

OHSAA

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



2016

OHSAA GOLF COACHES GUIDE





A Message from OHSAA Golf Administrator: Lauren Prochaska

This “Golf Coaches Guide” (formerly referred to as a “Pre-Season Manual”) serves to explain and highlight both the USGA Playing Rules as well as OHSAA Regulations affecting coaches and players. As you will know by reading this, the OHSAA is doing its part to “Go Green” by eliminating the hard copy printing and mailing of this extensive guide and making it available online. It is important that we work **together** to insure this information is in the hands of ALL coaches – not just head coaches. In essence, this guide is a detailed written version of the rules interpretation meeting.

Rules interpretation meetings are **now mandatory every year. Beginning in 2016, the rules meeting will be offered online only.** The online meeting will replace face to face meetings and become available **July 19**. Directions and availability are detailed in the early pages of this manual. We hope you’ll encourage your assistant and junior high coaches to view this also. The purpose of the “Rules Interpretation Meetings” is to give EVERYONE a thorough understanding of the interpretations of OHSAA Regulations as well as the changes to the National playing rules written by the USGA.

Rules governing OHSAA golf stem from the United States Golf Association (USGA) *and* the OHSAA. USGA Rules govern all playing rules while OHSAA Sport Regulations govern specific rules to Ohio as well as the various administrative regulations and interpretations. Our elected Board of Directors approve these regulations annually and serve as the basis for ALL schools playing by the same rules.

Communication is key in the successful administration of any of our sports. I encourage you to ask questions or seek assistance by *first* going through your Athletic Administrator. We encourage YOUR communication with them to help us operate as efficiently as possible.

This is wishing each of you a successful golf season. I commend you for your time and effort working with the student-athletes in Ohio.

IMPORTANT DATES

2016 OHSAA GOLF CALENDAR	
August 1	First Day of Coaching
August 5	Season Begins
September 5	Non Interscholastic Competition No Longer Permitted – All Divisions Boys and Girls
September 26–October 1 October 3 – October 8	Sectional Tournaments - Boys Division II & III and Girls II Sectional Tournaments – Boys Division I & Girls I
October 3 – October 8 October 10 - 15	District Tournaments - Boys Division II & III and Girls II District Tournaments – Boys Division I & Girls I
October 14 - 15 October 21 - 22	State Tournaments – Boys Division II & III and Girls II State Tournaments – Boys Division I & Girls I
October 29	Season Ends

OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION

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GOLF LINKS

United States Golf Association	http://www.usga.org
Ohio High School Golf Coaches Association	http://www.ohsgca.org/index.htm
Ohio High School Athletic Association: Boys Golf	http://ohsaa.org/sports/go/boys/default.asp
Ohio High School Athletic Association: Girls Golf	http://ohsaa.org/sports/go/girls/default.asp

OHSAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

Rules Interpretation Meeting

Note to Coaches:

OHSAA Golf Sports Regulations will be covered as well as General Regulations and Bylaws as they pertain to coaches and players. In addition, there will be information pertaining to USGA Playing Rules. Though the main purpose is to provide knowledge and advice on the various OHSAA and USGA regulations, this is the education mechanism to insure compliance with the various rules and regulations. In light of many infractions that occur throughout the year, information provided in these meetings, is designed to reduce and prevent these infractions.

Instructions and Tips for Completing the Rules Meeting Online

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA's BOYS GOLF (<http://ohsaa.org/sports/go/boys/default.asp>) or GIRLS GOLF (<http://ohsaa.org/sports/go/girls/default.asp>) webpage. You will need your **SCHOOL ID NUMBER**, which can be provided by your school's Athletic Director. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed and any quizzes or surveys must be completed** for attendance credit to be provided. PLEASE note that this is NOT INSTANTANEOUS and is generally done approximately every 5 days. There is no 'certificate of completion' email that will be sent, as in years past. **PLEASE do not call the OHSAA Office to verify your attendance—if you go to the last slide, you completed the meeting** and you will see your attendance credit on your myOHSAA profile in 5-10 days.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

The last day for completion of the online version is **Tuesday, August 23, 2016** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version. PLEASE do not call the office for verification after completing the online version, IF you 'attend'....TRUST the system and it will record your attendance.

Please note that our attendance software system hasn't always cooperated with the relationship between the Online Rules Meetings and tablets and/or mobile devices—it allows you to complete the course, but does not ask for any information, resulting in no credit. We suggest you use a desktop or laptop computer to make sure you receive proper credit for completing the rules meeting.

Coach Certification & Education

As outlined in Ohio Administrative Code, all Coaches of Middle School/Jr. High and High School teams **MUST** possess a "Pupil Activity/Coaching Permit" to coach in Ohio. This includes paid coaches AND volunteer coaches. School administrators are responsible for maintaining records on compliance and most schools provide opportunities for their coaches to obtain the necessary coursework. Information on obtaining your Permit can be found at: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Educator-Licensure/Audiences/Coaching-Permits>

To obtain the required certificate through the ODE, one must:



- Have completed a Sports' First Aid Course
- Possess a valid CPR Card
- Have been approved by their local Board of Education or similar governing body
- Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course
- Complete 1 of the 2 approved Concussion Recognition/Management Courses

Completion of the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course was made part of the requirement to coach in Ohio as a result of Board of Directors action in June of 2008. Completion of an approved "Concussion Course" was signed into law effective April of 2013.

