  - “No problem...you’ve done this before.”
  - “Relax”
  - “Stay confident”
- Asking if a player needs any food/drink during a round
- Asking a player if he/she needs an umbrella or protective clothes when weather is inclement

NOTE: A school may ask/request/tell spectators that they do not want/allow spectators to interact at all with players during a high school golf event. This is a local determination, and if made, should be followed and respected by the spectators from that school, even though doing the highlighted items is not violating IHSA Policy.

### **Other Considerations**

When examining USGA rules and the IHSA Spectator Code of Conduct Policy, a few items jump out. First, both groups welcome spectator attendance at events. For too long, golfers played in anonymity, and having spectators does add to the experience. However, the most important thing for spectators to do is to stay out of the way, letting players play, letting coaches coach, and letting event organizers run the event according to the rules of competition for the event.

The IHSA Policy also does not allow for spectators to rent or use motorized carts during state series (regional, sectional, state finals) tournaments. The IHSA realizes this is not the approach that spectators likely encounter at regular season high school events, junior tournaments, or satellite tour competitions. The IHSA has set that policy after many discussions over the years with its membership. Generally, IHSA state series events are large in number, larger than other events, and it’s not realistic to think that all spectators who want a cart would be able to rent one. Additionally, even elite events restrict the number of carts on courses so as not to hinder the pace or integrity of play. ***The IHSA would encourage spectators who wish to follow specific players to stay in front of, not behind, the players.*** Staying a shot ahead helps the pace of play for all players. Staying even or behind players ultimately slows down play for following groups.

## Coaches Conduct

During all interscholastic contests, including the IHSA state series, the IHSA expects coaches to demonstrate proper etiquette at all times during play. The Rules provide a Committee with a means of disqualifying a coach and essentially an individual/team for a serious breach of etiquette. It should be noted that imposing such a penalty is a serious matter and truly requires a "pattern of behavior" on the part of the coach.

Most conduct-related issues at interscholastic contests involving coaches tend to revolve around situations where coaches allow their emotions to get the best of them. When this happens, misconduct like outbursts of emotion, use of profanity, arguing with a Rules or Games Committee member about a decision, displaying poor etiquette toward other players, coaches, and/or fans, or obvious violations of IHSA By-Laws or Terms and Conditions occur. In some cases, conduct-related issues can arise in a practice round.

The following are specific issues related to coaches' conduct that coaches must be familiar with:

- The rules committee/coaches have full authority to deal with conduct related issues.
- In cases where the coach loses his/her temper and is acting badly, the authority should approach the coach and ask him/her to regain his/her composure. It is not necessary to follow up with the IHSA on incidents of this type unless the coach is removed for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- In cases where the coach's behavior escalates to the point where the coach damages the golf course (or golf course property, e.g., a tee-marker) or is in a verbal confrontation with a committee member, club employee/member, tournament manager, the authority must approach the coach ask him/her to regain his/her composure and advise him/her that another similar episode will result in their removal from the round.
- In a case where the coach's behavior is so egregious that immediate disqualification may be warranted, the IHSA must be contacted via special report. In such cases the coach will be suspended from his/her school's next contest per by-law 6.012.
- In all cases when a coach is reported to the IHSA, the report will be followed up on by the administrator in charge of the boys or girls program. Additionally, the Athletic Director of the disqualified coach must be notified no later than the next day. It is the school's responsibility to impose the penalty associated with the by-law violation.

# **Boys and Girls Golf Coaches Code of Conduct**

## **I. Rationale**

Unlike many sports, golf is played without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other coaches and players and to abide by the rules. All coaches should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

If individuals consistently disregard the spirit of the game during a round of golf or over a period of time to the detriment of others, the rules and games committee will take the appropriate action against the offending spectator, player, coach, or school representative. The code of conduct is designed to protect the interest of the majority of the golfers who wish to play within the spirit of the game, within the rules of golf. In case of a serious breach of etiquette during the state tournament, a coach may be disqualified or a non-player may be removed from the course during the practice round and/or one or both days of the tournament.

