

2024 Boys' State "AA" Golf Tournament

Cattail Crossing Golf Course, Watertown – October 7 & 8

General Tournament Information

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS:

Randy Soma, Assistant Executive Director, SDHSAA
Craig Boyens, Athletic Director, Watertown High School

HOST COURSE:

Cattail Crossing Golf Course - Levi Pearson, Head Pro
351 S Lake Drive
Watertown, S.D. 57201
605.882.6262

PRACTICE ROUNDS & RANGE:

For information on practice rounds and range availability, please contact Cattail Crossing Golf Course directly.

Tournament Course:

Front 9: Yellow Course
Back 9: Red Course

No play will be allowed on the Championship course by participants or coaches outside of SDHSAA Tournament Play beginning at 12:01 AM on the Monday of competition through the completion of the tournament.

Practice rounds are available all day on Sunday October 1st, coaches can reserve times by calling the pro shop or emailing me directly lpearson@cattailcrossinggc.com. The tee sheet opens to the public 7 days in advance so I would encourage getting times booked early to ensure getting their desired time. Cost is \$20.00 per player to walk or \$40.00 per player to ride. A driving range token will be provided prior to playing on Sunday for participating players. If teams choose to use carts, each cart driver has to be 16 years old and have a valid driver's license.

INFORMATION PACKETS:

Information including starting times, pairings and marker assignments will be made available to participating teams during the day on Sunday at the course. Coaches may pick up that information anytime on Sunday.

Please note that pairings and tee times for Monday will be posted on the SDHSAA website following the conclusion of all of the submission of season-long averages from Class 'AA' Coaches.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT:

The tournament will be a two-day, 36-hole event. Each contestant is scheduled to play 18 holes each Monday and Tuesday.

The Individual Championship places will be determined by individual, two-day combined scores.

The Team Championship places will be determined based on the four, low aggregate scores for each round of play that is completed. Only schools that have qualified for the State Meet as a team will be eligible for Team Championship placing.

ENTRIES

Entries must be completed by Monday, September 30 at Noon. The online entry form can be found on Varsity Bound on the SDHSAA website.

PAIRINGS & STARTING TIMES:

Class “AA” – Class ‘AA’ Golfers will be selected to participate at the State Meet based upon season-long averages. Teams may enter up to six golfers to the State Tournament, provided that their golfers have an average that is less than or equal to the standard as determined by previous years’ results. Player’s averages will be calculated by an average 18-hole score from any meet where four or more golf teams are present; scores must be reported following meets to the State Office. Decimal points will be “dropped” – Example: any figure from 95.0-95.9 will equal an average of 95 for that player.

For 2022-23 and beyond: The averages from 2021-22 will be used to determine a “75th percentile” of the top six varsity golfers from all AA teams. That average will be used to replace the average from the “oldest” State Tournament used to calculate player averages for qualifying. This process will continue in perpetuity, such that in future years, State Tournament results will not be considered, but rather, data from regular season meets will create the qualifying score.

For Boys, the qualifying average score is 93.

Day One (9:00 Tee Off) - Class ‘AA’: Golfers will be paired in team waves according to team average. The team average is calculated by adding the regular season 18-hole averages of each school’s top four State Tournament entrants. The four top team’s golfers will be paired together, the next four top team’s golfers together and so on. If a school has three or fewer entrants, those athletes will be placed after all teams with four or more entrants. **Coaches are allowed the discretion on placement of players on Day 1 only of the state tournament for Class AA.** On **Day One**, the best four teams will have the first set of tee times off of Hole #1, with the next four best comprising the next set of groups off of #1 and so on, with the highest team average scores being assigned the final times off of Hole #10. On **Day Two**, the process will be reversed, with the four best team scores being the last to tee off of Hole #1 and the worst the last off of Hole #10. Further, the next eight golfers (max. of two per team) with the best individual scores from Day One not on one of the top four teams will be placed near the leaders in pairings for Day Two by SDHSAA Staff.

