

2020 Changes and other Important Information

1. Please see the next page for all Covid-19 related guidance/requirements.
2. All sectional and district sites are required to charge admission. The tickets will be sold online only and will be \$8.00. Additional information was shared with each District Athletic Board and should have been passed along to site managers. Please contact your DAB rep or Jacki Windon (jwindon@ohsaa.org) at the OHSAA with any questions.
3. Please note that Yom Kippur is Sept. 27- Sept. 28 this year. September 28 is the first date sectionals can be played for Division II Girls and Division II and III Boys. We advise that you avoid playing sectionals on that date when possible.
4. **District Managers:** Please print the appropriate state qualifier sheets and give them to your teams/individuals that qualify to state. They contain important information that the teams/individuals will need for the state tournament.
5. Also, please be sure to print the state tournament practice times schedule and assign practice times for your qualifiers and communicate those to the respective state tournament course.
6. The 2019 Rules of Golf included a new optional Local Rule that allows players to drop a ball with 2 penalty strokes in an area near where the ball was lost or estimated to go out of bounds. The Local Rule is not one of the 24 Rules of Golf; it's an optional Local Rule. **This 2-stroke optional Local Rule will NOT be used at the OHSAA Sectional, District or State Championships.**
The intent of this Local Rule is for golfers who are playing recreational golf, casual rounds, or their own competitions at their club or course. For example, for leagues, outings, and everyday play.
7. A reminder that a tournament regulation was implemented a couple years ago that allows a golfer to pick up their ball at any point during the round. However, he/she should continue to play with his/her group to finish the round. From the point of pick up, each hole thereafter should be marked on the scorecard as "N/A". Golfers must hit at least one shot on all 18 holes in order to count towards the 4 players needed for representation purposes and should be designated as a DQ in Baumspage if they do so. Should a player pick up their ball and walk off the course prior to playing a shot on all 18 holes, they should be designated as a DNF in Baumspage and will not count for representation purposes.
8. Each DAB has been given the authority to determine whether to permit spectator carts at your tournaments. They should provide you their decision and all the details prior to or at the manager meeting. Please reach out to them should you have any questions.

Covid-19 Requirements and Recommendations

Sectional, District, and State Tournaments are Required to Follow:

1. **August 19 Ohio Department of Health Order:**
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/08/19/file_attachments/1521949/Sports%20Order%2008.19.20.pdf
2. **State Covid-19 Guidance:** <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>
3. **Golf Requirements and Recommendations:**
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Golf/2020/GolfRecommendations.pdf>

Below are some of the key items for your golf tournaments: This is not a complete list of the requirements and recommendations so please read the documents above for full guidance.

- **Spectators:** Since there is no fixed seating at golf courses, up to 1500 spectators are permitted to attend. However, some local health departments or courses themselves have stricter regulations and may permit less people. Please work together as site managers and DAB's to determine if this is the case.
- **Face Masks:** Must be worn by spectators, workers, and coaches at all times. Golfers must wear them anytime they are not competing or on the range/putting green/chipping area. (but do have the option to wear them during these times if they choose).
- **Social Distance:** Must be maintained at all times. Spectators can remain within their family groups but should keep 6ft distance from other groups.
- **Physical Contact:** Not permitted- no handshakes, high fives, etc.
- **Congregating:** Not permitted before, during, or after competition.
- **Driving Range/Putting Green/Chipping Green-** A schedule should be put in place, if necessary, to ensure social distancing can occur in these areas. Spectators are not permitted in these areas.
- **Scoring Area:** Please eliminate any scoring area that would attract a crowd. Move this to a private area that only coaches can access while maintaining social distance.
- **Awards Ceremony:** Please eliminate any awards ceremony that would attract a crowd. You may give the trophy/medals to the qualifying head coach(es) to give to their team.
- **Scoring:** Electronic scoring is permissible to use should you choose to do so. Paper scorecards can still be used but it is recommended that scorecards not be traded at the end of the round and that scores are verified verbally.
- **Flagsticks:** Should be left in the hole at all times.
- **Bunker Rakes:** Should be removed or not used. Players should smooth out the sand with their foot or club after playing their ball from the bunker. There are options within the USGA rules should there be disturbed/unmaintained areas within the bunkers. Most of you have probably dealt with this but please let me know if you need assistance.
- **Ball Washers/Coolers/Etc.:** Should be removed or not used.
- **Course Etiquette:** Players should continue to observe proper course etiquette including replacing divots and fixing ball marks on the greens.
- **Sanitizing:** It is recommended that sanitizer be provided at the tee and the scoring area.