Mandatory Parent Pre-Season Meeting

Pre-season meetings with parents are MANDATED by OHSAA Bylaws and will most likely occur at your school along with other fall sport teams. This is determined by each school's Athletic Administrator **and must be held no later than 2 weeks after the start of the season** (August 1 – August 14, 2016). This is the time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport policies, sportsmanship issues and expectations travel plans for away contests, etc. I encourage coaches to use this time to their advantage and provide as much education as possible to parents.

New!

Matches Permitted

New!

All of you are probably aware of a couple important changes that were approved for the 2016 season. The first change allows you to schedule 20 contests at the high school level. This was approved by the Board of Directors in June 2015 and is being implemented beginning with the 2016 season. There have been no changes at the middle school level, you are still permitted 14 contests.

New!

Match Play Contests

New!

The second change for the 2016 season allows you to schedule two match play contests in a format of your choosing during your non-league schedule. The hole limitation in match play contests is extended to 36.

Non-Interscholastic Rule

As soon as your golfers compete in a scrimmage or match for your school team, they are no longer permitted to participate in non-interscholastic events (scrambles, club championships, AJGA events, etc.). The non-interscholastic date of September 5th is for those golfers who choose not to begin competing with their school teams at the start of the season and instead choose to compete non-interscholastically. They must begin competition with their school teams by September 5th in order to be eligible for the OHSAA tournament.

Girls Playing on Boys Teams

For those of you who have individual girls competing on your boys teams during the regular season, the girls must tee-off from the same tees as the boys. Please note that during the regular season, girls cannot go back and forth between playing in girls and boys events.



To: Golf Coaches of Ohio

From: Officers of your Coaches Association

Welcome to the new season of interscholastic golf. We hope that this season will be filled with success and hope for all. As the new season begins, we would like to take this opportunity to make sure that all of the coaches of Ohio are aware of the benefits available by becoming members of your State Association.

First and foremost we are responsible for representing both Boys and Girls coaches as the advisory body for your sport. As a member you would be offered the right to vote for the District Representative from each of your districts. That representative is the voice for both Boys and Girls coaches from your sections of the State. The Association has advocated for many changes. This includes but is not limited to the split of the State Tournament to two weekends, the addition of the coaching rule, including the changes just completed, and overseeing the growth of Girls Golf to two (2) divisions.

Secondly, as a member, your players will become eligible to be awarded for outstanding play at the State Championship Tournament with the All-Ohio Awards offered only by the OHSGCA. These honors are given to the top five (5) scores including ties for a First Team Award, and the next five (5) and ties for the Second Team Award.

Third as a member of the Association, all members of your teams will be eligible for the "OHSGCA Phil Allen Academic All-Ohio Award". This award is given by your Association to all senior letter winners who have achieved a 3.25 GPA for their High School academic career.

Membership to this Association is only \$25.00 if paid by September 1, 2016. If paid after that date the fee will be \$50.00. Information on how to join can be found on the Association web page at OHSGCA.org and looking on the clinic drop page.

Thank you for taking the time to consider joining your State Coaches Association. We hope everyone has a great season, and also hope to see you at the State Tournament in October.

Casey Milligan
Treasurer, OHSGCA

OHSGCA Executive Board Members

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RULES INTER. /P. P.

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OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS

7. GOLF — BOYS AND GIRLS

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) PARTICIPATION LIMITATION — 9th-12th Grades — 20 matches (20 days) 7th & 8th grades — 14 matches (14 days)
A high school team and/or golfer may participate in a maximum number of 20 regular season contests. Any and all matches participated in by an individual shall count towards the team's match limitation of 20. 7th and 8th grade golfers are permitted 14 matches. Each contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents.
- 1.2) INTERRUPTED CONTEST (Regular Season) — When play is interrupted/suspended due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority, the contest may be resumed from the point of interruption that day, provided the golf course can be played in the same layout on which the course was found at the beginning of the competition that day. If play cannot be resumed from the point of interruption that day, the match/tournament shall be replayed from the beginning on a future date and any suspended play will not count. The determination to resume play shall be made by the PGA Professional and/or home coach in accordance with OHSAA guidelines.
- 1.3) INTERRUPTED TOURNAMENT — Any OHSAA tournament contest interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be resumed from the point of interruption. (At the state tournament, the tournament manager retains the right to determine whether to resume play or revert to an 18 hole event.)
- 1.4) SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE — No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a contest unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education. Teams or individuals unaccompanied by such school representative will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present throughout the contest.
- 1.5) CADDIES — Caddies are not permitted during a contest. Participants will be disqualified if any person assists by caddying or if the participant rides in any type of vehicle.
EXCEPTION: A medically authorized waiver is permitted for the use of a vehicle. A copy of the doctor's statement and school request cover letter must be filed with the OHSAA and the OHSAA authorization shown to the referee.
- 1.6) PULL CARTS — Pull carts are permitted.
- 1.7) SCORING — Stroke play shall be utilized for all contests. The team score shall be determined by totaling the scores of the four players with the fewest strokes for the contest. The team with the fewest number of strokes is the winner. During regular season matches, schools may play six individuals and score four by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches, prior to the match.
1.7.1) Ties in team scoring shall be resolved by comparing the scores of the 5th lowest score, and the team with the 5th lowest score shall prevail. If one team does not have a 5th score, the team with a 5th score shall prevail. If the 5th lowest score does not break the tie, schools playing six individuals shall compare the sixth lowest score to break the tie. If the tie remains, the contest shall end in a tie or tied teams may play off the tie using four players selected by the coaches of the tied teams.
In regular season play if a playoff is not feasible, the contest will end in a tie.
In regular season play, ties for medalist or other awards will be left up to the host school.
EXCEPTION: Two non-league matches may be played in a match play format mutually agreed upon by opposing coaches prior to the contest, not to exceed 36 holes.
- 1.8) CONDUCT — A two stroke penalty shall be assessed for unsporting conduct. Unsporting 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 include disqualification.
- 1.9) The home school coach shall serve as referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations and

U.S.G.A. rules. Any coach and/or designee serving in that capacity who is giving advice pertaining to these regulations and/or rules must have the regulations and rules book with him/her to ensure the rule/regulation is administered correctly.

- 1.10) **COACHING** — The coaching regulation permits the school board-approved coach/designee assigned to the event to speak with his/her player(s), without delay of play, at any time. Participants will be disqualified if any other individual assists the participant by coaching and giving advice which could influence a player in determining play, the choice of a club or method of making a stroke (Rule 8).

Note: A team member is not a partner and may not give advice to or receive advice from another member. The following procedures govern on-course coaching:

- 1.10.1) During the player's stipulated round, coaches are not permitted on any green or in any sand bunker.

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.

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.

- 1.11) **DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES** — In accordance with USGA Rules of Golf "A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. 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 play (e.g., gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used." Cell Phones **may not** be used as distance measuring devices in OHSAA events.

2) **Non-Interscholastic Participation**

- 5.1) A member of an interscholastic golf squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, or regular season/tournament contest) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or member of a team in the sport of golf during the school's golf season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

Note: Examples of golf contests include, but are not limited to, club or course championships, scrambles, tournaments, leagues, charitable events and other events that are organized for the purpose of competition.

- 5.2) An athlete who has participated for the school in the sport of golf in that season but has been invited to/qualified for the U.S. Amateur for boys and girls, the Junior Ryder Cup for boys and girls and/or the Junior Solheim Cup for girls may be granted a waiver/exemption to participate in those competitions without jeopardizing eligibility provided written permission is obtained from the OHSAA Commissioner's Office. If applicable, the student granted such a waiver/exemption may return to participate in OHSAA tournament competition so long as tournament regulations regarding entry/participation are adhered to.

- 5.3) Participation in "skills contests" (such as but not limited to "Drive, Chip and Putt") is **not** a violation of OHSAA Non-Interscholastic Individual Sports Regulation 7.2.2 for student-athletes.

- 5.4) **Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date:**

An individual who has not participated as a representative for the school in a golf contest during the current season must cease non-interscholastic competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Golf Tournament to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition in golf.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in golf who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in golf shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in golf in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: September 5, 2016 – For all boys and girls divisions

- 5.5) Interscholastic golf coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

3) **Sponsorship**

- 3.1) A school that sponsors girls golf, with four or more girls participating, shall have a separate girls team in order to enter the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament competition.
- 3.2) A school that sponsors girls golf and has less than four girls participating may permit the girls to participate as individuals with the boys team during the regular season, and the girls will be permitted to enter and compete as individuals in the OHSAA- sponsored girls tournament provided the school is registered for the girls tournament.
- 3.3) A school that sponsors boys and girls golf and has separate teams shall schedule separate contests, but both may be held at the same time.
- 3.4) A school that does not sponsor girls golf but has four or more girls participating may permit the girls to participate on the boys team, but they must enter the OHSAA- sponsored boys tournament competition.

4) **Penalties**

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2, participation on a non-interscholastic golf squad, or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic golf season or the ensuing season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

5) **Transfer Bylaw**

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to participate in golf, please go to the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org), click on the "Eligibility" link, then click on the "Transfer Bylaw Resource Center" to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests until regular season contest number 11 in golf and then eligible for no more than 10 contests for the remainder of the regular season.

