

# GOLF

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# GOLF

## IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

BOYS A/AA FALL GOLF	Week/Day	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
First Allowable Practice	Monday, Week 6	August 12	August 11	August 10
First Allowable Contest	Saturday, Week 6	August 17	August 16	August 15
Golf Schedules	Monday, Week 6 (Fall) Monday, Week 39 (Spring)	August 17 March 31	August 16 March 30	August 15 March 29
Coaches Education Classes Completed	Monday, Week 6 (Fall) Monday, Week 39 (Spring)	August 17 March 31	August 16 March 30	August 16 March 29
Region Meet Completed by	Monday, Week 13	September 30	September 29	September 28
State Meet/Season Ends	Mon/Tues, Week 14	October 7-8	October 6-7	October 5-6
Summer Moratorium		July 1-7	July 1-7	July 1-7
Winter Moratorium		December 23-26	December 23-26	December 23-26

GIRLS AA/A/B & BOYS B SPRING GOLF	Week/Day	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
First Allowable Practice	Monday, Week 39	March 31	March 30	March 30
First Allowable Contest	Friday, Week 40	April 11	April 10	April 9
Region Meet Completed by	Tuesday, Week 47	Rollback Year May 27	May 26	May 25
State Meet/Season Ends	Monday & Tuesday, Week 48	Rollback Year June 2-3	June 1-2	June 7-8
Summer Moratorium		July 1-7	July 1-7	July 1-7
Winter Moratorium		December 23-26	December 23-26	December 23-26

**2015-16 and beyond Spring Dates are adjusted per Board of Directors action (April 2014).** Specifically, the approval of the following verbiage: *The SDHSAA Golf Advisory Committee recommends a change to the dates of the Spring Golf Season to ensure an equitable season can be had by participants in comparison to the fall season. Specifically, the Golf Advisory Committee recommends changing the date of the Spring State Golf Tournaments to the Monday & Tuesday of Week 48 of the NFHS Calendar. If Memorial Day falls on the Monday of Week 48, Tournaments will be held on the Monday & Tuesday of Week 49 OR Wednesday & Thursday of Week 48. Region completion dates would be similarly adjusted.*

### STATE MEET DATES AND SITES

Date	Boys 'AA'	Boys 'A'
October 7-8, 2024	Watertown Cattail Crossing	Hartford Central Valley GC
October 6-7, 2025	Rapid City Meadowbrook	Vermillion The Bluffs
October 5-6, 2026	TBD	TBD

Date	Girls 'AA'	Girls 'A'	Combined 'B'
June 2-3, 2025	Sioux Falls Prairie Green GC	Madison Madison CC	Boys – Watertown – Cattail Crossing Girls – Watertown – Prairie Winds
June 1-2, 2026	Watertown	TBD	TBD
June 7-8, 2027	TBD	TBD	Boys – Yankton – Hillcrest Girls – Yankton – Fox Run

## CLASSIFICATION

### A. CLASS "AA"

Schools with ADM's (9-11) of 450.000 and larger

### B. CLASS "A"

Schools with ADM's (9-11) of 140.000 to 449.999

### C. CLASS "B"

Schools with ADM's (9-11) of 139.999 and below.

**Schools not listed/assigned to a region and planning to enter region competition MUST contact the SDHSAA office no later than Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> (fall) or April 30<sup>th</sup> (spring). No region assignments will be made after this date.**

The Board of Directors will grant permission to any school to participate in a higher classification than their ADM (9-11) places them. If a school requests and is granted permission, they will remain in the higher classification for a two-year alignment period. At the end of the two years, they could exercise their option again if they so desire. If a school requests to move up in one activity they must move up one classification in all other activities that use the same classification formula. The SDHSAA must be notified by July 1.

