

## SECTION 15: GOLF

Rules in this section shall pertain to boys' and girls' golf unless otherwise specified.

### 15.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2011-2012 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Practice (Medical, parents' permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Match (Eligibility must be filed online.)
Monday, March 12, 2012	37th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All Academic
Monday, April 2, 2012	40th	Girls' Entry to Regionals
Monday, April 9, 2012 – Saturday, April 14, 2012	41st	Girls' Regional Tournament
Monday, April 16, 2012	42nd	Boys' Entry to Regionals
Monday, April 23, 2012 – Saturday, April 28, 2012	43rd	Girls' State Tournament
Monday, April 23, 2012 – Saturday, April 28, 2012	43rd	Boys' Regional Tournament
Monday, April 30, 2012 – Saturday, May 5, 2012	44th	Boys' State Tournament
Monday, May 14, 2012	46th	Summer Rules Begin

### 15.2 CONTEST LIMITS

**15.2.1 Season:** A team may participate in an unlimited number of golf matches/tournaments in a season during a school year. The sports seasons rule shall not apply to golf.

**15.2.2 School Week:** A team shall be limited to one 18-hole match/tournament or two 9-hole matches/tournaments during a school week. (*Monday-Friday*)

**15.2.3 Tournaments:** A school shall be limited to one 18-hole or two 9-hole tournaments in a school week.

**15.2.4 School Day Contest:** A school shall not compete during instructional time (*Monday-Friday*) during the regular season. This rule is explained in by-laws in Section 9: "Athletics and Instructional Time." This rule shall be waived for the state play-offs. *Exception: A school shall be allowed to participate in two boys' and two girls' 18-hole golf matches or tournaments during a school day from February 15 for girls and March 1 for boys through the week prior to the regional golf tournament provided the contest does not begin before 11:00 am. If a student is receiving a failing grade in any class at the time, he/she shall not be permitted to be released from school to participate in the match or tournament.*

**15.3 GENERAL** (*The general rules apply to both boys' and girls' in regular season, regional, and state competition.*)

**15.3.1** A student-athlete shall be eligible and registered with the LHSAA to participate in varsity competition. If he/she is not already registered in another varsity sport, a varsity golf student-athlete shall register with the LHSAA prior to his/her first varsity golf competition.

**15.3.2** A school's student-athlete shall compete in accordance with the United States Golf Association's (*USGA*) rules and a course's rules which shall be clearly defined in writing to coaches and his/her golfers. In questionable situations involving the rules of play or the course, golfers shall abide by the decisions made by the local professional and his/her staff.

**15.3.3** When correctable scoring rules are allowed under the rules of golf, the deadline for correcting any error(s) in team or individual scoring shall be within 24 hours from the completion of the match/tournament.

**15.3.4** Anyone, including coaches, parents, and/or marshals, shall be allowed to assist a golfer in searching for a lost ball. Five minutes shall be the maximum time a golfer may search for a lost ball. Afterwards, the "lost ball rule" shall be in effect.

**15.3.5** A student-athlete shall not be allowed to have a **GPS device**, cell phone, CD player with headphones, or any other communication device on the course at any time during the actual competition. ***Use of a range finder is permitted. On the first violation of this rule shall be a two-stroke penalty. The individual golfer shall be disqualified by tournament officials for a second offense of this rule.***

15.3.6 No participant shall use any form of tobacco at the competition site, ***On the first*** violation of this rule, ***the individual golfer*** shall be ***assessed*** a two-stroke penalty. ***The individual golfer shall be disqualified by tournament officials for a second offense of this rule.***

#### 15.4 **COACHES' RULE**

15.4.1 In all regular-season, regional, and state matches/tournaments, a team shall be accompanied by a faculty coach/representative. An LHSAA approved non-faculty coach may accompany the team and act as the school representative.

15.4.2 If the team is accompanied by a faculty coach/representative or an LHSAA-approved non-faculty coach from any other school/school system in the tournament, affected schools shall have written agreement available to the tournament director on request.

15.4.3 Coaches shall be prohibited from playing golf during the regional and state golf tournaments.

#### 15.5 **GOLF MEDALIST**

15.5.1 A medalist is defined as any individual golfer who records a legal score. A medalist may be a member of an official LHSAA team or an individual golfer from a school that does not have enough golfers entered in the regional/state tournament to field an LHSAA defined team.

#### 15.6 **REGULAR SEASON**

15.6.1 If schools cannot agree on a match scoring method, the state golf tournament scoring method shall apply. State tournament scoring methods are outlined in this section in "Girls' State Tournament" and "Boys' State Tournament."

15.6.2 In adherence to this section, team competition specified for play in each tournament shall apply. A match shall be played over 9 or 18 holes of play.

