

**7.16.1 General Rules/Policies**

**A. Classes** - There are three classes in both boys and girls: A-3A, 4A and 5A.

**B. Practice Dates** - Practice is open year-round.

**C. Competition Season** - The competitive season is as follows:

Fall Season:                Week #10 to the end of Week #20  
Spring Season:            Week #33 through the State Tournament.

**D. Match/Tournament Limitation** - Each team/individual is limited to ten (10) regular season matches/tournaments, regardless of the level at which they are played, prior to the district tournament. Matches/tournaments during each split season count toward the limit allowed during the school year (i.e. 10). District and state competitions are considered post-season events. District tournaments must be held during Week #44 or #45 and are limited to an 18-hole event. One player represents team/school participation.

**NOTE:** A school must play in a minimum of five varsity tournaments as a team, recording a team score and individual golfers must play in a minimum of five varsity tournaments to be eligible to compete in the State Golf Championships.

**E. Invitational Tournament Restriction** - Invitational tournaments are limited to eighteen (18) holes. Practice rounds may be played provided no time is missed from school for travel or for play of the practice rounds.

**F. Coaching and USGA Rule 24.4** - A coach or school representative must be present and cannot play while his or her players are competing on the golf course. The coach or school representative must have a coaching license to coach his/her players. Each school may appoint up to two persons (coaches) who may give advice to participants representing that school. The coach may not stand behind his/her player while the player is making a stroke. The designated coach must be identifiable by wearing the NMAA golf coaching badge. The coach and his/her cart are outside agencies and not part of the player's side.

Communication between the coach and a player is only allowed from tee-to-green. Once the player and his/her golf ball are on the green, no communication may occur between the player and the coach until all members of the playing group have completed the hole and left the putting green. Penalty for violation - At committee's discretion, the player will be assessed a 2-stroke penalty.

**G. Unsportsmanlike Conduct** - Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at any event. An athlete using abusive language, throwing clubs, or who is involved in any other act judged to be unsportsmanlike by the Tournament Committee will be penalized in the following manner: First offense - a two-stroke penalty will be incurred by the player, Second offense - disqualification. Disqualified players cannot participate in the next scheduled event. (7.7.2)

**H. Ethics** - Teams entering a tournament may not withdraw due to weather and then reschedule another tournament if the original tournament was completed.

**I. Dress Code** - Traditional golf apparel that is in good taste in conjunction with local course rules will be enforced.

**J. Cell phones** – Players may not use cell phones or other communication devices while playing, except in the following circumstances:

1. Calling a coach or tournament official for a medical or other emergency.
  2. Entering scores for live scoring or other scoring applications, such as iWanamaker.
    - a. When entering scores, ONE person from each group, prior to the start of the round will be designated to enter scores using their cell phone. Scores should be entered following the completion each hole at the next tee box before anyone in the group tees off to start the next hole. If, at some point during the round, the designated scorer for that group cannot continue to score (i.e. cell phone battery dies, etc.) a new player within the group will take over scoring duties and the tournament director should be notified of the change in scorers.
- K. Sunday Practice** – Coaches/Parents are prohibited from playing during the Sunday practice round prior to the state tournament.
- L. Range finders** - A player competing in a NMAA sanctioned golf tournament, or a designated head coach, 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, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of USGA Rule 4.3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used. In such a case the player would also be disqualified from the next event for unsportsmanlike conduct (NMAA bylaw 7.7.2).
- The distance between objects is a matter of public information and therefore not advice. As such, if a fellow competitor asks for yardage information, the player and/or coach utilizing a distance measuring device must provide that information in a timely manner or risk incurring a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- M. Scrimmage** - If a school team elects to have a scrimmage, it must be the first event of that school year, regardless of season (fall or spring). Only one scrimmage is allowed per year per team/individual as defined in Section XIV - Definitions. All players are strongly encouraged to carry the NMAA Hard Card.
- N. NMAA Rules Clinic** - The head coach from each declared golf school must complete the rules clinic in person or online at [www.nmact.org](http://www.nmact.org) between February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine per coach to the school which will be assessed on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 7.16.2 Qualifying Procedure