SDHSAA member schools who are members of a conference made up of Class "A" and "B" schools and/or out-of-state schools may conduct their conference golf tournaments in either the fall or spring season. This allows a school to compete in their conference tournament during their off season. A golf team (out-of-season) may have organized practices with a coach a maximum of five days prior to the conference tournament. A conference tournament may not be scheduled during the summer time period or prior to the first allowable contest date.

## 2024-25 Rules Changes – South Dakota High School Activities Association Golf

1. Class A & B schools will receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> badge for coaches per gender for the state tournament as long as the following criteria is used and followed.
  - i. Coach must complete all the SDHSAA/NFHS required Coaching Classes
  - ii. Coach must be contracted by the school as a golf coach or as a volunteer golf coach
  - iii. Coach must be listed on the school's team roster on the SDHSAA web site by posted date in the SDHSAA Golf Handbook.
2. Class B - Alternate Golfer at the State Meet (5<sup>th</sup> Golfer) This proposed rule change would allow an alternate golfer at the state for teams that qualify as a team (can be subbed in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day for any reason). This is team only and the alternate must be declared before the region golf tournament.
3. Class A –State Tournament 1<sup>st</sup> Day - Team Waves off the Back (when Applicable) Allow all teams who qualified a scoreable team (4 or 5 players) to play in waves on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the State Tournament, even the teams that will tee of the back 9. We will continue to have the teams that qualify out of their regions as a team off the front and those teams that qualify with individuals teeing off in teams off the back 9 on the 1<sup>st</sup> day

## Rules Changes Reminders from 2023-24

1. Class A – Change State Qualifying from Region back to a percentage – 55% Change the percentage of individual state qualifiers to 55% and ties of each region. The team qualifications would remain the same (top 3 teams qualify as a team). Players who are a team that qualifies in the top 3 but are not individually in the top 55% do not count towards the 55%. These players are added on at the end.
2. Class A - Alternate Golfer at the State Meet (6<sup>th</sup> Golfer) This proposed rule change would allow an alternate golfer at the state for teams that qualify as a team (can be subbed in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day for any reason). This is team only and the alternate must be declared before the region golf tournament.
3. Class A - Team Waves on Day 1 of the State Tournament Change to how the pairings are made. Day 1 – Pairings are in waves with team off the front and individuals off the back. Day 2 – Same as we do currently. (based on individual results from Day 1)
4. All Classes - SDHSAA Purchase a license for Golf Genius to allow all schools access. The coaches would like the State to purchase the Golf Genius software giving all schools the ability to have (1) the live scoring option and (2) to provide those unable to attend access to meet information.

## RULES OF COMPETITION

- A. **USGA RULES** The Rules of the United States Golf Association shall govern all competition except in cases modified by SDHSAA regulations. Every school taking part in golf competition is urged to purchase at least one copy of the USGA Rules. They are available through the shops of your golf clubs and the SDHSAA office.
- B. Only amateur golfers shall be permitted to participate in high school golf competition.
- Definition of an Amateur Golfer:** An amateur golfer is one who plays the game as a non-remunerative or non-profit making sport. The USGA "Rules of Amateur Status" and SDHSAA Rules on Amateurism shall serve as the authority of determinations of amateur status.

**Further,** golfers wishing to maintain amateur status under SDHSAA Rules on Amateurism shall not:

- Receive payment for serving as a professional golfer.
- Taking any action for the purpose of becoming a professional golfer.
- Play for prize money or its equivalent in a match, tournament, or exhibition unless prior to participation in such an event, the golfer irrevocably waives his/her right to accept prize money in that event
- Receive payment or compensation for giving instruction in playing golf, either orally, in writing, by pictures or by other demonstrations, to either individuals or groups.
- Accept a prize or testimonial of retail value exceeding USGA limitations, or of a nature which is the equivalent of money or makes it readily convertible into money.

C. **Head Coaches Must Complete Rules Meetings**

All head coaches must complete an on-line rules meeting, *when offered*, in the sport of golf. Class "AA" and "A" Boys' coaches must complete the rules meeting in the fall. Class "AA", "A" Girls' coaches and Class "B" Boys' and Girls' Coaches must complete the rules meeting, *when offered*, in the spring. Those "AA" and "A" coaches coaching both boys and girls need only complete the rules meeting in the fall.

