



**Golf**  
**Sport Manual**  
*2019-20 Edition*

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## FHSAA Sport Administrator

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## How to find information:

- Open document with Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat
- Type in the “Find” box (see below) a word or phrase (*if you do not see the find box then press “Ctrl+F” for Windows or “⌘+F” for Mac*)
- Press “Enter”
- The word or phrase, if found, will be highlighted
- Each successive pressing of the “Enter” key will find subsequent findings of the word or phrase



## 4.8 Golf

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### 4.8.1 Regular Season Procedures

#### 4.8.1.1 Rules of Competition

**4.8.1.1.1 Competition Rules.** United States Golf Association (USGA) Rules of Golf, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all golf matches, except where it may be necessary to apply Local Rules due to circumstances or unforeseen conditions.

- (a) A team shall be comprised of four, five or six players. All coaches of teams involved in a match must agree to the designated number of players who will comprise a team. If a school wishes to play more than four players in a match it must so stipulate in the “terms and conditions” section of the Contract for Interscholastic Athletic Contest. When the number of players is not stipulated in the “terms and conditions” section of the contract, a school shall play no more than five (5) players. In all matches, however, the four lowest individual scores combined shall determine the team score.
- (b) A match shall be conducted on a stroke play basis or a match play basis. Teams shall be informed of a tie-break procedure prior to the start of any regular season match and/or invitational tournament.
- (c) Exhibition or practice play during a match is strictly prohibited. Only those students who are properly entered shall participate in a match. This does not prohibit the playing of junior varsity matches in conjunction with a varsity match.
- (d) All participants must abide by the dress code as established by the golf course on which the match is being played.
- (e) The use of caddies, including teammates, is prohibited.
- (f) Players are permitted to use pull-carts if desired. The use of motorized carts or other vehicles by players is prohibited. An exception may be made for an individual player who, because of a permanent physical handicap or disability, needs the use of such equipment to compete. The player’s school must submit a request for the exception in writing to, and it must be approved by the Executive Director in advance of the competition. A school with a player who has been granted this exception must notify the host school of the player’s special need in advance of the competition.
- (g) Distance measuring devices may be used under the guidelines of the USGA Rules of Golf.
- (h) USGA Rule 20.1c(3) may be used when uncertain what to do (playing a second ball), and the tournament/match director or tournament committee must be consulted before a player involved signs, returns his/her scorecard and exits the scoring area.
- (i) No participant shall be allowed to accept any cash awards, sponsorship or gifts exceeding those limitations established in Bylaw 9.9.3.
- (j) A player who deliberately throws any piece of equipment during competition shall be disqualified (ejected) immediately for misconduct. The disqualification (ejection) shall be reported to the FHSAA Office by the host school or tournament director using the “Unsporting Conduct Incident Report” (Form AT6).
- (k) Any player that displays unsporting behavior, uses profane language, inappropriate gestures or taunts an opponent at any time during the match shall be disqualified for unsporting conduct and ejected from the match. See FHSAA Bylaws 8.1.1, 11.11.1 and FHSAA Policy 20.
- (l) Betting by players and coaches is strictly prohibited. A player who violates this rule shall be disqualified from further participation in the match or tournament. A coach who violates this rule must be reported to the FHSAA Office by the host school or tournament manager using the “Unsporting Conduct Incident Report” (Form AT6).
- (m) At the end of tournament/match play, each player in the assigned group must go directly from the final hole to the check-in area to verify the individual score for each player, and sign and submit the scorecard to a tournament/match official. All areas of question with regard to the right play procedure or scoring must be submitted to the tournament/match director at this time to be resolved prior to players signing their scorecards and exiting the scoring area.
- (n) A competition is considered to have closed when all players have submitted their scorecards to the tournament/match director and the results are officially announced.

