

ARTICLE 20

GOLF

Section 1. RULES

All matches under the jurisdiction of the RIIL will be played according to the United States Golf Association rules as amended by the local club rules, except for any special rulings made by the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Lack of knowledge of the rules of play will not be acceptable for any violation of same.

- A. No players, parents, or spectators will be allowed to coach or give advice to any players while they are competing during regular season matches or the state tournament. Players, parents and spectators must maintain a distance of at least 25 yards from all players.

Coaches will be allowed to coach their athletes during a match. Only one (1) certified coach per school will be allowed to coach during a match. At the State Championship tournament, a badge/credential will be distributed to the designated coach from each school. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification.

- B. Coaches will be responsible for maintaining the constant play of their respective teams which will not cause a slow down in overall play.
- C. Caddies, caddie carts, pull carts, or other vehicles for riding by the contestants may not be used in RIIL golf match. Excerptions due to physical handicaps will be allowed. **Requests for exceptions, accompanied by supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Director of Golf.**
- D. All participants must abide by the dress code as established by the golf course on which the match is being held. Cell phone use is strictly prohibited during matches.
- E. Betting by participants is strictly prohibited. Participants who violate this rule will be disqualified.
- F. Misconduct and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and violators will be disqualified. This specifically refers to improper language, improper behavior and unnecessary damage to the golf course, golf course equipment, property, etc.
- G. All males will play from the middle or white tees. Females will have an option to play from either the white (middle) or red (forward) tees. Females choosing red (forward) tees will not be eligible to win the individual state championship. Each coach must submit a list of female players to the Director of Golf prior to the first league match and indicate which tee marker they will use. The player must play from the designated tee marker submitted for the entire season.
- H. GPS or Laser Devices will be allowed for use during RIIL league matches and the State Championship Tournament. Devices that display slope or determine wind speed are prohibited. In addition, cell phones are prohibited during all RIIL golf matches so NO cell phone GPS applications will be allowed.
- I. Any golfer who fails to finish a round and voluntarily walks off will be assessed a penalty for each hole that they do not complete. The individual will be assessed double par for each hole not completed and will be suspended from the next league match.

Section 2. SCHEDULE/MATCHES

The Director of Golf will make up the schedules and order of games. Schools may make changes depending on the availability of courses. Each team will consist of four (4) to six (6) players who will be ranked No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No.4, No. 5, and No.6, respectively.

- A. Each match will consist of single matches which will be played concurrently as single twosomes, single threesomes or single foursomes at the discretion of the home team.
- B. The four (4) lowest scores for each team will determine the team score. The team with the lowest score (strokes) will be declared the winner of the match.

- C. Each coach will make out his/her lineup before his/her team reaches the course on which the match is to be played. The lineups will be mutually exchanged upon the team's arrival at the course. Once a coach receives his/her opponent's lineup, s/he may not make any changes in the lineup, since s./he is to pass the lineup to the opposing coach at the same exchange. It is strongly advised that the golfers be assigned by their ability so that the best golfers on each team are opponents and other golfers are ranked 2,3,4,5, and 6 by their skill in golf.
- D. Responsibility for finding a course rests with the home team. As soon as arrangements for course have been complete, the home school should notify the visiting team. Matches should start by 3:30 PM. It is imperative, especially prior to daylight saving time, that this time requirement be adhered to. By mutual agreement of the opposing school's Principals, matches may be scheduled earlier.
 - 1. In the event of inclement weather or a shortage of daylight, the coaches may, by mutual agreement, reschedule the match.
- E. All protests must be made before leaving the ninth/eighteenth green(s) and presented to the RIIL office in the usual form within the regulation time.

Section 3. POSTPONEMENTS

The Postponement rules contained in Article 4, unless otherwise stated, shall govern all postponed golf matches.

- A. In case of postponements, the match will be played on the next day. If this impossible, the match will be played on the next available date that is satisfactory to both teams.
- B. If coaches consider that for any reason the course is not in a playable condition, or that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the match impossible, they may order a temporary suspension of play.
 - 1. Where players feel they are in imminent danger due to the lightning, they have the right to stop play. However, the final decision to suspend play rests with the coaches.
 - 2. When play has been temporarily suspended, the match will be resumed from where it was discontinued, even though resumption occurs on a subsequent day.