D. **School Official/Representative At Competitions**

Each member school with an entrant in any regular season golf competition must have a staff representative from their school in attendance. Failure to do so causes the athlete(s) to be disqualified.

E. **Uniforms**

Participating athletes and coaches must ensure that their dress abides by the policies of the local club in which they are playing. In addition to local rules/regulations, the following dress code rules shall apply for all meets for SDHSAA Member School Golf Competitions:

- a. All contestants must wear a shirt that is long enough to reach the top of the pants as to prevent bare midriffs. Shirts shall be either collared, turtleneck or Henley-style. Sweatshirts/jackets may be worn over such a shirt in case of inclement weather.
- b. Shirts do not need to be the same for each competitor from a school.
- c. Any headwear being worn must be a sun-billed cap/visor or stocking cap/headband. Hats shall be worn facing forward.
- d. **(Revised 2015)** When shorts are worn, they should be long enough so that when a golfer is standing erect with arms to his/her side, the shorts reach the end of the finger tips. Additionally, shorts, if worn, should not be mesh/nylon jogging/basketball athletic-style shorts.

F. **Coach Confering With Players (Updated 2020)**

**During the regular season,** One (Class A/B) or Two (Class AA) coach(es) will have the opportunity to confer with their individual players, concerning club selection, shot placement, etc., while on the course and not on the green during play, provided there is no undue delay in play. **CLARIFICATION:** If not specifically delineated by the host committee, any individual who is an eligible coach (one who has met the NFHS Learn/Coaches' Education Requirements, and is formally recognized by their school's school board) may serve in this coaching capacity during the regular season, up to the limit established above.

**In postseason play:**

Class A & B: One designated coach per participating school will be allowed to confer with his or her athletes from "tee to green" according to the below guidelines;

Class 'AA': Two designated coaches per participating school will be allowed to confer with his or her athletes from "tee to green" according to the below guidelines:

**GUIDELINES FOR COACHES TO COACH/COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR GOLFERS FROM TEE TO GREEN**

Golf is a game of honesty, integrity and honor. To this extent, the following guidelines have been established to allow coaches 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 their golfer in the group have teed off and until their athletes golf ball has arrived on the green. **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.

- Coaches may communicate with their golfers once all have holed out on a green. All coaching for all golfers in a group will cease when the first golfer in the group steps on the teeing ground of the next hole.
- 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.

**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 their athlete's golf ball has 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 tee box or 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 non-USGA rule compliant device while on the course. Examples would include non-compliant range finders, wind gauge or comparable item.

**In all classes:** Each team will be provided a badge to identify the designated coach. Any attempt by a non-designated individual to coach at any point of the round, or by the designated individual at any point other than what is allowed by rule will be considered a violation and subject to penalty.

**G. Regular-Season Tie Breaking Procedure**

USGA rules empower the Committee in charge of the tournament to determine how stroke play ties shall be decided. The decision should be published in advance. The USGA recommends:

1. In the event of a tie in a scratch stroke play competition, an 18-hole play-off is recommended. If that is not feasible, a hole-by-hole play-off is recommended.
2. If a play-off of any type is not feasible, matching score cards is recommended. The method of matching cards should be announced in advance. An acceptable method of matching cards is to determine the winner on the basis of the best score for the last nine holes. If the tied players have the same score for the last nine, determine the winner on the basis of the last six holes, last three holes, and finally the 18th hole.
3. If the procedure in (2) does not produce a winner, tournament management should publish in advance what procedure will be followed to break the tie.

**H. Use of Electronic Measuring Devices (NEW 2015)**

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 and GPS-based systems such as 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, 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 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.