6) **Other Bylaws and Regulations**

- 6.1) For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Golf Coaches Guide posted at www.ohsaa.org
- 6.2) For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 and the Golf Coaches Guide posted at www.ohsaa.org
- 6.3) 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.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First contest — August 5, 2016.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournaments — September 12, 2016.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — September 18, 2016.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — October 29, 2016.
- 6) Scrimmages — One permitted any time during the season.
- 7) Regular season contests — 20 for team and individual and each interscholastic contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents. (20 days)
- 8) Rules — United States Golf Association.
- 9) Officials — No requirements.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First contest — August 5, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — October 29, 2016.
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests — 14 for team and individual and each interscholastic contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents.
- 6) Rules — United States Golf Association.
- 7) Officials — No requirements.

Golf	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Coaching Begins	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1
Season Begins	8/5	8/5	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/6
Non-Interscholastic Date All B&G Div.	9/5	9/4	9/3	9/2	9/7	9/6
Sectional Boys Divisions II & III & Girls II	9/26-10/1#	9/25-9/30#	9/24-9/29#	9/23-9/28#	9/28-10/3#	9/27-10/2#
Sectional Boys Division I & Girls I	10/3-10/8#	10/2-10/7#	10/1-10/6#	9/30-10/5#	10/5-10/10#	10/4-10/9#
District Boys Divisions II & III & Girls II	10/3-10/8	10/2-10/7	10/1-10/6	9/30-10/5	10/5-10/10	10/4-10/9
District Boys Division I & Girls I	10/10-10/15	10/9-10/14	10/8-10/13	10/7-10/12	10/12-10/17	10/11-10/16
State Boys Divisions II & III & Girls II	10/14-10/15	10/13-10/14	10/12-10/13	10/11-10/12	10/16-10/17	10/15-10/16
State Boys Division I & Girls I	10/21-10/22	10/20-10/21	10/19-10/20	10/18-10/19	10/23-10/24	10/22-10/23
Season Ends	10/29	10/28	10/27	10/26	10/31	10/30
Rosh Hashanah	10/3-10/4	9/21-9/22	9/10-9/11	9/30-10/1	9/19-9/20	9/7-9/8
Yom Kippur	10/11-10/12	9/29-9/30	9/18-9/19	10/8-10/9	9/27-9/28	9/15-9/16
#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).						

COACHING RULE

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

The regulation permits the school board approved coach/designee assigned to that event to speak with his/her players without delay of play at any time.

This regulation should be applied with the following procedures:

1. During the player's stipulated round, coaches are not permitted on any green or in any sand bunker.
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 3-2-1- school representative must accompany team).

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

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE RULES OF GOLF

This guide focuses on commonly encountered rules situations and attempts to provide a simple explanation of these rules. This guide is not a substitute for the Rules of Golf, which should be consulted whenever any doubt arises. For more information on the points covered, please refer to the relevant rule.

General Points

The game of golf should be played in the correct spirit and to understand this you should read the Etiquette Section in the Rules of Golf. In particular:

- show consideration to other players
- play at a good pace and be ready to invite faster moving groups to play through, and
- take care of the course by smoothing bunkers, replacing divots and repairing ball marks on the greens.

Before starting your round you are advised to:

- read the local rules on the score card and the notice board and also any rule sheet that is provided to the players.
- put an identification mark on your ball; many golfers play the same brand of ball and if you can't identify your ball, it is considered lost (rules 12-2 and 27-1)
- count your clubs; you are allowed a maximum of 14 clubs (Rule 4-4).

During the round:

- don't ask for advice from anyone except your partner (i.e., a player on your side) (teammates are not partners) or your caddies; don't give advice to anyone except your partner; you may ask for information on the rules, distances and the position of hazards, the flagstick, etc. (Rule 8-1)
- don't use any artificial devices or unusual equipment, unless specifically authorized by local rule (Rule 14-3).

At the end of your round:

- in match play, ensure the result of the match is posted
- in stroke play, ensure that your score card is completed properly (including being signed by you and your marker) and return it to the committee as soon as possible (Rule 6-6).

The Rules of Play

Tee Shot (Rule 11)

Play your tee shot from between, and not in front of the tee-markers. You may play your tee shot from up to two club-lengths behind the front line of the tee-markers.

If you play your tee shot from outside this area:

- in match play there is no penalty, but your opponent may require you to replay your stroke provided he does so immediately;
- in stroke play you incur a two-stroke penalty and must play a ball from within the correct area.

Playing the Ball (Rules 12, 13, 14 and 15)

If you think a ball is yours but can't see your identification mark, after notifying your marker or opponent, you may mark the position of the ball and lift it to identify it (Rule 12-2).

Play the ball as it lies. Don't improve your lie, the area of your intended stance or swing, or your line of play by:

- moving, bending or breaking anything fixed or growing, except in fairly taking your stance or making your swing, or
- pressing anything down (Rule 13-2).

If your ball is in a bunker or a water hazard, don't:

- touch the ground (or the water in a water hazard) with your hand or club before your downswing, or
- move loose impediments (Rule 13-4).

If you play a wrong ball:

- in match play you lose the hole
- in stroke play you incur a two-stroke penalty and must correct the mistake by playing the correct ball (Rule 15-3).