Day Two (9:00 Tee Off) – A modified format will be used as follows:

Day Two Pairings:		
Hole One		Hole Ten
9:00 AM – 9:50 AM	Teams 5-8, Remaining Golfers	9:00 AM – Finish Teams 9-18, Golfers 1-6
10:00 AM – 10:40 AM	Teams 1-4, Remaining Golfers	
10:50 AM (or best fit)	Next Four best Individuals, Teams 5-18 or Teams 1-4 Golfers #2 or #3 (based on lowest individual score)	
11:00 AM (or best fit)	Four best Individuals, Teams 5-18 or Teams 1-4 Golfer #2 (based on lowest individual score)	
11:10 AM	Teams 1-4, Golfer #1	

DRESS CODE:

Participants are not required to dress in ‘team uniform’ or ‘color,’ but are expected to adhere to general golf dress code and etiquette, including:

- Shirts must have a collar and be tucked in
 - Mock Crew-Neck style shirts are acceptable
 - Sweatshirts worn must be worn over a collared shirt or mock-crew neck shirt
 - Hats, if worn, must be worn with the bill facing forward
 - Soft-spikes or spike-less shoes are permitted; metal spikes are not
 - Adjustments due to weather conditions may be permitted
 - **NEW 2015:** When shorts are worn, they should be long enough so that when a golfer is standing erect with arms to his or her side, the shorts reach the end of the finger tips; additionally, shorts, if worn, should not be mesh, nylon jogging or basketball athletic-style shorts
- Any violation of the dress code, which will be enforced throughout play, may result in disqualification.

GROUP MARKERS:

Each playing pairing will be assigned a “Group Marker” by Tournament Management to keep score and monitor playing etiquette. Each school is responsible for providing one individual as a marker, with the additional being provided by the host school. Markers will not be assigned a group that includes players from their own school.

Note: The Marker does NOT have the official card, but is only there to help facilitate score keeping among the playing partners in a group. Players are to exchange among athletes in each threesome/foursome so that no two athletes have one another’s card but each individual is responsible for someone else’s score. This marker is not to make rulings, but simply ensure that verbal confirmation of scores is completed after each hole among the players and then facilitate discussions for recounting strokes on a hole if necessary and/or if a marker’s tally for a player does not match the agreed upon tally of the group.

ON-COURSE COACHING:

1. **New 2022:** All Classes – **Clarification:** Coaches are able to coach their players anywhere, except on the greens. This would include the teeing area and those areas already

allowable, along with being allowed to coach players until their players is physically on the putting green. A two-stroke penalty will be assessed for each violation.

New 2020: Two designated coaches per participating school will be allowed to confer with his or her athletes from “tee to green” as described herein, provided they have completed their coaches’ education and are provided a badge by SDHSAA staff:

Golf is a game of honesty, integrity and honor. To this extent, the following guidelines have been established to allow one school coach from each school to coach/communicate with their golfers from the tee to the green. Coaching/Communicating with a golfer should in no way hinder the pace of play.

COACHES MAY:

- *Coach/Communicate with their golfer after all golfers in the group have teed off and until all golf balls have arrived on the green.*
- *Coaches may communicate with their golfers once all have holed out on a green.*
- *Coach/Communicate with their golfers on such matters as club selection, wind direction, hole-strategy, swing adjustments, and mental adjustments.*
- *Assist all golfers in looking for golf balls that have not been located.*
- *Use a range finder during play.*

NOTE: Prior to any stroke, the coach must be at least five yards away from their golfer.