Section 4. OFFICIALS

In the absence of the Director of Golf or an RIIL appointed supervisor, the coaches of the respective teams will act as the officials of all RIIL golf matches and will supervise said matches in accordance with these rules.

- A. The responsibility of reporting scores rests with each coach. The scores must be reported to *The Providence Journal* and the Director of Golf as follows:
 - 1. The coach of the home team will call *The Providence Journal* office (277-7340) within one-half hour following the completion of the match to report the scores to the *Journal* office.
 - 2. Following the match, the coach of the home team will go to the Members Only section of the RIIL website (www.riil.org) to report the match information, team and individual results.

Section 5. PLAYOFFS

The Championship Playoffs will be conducted under the direction of the Director of Golf using a format determined by the Director of Golf approved by the Committee.

- A. The **first and second** place team in each division automatically qualifies for the state tournament.
- B. The **third, fourth, and fifth** place teams in each division participate in a nine-hole playoff match to determine which of those teams will qualify for the state tournament. The playoff match will be scheduled at the home course of the **third seeded** team. Those playoff matches must be completed by the Wednesday prior to the State Championship. In the event that the matches are not completed by Wednesday, the third seeded team will automatically advance to the State Tournament. Schools are encouraged to secure their home course for Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of the playoff week, prior to the season, in the case where they have to host a

playoff. If two teams tie for first in the playoff match, both teams will advance to the state championships. If all three teams tie, the tie will be broken by going to the 5th player from each team, then the 6th players.

- C. Three teams from each division will participate in the state tournament.
- D. At the end of the regular season competition, all ties in the standings will be resolved as follows:
 - 1. results of head-to-head competition between the teams that are tied
 - 2. team scores from regular season matches of head-to-head competition between the teams that are tied
 - 3. average team score for all regular season matches
- E. Each team will bring six (6) players (top four scores count) to the playoff matches and the state tournament team will consist of six (6) players (top four scores count).
- F. The top two at-large teams will advance to the State Championship Tournament. The two teams will be determined by the best scoring average of the top 4 players on the team. If two or more teams are tied, the scoring average of the 5th player on each team will be used to break the tie.

Section 6. STATE TOURNAMENT

The State Championship Tournament will be conducted under the direction of the Director of Golf using a format determined by the Director of Golf and approved by the Principals' Committee on Athletics. The course for the State Championship Tournament will be selected by the Director of Golf.

- A. The Team State Champion will be crowned over a two day tournament format. Day 1 of the State Team Championship will be decided based upon the team play of three qualifying teams from each division. Each team will consist of six (6) players. The four lowest scores for each team will determine the Day 1 team score. The top three (3) teams and ties will qualify for Day 2 of the state championship and *also any team within 20 shots of the lead*. The team with the lowest score (strokes) over the two day tournament will be declared the winner of the State Team Championship. In the event of a tie at the end of 18 holes, a sudden-death playoff will be established by the Director of Golf or his/her designee to determine the State Team Champion. The course for the State championship Tournament will be selected by the Director of Golf.
- B. The State Individual Championship will be decided based upon the following:

The RIIL Statewide Stroke Average is based on the stroke average relative to par during any Regular Season League match. In order to become eligible for the State Individual Championship, the player is required to return a minimum of 5 regular season match scores.

 - 1. In addition to the team championship players, the next 20 players and ties as ranked by the RIIL Statewide Stroke Average will also qualify for the State Individual Championship. If 4 individuals qualify from one team, they will be allowed to compete for the team championship and bring 6 players.
 - 2. Upon completion of eighteen (18) holes of play, those individuals with the low twenty (20) scores and ties and all individuals who are within 10 strokes of the lowest score will qualify for a second round of eighteen (18) holes.
 - 3. The individual with the lowest total for two rounds (36) holes will be declared the State Individual champion.
 - 4. In the event of a tie at the end of 36 holes, a sudden-death playoff will be established by the Director of Golf or hi/her designee to determined the state Individual Champion.
- C. Once a course of play has been selected and announced by the Director of Golf for the State Tournament and the course superintendent or manager has stated the course is closed and ready for playing the Tournament, no person or team competing may practice on that course.
 - 1. **PENALTY:** Any team or individual player who violates this rule will be disqualified by the Director of Golf from participating in the State tournament.

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