On the Putting Green (Rules 16 and 17)

On the putting green, you may:

- mark, lift and clean your ball (always replace it on the exact spot), and
- repair ball marks and old hole plugs, but not any other damage, such as spike marks (Rule 16-1).

When making a stroke on the putting green, you should ensure that the flagstick is removed or attended. The flagstick may also be removed or attended when the ball lies off the putting green (Rule 17).

Ball at Rest Moved (Rule 18)

Generally, when a player's ball is in play, if the player, his partner or either of their caddies:

- lifts or moves the ball
- touches it purposely (except with a club in the act of addressing the ball)
- causes the ball to move or
- the equipment of the player or his partner causes the ball to move

Add a penalty stroke and if the ball is moved, it must be replaced.

If someone other than you, your partner or your caddies moves your ball at rest, or it is moved by another ball, replace your ball without penalty. If a ball at rest is moved by the wind or moves of its own accord, play it as it lies without penalty.

Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped (Rule 19)

If a ball struck by you is deflected or stopped by you, your partner, your caddies or your equipment, you incur a penalty of one stroke and play the ball as it lies (Rule 19-2). If a ball struck by you is deflected or stopped by another ball at rest, there is normally no penalty and

the ball is played as it lies. However, in stroke play only if both balls lay on the putting green before you made your stroke, you incur a two-stroke penalty (Rule 19-5a).

Lifting, Dropping and Placing the Ball (Rule 20)

Prior to lifting a ball that has to be replaced (e.g., when you lift a ball on the putting green to clean it), the position of the ball must be marked (Rule 20-1). When the ball is being lifted in order to drop or place it in another position (e.g. dropping within two club-lengths under the unplayable ball rule), it is not mandatory to mark its position although it is recommended that you do so.

When dropping, stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it. The most common situations where a dropped ball must be re-dropped are when the ball:

- rolls to a position where there is interference from the condition from which free relief is being taken (e.g., an immovable obstruction)
- comes to rest more than two club-lengths from where it was dropped, or
- comes to rest nearer the hole than its original position, the nearest point of relief or where the ball last crossed the margin of a water hazard.

There are nine situations in total when a dropped ball must be re-dropped and they are covered in Rule 20-2c. If a ball dropped for a second time rolls into any of these positions, you place it where it first struck the course when re-dropped.

Ball Assisting or interfering with Play (Rule 22)

You may

- lift your ball or have any other ball lifted if you think it might assist any other player or
- have any other ball lifted if it might interfere with your play.

You must not agree to leave a ball in position in order to assist another player. A ball that is lifted because it is assisting or interfering with play must not be cleaned, except when it is lifted from the putting green.

Loose Impediments (Rule 23)

You may move a loose impediment (i.e., natural loose objects such as stones, detached leaves and twigs) unless the loose impediment and your ball are in the same hazard. If you remove a loose impediment and this causes your ball to move, the ball must be replaced and (unless your ball was on the putting green) you incur a one-stroke penalty.

Movable Obstructions (Rule 24-1)

Movable obstructions (i.e., artificial movable objects such as rakes, bottles, etc.) located anywhere may be moved without penalty. If the ball moves as a result, it must be replaced without penalty.

If a ball is in or on a movable obstruction, the ball may be lifted, the obstruction removed and the ball dropped, without penalty, on the spot directly under where the ball lay on the obstruction, except that on the putting green, the ball is placed on that spot.

Immovable Obstructions and Abnormal Ground Conditions (Rules 24-2 and 25-1)