COACHES MAY NOT:

- *Coach/Communicate with their golfer once all golf balls from the group have arrived on the green. During this period of play, coaches will take on the same role as a spectator, maintaining a distance of 30 yards from all golfers.*
- *Make rulings on matters of play that are the responsibility of the golfers, meet director, tournament committee or rules officials.*
- *Be on the green at any time.*
- *Read putts for their golfers.*
- *Coach a golfer from another school.*
- *Caddy for their golfer.*
- *Keep the official scorecard for their golfer.*
- *Use electronic communication devices to coach during competition.*
- *Use a teaching aid or technology on the course.*

Any attempt by a non-designated individual to coach/confer at any point of the round, or by the designated individual at any point other than “tee to green” will be considered a violation and enforced as follows:

- *Scoring penalty, per instance, of two strokes per USGA Rule 8*
- *Revocation of the coaching badge and “green to tee” privilege for remainder of tournament*
- *Continued violations of this rule after the revocation of the coaching badge shall lead to immediate disqualification of the coach and athlete(s) in question from the event*

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

The use of electronic measuring devices is to be allowed for all regular-season and post-season play beginning with the Fall 2015 Season, to bring SDHSAA Golf in line with USGA Rule Book

as depicted in Rules 14-3 and Appendix IV. Devices such as smart phones, PDAs or other communication devices remain banned on the course.

Under the USGA Rules of Golf, 'Distance Measuring Devices' include range finders such as the Bushnell units, laser devices such as Laser Link and GPS-based systems such as Bushnell, SkyCaddie, Callaway or Garmin. Any stand-alone device of any of these types is permitted under the Local Rule adopted by the SDHSAA as long as it meets all other USGA criteria. Cell Phones, Smart Phones or other similar communication tools may not be utilized as a distance-measuring device in any stipulated round during the high school season.

The use of a distance-measuring device has been approved for use during the SDHSAA Golf Season, however, said devices DO NOT include a cell phone, smart phone or any other device that is also used for communication purposes. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his or her play (i.e.: slope, wind speed, temperature, etc.) or a communication tool, the player is in breach of USGA Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function was actually used.

Furthermore, players may share either the distance-measuring device or its information and doing so is not a violation of USGA Decision 8-1/2 on advice. Distance is a matter of public information and not advice.

(New 2022) - Clarification on what electronic devices are permitted - Bluetooth headphones/earbuds have been added to the list of prohibited devices while in competition.

GALLERIES:

Spectators are permitted on the course, and are to follow the direction of the Group Marker. Spectators are to remain behind the players and Group Marker at all times.

MOTORIZED VEHICLES:

The use of carts by spectators is permitted only for serious medical conditions. No motorized carts are permitted without expressed, written permission from the SDHSAA Office for a parents/fans who submits a written request from a medical doctor certifying a permanent disability or chronic medical/physical condition. A request for use of the cart must come from the school administration. The SDHSAA Staff will verify those granted carts by the Friday before the state tournament on a first come first serve basis and the number of carts available from the course once workers carts have been established. **No outside carts being brought in are allowed.**

NOTE: Spectator Carts must remain on paths only for the duration of the tournament. Only the marker cart and carts for meet officials may venture off of the paths during tournament play!

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Participants may be disqualified from the event for reasons including signing an incorrect score card, missing their assigned tee time, or other USGA/SDHSAA rules violations. Golfers

disqualified during opening-round play may be allowed to compete on the second day. For pairing information for disqualified golfers, please see the SDHSAA handbook.

TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE:

In the event of a tie for first in the individual championship, those golfers who are tied shall play a 'sudden death' playoff to determine final places. Holes are to be determined by meet management, including the on-site Golf Professional.

In the event of a tie for first place in the team championship, all members of the teams involved in the tie shall participate in a 'sudden death' playoff, as described in the SDHSAA handbook. All other ties will remain tied.

LIVE SCORING:

All SDHSAA Golf Tournaments will feature Live Scoring through the Golf Genius online scoring service. A link to this scoring feature can be found at sdpb.org/golf.

GROUND RULES:

A copy of local ground rules, including special situations, will be included with each team's informational packet. Summer rules are to prevail during tournament play, however the tournament director or course pro reserve the right to alter those rules due to weather conditions.