### A. General

1. **Matches** - Matches must be played on a rated course.
2. **Miscellaneous** - Spectator rules are the same as identified for the state tournament (no advice or discussion with players on the course). Use of caddies and powered carts of any kind are not allowed. Pull carts are allowed at any time. Following [USGA Rules for Golfers with Disabilities](#), participants with written medical authorization, submitted and approved in advance by the NMAA may be allowed to use a powered golf car or cart.
3. **Maximum Score** - A player's score for each hole is capped at a maximum of nine strokes. The maximum score is achieved by the number of strokes made including any penalty strokes that may have been assessed. Once the player reaches the maximum score of nine, the player shall stop play for that hole. A player who does not complete a hole (often

referred to informally as "picking up") is not disqualified, but simply gets the maximum score for the hole, which is nine.

**NOTE: Maximum Score will be used in all regular season, district tournaments and State Championships.**

4. **Results Reporting** – Each regular season, district tournament and State Championship must use the iWanamaker scoring platform. Results and rankings will be posted on the iWanamaker website.
5. **Minimum Number of Schools** - To achieve qualifying event status there must be a minimum of three varsity high schools (3 boys and/or 3 girls teams) participating in the match.

**NOTE:** One (1) player constitutes team/school representation.

6. **Entry Forms** - Entry forms due to the NMAA office by 8:00 a.m. Wednesday of Week #45.
7. **State Qualifying** - Teams and Individuals

**a. Teams**

Only full teams (four or five members by definition representing a particular school) are eligible for the NMAA state team trophy competition. The District Champion and the next three teams in classifications 4A & 5A and the next two teams in classification A-3A based on iWanamaker rankings will qualify for the State Championships. Teams must compete in a minimum of five regular season tournaments, recording a team score in those tournaments to be eligible for the State Tournament. If a District does not have a District Champion for either boys or girls, the next team in the iWanamaker rankings will be used to fill the remaining team slots at State. If a school participates in more than 5 tournaments, only their top 5 events will be used to calculate rankings. The District Tournament does not count towards the minimum five tournaments needed to be eligible for State.

**b. Individuals**

The top eight individual golfers in each classification based on iWanamaker rankings that are not already part of a qualifying team will be entered into the State Championships. The individual District Champions will automatically qualify for State if they are not on a qualifying team. Individuals need to participate in a minimum of five regular season tournaments. Only the individuals top-5 tournaments of the year will count in the iWanamaker rankings. The District Tournament does not count towards the minimum five tournaments needed to be eligible for State.

8. **Out-of-State** - Scores shot on courses in surrounding states are accepted provided the course is rated and at least three schools have participated.
9. **Acquiring Course Rating** - Courses requiring a rating may accomplish such status through the applicable USGA course rating process.

**7.16.3 State Tournament**

- A. **Date** - State tournaments are held during Week #46.
- B. **Teams** - Each school is limited to one, four or five-member varsity team, per gender.

**C. State Seeding-** NMAA staff is in charge of seeding and will use the iWanamaker Rankings to seed both team and individuals into the State Championships.

**D. Sunday Practice** – Coaches/Parents are prohibited from playing during the Sunday practice rounds prior to the state tournament.

**E. Tie Breaking Procedures**

**1. State Championship (First Place Only)** - In the event a team score is tied after 36 holes of play, the following procedure is used to determine the winner:

- a.** The Head Coach will select three golfers from his/her team to participate in the team playoff. The two teams will tee off from a hole to be determined and alternate shots off the tee.
- b.** Scoring is the best of three (3) scores on each hole totaled.
- c.** Play discontinues when one team's total score is greater.
- d.** The champion is determined by the team with the lowest total for three players.

**2. Ties for second and third place** - Ties for second and third place are resolved by comparing the total scores from both days of the first three individual finishers from the tying teams. If necessary, utilize the same procedure involving the first two players and finally the first finisher until the tie is broken.

**F. Awards**

- 1. Medalists** - Six medalists are identified in each classification based upon their two-day (36-hole) total. Ties are broken for first place only for individuals at the state tournament using a three-hole aggregate score playoff and a sudden death if the score remains tied at the end of the playoff.
- 2. Teams** - A first, second and third-place team trophy will be awarded in each classification.