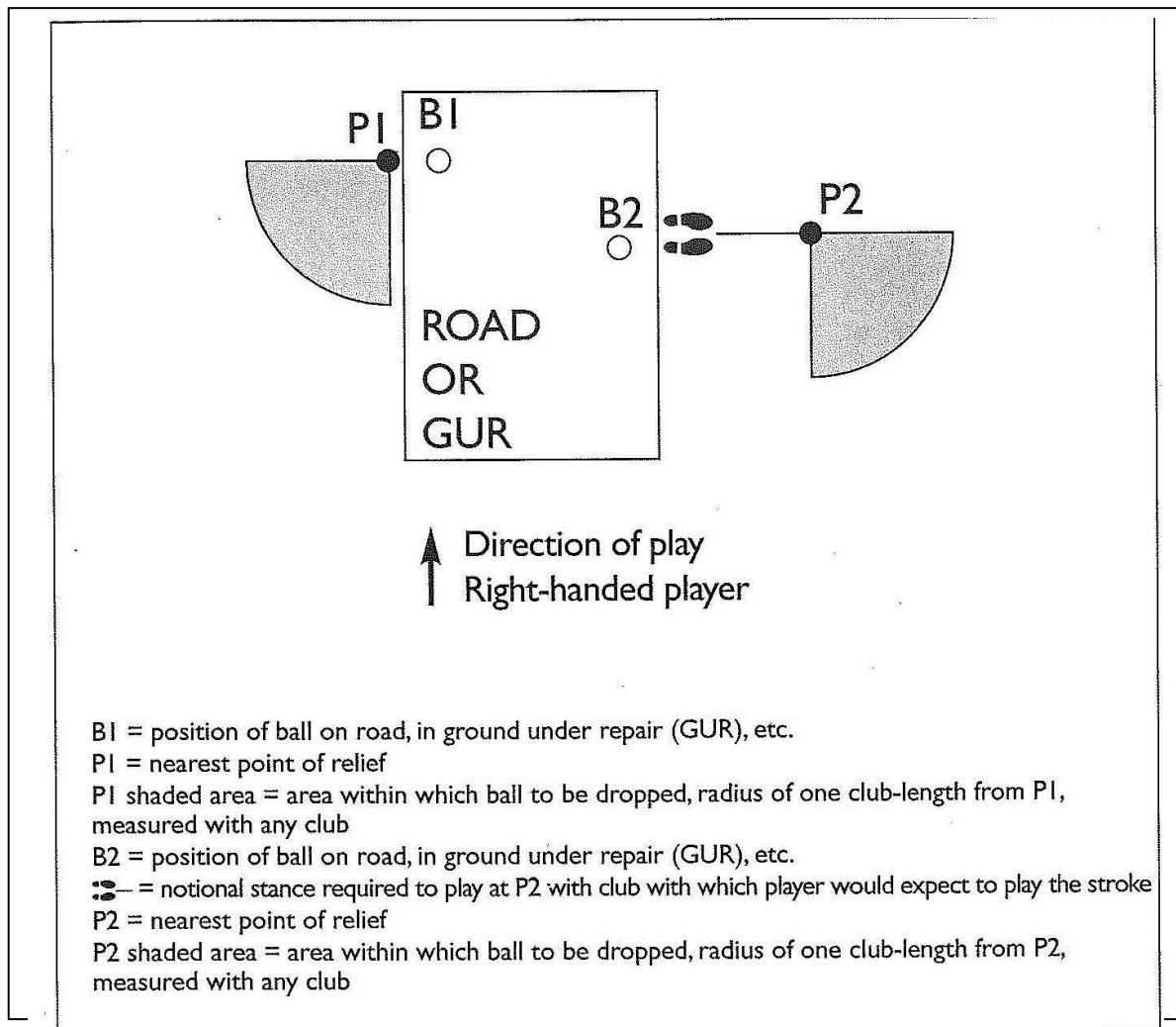
An immovable obstruction is an artificial object on the course that cannot be moved (e.g., a building) or cannot readily be moved (e.g., a firmly embedded direction post). Objects defining out of bounds are not treated as obstructions.

An abnormal ground condition is casual water, ground under repair or a hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, a reptile or a bird. Except when the ball is in a water hazard, relief without penalty is available from immovable obstructions and abnormal ground conditions when the condition physically interferes with the lie of the ball, your stance or your swing. You may lift the ball and drop it within one club-length of the nearest point of relief (see Definition of "Nearest Point of Relief", but not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief (see diagram below). If the ball is on the putting green, it is placed at the nearest point of relief, which may be off the putting green.

There is no relief for intervention on your line of play unless both your ball and the condition are on the putting green.

As an additional option when the ball is in a bunker, you may take relief from the condition by dropping the ball outside and behind the bunker under penalty of one stroke.

The following diagram illustrates the term "Nearest point of Relief" in Rules 24-2 and 25-1 in the case of a right-handed player.