STATE TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS (Handbook)

Practice Rounds

Host school golf courses and the SDHSAA will coordinate practice rounds preceding the State Golf Tournaments. Times for practice and green fees will be sent to the schools during their golf seasons.

B. Thirty-six Holes of Play

The State Tournament shall consist of 36 holes of medal play. Each contestant shall play 18 holes the first day of the tournament and 18 holes the second day.

C. Entries & Substitutions

Class AA – Schools must submit their State Tournament entries on Bound within the SDHSAA website no later than 12:00 Noon on the final day for completion of Region Tournaments (as listed first page in this document). Changes and/or substitutions will be allowed until 4:00 PM on the Thursday prior to the State Tournament. Between 4:00 PM Thursday and the first ball being struck of the State Meet, substitutions will be allowed only for documented medical or disciplinary reasons. After the first ball is struck, no substitutions will be allowed for any reason.

D. School Official to Accompany Entrants to State Meet

All students participating in the State Tournament must be accompanied by their coach. In cases of emergency, the students may be accompanied by an administratively authorized and approved individual. The authorized and approved individual may be a parent of one

of the golfers in the tournament. Written notification must be supplied to the SDHSAA office prior to the State Tournament if the coach is not going to accompany his/her athletes to the State Tournament. It must be understood, that the person accompanying the golfers will be expected to be a marker during the tournament. The use of a parent should be only in cases of extreme emergency. Students not accompanied by their coach or administratively authorized individual will be prohibited from participating.

E. Starting Times

Starting times will be announced prior to each tournament. The Club Pro and Meet Director will determine a logical time for starting based on course conditions. It is expected that all coaches/markers will be at the course approximately one-half hour prior to the starting time on the opening day of the tournament for explanation of course rules and procedures.

Players are expected to report to their assigned tee (1 or 10) for their assigned starting time. Those not present at the tee at the assigned time will be assessed a two-stroke penalty on the first hole played. Those failing to report to assigned tee within five minutes of their assigned or called time will be disqualified (USGA Rule 6-3 Note).

F. Summer Rules

Summer rules will be used unless the local director and the course pro decide otherwise. If summer rules cannot be used, the local director and course pro will decide if the ball can be adjusted by the rule of pick, clean and place. Ball movement will be limited to the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole and the ball must be in the golfer's own fairway.

G. Suspension of Play

Play may be reduced to less than two 18-hole rounds but no fewer than 18 holes total. The decision of suspended/canceled play at the state level rests with the meet manager, club pro/director and the SDHSAA staff member at the tournament site. If the committee considers for any reason the course is not in playable condition or there are circumstances that render the proper playing of game impossible (rain, lightning, etc.) a temporary suspension of play may be ordered or the committee may declare play null and void and cancel all scores for the round in question. When a round is canceled, all penalties incurred in that round, other than unsportsmanlike conduct, are canceled. (USGA Rule 33-2d)

H. Determination of Individual Champion

The individual championship shall be determined on the basis of the low aggregate score for the 36 holes of play.

The top twenty-five individual place winners in all classes will receive medals. There will be no playoffs for any position except for first place.

If a tie exists for the individual champion, the local course pro, Tournament Director and present SDHSAA Executive Staff will confer to determine a rotation of playoff holes to be

played in succession to break the tie. All tied golfers will advance to a “sudden death” format and play head-to-head until the tie is broken.

I. Determination of Team Champions

Team championships shall be determined on the basis of the four low scores each day from an “A” & “AA” school that qualified for the State Tournament as a team and on the basis of the three low scores each day from a “B” school that qualified for the State Tournament as a team. There will be no playoffs for any position except for first place.

If a tie exists for the Team Champion, the local course pro, Tournament Director and present SDHSAA Executive Staff will confer to determine a rotation of playoff holes to be played in succession to break the tie. All members of each team will participate in the playoff, with a “sudden death” format and play head-to-head until the tie is broken.

