



Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union

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2026 Postseason Manual

GENERAL INFORMATION: APPLICABLE FOR BOTH REGIONALS AND STATE

PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL:

- All rules and regulations in this manual apply specifically to play in IGHSAU-sanctioned Regional and State Tournament competition. To ensure that the players become familiar with these rules prior to IGHSAU-sanctioned tournament competition, all rules and regulations within this manual are encouraged to be utilized during regular season play unless the host meet manager dictates otherwise.

RULES GOVERNING ALL PLAY:

- USGA Rules and IGHSAU regulations will be used for postseason meets.

MAXIMUM SCORE:

- IGHSAU post-season tournaments will not implement a maximum score option.

PRACTICE ROUNDS

- Loss of school time for practice rounds at regional and state sites is governed by each local district. Arrangements must be made with the host course concerning time and regulations governing play. All practice green fees will be the responsibility of each school/golfers.

WALKING THE COURSE:

- There is no rule against teams arriving at the Regional/State site to walk the course the day of the event provided they seek permission from the course management prior to doing so. **Players walking the course are not to have clubs with them while walking the course. Players are not allowed to roll balls on the greens when walking the course.** Violation of this rule is disqualification from the tournament.

PARTICIPANT ATTIRE

- All participants in Regional and State tournament competition must wear similar (color/style) school-issued or school-approved golf uniform during competition. In adverse weather conditions, if an individual player desires to wear clothing over top of her shirt, the jacket does not need to be the same as her teammates. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification of the golfer(s) in violation.

TEAM TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

- The team tournament is separate from the medalist tournament, although a player's score in the regional and state tournament shall count toward both the team and medalist results.
- Each team may play six participants, with the low four of six 18-hole scores counting for the team total. A school may change its six participants between first and second rounds of Regionals and State competition. It can also change the State competition participants from day one to day two. At no time shall a team have more than six golfers from their school/team participating at the same time during Regional or State competition.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES:

- The use of cell phones, tablets, or other communication devices by is prohibited during the regular season and tournament play **except for the use as a rangefinder or official scorekeeping. No cell phone for general use may occur until the player's round is completed and the scorecard is submitted to the official scorer. Use of a cell phone for unauthorized purpose(s) will result in a code of conduct violation.**
 - The penalty for violation of this rule: 1st offense – warning; 2nd offense - 2 stroke penalty; 3rd - offense disqualification.
- Golfers may use their phones in/around the clubhouse once their round is complete and they have submitted their scorecard to the scoring officials. Spectators should refrain from speaking on their cell phones on the course when play near them is occurring. In the event of an emergency or suspension of play, it is permissible for a golfers and spectators to use their cell phones on the course.
- In response to USGA Rule 4.3a(4) the IGHS AU shall expand its local rule banning cell phones to include restrictions on all portable audio and video devices that players might watch or listen to during play.

RANGE FINDING DEVICES:

- Range finding devices are allowed for use by players and coaches during the regular and postseason tournaments provided they are only used to measure distance. Range finding devices designed to measure conditions other than distance are permitted, provided the golfer only uses the device for distance measurement and not for the following banned functions, which include but are not limited to, wind speed, slope, or club selection.
 - The penalty for violation of this rule: 1st offense – warning; 2nd offense - 2 stroke penalty; 3rd - offense disqualification.
- If a player must wear a watch besides a GPS/range finding device, it must be set to airplane mode during competition.
 - The penalty for violating this policy is as follows: 1st offense – warning; 2nd offense - 2 stroke penalty; 3rd - offense disqualification.
- Players and school-appointed, licensed coaches are encouraged to share distance information upon request. A player with a range finder may shoot distance on the course and relay that information upon request to another player, PROVIDED the process does not delay play. Spectators are not allowed to provide or assist golfers with distance information.

SPECTATOR REGULATIONS:

- Family, friends, spectators, etc. cannot provide instruction or guidance to participants on the course until the final scorecard has been signed and submitted. (Walking immediately alongside a player is deemed to be communication.)
- Spectators may cheer, applaud, and offer words of encouragement to golfers. However, spectators must adhere to golf etiquette when doing so.
- Spectators are allowed to assist a player in looking for a lost ball but may not offer any rulings.