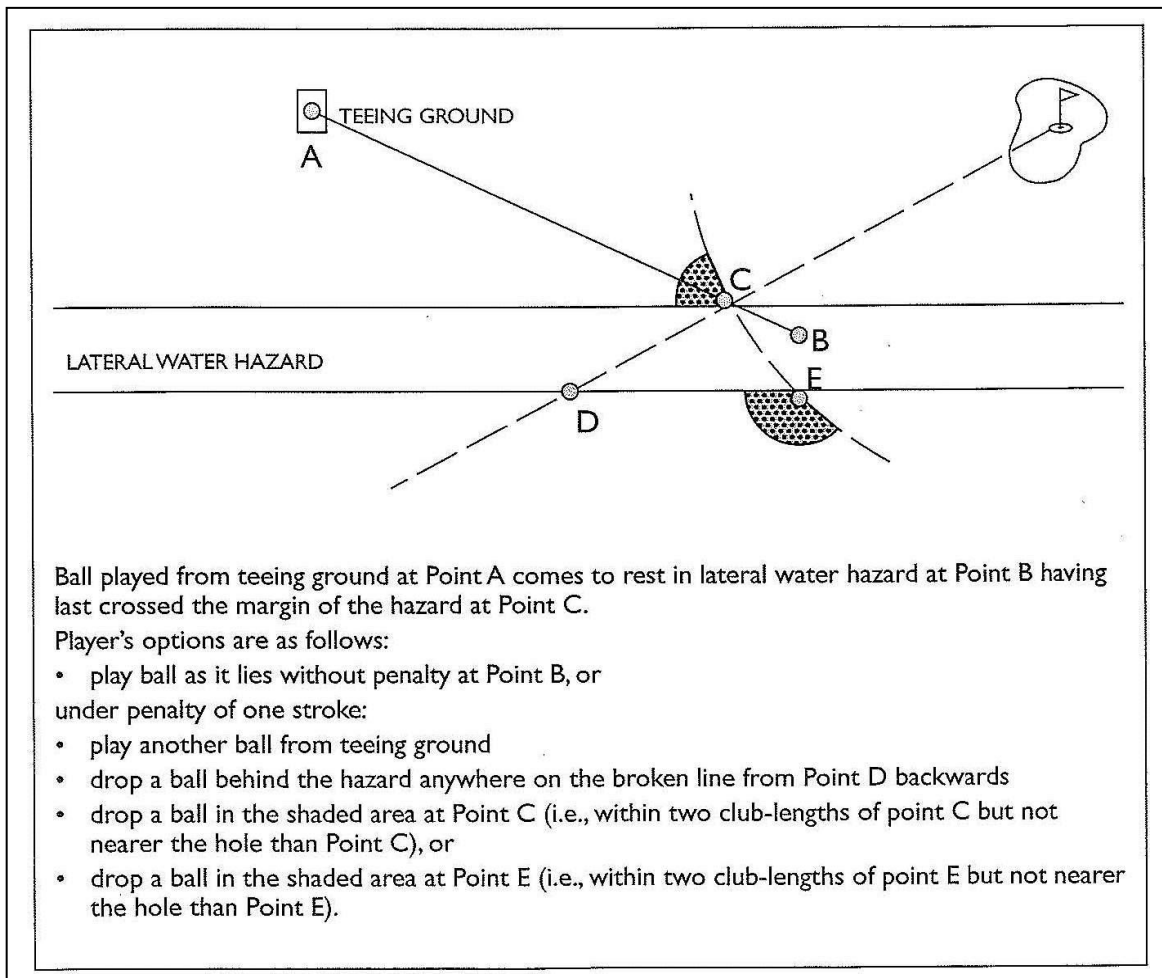
Water Hazards (Rule 26)

If your ball is in a water hazard (yellow stakes and/or lines) you may play it as it lies or, under penalty of one stroke:

- play a ball from where your last shot was played, or
- drop a ball any distance behind the water hazard keeping a straight line between the hole, the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard and the spot on which the ball is dropped.

If your ball is in a lateral water hazard (red stakes and/or lines), in addition to the options for a ball in a water hazard (see above), under penalty of one stroke, you may drop a ball with two club-lengths of, and not nearer the hole than:

- the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard, or
- a point on the opposite side of the hazard equidistant to the hole from the point where the ball last crossed the margins.



Ball Lost or out of Bounds; Provisional Ball (Rule 27)

Check the local rules on the score card to identify the boundaries of the course. These are normally defined by fences, walls, white stakes or white lines.

If your ball is lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you must play another ball from the spot where the last shot was played, under penalty of one stroke, i.e., stroke and distance. You are allowed 5 minutes to search for a ball. If it is not found within 5 minutes, it is lost.

If, after playing a shot, you think your ball may be lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you should play a provisional ball. You must state that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball.

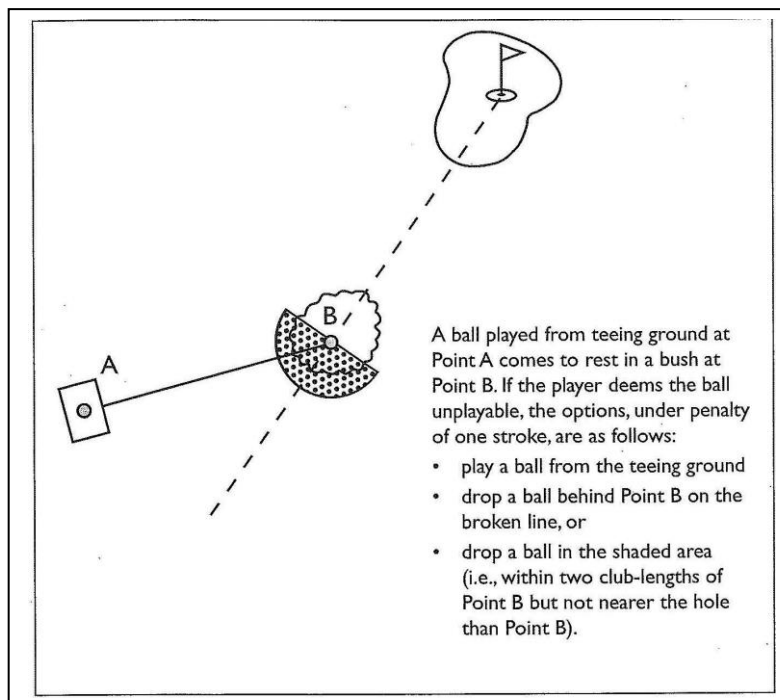
If the original ball is lost (other than in a water hazard) or out of bounds, you must continue with the provisional ball, under penalty of one stroke. If the original ball is found in bounds, you must continue play of the hole with it, and must stop playing the provisional ball.