Method of playing off team ties.

If both teams have 6 members - flights of 4-4-4

If both teams have 5 members - flights of 2-4-4

If one 6 and one 5 member team-flights of 3-4-4

If both teams have 4 members - flights of 4-4

If one 5 and one 4 member teams-flights of 2-4-3

If one 4 and one 3 member teams-flights of 4-3

If both teams have 3 members - flights of 2-4

Four low scores for Class “A” & “AA” and three low scores for Class “B” are to be counted after each hole. If the teams remain tied, play will continue on to further holes until the tie is broken.

Ties for any other team position will not involve any additional play or scorecard playoffs. Teams who are tied will remain tied and receive plaques/medals reflecting a tie for that given position.

J. School Official to be Assigned as Group Marker

A Group Marker will be assigned by the Tournament management to accompany a foursome for the purpose of monitoring conduct and to assist in tracking player scores. For Class “B” Golf, a school qualifying both girls and boys entrants to the State Tournament may be asked to provide two people for marking purposes and at least one of these persons must be a school official. Each competing school must provide one school official (generally the coach) for this purpose. Markers will not be assigned to a group including players from their own school.

NOTE: Any school that fails to provide a marker as required loses its ability to have a designated coach able to confer with athletes during the round.

MARKER GUIDELINES

1. Monitoring Conduct - Marker guidelines for inappropriate behavior by contestants that include such things as profanity, physical damage to the course, etc. The penalty and infractions are:

- a. On the #1 Box (or starting hole) a reminder is given to each golfer about proper behavior and conduct. This serves as a warning.
- b. First Infraction - 2 stroke penalty
- c. Second Infraction - Disqualification

NOTE: Penalties do not carry over from day to day.

2. Monitor uniform infractions.
3. Assist Players in Keeping Score, confirming verbally with each player after each hole what they shot
4. Don't visit
5. Don't offer or give advice
6. Don't make rulings
7. For any question about procedure, have them play two balls.
8. Pace of play should be without undue delay. Keep individual and group play moving. Try to keep the group within one shot of the group playing ahead of them.
 - a. If a group falls a hole behind, the Marshall has the option to time the group and penalize if necessary.

K. Course Officials to Make Rulings

Dependent on the layout of the golf course, each of the tournament managers shall appoint and identify certain people to spend time at designated positions on the course so as to be available for making a ruling. It would be appreciated if one of these officials is the host club pro. The SDGA has agreed to provide certified club pros for each of the state tournaments.

L. Appeals Committee

At each state tournament an appeals committee will be established to make decisions for items that may arise during the tournament. The committee is comprised of the meet director, SDGA Course Officials/Pros and SDHSAA Staff.

M. Playing Procedure

No entrant shall play on the course the day of the tournament prior to the championship flight or at the conclusion of the first day's competition. All championship flight scores shall be attested to by entrants from some other school playing with the contestant. No player or team shall play in a championship flight unless accompanied by a player from another school. No cell phones or other communication devices are allowed by players on the course. If such devices are discovered it will result in disqualification.

N. Pairing of Golfers (Updated 2020)

Pairing of golfers as to threesomes or foursomes will be decided by the state meet director or his designee. No teammates shall be paired with one another during either day of competition at the State Tournament.

Class 'AA': Golfers will be paired in team waves according to team average. The team average is calculated by adding the regular season 18-hole averages of each school's top four State Tournament entrants. The four top team's golfers will be paired together, the next four top team's golfers together and so on. If a school has three or fewer entrants, those athletes will be placed after all teams with four or more entrants. **Coaches are allowed the discretion on placement of players on Day 1 only of the state tournament for Class AA.** On **Day One**, the best four teams will have the first set of tee times off of Hole #1, with the next four best comprising the next set of groups off of #1 and so on, with the highest team average scores being assigned the final times off of Hole #10. On **Day Two**, the process will be reversed, with the four best team scores being the last to tee off of Hole #1 and the worst the last off of Hole #10. Further, the next eight golfers (max. of two per team) with the best individual scores from Day One not on one of the top four teams will be placed near the leaders in pairings for Day Two by SDHSAA Staff.

