

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. Schools/individuals cannot qualify legs during post-season events.

NOTE: Only one team per school may qualify a leg at each tournament. No more than 5 players may be on a team. Additional school members who play in tournaments on a space available basis may qualify individual legs, as can the members of the team. Non-varsity individuals/teams may not qualify legs to the state tournament. In addition, non-varsity individuals/teams cannot qualify to the state tournament through the district tournament. Regular season meet limitations apply to non-varsity participants.

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 8 - 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.

- F. Dress Code** - Traditional golf apparel that is in good taste in conjunction with local course rules will be enforced.
- G. Cell phones** - Cell phones must be kept on SILENT on the golf course and can NOT be used to make phone calls, however, use of cell phones to take pictures is permitted as long as it is not a distraction to the golfers or holds up the pace of play. ALL phone conversations MUST be made at the clubhouse. Violators of this policy will be asked to leave the course.
- H. Sunday Practice** – Coaches/Parents are prohibited from playing during the Sunday practice round prior to the state tournament.
- I. 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 14-3, 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 District Clinic** - The head coach from each declared golf school must attend the NMAA district clinic, if scheduled, or complete the district clinic online at www.nmact.org between February 1st and February 28th (February 29th in a leap year). Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school per head coach.

7.16.2 Qualifying Procedure

A. General

- 1. Matches** - Matches must be played on a rated course.
- 2. State Qualifying Formula** - Target Scores (shot three times on at least two different courses):

$$\text{NMAA Course Rating} = \text{USGA Course Rating} + ((\text{USGA Course Slope} - 113) \times .1)$$

5A Boys:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 35
5A Girls:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 115
4A Boys:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 40
4A Girls:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 120
A/3A Boys:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 50
A/3A Girls:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 130
Individual Boys:	NMAA Course Rating + 8
Individual Girls:	NMAA Course Rating + 25

3. **NMAA Course Rating** - Use as is to compute the target scores. Do not round off NMAA course ratings; round the total to the nearest whole number in normal fashion after scores have been shot. Current course rating and slope database can be found on the USGA website: www.usga.org.

Example: $70.9 \times 4 = 283.6 + 40 = 323.6 = 324$ (Boys 4A)
 $70.8 \times 4 = 283.2 + 40 = 323.2 = 323$ (Boys 4A)
 $70.6 + 8 = 78.6 = 79$ (Boys Individual)
 $70.3 + 8 = 78.3 = 78$ (Boys Individual)

4. **Tee Positions** - Must correspond with course rating (do not use white tee markers and the blue course rating)
- a. If regular tee position is moved forward on more than three holes, subtract two strokes from the course rating.
 - b. If preferred lies are used or the ball is lifted, cleaned and replaced, subtract three strokes from the course rating.
5. **Miscellaneous** - Double par rule may not be used for state qualifying purposes. 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.
6. **Results Reporting** - The host coach shall complete and submit the official online "Qualifying Certification Sheet" to the NMAA within 24 hours of the tournament's completion. Scores must be attested to by at least three coaches from participating schools in that event. NOTE: Qualifying forms may be found on the Golf page on the NMAA website, under Important Documents.
7. **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.
8. **Qualifying Scores** - Qualifying legs must be shot prior to the district tournament.
9. **Entry Forms** - Entry forms due to the NMAA office by 8:00 a.m. Wednesday of Week #45.
10. **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 tournament champion team automatically qualifies to the NMAA state tournament if they shoot a qualifying score at the district tournament. Teams also advance to the state tournament by equaling or exceeding the qualifying standards set by the NMAA for the regular season ("target" system). Teams must qualify a minimum of three legs, which must be shot on at least two different courses, to advance to the state tournament.

b. Individuals

The district tournament individual champion automatically qualifies to the NMAA state tournament if they shoot a qualifying score at the district tournament. An

unlimited number of varsity individuals per school may also qualify to the state tournament by equaling or exceeding the qualifying standards set by the NMAA for the regular season (“target” system). Individuals must qualify a minimum of three legs, which must be shot on at least two different courses to advance to the state tournament.

11. **Out-of-State** - Scores shot on courses in surrounding states are accepted provided the course is rated and at least three schools have participated.
12. **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. Schools may qualify an unlimited number of varsity individuals.
- C. **State Seeding**- NMAA staff is in charge of seeding and will consider such things as scoring average, course ratings, weather conditions, and number of qualifying legs in the seeding process.
- A. **Sunday Practice** – Coaches/Parents are prohibited from playing during the Sunday practice rounds prior to the state tournament.
- B. **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. Four or five golfers (team) tee off from the number one or ten tee, whichever is the most open. The teams alternate hitting; proceeding from the number five player to the number one player. USGA rules are followed from then on.
 - b. Scoring is the best of four (4) 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 four 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.
- C. **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.