- Spectators should remain in the rough or on the cart paths and always keep parallel to the golfers.
- Spectators should refrain from speaking on their cell phones on the course when play near them is occurring.
- Any spectator disrupting play in the opinion of the Rules Committee will be removed from the course. Competitors may be disqualified if in violation of this rule.
- Spectators should remain adjacent with the group they are following and travel in the rough or on the cart path, never on the fairway. When golfers are on the green, spectators must be behind the green or on a cart path, so the next group can hit as soon as the green is cleared.

WATER/FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- The IGHSAU encourages players to make pre-meet preparations and have beverages or an empty bottle in their bag to refill if needed. The IGHSAU allows a coach or parent to hand beverages/food to their player/daughter on the course, with every effort being made to be given between green and tee and without golf communication between the golfer and parent. Coaches and parents can also hand a beverage/food to their golfer as they pass the clubhouse. The IGHSAU encourages common sense be used if a golfer is in danger of dehydration and that the golfer be given a beverage or assistance no matter where they are on the course. **OUTSIDE FOOD / DRINK IS NOT PERMITTED FROM SPECTATORS AT STATE.**

GOLF REGULATIONS:

- USGA rules will be followed for all regular season and postseason tournament play, unless modified by the local course management or IGHSAU. Any errors or discrepancies that take place during medal play must be resolved prior to turning in the scorecard. If a discrepancy arises, golfers should make every effort to resolve the discrepancy before playing the next hole. If the discrepancy cannot be resolved, the hole/score should be circled. At the completion of the round, the player(s) involved should refrain from turning in her scorecard until the rules committee has made a ruling.

LOCAL RULE:

- The IGHSAU will not invoke the Local Rule stroke and distance for OB for postseason as it is not part of the USGA rules revision.

COACHES ON THE COURSE:

- Coaches are not allowed to play golf on the course during competition/meets. **Penalty is disqualification of all team members.** During meets, the IGHSAU strongly encourages coaches to be out on the course coaching their golfers. While it is understood only the designated Rules Committee makes rulings, it is essential coaches be on the course to help their golfers with situations to avoid repetition of rule violations.

COACHING GUIDELINES:

- Two coaches per school (team / individuals) are allowed to coach their players on the course during the postseason. School appointed, licensed golf coaches are allowed to coach their golfer up until the golfer and golfer's ball are on the green. There is to be no delaying of play anywhere anytime when providing instruction during the prescribed coaching time frame. Coaches on the course should not make rulings unless they are part of the Rules Committee.
- Coaches are not to assist or instruct a player regarding any putting on the green. If any part of the golfer's ball is on the actual green, the ball is considered on the green. Once the golfer arrives at the green (no delay by the golfer), coaches can have no more communication with their golfers until all golfers in the group have holed out. When providing advice, the coach must NOT enter a bunker. Coaches must adhere to golf etiquette when coaching their players and should **not** be communicating with their golfer(s) while other golfers in the group are playing their ball in close proximity.

- Any team without a coach present at the course during the tournament will result in the disqualification of the entire team.

SCORECARD SIGNATURES:

- Scorecards must be signed by the golfer whose score is being kept and the person keeping the score upon completion of the round.

SCORING:

- Each golfer is responsible for the accuracy of her score recorded for each hole.
- Signed scorecards must be turned in by the golfer to the official scorer immediately following the round.
- Each golfer must total her own score for the round before turning in her card. This will assist with inaccuracies between the actual score and recorded score and may prevent a card turned in with a blank score.
- The score totaled by the individual is not their “official score” (as there may be some inaccuracies with their addition), the hole-by-hole score will be their official score.