## **II. Policy and Penalties**

1. For willful acts of defacing the golf course, club throwing or breaking, or abusive language, a team will be assessed a 2 stroke penalty to the team or individual they represent for the unsporting conduct of a coach.
2. For a second occurrence of unsporting conduct in the same day – the coach will be ejected for the day. The tournament manager must submit a “Special Report” to the IHSA. A link to the form can be found in the IHSA Schools Center. Per IHSA by-law 6.012 any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim.

## **III. Reporting Procedures**

### **A. Games Committee**

At the State Finals, a Games Committee will be appointed to oversee the code of conduct for coaches, spectators and participants. Coaches will report on the scorecard, code violations and alert the rules committee of the violation.

### **B. Procedures for Reporting a Code Violation**

It is the responsibility of all coaches of participating schools to monitor coach conduct. Any coach who personally observes a code of conduct violation may request the Games Committee. The Committee will give notice to the offending coach, assess the code of conduct penalty on the scorecard and follow up with a written notification of the incident to the rules committee/ tournament manager. Players and coaches will not have the right to appeal to the games committee for the first penalty levied.

Coaches will be allowed to appeal the second offense by submitting in writing an inquiry concerning the penalty. The inquiry must be submitted by the end of the same day of the incident. The coach appealing the second penalty will provide an explanation of the incident to the games committee. The decision of the committee is final.

# Boys and Girls Golf Participant Code of Conduct

## I. Rationale

Unlike many sports, golf is played without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The rules of golf anticipate honesty by competitors. Rule 1.2 specifies that players shall, “act with integrity, show(ing) consideration for others, tak(ing) good care of the course.” All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. In particular, players need to be mindful of their actions on the course so they avoid disconcerting, intimidating, or bothering others. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

If individuals consistently disregard the spirit of the game during a round of golf or over a period of time to the detriment of others, the rules and games committee will take the appropriate action against the offending spectator, player or school representative. The code of conduct is designed to protect the interest of the majority of the golfers who wish to play within the spirit of the game, within the rules of golf. As a result, players are subject to this policy and responsible for their conduct from the times they step on a golf course property until the time they leave the property. In case of a serious breach of etiquette during the state tournament, a player may be disqualified or a non-player may be removed from the course during the practice round and/or one or both days of the tournament.

## II. Policy and Penalties

1. For willful acts of defacing the golf course, club throwing or breaking, or abusive language, a player will be assessed a **2 stroke penalty** for unsporting conduct.
2. For a second occurrence of unsporting conduct in the same day – the player will be **disqualified and ejected** for the day. Head Coach must submit a “Special Report” to the IHSA. A link to the form can be found in the IHSA Schools Center.
3. For a third occurrence of unsporting conduct any time during the tournament day or days or a single act of gross misconduct, a **disqualification** from the contest will result and in accordance with IHSA by-laws, will be **ineligible** for the next interscholastic contest at that level. Head Coach must submit a “Special Report” to the IHSA. A link to the form can be found in the IHSA Schools Center.

## III. Reporting Procedures

### A. Games Committee

At the State Finals, a Games Committee will be appointed to oversee the code of conduct for spectators and participants. Coaches will report on the scorecard, code violations and alert the rules committee of the violation.

### B. Procedures for Reporting a Code Violation

It is the responsibility of all coaches of participating schools to monitor player conduct. Any coach who personally observes a code of conduct violation may invoke a code of conduct penalty. The coach will give notice to the offending player, assess the code of conduct penalty on the scorecard and follow up with a written notification of the incident to the rules committee. Players and coaches will not have the right to appeal to the games committee for the first penalty levied.

Players and coaches will be allowed to appeal the second offense by submitting in writing an inquiry concerning the penalty. The inquiry must be submitted by the end of the same day of the incident. The coach and player appealing the second penalty will provide an explanation of the incident to the games committee. The decision of the committee is final.



## IHSA Golf – Local Rule Adoptions for 2023

This guide features the most common situations a player will face on the golf course. It includes a simplified explanation for interpreting rules that can be confusing or difficult when a player is on the golf course. Keep a copy of this quick reference in golf bag.