**I. Official Card (NEW 2015)**

For all levels of play, regular-season and post-season, the "official card" of record shall be a card exchanged by playing partners in each round. Participants will trade scorecards at the beginning of each round so that each member of the foursome will be keeping another player's scorecard and so that no player is keeping score for someone from his or her own school. In foursomes, players should make sure that they are keeping score for an individual that is different from who is tracking their own individual score. Players must announce their score to the group upon completion of each hole and scores should be recorded by their corresponding partners. Players should meet at the completion of the round to ensure the accuracy of the hole-by-hole scores on the card, and once confirmed, sign the card together and present to

tournament officials. Markers/Monitors should assist in this process and facilitate the verbal confirmation of scores amongst members of a playing group, but only interject in situations as requested by the players.

#### **J. Team Membership Exception (NEW 2016)**

Athletes in the Spring Golf Season are allowed to compete in events directly conducted by the SDGA or SDGA Junior Tour, provided those events take place during the final two weeks of the spring season and are not in conflict with a scheduled SDHSAA event without penalty. Additional SDGA events may be approved by sanction on a case-by-case basis as determined by the SDHSAA Executive Staff.

### **REGION TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

#### **A. Region Chairmen/Committees**

1. A committee shall be formed with a meeting to be held prior to the tournament/meet for organizational purposes.
2. A school may designate any administrative staff member (superintendent, principal, athletic/activities director) who is not coaching golf to represent the school on the committee. The representative shall then inform the school personnel directly involved with the sport of the decisions made at the committee meeting.
3. A committee chairperson (superintendent, principal, athletic/activities director) is to be elected and each committee shall function following generally accepted Rules of Order. The region committee chairperson must be currently employed as an administrative staff member from a region member school. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting with a distribution made to each school represented on a timely basis.
4. All schools participating in the meet/tournament shall be notified as to time and place of any meetings.
5. The current region chairperson must submit to the SDHSAA office the name of the individual that will be the chairperson for the following year. This notification, along with an indication of the date and site of the tournament for the following year must be made prior to June 1. If a committee chair cannot be named for the following year, the committee must designate a school and administrative position that will assume the chairperson duties. Failure to name either an individual or a school, including the designated administrative position, will result in naming the current chairperson as the chairperson for the following year.

If the above information is not supplied to the **SDHSAA Office by June 1, a \$50.00** fine will be assessed against the region not in compliance. Fines will be assessed for the ensuing school year. The new region committee is responsible for payment.

6. **Input of Coaches** - All committees are required to give coaches an opportunity to have input to the committee prior to any decision making by the committee.

#### **B. Appeal and Grievance Procedure for Region Committees**

1. If at all possible, the committee shall solve its own problems and make its own decisions.
2. Protests based upon a challenge to the interpretation given to a contest regulation or administrative ruling thereon must be submitted in writing within 24 hours after the contest, to the chairman of the region committees. The committee shall render its decision promptly to the Executive Director of the Association, and shall notify the protester, by telephone, to be followed by a written notice of its decision sent by first class mail to the protester. An appeal of the decision of the regional committee shall go directly to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final. The appeal must state the decision of the region committee and the basis for the request to overrule that decision.
3. Any protest lodged prior to a region tournament or meet pertaining to the athletic eligibility status of a student, contest regulation or administrative ruling must be submitted to the region committee at least ten days prior to the event. The region committee shall render its decision promptly. An appeal from the decision of the region committee shall go directly to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final.
4. In cases where the protest is lodged less than ten days prior to a region tourney or meet, any appeal of a region committee decision shall go directly to the Executive Director. The decision of the Executive Director shall be final.
5. Part V, Section 1 of the SDHSAA Constitution and By-Laws states, "Decisions of the Judges. Judges' decisions in any contest are by their nature necessarily regarded as final and shall not be considered as the basis for protest."

#### **C. Making Entries**

1. Each golf coach must list their golf team members on the SDHSAA website. This is a WEBFORM located on Bound within the SDHSAA website.