#### 4.8.1.1.2 Coaching & Advice During Competition

- (a) Coaches only will be allowed to give advice under the following provisions:
  - (1) Only one (1) designated team coach may give advice.
  - (2) USGA Rule 10.2 “Advice and Other Help” must be used.
- (b) Coaches who elect to advise their players during matches must not make rulings on matters of play that are the responsibility of the event director or tournament committee. A player in violation of USGA Rule 5.6, Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play, will be assessed a one-stroke penalty for the first offense, a two-stroke penalty for the second offense, and disqualified for a third offense.

(c) No players, parents or spectators shall be allowed to coach or give advice to any player who is competing during regular season matches or matches in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

(d) Parents and spectators of participating golfers must remain in the rough or on golf paths and 50 feet away from the golfers. Use of golf carts by spectators during matches is under the jurisdiction of the event director.

**4.8.1.1.3 Unsporting Conduct Reports.** Event hosts and/or officials must report acts of unsporting conduct by players and coaches to the FHSAA Office using the “Unsporting Conduct Incident Report” (Form AT6).

**4.8.1.1.4 Results Reporting Required and Digital Scorecards.** Updates to follow by August 2019.

## **4.8.2 Florida High School State Championship Series Procedures**

### **4.8.2.1 District Meeting**

**4.8.2.1.1 Meeting Agenda.** In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:

- Determine if a sub-district qualifying tournament(s) will be played. Sub-district tournaments may be played during the week preceding the designated week for the District Tournament. If a sub-district tournament is to be played during the earlier week, all participating schools must submit their official entry lists to the district tournament manager not later than 5 p.m. Monday of the designated week on the FHSAA calendar.
- Adopt a procedure for determining the pairings for the tournament.
- Adopt a method for deciding individual and team ties. If a sudden death playoff or the matching scorecards method is to be used, the hole(s) to be played or compared in the tie-breaker must be designated.
- Develop an alternative plan for competition in case of inclement weather.
- Discuss the host provisions for region tournaments and the deadline date.

### **4.8.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules**

#### **4.8.2.2.1 District Tournaments**

##### **(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site**

- (1) **Dates.** October 14-16, 2019.
- (2) **Time Schedule.** To be determined at district meeting.
- (3) **Site.** To be selected at the district meeting.
  - (i) Yardages
    - Girls 5200-5600 yards
    - Boys 6400-6800 yards

(b) **Sub-District Tournaments.** Sub-district tournaments are part of the district tournament and are subject to all regulations pertaining to district tournaments. Sub-district tournaments may be played during the week preceding the district tournament. If a sub-district tournament is to be played, all participating schools must submit their official entry lists to the district tournament manager by e-mail not later than 5 p.m. Monday of designated week on the FHSAA calendar.

#### **4.8.2.2.2 Regional Tournaments**

(a) **Complexes.** Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 will comprise the Region 1 complex; Districts 5, 6, 7 and 8 the Region 2 complex; Districts 9, 10, 11 and 12 the Region 3 complex; Districts 13, 14, 15, and 16 the Region 4 complex. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) **Dates.** October 21-23, 2019.

(c) **Sites.** Current regional meet sites are listed on FHSAA.org.

- (1) Yardages
  - (i) Girls 5200-5600 yards
  - (ii) Boys 6400-6800 yards

(d) **Coaches Meeting.** A coaches meeting will be held at the tournament site 30 minutes prior to the first tee time to confirm pairings and to cover items of information or rulings that are necessary for the administration of the tournament.

(e) **Region Site Provisions.** The following guidelines have been approved for determining hosts for region sites. The districts shall host in a rotation based on ascending numerical order. The rotation for the next four years is as follows:

- 2019-20 - odd-numbered districts
- 2020-21 - even-numbered districts
- 2021-22 - odd-numbered districts
- 2022-23 - even-numbered districts

(f) **FSGA/USGA Officials.** Each regional tournament site is required to have an FSGA/USGA official on site if there is one available.