Coaching Rule

The Board of Directors approved a coaching regulation change effective with the 2013-2014 school year. This regulation continues in 2020 and will be in effect for all regular season and tournament play.

The regulation permits ONE school board approved coach/designee assigned to that event to speak with his/her players without delay of play at any time. During the player's stipulated round, coaches are not permitted to physically stand on any green or in any sand bunker. The player must walk off the green or stand outside the bunker should he/she wish to converse with his/her coach at these particular times.

This regulation should be applied with the following procedures:

1. During the player's stipulated round, coaches are not permitted to physically stand on any green or in any bunker. The player must walk off the green or stand outside the bunker should he/she wish to converse with his/her coach at these particular times
2. If a group should "**lose their position**" the group must be playing at a pace slower than 15 minutes per hole. To fall behind the group in front does not always mean a group is playing slow.
3. If the group fails to regain their position on the course within a reasonable time established by officials then the group should be notified that they are "going on the clock". At that point, any player who does not complete his/her turn to play in the allowed forty-five seconds is assessed a two stroke penalty. A second violation is another two stroke penalty, and a third violation results in a disqualification.
ie. "45 second rule" – once a player reaches their ball, and their turn has arrived to play, they must complete their shot within the 45 seconds allowed.

Penalties for violation of the coaching regulation:

1. A warning is issued.
2. Player is assessed a two-stroke penalty and the coach loses his/her coaching privilege.
3. Coach is disqualified/ejected.

Note: Following a coach ejection, if there is not a person authorized by the Board of Education present at the contest, forfeiture would result (Bylaw 3-3-1- school representative must accompany team).

*** In addition to the penalties listed above, a coach who violates the coaching rule may face additional disciplinary action.**

Use of Range Finders By Participants

Distance-Measuring Devices - 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 or her play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4-3.

Note: No smart watches (such as Apple Watches) are permitted to be used as range finders. However, watches made specifically for the purpose of measuring distance are permitted (such as the Garmin Approach watch).

This rule will allow one coach/designee authorized by the Board of Education present at the contest and his/her players to use a range finder during the event. Yardage information is not considered advice and is permitted during an event.

Penalty shall be: Player – 1st offense – two (2) strokes
2nd offense – disqualification

Electronic Communication Devices

The use of any electronic communication devices shall be prohibited on the course during any competition by all players except in cases of emergency. All phones including those used by spectators shall remain on silent.

Penalty shall be: Player – 1st offense – two (2) strokes
2nd offense – disqualification

Coaches are permitted to use cell phones on the course. All phones, including those used by coaches and spectators, shall remain on silent. Should a call need to be made, coaches and spectators should remove themselves to an area without disturbing the golf competition.

In no way do we suggest that electronic communication restrictions should prevent use of such devices during an emergency.

It is our sincere hope to improve the quality of all golf matches. We believe that enforcement of this rule will provide all student-athletes with the opportunity to compete on a level playing field.

***Please note that players are permitted to use their phones only if you are conducting online scoring and they are responsible for inputting scores.**

OHSAA Golf Tournament Admission Prices

Sectional/District:	Determined by the OHSAA Board of Directors	\$8.00
State:	Determined by the OHSAA's Board of Directors	\$12.00

*All spectators, regardless of age, will be charged admission. Spectators may be limited and all tickets will be sold online.

Lightning & Inclement Weather Procedures

Lightning and Inclement weather procedures are as follows. Please review these carefully. Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it would be wise to review with them prior to the game. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSA Sports.

WEATHER

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- **Evacuation-** If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.