##### **WEBFORM – Golf 1 – Boys Roster**

Class A & AA – Sept. 19    Class B – April 28

##### **WEBFORM – Golf 2 – Girls Roster**

All Classes – April 28

2. Entries must be made to the region chairman at least one week prior to the region Golf Tournament. Late entries should not be accepted. (**All Alternates for Class A & B should be sent to the Region Coordinators before the Region Meet in order to be eligible for Region and State as an alternate**)
3. Each "A" school may enter a maximum of five golfers in region competition. Four golfers will comprise a team. Fewer may be entered.

4. Each "B" school may enter a maximum of four golfers in region competition. Three golfers will comprise a team. Fewer may be entered.

**D. Number of Holes to be Played**

Play in region golf tournaments shall be eighteen holes.

**E. Interpretation of Rules**

Interpretation of the rules for the region tournament shall be done by the Region Committee under the supervision of the chairman. It is recommended that the host professional or Club Director explain the rules of the course to the players before play begins.

**F. Practice Rounds**

Entries to Region Golf Tournaments are permitted to practice at the site of each tournament. Each member school should make their own arrangements with host golf clubs for practice rounds.

**G. Playing Procedure**

No entrant shall play on the course the day of the tournament prior to the championship flight. All championship flight scores shall be attested to by entrants from some other school playing in the same group. No player or team shall play a championship flight unless accompanied by a player or team from another school. Players or teams shall not be accompanied by their own coaches, instructors, or advisors. Nor shall coaches, instructors, or advisors act as caddies for any player. No use of cell phones is allowed by players on the course unless in an emergency situation.

**H. 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 golfers own fairway.

**I. Shotgun Starts**

Shotgun starts and multi-hole wave starts are allowed as an option at post-season tournaments. The golf course pro, coaches and tournament chairman will make the decision as to whether a shotgun start will be used.

**J. Suspension of Play**

If the regional committee or its authorized representative considers that for any reason the course is not in a playable condition or that there are circumstances which render the proper playing of the game impossible (rain, lightning, etc.), it may order a temporary suspension of play. When play has been temporarily suspended, it shall be resumed from where it was discontinued, even though resumption occurs on a subsequent day. Players on the course may finish the hole they are currently on or they may mark the ball where it lies on the course and resume from that point when play continues. If at all possible, play should resume on the original day of play. If play cannot resume on the original day, the committee or its designee can choose to resume play on the following day.

It may not be feasible to continue play the following day. If this is the case, the committee may choose to have the competitors play and score only nine holes (must be same nine holes for all competitors.) A player's nine-hole score will be doubled for state tournament pairing purposes. Each region will determine their own course of suspending play and reaching a final score.

**K. Uniforms**

Refer to RULES OF COMPETITION, Section E.

**L. Carts – Caddies**

No caddies are permitted under any circumstances. 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. No outside carts being brought in are allowed.

**For coaches:** No motorized carts are permitted without expressed, written permission from the SDHSAA Office for a coach 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. No outside carts being brought in are allowed.

**For parents and galleries at regions:** 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 school administration must notify the Region Tournament director prior to the event if a cart is being requested. 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.

**M. School Official Must Attend Meet**



Each member school with an entrant in the Region Golf Tournament must have a staff representative from their school in attendance. Failure to do so causes the athlete(s) to be disqualified.

**N. School Official to be Assigned as Group Marker**

At the region level of competition, a group marker/monitors shall be assigned by the tournament management to accompany a foursome/threesome for the purpose of monitoring conduct and to assist in tracking player scores. Each school entering individual(s)/team(s) to the region tournament must provide one or more persons for marking purposes. One of the individuals must be a school official. The region committee has the authority to establish marker/monitor number guidelines (1 or 2 per school) for schools in the region as necessary. The region chairman is responsible to notify each school in the region as to the number the school is required to bring to the region golf tournament.

