

# MHSAA Tournament Protocols

**COACH CART POLICY** - Coaches may rent carts at their own expense with tournament manager approval. **Courses may restrict or prohibit cart use by coaches due to weather conditions.** When carts are rented by coaches they shall not be used to transport players, clubs, or equipment except in cases of emergency (bringing players to shelter during lightning, severe weather). Coaches who rent carts may share with other coaches but under no circumstances shall more than two school coaches be on a single cart. Carts are not to be used to provide transport for spectators. Any abuse of the cart policy will result in loss of cart use for the school coach for the remainder of the tournament.

**MEDICAL NEED CART POLICY** - During MHSAA tournament golf competition, use of motorized carts by competitors is not allowed. **EXCEPTION:** Permission for use of motorized carts for medical reasons may be granted by the MHSAA with a written request that is made by a school administrator. The written request must include a physician's statement specifying the medical need. Permission will be granted only when the medical need is due to a legitimate physical disability, recovery from a serious surgical procedure or a chronic medical illness such as a serious heart condition or debilitating illness. A physician's statement by itself does not automatically allow for use of a motorized cart. Fees associated with such use are the responsibility of the student and/or school.

**COACHING REQUIREMENT** - All players are required to have school designated coaching supervision at all levels of the MHSAA Golf Tournament. Coaches are required to facilitate check-in of their team/individuals, distribute scorecards to team/individuals, make substitutions, attend the coaches meeting and be on-site throughout the round to communicate with tournament management and/or rules officials when necessary.

**COACHING PRIVILEGES & RESTRICTIONS** - During the MHSAA Regional and Finals golf tournaments, the following regulations govern coaching privileges, responsibilities and restrictions:

**Coaching Privileges Defined** - During the MHSAA tournament one school designated coach with proper lanyard ID will be allowed to coach players from his/her school team during play. The coaching period will be anytime during play except when the coach's player has physically reached the green, at which time coaching is no longer allowed. While players are conducting tee shots, it is recommended that coaching and/or communication with players in a group be kept to a minimum. Coaching shall not slow pace of play. Coaches shall exhibit good sportsmanship, monitor sportsmanship of players, keep spectators at a reasonable distance and keep pace of play moving. Violation of conduct expectations shall result in the loss of coaching privileges.

- Coaches may not call rules violations or assess penalties, but are encouraged to remind players and rules officials of possible rules violations or penalties when they occur, and/ or assist in preventing any such rules violation.
- Coaches may not be physically on the green to perform duties such as reading or lining up putts, or tending the pin and coaches may not rake bunkers or carry a player's clubs. Coaches should keep a reasonable distance from the green while players putt.

**DISTANCE FINDERS** – Distance finders that measure distance only will be allowed for use in the MHSAA Districts, Regional and Finals tournaments in 2018 as a "local rule" adopted by the MHSAA under USGA Rule 14-3, Appendix IV as follows:

"...the device must be limited to measuring distance only. Features that would render use of the device contrary (i.e. illegal) to the local rules include:

- The gauging or measuring of slope.
- The gauging or measuring of other conditions that might affect play (e.g. wind speed or direction or other climate based information such as temperature, humidity, etc.).

- Recommendations that might assist the player in making a stroke or in his/her play (e.g. club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading or any other advice related matter).
- Calculating the effective distance between two points based on slope or other conditions affecting shot distance.

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/her play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is a two-stroke penalty for the first breach and for a subsequent breach, disqualification. **Cell phones/smart phones may not be used as distance measuring devices.**

**ELECTRONIC POLICY** - The use of cell phones and other electronic communications devices by players during competition is prohibited. Any player who receives information using electronic devices is subject to a two stroke penalty for each occurrence (Rule 8-1, Advice). Players are advised not to carry cell phones on the course, on their person or in their golf bag. Continued violation of this rule will result in disqualification. Spectators who use cell phones or other electronic devices on the course to communicate with players or coaches are subject to removal from the course.

