



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

TOURNAMENT SERIES RULES

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf of the United States Golf Association (USGA), and where applicable, by the following Local Rules, Conditions and Definitions. Appendix I refers to the Appendix of Local Rules, conditions of competition in the USGA Rules of Golf booklet. Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of Local Rule is: Stroke Play – Two (2) Strokes.

- SUSPENSION OF PLAY FOR A DANGEROUS SITUATION:** When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, i.e.: lightning, tornado, etc., if the players in a match or group are between the 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. All practice areas shall be closed during a suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open for use. *One long horn blast - Discontinue Play Immediately. Three short horn blasts - Players may finish the hole they are currently playing.*
- PACE OF PLAY:** (Rule 5.6 – Undue Delay) A player shall be subject to penalty if he unduly delays play. Out of Position Defined – A group is deemed out of position when starting play of any hole which is clear of all players. Undue Delay Defined – A player who is out of position shall be subject to penalty, if during the round, to play a stroke he takes 40 seconds or more. Exception – An additional 10 seconds will be allowed for the player who is first to play from the teeing ground. Time begins when it is a player's turn to play. Players are expected to be ready to play when it is their turn. Excessive pacing or indecision constitutes "Undue Delay."
- OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by inside edge of white stakes, white lines and/or property fence posts at ground level. When present white lines take precedence and the line itself is out of bounds.
- GROUND UNDER REPAIR:**
 - Areas defined by white lines.
 - French drains which are exposed trenches, filled with rocks or stones.
 - Newly trenched areas and seams of cut turf. Relief is for lie of ball only.
- ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS & PATHS:** Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths are obstructions. White lined areas tying into roads and paths have the same status as the roads or paths and thus they are a part of the obstruction. Wood chip, gravel or mulch paths are obstructions, however, individual pieces of wood chips, gravel or mulch paths are loose impediments when the ball is played as it lies.
- INTREGAL OBJECTS:** Includes (a) wrappings, wires and cables when closely attached to objects, (b) artificial walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas or within and/or used to define the margin of bunkers. **NO RELIEF**
- RED AND YELLOW PENALTY AREAS:** When both stakes and lines are present, stakes identify the penalty area and lines define the penalty area. When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity.
- STAKED TREES:** If lie of ball, stance and/or area of intended swing is interfered with by the stake attached to a tree, the stake and/or rope/wire is treated as an immovable obstruction. Relief without penalty from the tree itself is not permitted.
- PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES AND CABLES:** If a ball strikes the power line, the stroke is canceled and the player **MUST** play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played. Another ball may be substituted.
- MOBILE PHONE POLICY:** The use of a mobile phone is permitted for official or unofficial scoring during a round. Additionally, the use of a mobile phone to contact a rules official, report an emergency, or for any weather issues is permitted during a round. A player may also use a mobile phone to access and utilize USGA approved yardage apps. Any other use of a mobile phone is **NOT** permitted. *First violation is 2-stroke penalty, Second violation is disqualification.*
- COACHING (NEW):** During competition, two identifiable coaches from each team may give advice to their players. The coaches must cease giving advice when their player steps onto the putting surface with the intention of marking or putting a golf ball that has come to rest on the putting surface. A coach may **NEVER** help a player read the line of a putt struck from the putting surface. This includes prior to the ball being marked while resting on the green. The penalty for a coach or non-appointed individual giving advice will be a warning for the first offense and a (2-stroke) penalty for each subsequent offense for the golfer. Coaches are not permitted on the green unless there is a rules question from a golfer in the group. Coaches are deemed outside agencies at all times. Therefore, there is no penalty if the coach or their cart are hit by a ball in motion. Additionally, when a player begins taking a stance and until the stroke is made, the coach or advice giver must not deliberately stand in a location on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the ball for any reason. *This would also result in a 2-stroke penalty per incident.*
- DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES:** In competition, 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 play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3. *Penalty– 2 strokes for first breach, Disqualification for subsequent or multiple breaches.*
- IPODS, MP3 PLAYERS & LIKE ITEMS:** These items are not permitted for any reason during the stipulated round. The wearing of headphones is also prohibited. *First violation is 2 Strokes, Second violation is disqualification.*
- BROKEN OR DAMAGED CLUBS:** Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged – Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect. The purpose of this local rule, the club is "broken or significantly damaged" when the (a.) shaft breaks into pieces, splinters, dents, bent, or (b.) club face impact area is visibly cracked or deformed, including when it has a chip or minor dent but not when the clubface is only scratched, or (c.) club head is visibly cracked or deformed, but not when scratched, chipped or has a minor dent or (d.) club head is detached or loose from the shaft, or (e.) the grip or part of the grip is loose.
- RETURNING SCORECARDS:** For Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect and Rule 3.3b(2) is modified as follows: If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes). For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a competitor is considered to have returned his scorecard when the player has left the designated scoring area.
- PLAYER CONDUCT:** The use of profanity and club tossing/throwing is strictly prohibited. This includes any damage to the golf course, whether or not repaired, and other's property. The Local Committee may determine the severity of misconduct and issue a warning for the first offense if deemed necessary. *Otherwise, the penalty for breach of first offense is 2 strokes.* The Committee may disqualify a player for serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game. When deciding whether a player is guilty of serious misconduct, the Committee should consider whether the player's action was intentional and whether the act was significant enough to warrant disqualification.
- PRACTICE BEFORE OR BETWEEN ROUNDS:** Model Local Rule I-1 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course but may practice on the designated practice areas on the day of competition or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule: *First Breach: 2 Shot Penalty, Second Breach: Disqualification.*
- RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION:** When all scores have been posted on the Official Scoreboard and approved by the Rules Committee, the result of the competition shall be deemed to have been officially announced. In the event of a playoff, the competition shall be deemed to have closed when the playoff scores have been approved by the Rules Committee.