PLAYER REGULATIONS

- Motorized carts and caddies are prohibited. Use of non-motorized pull or push carts are allowed throughout the entire season. Requests for use of a motorized golf cart during regular and postseason competition must be due to a disability and will be evaluated by the IGHSAU on a case-by-case basis. Transitory illnesses and injuries (actual or expected duration of six months or less) do not qualify under the ADA as a disability and thus would not qualify for use of a motorized cart. Athletic directors must submit the request for golf cart use and documentation from the golfer’s physician stating the disability and the extent to which it prevents the golfer from walking during competition. Upon receipt of the request, the IGHSAU will notify the school in writing of approval or declination.
- No practice is allowed on the course, including the practice putting green or driving range, after competition has begun and until that player’s scorecard has been turned in.
- Any rule violation on the course should be called by a player. The rule violation should be brought to the attention of the entire foursome before the alleged violator has COMPLETED THE HOLE ON WHICH THE VIOLATION OCCURRED AND LEFT THE GREEN AREA. After a rule violation has been declared, the Rules Committee shall be consulted immediately.
- Decorum. If a player is guilty of unsporting conduct or demeanor, her coach and a rules committee member shall be notified. If the player is guilty of a subsequent offense, the rules committee may disqualify the violator.
- Alcohol or tobacco products are NOT permitted on the course or in student accessible areas of the associated facilities.
- The ball will be played down during the tournament series, with the tournament manager retaining the right to invoke a local rule allowing pick, clean and place if course conditions warrant.
- Continuous putting shall be employed whenever possible.
- Contact a Rules Committee Member should any question arise during the tournament.

IGHSAU CODE OF CONDUCT:

The IGHSAU local rule governing code of conduct for players prescribes that a verbal warning shall be issued on the first offense for conduct unbecoming high school players. Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to:

- Club throwing or ball throwing defined as could cause harm to another participant, spectator, course or means of releasing frustration.
- Use of abusive language.
- Willful acts which damage property or equipment on the course.
- Other unbecoming conduct as determined by the Golf Rules Committee (coaches' jury).

Second offense: the player shall be assessed a two-stroke penalty.

Third offense: the player shall be disqualified.

In regular season meets, the code of conduct shall be enforced by the Golf Rules Committee (coaches' jury) which in dual meets is comprised of the two head coaches and/or pro serving as the rules interpreter in that dual meet. In multi-team competitions, the designated three-person coaches' jury and/or pro serving as the rules interpreter shall comprise the Golf Rules Committee. Players and coaches have the discretion to alert the Golf Rules Committee if they believe a Code of Conduct violation has occurred.

The IGHSAU Code of Conduct Rule does not negate the ability to enforce USGA Rule 1.2a for "serious misconduct" which may result in immediate disqualification. The phrase "serious misconduct" in Rule 1.2a is intended to cover player misconduct that is so far removed from the expected norm in golf that the most severe sanction of removing a player from the competition is justified. The committee must determine if the misconduct is serious considering all the circumstances. Please refer to USGA Rule 1.2a Interpretations for further clarification.

Any player who uses tobacco (including smokeless and similar devices) or gambles on the course is automatically disqualified per USGA Rule 1.2a for serious misconduct. In the case of gambling between players, the players involved are disqualified in that given

Eligibility Rule 14(2) Penalties: Any student disqualified from an interscholastic contest by game officials for flagrant, violent, or verbal misconduct will be ineligible for the next regular scheduled game/meet at the level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties the IGHSAU or school may assess. The second violation carries a four games/meets automatic ineligibility. It will be the responsibility of the host school meet manager to report any disqualification(s) to the IGHSAU the day following the meet, if the meet is held on a Friday or Saturday, then on the Monday following the meet. It is the coach's responsibility to inform his/her administrator of any disqualification(s). The administrator will file an official report form with the IGHSAU.

WEATHER AND LIGHTNING PROTOCOL:

- When thunder is heard or lightning is seen, play should be suspended, and shelter taken immediately. Once play has been suspended, a 30-minute wait from the last sound of thunder or lightning strike witnessed must be taken before resuming activity. Any subsequent thunder or lightning strike during the 30-minute waiting period resets the clock, and a new 30-minute waiting period begins.
- Meet hosts are responsible for monitoring the weather activity and determining when to suspend competition. Weather protocol (notification method and procedure for calling golfers off course, shelter locations, evacuation procedures, etc.), should be given to participants prior to the start of the meet. The IGHSAU encourages all meet managers to utilize a lightning app on their phone to monitor their local weather.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY

- No alcohol or tobacco is to be sold or consumed on the grounds of any State Tournament venue leased or provided to the Athletic Union for the purpose of conducting a state championship. Section 123.46 of the Iowa Code states: A person shall not possess or consume alcoholic liquors, wine or beer on public school property or while attending a public or private school-related function. A person shall not be intoxicated or simulate intoxication in a public place. A person violating this subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

PETS/ANIMALS PROHIBITED

- No pets are permitted at events sanctioned by the IGHS AU. Any person with a pet will be asked to leave. This policy shall comply with the provisions of Iowa Code 216c in that such a person with a disability or person training an assisted animal has the right to be accompanied by a service dog or an assisted animal under control. The person is liable for damage done to any premises or facility by a service dog or assisted animal.

REGIONAL MEET INFORMATION

TOURNAMENT MANAGER:

- **DO NOT postpone or reschedule any tournament contests without first contacting the IGHSAU.** Each Regional tournament has its own manager responsible for total administration of each individual site. It is the responsibility of the tournament manager to contact all schools that will be competing at their site with contest details (time, facility information, directions, etc.). Member schools are to adhere to the instructions given.

FORMAT

- Regional tournaments are 18-hole stroke play (weather permitting – see Rainout Policy)

REGIONAL REGISTRATION AND TEAM ENTRIES:

All tournaments are played on a time schedule established by each tournament manager.

- Upon receipt of the regional golf assignments each school must prepare the Regional Roster Form and submit it to the appropriate tournament manager five days prior to the regional meet. This form is found online at the IGHSAU website under the Coaches & Administrators tab in the Golf section. Six golfers representing each school may be listed and the form must be signed by a school administrator.
- Regional pairings and team/individual advancement for each round of postseason competition will be listed in the Golf page on the IGHSAU website.
- Classes 1A and 2A must file the Regional Golf Tournament Entry Form with the first-round regional tournament manager. All Classes are required to file the Regional Final form with the Regional Final tournament manager.

REPORTING REGIONAL RESULTS:

- **Immediately following** the regional meet, tournament managers must enter the meet results for all teams/individuals at their site into Bound (same process as the regular season). **If the tournament manager is unable to enter the meet results immediately following the regional meet, then they must appoint someone to the task that is able to do so.** The assigned regional tournament manager is given access via their Bound. Results will be posted in Bound and on the IGHSAU website (www.ighsau.org)

GREEN FEES:

- \$15 per participant fee will be assessed for participation in all regional tournaments, payable directly to the host school, which in turn will be responsible for paying the host course. (Tournament managers may request schools make their checks payable to the host course, which is permissible as well.)

RULES COMMITTEE:

- The host tournament manager will serve as Rules Committee Chair. Rules Committee will be appointed by the Chair to handle all rule decisions. This Committee shall administer the tournament under USGA Rules and IGHSAU regulations and consist of five coaches from among the schools participating.

RAINOUT POLICY

- Regional Tournament – If you are required to return a second day because of a rainout and you are rained out a second time, and have finished nine holes, those nine holes scores will determine which teams and individuals qualify for the State Tournament. This **only** occurs for the second time you return.
- **Example 1:** Regionals were scheduled for Wednesday and the meet was rained out. Your team comes back on Thursday, and you are rained out, but everyone gets at least nine holes played. Those nine holes on Thursday will determine the teams and individuals that advance on to the State Tournament.

- **Example 2:** Regional play has begun, groups finish at least nine holes and are rained out, everyone returns the next day and begin play from the last completed hole by everyone in your group. If rain again forces competition to end for that day and everyone has **not** completed competition (nine holes), the first day's nine holes will determine the teams and individuals that advance to the next level of competition.

