

## Golf Rules Clinic - Unit 1

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Greetings from the NMAA and welcome to the Spring 2012 golf season. I am using this portion of the Rules Clinic to remind you of Important Dates and of the changes to the Rules of Golf that took effect January 1, 2012. Please carefully review all information in the clinic and share this information with your team, school, and supporters.

As you begin planning for this season, please be aware of the following Important Dates:

Monday, February 6, 2012 - First Spring competition date  
Wednesday, February 29, 2012 - Coaches deadline for completion of Online Rules Clinic  
Sunday, April 1, 2012 - Roster for Eligibility due to NMAA at [www.nmact.org](http://www.nmact.org) via MVP  
Sunday, April 1, 2012 - Team Photos due to NMAA at [www.nmact.org](http://www.nmact.org) via MVP  
Wednesday, May 2, 2012 - Entry forms due in the NMAA office by 10:00 AM.  
Sunday, May 6, 2012 - Practice round at all sites  
Monday, May 7, 2012 - NMAA State Golf Championships First Round  
- A/3A at UNM, 4A at NM Tech, 5A at NMSU  
Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - NMAA State Golf Championships Final Round  
- A/3A at UNM, 4A at NM Tech, 5A at NMSU

We have begun discussions with the New Mexico High School Coaches Association to hold workshops, as well as our Sport Specific Committee meeting, at the July NMHSCA Coaches Clinic in Albuquerque. Hopefully, many of you will be able to attend and we can use this event to bring golf coaches together for scheduling, rules sessions, and practical experience, just as the old January Workshop used to do. Please let me know if you have any thoughts or suggestions concerning this idea.

As you are no doubt aware, revisions to the Rules of Golf took effect January 1, 2012. Please be sure that players, coaches, and spectators are aware of these changes. Pay particular attention to Unit III of this clinic which is a listing of the Principal Changes. Also, please remember that NMAA golf rules are in effect at all regular season NMAA events, just as they are at District and State. This includes the electronics restriction, the spectator policy and the requirement for one designated coach per team per round.

Finally, I'd like to leave you with a quote from "Two Years in St. Andrews" by George Peper, former Editor in Chief of Golf Magazine. Regarding the great game of golf he said, "It's a game you play simply and honorably, without delay or complaint – where you respect your companions, respect the rules, and respect the ground you walk on. Where on the 18<sup>th</sup> green you remove your cap and shake hands, maybe just a little humbler and a little wiser than when you began".

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Good luck this season.

Bill Cleland