**O. Awards**

The SDHSAA has an agreement to provide all post-season medals, plaques and trophies. The SDHSAA will order all medals and plaques for the region tournaments. Two plaques (champion & runner-up) will be awarded at each region tournament. Medals will be presented to the top 15 (Class B) top 25 (Class A) individuals and the top two teams. Orders will be sent directly to the region chairman by the companies. Region committees are responsible for payment for all awards.

**P. Qualifying for State Tournament**

1. **Only Region Contestants Qualify.** Only contestants in each of the Region Golf Tournaments may qualify for the State Tournament. Contestants may qualify as individuals or as members of a team.
2. **Substitutions.** A school may substitute a player on its golf team for the State Meet because of injury, illness or school disciplinary action. A statement must be presented in writing from the doctor for illness or injury, and from the school administration for disciplinary action. This rule applies only to a team entry and not an individual qualifier
3. **Obligation to Compete.** Any competitor(s)/ team(s) that qualify for the State Golf Tournament has an obligation to take part in the State Tournament.
4. **Qualifying as Individuals.**
  - a. **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 “75<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Qualifying Scores for AA**

**Girls: 105**

**Boys: 93**

- b. **Class “A”** – Class is divided into four regions. The top 55% of the total number of Region entries qualify to the State Tournament. Players who are on a team that qualifies in the top three, but are not individually in the top 55% do not count towards the 55% (these players are added on at the end). All fractions are to be rounded off for determination of the exact number of golfers (.5 or more qualifies).  
**Alternate Golfer at the State Meet (6<sup>th</sup> Golfer)** – Allow an alternate golfer at the State Tournament for teams that qualify as a team (can be subbed in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day for any reason). This is team only and the alternate must be declared before the region tournament.
- c. **Class “B”** – Class is divided into six regions. The top 40% of the total number of Region entries qualify to the State Tournament. Players who are on a team that qualifies in the top three, but are not individually in the top 40% do not count towards the 40% (these players are added on at the end). If the total number of automatic qualifiers in any region is less than 15, additional individuals may also qualify provided they have a score within 150% of the region tournament medalist (maximum of 15 total individual qualifiers). All fractions are to be rounded off for determination of the exact number of golfers (.5 or more qualifies).
- d. **Ties** - If a tie occurs at any qualifying spot up to and including the final entrant from the region meet to the state tournament, there will be no play-offs for position except for first place. Should there be a tie at the final qualifying spot, all tied competitors will advance to the State Tournament with no playoff needed. The Meet Manager or Club Pro will decide what hole number to begin a play-off if this is needed. Golfers may not slide up because someone in a qualifying spot chooses not to participate in the State Tournament.

## 8. Qualifying as a Team.

Team champions shall be determined in each class “A” & “B” region.

- a. In the “A” school competition the first, second and third place teams from each region tournament shall qualify for the State Tournament. If a tie exists for first place a “sudden death” play-off must be held to break the tie to determine who will receive the championship and runner up plaques. All members of the team will be involved in the playoff. The top four scores from each school shall constitute the team score. No school with fewer golfers than four finishing the region tournament is eligible for the team championship. If there is a tie for second place, no playoff is necessary and all tied teams will receive a runner up plaque. If there is a tie for any place other than first, no playoff is necessary and all qualifying teams will advance to the State Tournament. Any team not finishing first, second or third but having four players within the individual percentage qualifying limits also qualifies for the State Tournament. However, only the first, second and third place teams may bring their fifth golfer if he/she is not among the qualifying individuals.
- b. In the “B” school competition the first and second place teams shall qualify for the State Tournament. If a tie exists for first place a “sudden death” play-off must be held to break the tie to determine who will receive championship and runner up plaques. All members of the team will be involved in the playoff. The top three golfers from each school shall constitute the team score. No school with fewer golfers than three finishing the region tournament is eligible for the team championship. If there is a tie for second place, no playoff is necessary and all tied teams will receive a runner up plaque and all tied teams will qualify for the State Tournament. Any team not finishing first or second but having three players within the individual qualifying limits also qualifies for the State Tournament. Only the first and second place teams however, may bring their fourth golfer if he/she is not among the qualifying individuals.
- c. Play-off on Ties - All members of each team involved in a first-place tie will participate in any play-offs. Refer to Section I-1 of State Tournament Regulations for method of playing-off team ties. **Alternate Golfer at the State Meet (5<sup>th</sup> Golfer)** This proposed rule change would allow an alternate golfer at the state for teams that qualify as a team (can be subbed in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day for any reason). This is team only and the alternate must be declared before the region golf tournament.

