

MHSAA Golf Finals Rules and Conditions (Hard Card)

Play is governed by the 2016 - 2017 *Rules of Golf* and their Decisions as approved by the R&A and USGA . Any changes or additions to this card will be supplied on a supplementary rules sheet. Appendix I refers to the appendix of local rules in the 2016 – 17 R&A/USGA Rules of Golf. **Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule or condition is: Match Play – Loss of Hole; Stroke Play – Two Strokes.**

DISREGARD THE GOLF COURSE LOCAL RULES AND DROPPING ZONES (ball drops).

Late to Tee: All players must be present on the tee at the time laid down by the Committee. The order of play is irrelevant. *See Decision 6-3a/2.*

Balls and Clubs: Non-conforming golf clubs, balls and tees shall not be used. *Penalty for 2nd breach of condition – disqualification.*

Practice: Between the play of two holes, a player must not make a practice stroke or roll a ball on or near the putting green of the hole last played.

Pace of Play: A player is subject to penalty if the player unduly delays play. *Rule 6-7.* Expected pace of play 15 minutes per hole

Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows: When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1. This Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."

Embedded Ball: The embedded Ball Rule as written in Appendix I is in effect "through the green".

Flower Beds: Mandatory free relief must be taken for any flower bed that is not in a water hazard. Rule 25-1.

Water and Lateral Water Hazard Stakes and Lines: When both stakes and lines are used to define water and lateral water hazards, stakes identify hazards and lines define margins. Water hazards are marked by freshly painted yellow lines, and lateral water hazards are marked by freshly painted red lines. Mandatory free relief does not apply for flower beds located within the margins of a water hazard. A player must take hazard relief and a one-stroke penalty for a ball in a flower bed within the margin of a hazard.

Stones in Bunkers: Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions. *Rule 24-1.*

Integral Parts of the Course: No relief; includes rods, cables, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees, liners in bunkers, retaining walls and pilings when located within water hazards or within and/or around bunkers. The integral part of the course may be touched with a club or otherwise.

Automotive Transportation: Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless for an emergency or to return to where the previous stroke was played, or if an MHSAA Medical Waiver for use of a motorized cart is obtained. *See Appendix I.*

Caddies: Are prohibited. *Appendix I.*

Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation: Any suspension of play requires players to discontinue play immediately and not resume play until the Committee has so ordered. Evacuate to a safe place. *Penalty for breach of condition – disqualification. Note to Rule 6-8b.*

Suspension: One prolonged note of an air horn or other means.

Resumption: Two short notes of same, repeated.

Players have the right to stop play if they think lightning threatens them, even though the Committee may not have specifically authorized it by signal.

Cell Phones: It is recommended that cell phones be turned off and stored in the player's bag. If a player feels the need to use a cell phone the player should announce to a fellow competitor/opponent prior to use. Devices brought to the course shall not interfere with other players. *Decision 14-3/16.*

Smart phones contain functions that do not conform to the Rules of Golf. Phones may not be used as a Distance Measuring Device. Penalty is disqualification for 2nd breach.

Coaching: MHSAA coaching rules apply as adopted by the MHSAA Committee.

Close of Competition: The competition shall be deemed closed when the trophy has been awarded to the winner(s) or in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee and results have been announced.

RULES COMMITTEE Determined & Coordinated by MHSAA Finals Managers