#### 15.7 **GENERAL RULES FOR REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS (Boys' and Girls')**

15.7.1 During the tournaments, **only** coaches shall be allowed to coach and/or converse with his/her golfer(s) **only from the green to the next tee box** and ***only once all players in that playing group have completed the hole.*** *Example: Once a player of Team A steps onto the tee box to tee off, the coach of Team A shall have no further verbal contact with him/her.* ***On the first*** violation of this rule, ***the individual golfer*** shall be assessed a two-stroke penalty ***and the coach shall lose coaching privileges for a second offense of this rule.***

15.7.2 During the tournament, non-coaching spectators (*parents, friends, and other golfers*) ***shall be allowed*** on the course to observe golfers during play. The following rules shall apply to ***observers***:

1. ***Spectators shall be notified that they are spectators, and it is not their responsibility to report possible rule violations.***
2. Spectators shall remain a reasonable distance (*at least 50 yards*) from golfers at all times.
3. ***After play has started***, spectators shall not ***"coach or advise" players by having*** neither verbal nor visual communication with golfers nor interfere with play in any way at anytime. ***On course encouragement, support, applause, etc. is not considered coaching or advice; therefore, it is permissible.***
4. ***On the first*** violation of this rule, ***the individual golfer*** shall be ***assessed*** a two-stroke penalty and the spectator shall be warned. ***The individual golfer shall be disqualified by tournament officials if the coaching continues and the spectator shall be removed from the course.***

15.7.3 Golfers who have completed play shall not be allowed on the course in golf carts. If they walk onto the course after completing play, they assume the role of spectators. A player who has completed play discovered on the course in a golf cart shall be disqualified and his/her score in his/her last round of play shall be declared null and void.

15.7.4 School team members shall be attired in the same color shirts (consisting of a collar for boys or a mock turtle neck shirt that meets local course rules) and the same color pants or shorts, the pants or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Golfers shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans, denim, or "cut-off" shorts, including cargo pants and shorts. Additionally, all shirts must be tucked in at all times and all caps must be worn with the bill facing forward at all times during play. In summary, all golfers must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing. A golfer that is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the state tournament.

15.7.5 All golfers shall walk during the round(s) of play. A golfer shall carry ***his/her*** own clubs or use pull carts. ***Golfers shall not be allowed to use a caddy.***

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- 15.7.6** If possible, the tournament director shall arrange for a practice round prior to the round of play. A golfer shall arrange his/her practice round tee time. Participating schools shall pay their own green fees. Participating schools may be required to pay green fees for tournament participation.
- 15.7.7** Practice on the playing course shall be prohibited after the tournament begins, except as outlined in Rule 7 of the USGA Rule Book.
- 15.7.8** A coaches' meeting shall be scheduled before the round of tournament play begins. All coaches/faculty representatives and adult monitors shall be present at the meeting. If this rule is violated, the school shall be fined \$50 for one golfer or \$100 for two or more golfers to allow them to participate in the tournament.
- 15.7.9** After receiving all entry forms, the tournament director/committee shall group golfers and assign each group a tee time for each round of play. If possible, each group shall be formed so that groups consist of golfers from different schools in each round of play. On the first day of a tournament, golfers shall be grouped according to the qualifying scores reported on the team's entry form.
- 15.7.10** If a golfer fails to make his/her tee time, he/she shall be disqualified from the tournament. *If a golfer is not on the tee box at the appointed time, he/she shall be ruled as missing their tee time.* In the state tournament, he/she shall be disqualified from the tournament as a medalist but not as a team member. He/she can still complete on the second day as a team member.
- 15.7.11** *Golfers shall be required to adhere to proper sportsmanship while on the course. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as profane, vulgar and/or abusive language audible to others; carelessly and/or deliberately throwing clubs and/or slamming a club to the ground; verbalizing with intent of intimidation; or exhibiting behavior not in accordance with the spirit of fair play. Violation of this rule shall result in the following penalty structure:*
- 1. First Offense - Warning*
  - 2. Second Offense - Two-stroke penalty*
  - 3. Third Offense - Disqualification*
- NOTE: If a golfer is disqualified because of an unsportsmanlike act, the act shall be reported in writing to the LHSAA.
- 15.7.12** If a golfer is disqualified during the round, his/her recorded score to that point shall be disregarded for team or individual honors.
- 15.7.13** In the state tournament, if a golfer is disqualified, for any reason other than unsportsmanlike conduct (acts), he/she shall be allowed to participate in the other round of the tournament.
- If disqualified in the first round, he/she may participate in the second round.
  - If disqualified in the second round, he/she may use his/her score from the first round.
- 15.7.14** **Scoring:** (*Regional & State*) A golfer should record his/her own score on each hole, total his/her own score and sign his/her own score card after each round.
- 15.7.15** *Each school shall provide* an adult *to serve as a monitor who shall* be assigned to each group to observe play, assist with rulings, request professional rulings and unofficially compute scores for each golfer in the group. *These individuals should not be placed in positions of making decisions about students from their schools.*
- 15.7.16** A "marker" is one who is appointed by the tournament director to record a competitor's score in stroke play. He/she shall be a fellow-competitor. After each hole the marker should check score with the competitor and record it.
- 15.7.17** After completion of the round, the competitor should check his/her score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the tournament director. He/she shall ensure that the marker has signed the card, countersign the card himself/herself and return it to the tournament director.
- 15.7.18** The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his/her card. If he/she returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, he/she shall be disqualified. If he/she returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned shall stand.
- 15.7.19** The tournament director or committee shall be responsible for the addition of scores.
- 15.7.20** The posted scores of the individual golfers shall be used to determine medalists' scores.
- 15.7.21** **Ties for Team Honors:** If team scores are tied for first- and/or second-place after the final round of play, the tie shall be determined by the following method:

1. Each tied team's coach shall select a golfer to represent the team in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with the first hole.
2. All sudden death playoffs shall be decided independent of each other.