O. Disqualified Golfer(s)

A golfer who is disqualified during region play because of a rule infraction NOT involving unsportsmanlike conduct shall be allowed to play in the state tournament should his/her team qualify by placing first or second (class B) or first, second or third (class A) at the region tournament.

A golfer who is disqualified during play the first day of the state tournament because of a rule infraction NOT involving unsportsmanlike conduct shall be allowed to play on the second day. The disqualified player will be seeded in the foursome where their first day score would have placed them. Exception: If the score would place them in the top 20 (Class A and AA)/top 25 (Class B) they will be placed as the 21st golfer (Class A and AA)/26th golfer (Class B).

P. Galleries

Spectators will be permitted to follow the golfers and are to be monitored by the Group Marker. Other than obvious questions such as score check, spectators should not visit with the marker. Spectators are not permitted to talk to the golfers. The use of carts by spectators is permitted only for serious medical conditions. Due to significant abuse of previous policies, the practice of carts being given to spectators has been further revised. Individuals with a disability that would like to request the use of a cart may do so through their local school administration prior to the tournament. Carts will be provided, for a fee, to individuals who have both had a request submitted in advance and are in possession of

either a current handicap parking hang-tag or license plate in their name on a first-request, first-serve basis, with no guarantee that carts will be available. All carts used by spectators must be paid for at the rate established by the local golf course.

Spectators must remain behind the Marker. A suggested distance in most cases would be 15-20 yards.

Meet directors are to have gallery guidelines printed and available at the club house for individuals following a golfer(s).

Q. Media Policy

1. Rules for Cameras

- a. Be non-obstructive - stay back out of immediate sight. Keep a discrete distance or far enough away where camera noise or out of the ordinary situations are not set up, which could distract or annoy all golfers in the immediate area.
- b. Use zoom or telephoto lenses if possible.
- c. No strobe or flash attachments.
- d. Do not create situations where you hold up play.
- e. Be aware of all golfers in the immediate area.
 - 1) Do not cut across fairways when golfers are hitting.
 - 2) Stay off to the side of tees and greens.
- f. No interviews until completion of days' competition.
- g. Check in with the tournament director or the SDHSAA representative.
- h. Come through the main gate

R. Uniforms

Refer to RULES OF COMPETITION, page 3, Section E.

S. Competitor Carts – Caddies

No caddies are permitted.

Regarding carts:

For players: No motorized carts are permitted without expressed, written permission from the SDHSAA Office for a student athlete who submits a written request from a medical doctor certifying a permanent disability or chronic medical/physical condition which prevents them from walking 18 holes of golf. Violation of this rule results in disqualification of the competitor(s). Competitors can use a non-motorized pull- or push-cart without restriction.

For parents and galleries at state: The use of carts by spectators is permitted only for those individuals with a permanent or temporary handicap parking permit issued in their name. Schools may submit requests for handicap parking individuals to receive a motorized cart at the State Meet in advance. Doctor's notes or other documentation will not be

sufficient for the ability to rent or use a motorized cart. Personal, privately-owned carts are not to be used during championship play.

For Coaches: No carts shall be issued to coaches unless similarly requested due to permanent disability or chronic medical/physical condition.

T. Awards

At the State Tournament medals and trophies will be provided by the SDHSAA. The top 25 individuals and top six teams in each class will receive awards.

U. Golf Coaches Meeting

A golf coaches meeting conducted by the Golf Coaches' Association will be held at the site of each State Tournament. Coaches are asked to make recommendations for the golf program.