**PACE OF PLAY** - Each player is responsible for playing without undue delay under USGA Rule 6-7. An acceptable time frame for playing a stroke is no longer than 40 seconds once a ball has been found and identified and it is clearly his/her turn to play. Each player is responsible for his/her group maintaining a proper position on the course, i.e. no more than approximately one starting interval behind the preceding group throughout the round. When a group is out of position due to slow play, tournament management will issue a warning prior to penalties being assessed.

**RULES AUTHORITY** - During MHSAA Tournament competition, assigned rules officials in conjunction with tournament management are the sole authority for enforcement and interpretation of USGA playing rules. Rules officials may assist in keeping pace of play moving and monitoring sportsmanship and spectator conduct. They shall consult and cooperate with MHSAA tournament managers on all matters of rules application. At MHSAA Regionals and Finals, in addition to making rulings, MHSAA rules officials may assess penalties when they observe (first hand) violations of playing rules.

**RULES COMMITTEE** - At all MHSAA Tournament events, a rules committee shall be appointed consisting of the tournament manager, MHSAA rules officials, local PGA professional, and participating school coaches, the number to be determined by the tournament manager. The committee will determine penalties for playing rules violations, MHSAA sportsmanship violations and make final decisions on any and all disputes. Members of the rules committee that will be directly affected by a committee's decision or deliberation shall be excused from the committee.

**SPECTATOR CONDUCT** - During play, spectators may not give advice to a player, nor shall players ask for advice from spectators. Once play begins, spectators shall maintain a reasonable gallery distance from all players, approximately 25 yards is considered the minimum distance while observing play between tee & green. Violations are subject to penalties under USGA rule and spectators may be removed from the course. General encouragement of players is acceptable but there shall be no communication between spectators and players. At the turn, a spectator/family member may have appropriate communication (non-golf advice not in violation of rule 8-1) with players.

**SCORING** –Tournament competitors will keep score for each member of their foursome or threesome at all MHSAA Tournaments. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT WILL DETERMINE WHICH COMPETITOR WILL MARK FOR ANOTHER IN EACH PLAYER GROUP PRIOR TO EACH DAY OF TOURNAMENT.

- Each competitor acting in the capacity of a marker will keep official score for one player in the group, as well as mark scores for each other player in the three or foursome.
- Each marker is required to keep track of and mark each score by hole on the official MHSAA SCORECARD for the assigned player.
- Score shall be verbalized by players so all in group, including the marker for that player, can hear and write down that score. If there is a discrepancy between score marked and score

announced, the marker shall ask the player to review strokes in presence of other players in group

All questions on number of strokes shall be settled before starting play on the next hole. Score must be verified before first tee shot is made on next hole. At the end of the round all members of the playing group shall bring scorecards to the scoring table together and review scores and questions with tournament management and score recording personnel. Scoring issues can be corrected while players remain in the scoring area. All players in the group shall remain in the scoring area until scorecards are signed, scores are posted and confirmed.

The following shall be the procedure after a round is completed at all MHSAA Golf Finals venues.

- 1) At the completion of the round, the competitors in a group sit down at the scoring table. On the opposite side of the table, there will be at least one committee member or their designee.
- 2) The competitors confirm their hole-by-hole scores with their marker and their group (this can also be done prior to going to the scoring table).
- 3) The competitors are asked if they have any rules questions. The competitors are also asked if a second ball was played under Rule 3-3 at any time during the round.
- 4) The committee member will ask the competitors to sign their scorecards and turn them in when they are satisfied that their hole-by-hole scores are correct. The competitors remain at the table.
- 5) As the committee member is totaling, they can ask the competitors for clarification, if there are any questionable scores (Ex. "Is that a 3 or an 8?"). The committee member who totals the scores for a card will write the totals on the card. The committee informs the competitors of their totals and if a competitor is in disagreement, he/she can voice their concern and have the card rechecked and recalculated. Once all competitors' cards have been totaled and verified, the competitors leave the table and the cards are then moved to the board for posting.

**Player Scoring Responsibilities Statement** - All players in the MHSAA Tournament are responsible for the accuracy of their own score and that of the player for which they are scoring. Players who record false scores for themselves or knowingly allow other members of their group to record false scores or violate USGA rules are subject to penalty and/or disqualification.

Teams may play a maximum of five players, with the top four scores counting for team score. All competition is stroke play.