**NOTE:** In order for the first, second and third place teams in Class “A” to bring their fifth golfer or the first and second place teams in Class “B” to bring their fourth golfer who were not among the qualifying individuals, the teams must have had a fifth player (Class “A”) or a fourth player (Class “B”) competing for their team at the Regional Tournament.

## STATE TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

### A. 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.

### A. Entries & Substitutions

1. **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.
2. **Class A and B** - A school may substitute only for a player that qualified as part of a “team” and not solely as an individual for the State Meet because of injury, illness or school disciplinary action only until the Tournament has begun. A statement must be presented in writing from the doctor for illness or injury, and from the school administration for disciplinary action.

### D. School Official to Accompany Entrants to State Meet

2. 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/monitor 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. **Schools will receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> badge for coaches per gender for the state tournament as long as the following criteria is used and followed.**

- i. Coach must complete all the SDHSAA/NFHS required Coaching Classes
- ii. Coach must be contracted by the school as a golf coach or as a volunteer golf coach
- iii. Coach must be listed on the school's team roster on the SDHSAA web site by posted date in the SDHSAA Golf Handbook.

**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/monitors 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 golfers 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/cancelled 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 cancelled. (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/Monitor**

A Group Marker/Monitor 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/Monitors will not be assigned to a group including players from their own school.

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

## MARKER/MONITOR GUIDELINES

1. Monitoring Conduct – Marker/Monitor 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 - DisqualificationNOTE: 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 'B':** Pairing of golfers shall be based on scores submitted to the SDHSAA from Region Play. Qualifiers with the lowest scores would tee-off first on the first day. On the second day of play, the pairing of golfers will be reversed. The golfers are divided in half according to the first day's scores. Those scheduled to tee off the front nine will be arranged from high score to low score. Those scheduled to tee off the back nine will be arranged from low score to high score. It may be necessary to further divide players into two sessions, depending on the number of state tournament entries.

**Class 'A':** Day 1 – Golfers will be paired in waves with team off the front and individuals off the back. The team pairings will be determined by team region scores with the best region score pairing with the next best and so on. Day 2 – Golfers individual results from day 1 lowest scores would tee-off last on the second day. The golfers are divided in half according to the first day's scores. Those scheduled to tee off the front nine will be arranged from high score to low score. Those scheduled to tee off the back nine will be arranged from low score to high score. It may be necessary to further divide players into two sessions, depending on the number of state tournament entries.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> golfer (Class A and AA)/ 26<sup>th</sup> golfer (Class B).

**P. Galleries**

Spectators will be permitted to follow the golfers and are to be monitored by the Group Marker/Monitor. Other than obvious questions such as score check, spectators should not visit with the marker/monitor. 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/monitor. 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
- i. TV crews will be permitted to use a golf cart, if available, because of the amount of equipment being carried. No other golf carts will be permitted.

**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.

## **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD**

In an attempt to recognize the academic excellence of the athletic teams and fine arts groups in each school, the SDHSAA created the "Academic Achievement Team Award". The "Academic Achievement Team Award" is designed to recognize "varsity" level "teams" that achieve a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher.

For additional information about the "Academic Achievement Team Award", refer to the "Academic Achievement Team Award" section of either the ATHLETIC or FINE ARTS HANDBOOK.