### 4.8.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championship Finals'

(a) **Dates and Site.**

- 1A – November 1-2, 2019
- 2A – November 5-6, 2019
- 3A – October 29-30, 2019

Mission Inn Resort & Club – Howey-in-the-Hills, FL

- (b) **Coaches Information.** A pre-tournament coaches information packet will be put online at FHSAA.org for coaches of all schools with participants in the Florida High School State Championships. The head coach from each school, or his/her representative, shall be required to view this information.

### 4.8.2.2.4 Advancement of Teams and Individuals

- (a) **District Tournament to Regional Tournament.** The top three lowest scoring teams and the top three lowest scoring individuals who are not members of the top three lowest scoring teams in district tournament shall advance to the regional tournament to which they are assigned.
- (b) **Regional Tournament to Florida High School State Championships.** The top three lowest scoring teams and the top three lowest scoring individuals, who are not members of the top three lowest scoring teams, in the regional tournament shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships.
- (c) **At-Large Qualifiers to the Florida High School State Championships.** An additional four teams and four individuals, not on those teams, will advance to the Florida High School State Championships based upon score, slope and course rating at the regional tournament round across all regions.

### 4.8.2.3 Tournament Regulations

**4.8.2.3.1 Teams.** A team consists of four or five players. The four lowest scores shall determine the team score.

- (a) A school may enter an individual golfer(s) in the district tournament to compete for the individual championship if the school is unable to enter a team of four or five players.
- (b) Each team that qualifies for the Florida High School State Championship Series, in addition to its four or five players, may be accompanied by a maximum of one (1) alternate. The alternate may not be used once tournament play begins. No alternate is permissible for contestants who qualify on an individual basis.

**4.8.2.3.2 Format.** All Florida High School State Championship Series tournaments shall be conducted on a stroke-play basis. The team having the lowest aggregate score at the conclusion of the prescribed number of holes will be the team champion. The individual player having the lowest score at the conclusion of the prescribed number of holes will be the individual champion.

- (a) **District Tournaments.** One round, 18 holes. Each district shall adopt a method for breaking individual and team ties. If a sudden-victory playoff or the matching scorecards method is to be used, the hole(s) to be played or compared in the tie-breaker must be designated.
- (b) **Regional Tournaments.** One round, 18 holes. In the event of a tie for the first- and second-place team or individual qualifiers, a sudden-victory playoff shall be used to determine the qualifiers who will advance to the Florida High School State Championship Series. The hole(s) for the sudden-victory playoff will be determined by the tournament committee and will be part of the information provided at the pre-tournament coaches meeting.
- (c) **Florida High School State Championship Series.** Two rounds, 36 holes. In the event of a tie for the individual or team championship, a sudden-victory playoff shall be used to determine the champion. The hole(s) to be used for the sudden-victory playoff will be determined by the tournament committee and will be announced at the pre-tournament coaches meeting.

In the event emergency situations, such as inclement weather, making it necessary to reduce the number of holes from 36, the Jury of Appeals shall determine the final number of holes to be counted for scoring. All leading players must have played the same holes up to the cut-off point established by the Jury of Appeals.

### 4.8.2.3.3 Pairings & Tee Times

- (a) **District Tournaments.** Each district shall establish a method for determining pairings and tee times at the district meeting.
- (b) **Regional Tournaments.** Pairings and tee times will be based on district tournament scores, slope and course ratings from the district tournament round. The host school will determine and e-mail tee times to schools with qualifying teams and individual competitors by 9 a.m. Friday of Week 16.
- (c) **Florida High School State Championship Series.** Pairings and tee times for the first round will be based on regional tournament scores, slope and course ratings from the regional tournament round and will be listed on FHSAA.org. Pairings for the second round will be based on the first round scores. It is the responsibility of the coach to locate the pairings and tee times on the FHSAA golf website.



**4.8.2.3.4 Faculty Supervision.** A member of the faculty shall accompany a school's team or individual contestant to all competition in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

**4.8.2.3.5 Jury of Appeals.** A Jury of Appeals consisting of five coaches and/or athletic directors from five different participating schools shall be appointed by the manager of each Florida High School State Championship Series event. A member of the Jury of Appeals whose team or individual contestant is a party to an appeal must recuse himself/herself and be replaced until the appeal is concluded. The decision of the Jury of Appeals shall be final. The Jury of Appeals shall not set aside any rule.