REGIONAL ADVANCEMENT:

- Teams: The top two teams in each region advance to the next level of play (Regional Finals and/or State Tournament).
 - For the first round of Regionals only (classes 1A and 2A), if the host school (playing on their home course) finishes first or second place in the first round of Regionals, then the third-place team will advance to the Regional Final match as well. *This procedure is for the first round of Regionals only. Third place teams will NOT advance to the State Tournament from the Regional Final meet if the host school finishes first or second in that region.*
- Individuals: The top six individuals (and those tied for 6th place) also advance to the next level of play, regardless of if they are on a qualifying team or not. All individual ties will be broken (except for 6th place ties) to determine each golfer's final rank.

TIE-BREAKING SYSTEM FOR REGIONALS:

- Team Competition
 - Regionals - the 5th team player scores shall be compared. If a tie still exists, compare the scores of the 6th players. If a tie exists at each of these levels both teams advance. There are no playoffs at Regional Tournaments. If a team does not have a 5th (or 6th) place golfer to compare scores, then they automatically lose and the team with the 5th (or 6th) place golfer wins.
- Medalist Competition:
 - Regionals - medalist distribution and place will be determined by a card back starting with the number one handicap hole. Medals will be issued at the regional final meet and awarded according to the tie-breaker system. All players finishing sixth (or tied for 6th) shall advance. Ties for 6th do not need to be broken. All players participating in the regional tournaments, whether they qualified as a medalist or advanced through team competition, are eligible for medalist honors.

AWARDS:

- Regional Team Competition:
 - Regional Final champion and runner-up will receive a state qualifier banner + ticket punched signs
 - Regional Final team champions will receive medals.
- Regional Medalist Competition:
 - The top six individuals at the Regional Final (and those tied for 6th place) will receive medals.

TEE ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES

To assist the tournament manager as tee assignments are made for Regional Tournament competition, the following guidelines have been established.

- No golfers from the same school shall be in the same group, unless approved by the IGHSAU.
- Golfers may be grouped in threesomes or foursomes only. NO groups larger than four golfers shall be permitted during IGHSAU tournament competition.
- The top four teams (based on the total of their individual averages) may be paired together and then the next four teams (and so on) will be paired together (based on the total of their individual averages).
- Individuals advancing within the regional tournament shall be paired together. It is suggested that individual qualifiers start on holes 1 and 10 if possible.
- Two starting methods are permitted. A "shotgun" start, in which all players begin play simultaneously on different holes, or a "tee time" start, in which all players begin on Hole 1/Hole 10 in successive groups. The shotgun method is preferred by the IGHSAU.

SCOREKEEPER INFORMATION

- Scorekeepers are not required during regional meets; however, it is an option for those that have the volunteer base to do so. All coaches of participating teams/individuals shall be notified of the use of scorekeepers prior to their arrival at the regional site. If scorekeepers are used, there must be a scorekeeper for each group...no exceptions.
- High school students/golfers and parents of golfers are not allowed to serve as scorekeepers.
- Scorekeepers are NOT to make golf rulings. Rules Committee member should be consulted.
- Scorekeepers are to keep the unofficial score of the group they are assigned. Each golfer will also keep the score of another in her group, which is the official scorecard for the golfer. Each golfer must turn in her own card to the official scoring table.

PRESS ACCOMMODATIONS

- All press outlets have been advised to directly contact the tournament manager of a site from which they wish to cover. Radio stations and newspapers are not obligated to inquire through the IGHSAU, nor is the tournament manager obligated to acquire sanction from the IGHSAU. This provision applies to regional tournament coverage.
- Television stations are not obligated to acquire sanction from the IGHSAU to tape highlights or tape a contest for 24-hour or more delayed rebroadcast.

SOUVENIR PROGRAMS

- Host schools may furnish official programs for their site either on a gratis or sales basis and may retain any profits derived from the sale thereof.

STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

ADMISSION:

- Spectator admission for State Golf is \$10 per day for adults and students (K-12). **There is no charge for children who are not yet in kindergarten.**

GREEN FEES:

- State tournament greens fees are paid by the IGHSAU.

TEAM ENTRY FORM:

- State qualifying coaches will have a Google form sent to them where they will enter their state meet roster and scoring averages.
- Qualifying teams may enter up to 6 golfers + 1 alternate. The alternate may be interchanged in your lineup from Day 1 to Day 2. You may not use an alternate at the state meet if you do not enter them on the team entry form prior to the state meet.