Ball Unplayable (Rule 28)

If your ball is in a water hazard and you do not wish to play it as it lies, you must proceed under the water hazard rule – the unplayable ball rule does not apply. Elsewhere on the course, if you believe your ball is unplayable, you may, under penalty of one stroke:

- play a ball from where your last shot was played, or
- drop a ball any distance behind the point where the ball lay keeping a straight line between the hole, the point where the ball lay and the spot on which the ball is dropped, or
- drop a ball within two club-lengths of where the ball lies not nearer the hole.

If your ball is in a bunker you may proceed as above, except that if you are dropping back on a line or within two club-lengths, you must drop a ball in the bunker.



LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

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 OHSAA 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 lightening 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 lightening 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.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.

3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

Additional information is available from the OHSAA and the National Federation of High Schools

Note from Roxanne Price: Chair of the OHSAA Sportsmanship Ethics, and Integrity Committee:

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember ...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed on the next page is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

SPORTING CONDUCT

RespectSM THE GAME

The OHSAA challenges everyone to take positive steps toward positive sporting behavior. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true-life lessons, and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning.

Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

It is difficult to develop a great setter, a great hitter or a great defensive player. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

CONCLUSION

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

ONLINE RESOURCES

On our website (www.ohsaa.org) click on "Respect the Game" on the right side of the screen) you will find **Fair Play Codes** for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding **parents' role in interscholastic athletics**. The Respect the Game site also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions. A direct link can be found by clicking on <http://www.ohsaa.org/RTG/Resources/resources.htm>

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Tournament Regulations are available at www.ohsaa.org. (after approval at the August Board of Directors meeting). On the web site, under "**Sports**" select golf. The tournament regulations are listed under "**Tournament Information**" on the left side.

Looking Ahead to Tournament Time

The OHSAA sponsors Boys Tournaments in 3 division and Girls Tournaments in 2 divisions. Each of the state's District Athletic Boards are empowered by the OHSAA Constitution to organize and conduct the boys' and girls' golf tournaments at the Sectional and District levels.

EMIS numbers were adopted by the Board of Directors in June. The 3 divisions in boys and 2 divisions in girls are determined by the EMIS reports from the October 2014 count. Divisional realignments will remain as listed below through the 2016 season. Divisional Breakdowns are based upon the following enrollments:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Boys Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Girls' Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>
I	272 and more	217	I	273 and more	151
II	138 - 271	216	II	272 and less	151
III	137 and less	216			

State Tournament Dates

Boys Division II State Tournament:	October 14-15, 2016	OSU Scarlet
Boys Division III State Tournament	October 14-15, 2016	Sunbury
Girls Division II State Tournament:	October 14-15, 2016	OSU Gray
Boys Division I State Tournament:	October 21-22, 2016	OSU Scarlet
Girls Division I State Tournament	October 21-22, 2016	OSU Gray

Athletic Districts

Representation to the State tournament (the number of State 'qualifiers') from District winners is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament. The complete tournament regulations that will be adopted by the Board of Directors at its' August meeting will be able to be read in their entirety by logging on to www.ohsaa.org and navigating to the boys' or girls' golf page under the "Sports" menu. Schools are assigned sites from their respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.

Northwest District: www.nwdab.org

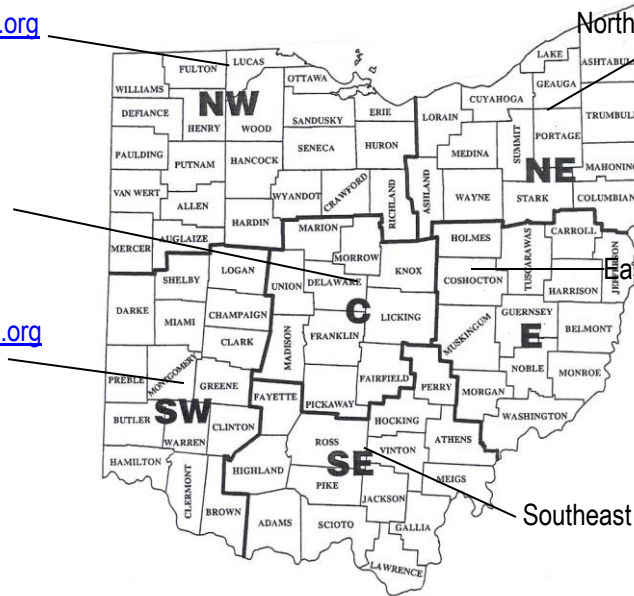
Northeast District: www.nedab.org

Central District: www.cdab.org

East District: www.eastohsaa.com

Southwest District: www.swdab.org

Southeast District: www.seodab.org



**RespectSM
THE
GAME**