### **4.8.3 Local Rules and Terms of the Competition**

The current Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. Complete text of Rules and Committee Procedures may be found in the current "Rules of Golf."

Disregard Local Rules printed on club scorecards or posted at the course.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Term is:

- Match play -- Loss of hole; Stroke play -- Two strokes.

#### **4.8.3.1 Local Rules**

##### **4.8.3.1.1 Out of Bounds.**

- (a) Defined by course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes, lines and perimeter fence posts.
- (b) When a paved road or curb defines out of bounds, a ball that is on or beyond the road or curb is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the golf course.

##### **4.8.3.1.2 Penalty Areas.**

- (a) When a penalty area is bounded by out of bounds, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line
- (b) When the outside edge (non-golf course side) of a road or path defines the edge of a penalty area or out of bounds, the road or path is an immovable obstruction

**4.8.3.1.3 Ground Under Repair.** Defined by white lines. Other areas of ground under repair, even when not marked, include:

- (a) French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like)
- (b) Large or hard ant hills on the course

**4.8.3.1.4 Seams of Cut Turf.** If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing:

- (a) Ball in General Area: The player may drop a ball under Rule 16.1b
- (b) Ball on Putting Green: The player may place a ball under Rule 16.1d

Interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.

##### **4.8.3.1.5 Integral Objects**

- (a) When located within penalty areas, artificial walls and pilings are integral objects unless otherwise provided in the Notice to Players.
- (b) When closely attached to trees, wrappings, electrical wire, and cables are integral objects.

**4.8.3.1.6 Edging Groove Near Putting Greens.** The edging grooves around the aprons or fringes of putting greens are ground under repair. If a player's ball lies in or touches a groove or a groove interferes with the area of intended swing:

- (a) Ball in General Area: The player may drop a ball under Rule 16.1b
- (b) Ball on Putting Green: The player may place a ball under Rule 16.1d

**4.8.3.1.7 Immovable Obstructions Near Putting Greens.** Relief is available only when the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in a closely-mown area, the ball lies in the general area, and an immovable obstruction on or within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole. (Drop ball within one club-length of complete relief)

**4.8.3.1.8 Loose Impediments.** Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.

**4.8.3.1.9 Distance Measuring Devices.** Distance measuring devices may be used under the guidelines of the USGA rules of golf. Misuse will result in disqualification.

**4.8.3.1.10 Maximum Score.** Maximum score of 10 strokes per hole is in effect in stroke play competitions.

**4.8.3.1.11 Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds.** Local Rule E-5: Alternative to Stroke & Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds is in effect.

**4.8.3.1.12 List of Conforming Driver Head and Golf Balls.** Optional restrictions under Section 8 of the Committee Procedures are in effect. Model Local Rules G-1 and G-3.

**4.8.3.1.13 Pace of Play.** See separate memorandum to players for pace of play guidelines, when applicable.



**4.8.3.1.14 Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation.** Optional condition as prescribed in Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Failure to comply may result in revocation of entry.

**4.8.3.1.15 Signals for Suspension of Play.**

- (a) Discontinue Play Immediately: One prolonged signal note
- (b) Discontinue Play: Three consecutive short signal notes, repeated
- (c) Resume Play: Two short signal notes, repeated

**4.8.3.2 Terms of the Competitions.**

**4.8.3.2.1 Official Event.** In the Florida High School State Championship Series, an official event may be constituted by reverting to the results of an earlier round. In the event emergency situations, such as inclement weather, make it necessary to reduce the number of holes from 36, the Jury of Appeals shall determine the final number of holes to be counted for scoring. All leading players must have played the same holes up to the cut-off point established by the Jury of Appeals.

**4.8.3.2.2 Close Of Competition.** The competition is final when the winner has been announced, or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.