TEE ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES:

- No golfers from the same school will be in the same group.
- Golfers will be grouped in threesomes or foursomes.
- The top five teams (based on their team CAVG) will be paired together, and the bottom five teams will be paired together.
- Individual qualifier tee assignments will be determined based on the number of state qualifiers.

STATE TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES:

- Six golfers representing each school may be listed on the State Team Roster. It is permissible to list a seventh golfer that will be playing in place of one of the first six golfers listed on day two.

TIME SCHEDULE:

- Day 1:
 - 7:00 am Driving Range opens / Packet pick-up available
 - 8:00 a.m. Mandatory coaches meeting at clubhouse
 - 8:40 a.m. Meeting/Welcome with players and spectators
 - 9:00 a.m. Shotgun start.
- Day 2:
 - 7:00 am Driving Range opens
 - 8:00 a.m. Coaches meeting at clubhouse (subject to change)
 - 8:15 a.m. Meeting with players and spectators
 - 8:30 a.m. Tee time start
- The tournament will not await arrival of coaches or players either day.

COACHES MEETING

- The coaches meeting is mandatory on Thursday. Failure to attend this meeting may result in disqualification of that team's members. It is the responsibility of each coach to attend and in turn carry instructions to their own golf squad.
- Coaches will wear lanyards and wristbands issued by the State Office. This is to clarify who is permitted to give instruction to players on the course. Qualifying schools will receive two coaches' lanyards/wristbands. Coaches' badges/wristbands must be worn by school-appointed, certified

coaches and must be visible. Any school giving coaching credentials to non-school approved and certified coaches may result in the disqualification of that school.

FORMAT

- The tournament is 36-hole stroke play (weather permitting – see Rainout Policy)

RAINOUT POLICY

- If eighteen holes are played on the first day and it is impossible to play the second day due to rain, the first eighteen holes will determine the champion. Likewise, if the first day is rained out but weather permits eighteen holes to be completed on the second day, the second day eighteen holes will determine a winner.
- Unless otherwise determined by the IGHS AU, Day 1 scores will be carried over to Day 2 of the State Tournament if the entire field has completed at least 12 holes. Every effort must be made to complete 18 holes on Day 1 of the tournament. Day 2 will commence with teams completing Day 1's round by re-starting where golfers' balls were marked when play was suspended on Day 1. Tee assignments for Day 1 will be carried over to Day 2 if teams are finishing their Day 1 round on Day 2. If both days are rained out, then the tournament will be rescheduled by the IGHS AU, and participating schools will be notified accordingly. When the tournament is rescheduled, competition will be eighteen holes.

TIE-BREAKING SYSTEM FOR STATE

- Team Competition
 - The combined score of the 5th golfer for both days will be compared. If still tied, the combined score of the 6th golfer for both days will be compared. If a team does not have a 5th or 6th golfer to compare scores and the other team does, the team without the 5th and/or 6th golfer automatically loses the tiebreaker. If teams are still tied after that, they tie for that team place (for all non-champion positions). If multiple teams are tied for the championship after comparing 5th and 6th golfers scores, the coach will name four players who will play in a hole-by-hole playoff. All four scores count. Teams will play until the tie is broken. Teams may not change out their four golfers once the playoff has begun.
- Medalist Competition
 - A tie for State Medalist shall be determined by sudden death playoff with the pre-determined playoff holes. For individual play, ties beyond first place will be determined by a card back starting with the number one handicap hole. All players participating in the state tournaments, whether they qualified as a medalist or advanced through team competition, are eligible for medalist honors.

AWARDS

- State Team Competition
 - State qualifying teams will receive a trophy and medals
- State Medalist Competition
 - The individual champion will receive a trophy.
 - The top ten individuals (and those tied for 10th place) will receive medals.
- Each participant in the State Tournament will also be given a qualifier medal.

STATE TOURNAMENT TRAVEL EXPENSES:

- The IGHS AU will reimburse State qualifying schools for travel expenses at the rates of 44¢ per mile one way for individual qualifier(s) and \$1.25 per mile one way per team.