### Areas of the Course

There are five areas of the course. Important to know where you are to get the correct ruling:

1. The teeing area (this is specific to the two-club length rectangular area from the tee markers in which you are playing from to start the hole)
2. Bunkers
3. Penalty Areas
4. Putting Green
5. The general area (covers the entire area of the course except the areas listed above).

DIAGRAM 2.2: DEFINED AREAS OF THE COURSE



### Penalty Areas (Yellow or Red)

If a player's ball is in a penalty area, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area even though not found, the player has these options.

- **Play the ball as it lies.** The player may choose to play the ball as it lies. The player may ground his/her club, take practice swings, and remove loose impediments in the penalty area – **NO PENALTY**
- (1) **Stroke-and-Distance Relief.** The player may play the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made – **STROKE AND DISTANCE**
  - (2) **Back-On-the-Line Relief.** The player may drop the original ball or another ball in a relief area that is based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area – **ADD 1 STROKE PENALTY**
  - (3) **Lateral Relief (Only for Red Penalty Area).** When the ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in this lateral relief area - **ADD 1 STROKE PENALTY**

DIAGRAM #1 17.1d: RELIEF FOR BALL IN YELLOW PENALTY AREA

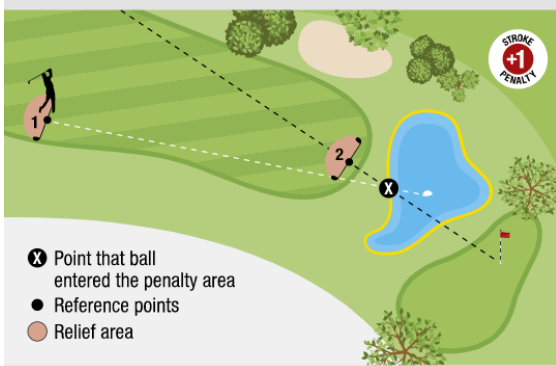
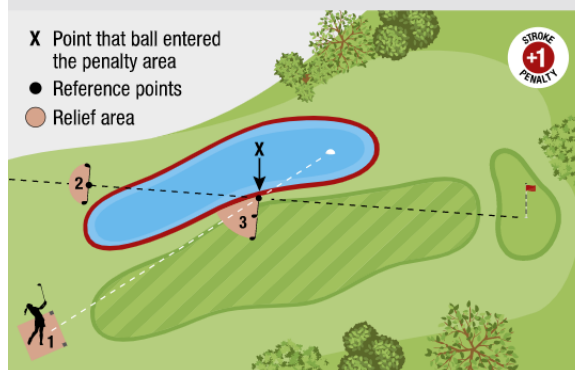


DIAGRAM #2 17.1d: RELIEF FOR BALL IN RED PENALTY AREA



### Lost Ball / Out of Bounds / Provisional Ball

**Lost Ball (Stroke and distance penalty)**

- A player has **3 minutes** to search for a Lost Ball. If not found within **3 minutes**
- Return and play another ball from the spot where the previous stroke was played...**STROKE AND DISTANCE.**

**Out of Bounds (Stroke and distance penalty)**

- Return and play another ball from the spot where the previous stroke was played...**STROKE AND DISTANCE.**

**Provisional Ball (Stroke and distance penalty)**

- May only be played if the player believes the original ball is lost or out of bounds.
- The player must announce a provisional is being played.
- If the original ball is found or is determined it is in a penalty area, the player **MUST** abandon the provisional ball and proceed under penalty area options.



## Unplayable Ball

A player is the only person who may decide to treat his or her ball as unplayable by taking relief. Unplayable ball relief is allowed anywhere on the course, except in a penalty area. A player may take unplayable ball relief using options 1, 2 or 3. There is one additional option when taking unplayable ball relief in a bunker.

