

## **MOTORIZED CARTS AND AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors August 4, 2011)**

The American's with Disabilities Act ("ADA") requires that "public establishments" offer equal access and services to people who are physically and/or mentally disabled as defined in the ADA. The OHSAA relies on its tournament managers to confirm compliance with the ADA at each of its host sites.

As a general rule, unanimously approved by the Executive Committee of the OHSGA, motorized carts are not permitted to be used by individuals and/or team coaches or spectators. Only tournament officials and/or marshals are permitted to use motorized carts during an OHSAA sponsored tournament event.

Notwithstanding the foregoing policy, the OHSAA attempts to make reasonable accommodations for spectators who are ADA disabled. The "reasonableness" of any such accommodations often depends on the host site itself for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, the number of available marshals to assist with ADA disabled individuals, the number of carts available, gas vs. electric carts and the layout of the course itself. To that end, the OHSAA has developed a number of recommendations for host sites to consider in accommodating ADA request that include:

- Does the course/host site already have a plan for accommodating a disabled spectator as a result of past tournament(s) or public events at the course? If so, the course/host site should forward a copy of the plan to the District Board/Commissioner's Office (contracting party) to determine if any modifications are necessary.
- If no plan exists, course management, the tournament manager and the OHSAA (or District Board) shall work together to identify the best means for accommodating requests, including the use of cart drivers/marshals, reserved seating/placement to offer an unobstructed view, or approved motorized equipment, guide dogs, or other aids supplied by the individual.
- Accommodations should not disrupt the competition or compromise the safety of the participants or spectators and must be approved by the Commissioner's Office. Under no circumstance will a spectator be given the keys to or be permitted to drive a motorized cart. In addition, approval of special accommodations may result in a fee being assessed for use of said motorized cart.

- If a request for accommodation is received, the request must be forwarded to the Commissioner's Office as soon as possible. An individual making a request may be required to supply proof of disability from an attending physician.
- Any/all requests for accommodation must be timely, received in advance of the commencement of the event for which the accommodation is sought. A minimum of 48 hours is required to address a request for accommodation. Furthermore, to the extent carts and/or drivers/marshals are limited at a particular host site, requests for accommodation shall be processed on a "first come, first served" basis.

NOTE:

1. "Approved motorized equipment" – to the extent that it requires "approval," tournament management may use discretion on what types of equipment would be allowable but is asked to consult with the District Athletic Board and/or Commissioner's Office when clarification is needed.