



Local Rules and Conditions of the Competition Hamilton Elks Girls Sectional Tournaments

The Rules of the United States Golf Association and the OHSAA govern play. The "Local Rules and Conditions of Competition for the USGA is in effect for this event, as well as the additional Local Rules and Conditions noted below.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE OR CONDITION IS TWO STROKES.

1. **USGA and OHSAA** rules govern play except where superseded by Local Rules.
 - **Please Note OHSAA Mercy Rule:** A golfer may pick up their ball at any point during the round, but will be disqualified as soon as they choose to do so. 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".
2. **Tournament Check-in:** All competitors and coaches must be present and checked-in 30 minutes prior to start time.
3. **Format** - Stroke play a stipulated round of 18 holes; Girls - Red Tees.
4. **Out of Bounds** – Defined by White Markers, inside edges at ground level. Stroke and Distance, Rule 27-1.
5. **Yellow Penalty Areas** – Defined by Yellow Markers, inside edges at ground level. Relief by Rule 26-1.
6. **Red Penalty Areas** – Defined by Red Markers, inside edges at ground level. Relief by Rule 26-1c.
7. **On hole #1 on the Red Course, there is Out of Bounds on the left and on holes #1, #2, #3 & #4 on the White Course, there is Out of Bounds on the right.**
8. **There will be a drop area on #4 Red and #5 White.**
9. **Embedded ball** rule is in effect through the green.
10. **Electronic (cell phones)** – are prohibited on the course during play by players, coaches (unless calling for a ruling), and spectators. Players - First violation – 2 stroke penalty. Second violation – disqualification spectators and coaches will be asked to leave the course.
11. **Range Finders** - are permitted provided the range finder is not part of a communication device and meets the rules and/or standards set by the U.S.G.A.
12. **Ground under repair (GUR)** - marked with white lines/stakes. Severely damaged areas of the course caused by non-burrowing animals (geese/skunks) are played as ground under repair.
13. **Cemetery on #8 White, flower beds**, mulched and newly seeded areas are mandatory relief.
14. **Obstructions:** Cart paths & Shelters (nearest point), stance and swing.
15. **Natural Habitat area:** All long unmowed and natural grass areas are in play: there is NO relief.
16. **Questionable Play: If you are in doubt** as to procedure or a rules situation, **Invoke rule 3-3**. Play out your original ball and a second ball taking your relief. Must declare which ball you wish to score with (if rules permit) to your marker before any action is taken. Record both scores and **before signing your card** discuss with the rules committee or at the scoring area, your situation.
17. **Provisional Ball:** You may play a provisional ball for a ball that MAY be Out of Bounds or lost OUTSIDE of a hazard. You must announce "A Provisional Ball" to your competitors before going forward.
18. **Spectators** are not allowed any conversation with players, and **MUST** stay on cart paths or rough. **EXCEPTION:** The school **head coach (or approved designee assigned to the event)** may speak with his/her players without **delay of play at any time**. Coaches are not permitted on any green or in any sand bunker.

19. **Conduct:** A two-stroke penalty shall be assessed for unsportsmanlike conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to club throwing, willful acts which damage property or equipment on the course, use of abusive language, profanity, obscenities, and other unsporting conduct as determined by the Golf Rules Committee. Penalties imposed may result in disqualification.
20. **Playoff (Ties):** Ties will be resolved by rule, as needed.
21. At conclusion of play, **players must report to the scorer's table without delay (no talking to spectators or parents)**. All players should remain in the scoring area until all cards for the group are turned in and checked by the scorer. **Be sure to tell the scorer if you have any issue that needs resolution.** Once a scorecard is signed and attested, and the player leaves the scoring area, all scores are final! **Only players should be in the scoring area.**
22. **Severe Weather: Thirty-minute rule** - Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is **mandatory** to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming competition
23. **Rules Committee:** All rulings of the Rules Committee will be Final.

Notes to Participants

Use of Tobacco/Substances are not allowed: Participants (coach, players, managers, etc) are prohibited from using any form of tobacco on the golf course, in the clubhouse, or anywhere on golf course facilities during any tournament. Penalty for any violation of this rule will be disqualification.

Cell phones: Participants are not permitted to use cell phones during play. Phones in a player's possession must be turned-off during the round! Penalties imposed may result in disqualification.

Range Finders: Are permitted provided the range finder is not part of a communication device and meets the rules and/or standards set by the U.S.G.A.

YARDAGE MARKERS:

200 yards: Marked with blue fairway markers.

150 yards: Marked with white fairway markers.

100 yards: Marked with red fairway markers.

Sprinkler heads are marked. All distances are measured to the center of the green.

Rules for Spectators

From the OHSAA Handbook - OHSAA GOLF REGULATIONS

6) Spectators

Spectators are permitted, but are NOT permitted to converse with participants. It will be the responsibility of contestants in each foursome to caution ANY spectator from talking to or interfering with contestants in their group. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of disqualification of contestants involved.

- The OHSAA and SWDAB allow spectators to rent carts. Cart rules will be enforced!

From the USGA, spectators:

- Must stay OFF fairways.
- Turn OFF cell phones. People using cell phones will receive one warning; second time – phone will be taken!
- Spectators should stay 20-50 yards from players at all times, should be in front or behind players.
- May help search for golf balls.
- Must have NO conversation with players. They may applaud and/or say good putt or hit.
- Must stay at least 20 yards from green and tees.

Attention Coaches

The Ohio High School Athletic Association establishes the rules and procedures for high school golf in the state of Ohio. Please comply with the following rules.

1. A coach must be present with athletes throughout the tournament.
2. Please note: Only the school's **head coach (or the approved designee assigned to the event)** may speak with his/her players without **delay of play at any time**. Coaches are not permitted on any green or in any sand bunker.