- (1) **Stroke-and-Distance Relief.** The player may play the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made – **STROKE AND DISTANCE**
- (2) **Back-On-the-Line Relief.** The player may drop the original ball or another ball in a relief area that is based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball - **ADD 1 STROKE PENALTY**
- (3) **Lateral Relief.** A player may drop a ball in a designated two club relief area from the spot of the original ball - **ADD 1 STROKE PENALTY**
- (4) **Bunker Only –** The Player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker based on the reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball - **ADD 2 STROKE PENALTY**

DIAGRAM 19.2: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN GENERAL AREA

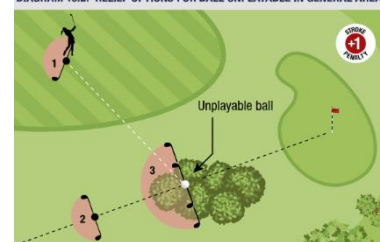


DIAGRAM 19.3: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN BUNKER



## OTHER SITUATIONS

### Dropping the ball

- When dropping the ball, a player must drop the ball at knee height.
- If dropped incorrectly and before playing the next stroke, a player may re-drop (to drop in the right way) with no penalty.

**Free Relief Situations** A golfer is allowed a free drop, within the designated relief area:

- The ball comes to rest on or in an abnormal course condition or the player is standing on or in an abnormal course condition or the abnormal course condition interferes with the player's area of intended swing. (Examples include: cart paths, any immovable obstruction, temporary water, or GUR)
- A staked tree interferes with the lie of the ball, player's stance, or area of intended swing.
- The ball becomes embedded in its own pitch-mark anywhere within the general area. A ball must be dropped in a designated relief area right behind where the ball is embedded. (The General Area includes fairways and rough)
- The ball comes to rest on the wrong putting green.
- A golfer is in any kind of life-threatening situation (i.e. snakes, alligators, wild dogs...)

**No Relief Situations** The golfer must play the ball as it lies ...or take a penalty stroke for an unplayable lie when:

- The ball lies next to a fence, wall or stake that defines the out-of-bounds area.
- The ball lies next to trees or bushes that inhibit golfer's swing.

### Other Situations

- A golfer knocks ball off tee at address...**NO PENALTY** (ball not in play).
- A golfer is allowed to remove a **RED** or **YELLOW** stake that impairs the swing or stance, provided the golfer does not move the ball.
- If the ball lands on an opposite tee box, a player **MUST** play the ball as it lies...**NO PENALTY**.
- When the ball is overhanging the hole, a player is allowed reasonable time to reach the hole and then up to 10 seconds to determine if the ball is at rest before marking the ball or tapping in.
- If a ball lands on a divot or in a divot hole, the player must play the ball as it lies.
- If a player hits the ball of another golfer (the wrong ball), that player must correct his mistake by going back and playing his ball from the correct location, adding a **2 STROKE PENALTY**.

## Player's Responsibilities for an IHSA State Series Tournament

1. Know the USGA Rules of Golf and proper etiquette. Keep a current USGA Rule Book in your golf bag. Players should also be familiar with the local rules of the regional, sectional or state final course.
2. Players should check in with the starter approximately 15 minutes early and appear promptly when announced, ready to play.
3. Players should check their scorecard for hole by hole accuracy before attesting and signing. In accordance with USGA Rule 3.3b, a player is only responsible for his/her hole by hole score.
4. Players are responsible to make sure that a fully completed, attested scorecard is given to the scorekeeper as soon as possible.
5. Players should play as quickly as possible and without undue delay between shots, green and tees.
6. Players should keep up with the group ahead of them.
7. Players should play only if they are prepared to play the game and series to its full conclusions.
8. Players should know and abide by the IHSA Player Code of Conduct.

## Boys Golf Map & Directions

Log on to [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org) and select Boys Golf.

In the center of the page you will find each tournament listed with the corresponding golf site. To the right of the golf State Final site you want, click on the *directions to site*.

As you look at the map you will see a Satellite key, select this key to see the hole by hole view of the golf course.

Enter you zip code for driving directions from your city to the State Final site.

# School Information Form

Please fill out the following information and fax (309-663-7470) or email it to Emma Carstens ([ecarstens@ihsa.org](mailto:ecarstens@ihsa.org)) by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

Class 1A \_\_\_\_\_

Class 2A \_\_\_\_\_

Class 3A \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one.

School \_\_\_\_\_

Head Coach's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Head Coach's Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Coach's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Coach's Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director's Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\*Must be listed on the List of Participants