**15.7.22** If a tie exists between first- second- and/or third-place medalists, the tied golfers shall settle the tie in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with the first hole.

**15.7.23** The LHSAA shall not present awards at regional tournaments.

**15.7.24** In girls' tournament play, the two lowest legal scores recorded, each day by the team's golfers, shall be totaled to determine the team score. Example of Team Scoring:

GOLFER	1ST ROUND SCORE	2ND ROUND SCORE	TEAM SCORE	
#1	76*	74*	1st Round	159
#2	83*	89	2nd Round	158
#3	90	84*	Total Team Score	317

\* Two best scores each day

**15.7.25** In regional and state competition, after a player hits two consecutive shots into a hazard, his/her next shot shall be played from a designated drop area between the hazard and green if permitted by the tournament director. In regional and state competition, a player shall pick up his/her ball and record a ten (10) after the ninth (9th) stroke of the hole. If a player continues to play, the player is not disqualified but must count all shots played.

**15.7.26** In boys' tournament play, the scores of the four boy golfers posting the lowest legal scores each day will be totaled to determine the team's score. *Exception: In Division VI to compete for team honors and qualify as a team for the state tournament, a team shall have at least three qualifiers post complete scores.*

Example of Team Scoring:

GOLFER	1ST ROUND SCORE	2ND ROUND SCORE	TEAM SCORE	
#1	76*	78*	1st Round	303
#2	81*	70*	2nd Round	<u>300</u>
#3	74*	85	Total Team Score	603
#4	83*	79*		
#5	72*	73*		

\* Four best scores each day

## **15.8 REGIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS**

**15.8.1** A regional tournament shall be over one round of 18 holes.

**15.8.2** If a tournament is canceled because of inclement weather, it shall be rescheduled and completed prior to the date of the state tournament.

**15.8.3** If a golfer is disqualified in a regional golf tournament and his/her team qualifies for the state tournament, he/she shall be permitted to compete as a team member only in the state tournament.

**15.8.4 Follow-up Responsibilities:** At the completion of regional tournaments, each tournament director shall:

1. Immediately send a copy of his/her regional tournament results to the state tournament director.
2. Maintain a copy of results in the event the state director does not receive them.
3. Immediately send a copy of tournament results to the LHSAA with entry forms, entry fee checks, and checks for imposed fines (if applicable)

**15.8.5** The following formula shall be used to determine the number of teams and individual medalists that shall qualify from regional tournaments to the state tournament.

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<b>TEAMS</b>	
<b># TEAMS ENTERED &amp; PARTICIPATION</b>	<b># QUALIFYING TEAMS</b>
1-9	3
10-12	4
13-15	5
16-18	6
19-21	7
22-24	8
25-27	9

<b>ALL ENTRIES ARE MEDALISTS</b>	
<b># OF MEDALIST ENTERED</b>	<b># OF QUALIFYING MEDALISTS</b>
1-9	3
10-12	4
13-15	5
16-18	6
19-21	7
22-24	8
25-27	9
28-30	10
31-33	11
34-36	12
37-39	13
40-42	14
43-45	15
46-48	16
49-51	17

\*If more entries qualify, one (1) for every three medalists

- 15.8.6** When teams are tied in qualifying for the state tournament, all tied teams shall advance to the state tournament.
- 15.8.7** All medalists tied in a regional tournament shall qualify for the state tournament.
- 15.8.8** **Entry Information:** In boys' *Divisions I-V, a maximum of five golfers may be entered in a regional or state tournament. In boys' Division VI, a maximum of four golfers may be entered in a regional or state tournament. In girls' play, all divisions, a maximum of three golfers may be entered in a regional or state tournament.*
- 15.8.9** To participate in the state tournament, a golfer shall be a member of a team that qualifies to the state tournament from the regional tournament in his/her division, or he/she shall qualify as an individual medalist at the regional tournament.
- 15.8.10** To compete for team honors and qualify as a team for the state tournament:
1. In girls' competition, a team shall have at least two qualifiers post complete scores.
  2. In boys' Division I-V, a team shall have at least four qualifiers post complete scores.
  3. In boys' Division VI, a team shall have at least three qualifiers post complete scores.
- 15.8.11** A school's official entry form shall be completed, signed by the principal, and sent to the regional tournament director by certified, return-receipt-requested mail postmarked no later than the dated listed in Rule 15.1, Important Dates, in this section. This list shall not be sent to the LHSAA.
- 15.8.12** The entry form shall be accompanied by school check payable to the LHSAA, totaling \$10 per golfer entered, up to a maximum of five for a total fee of \$50. The entry fee shall be included with the entry information sent to the regional tournament director. If a school fails to submit its entry form and fee to the tournament director by the deadline, its golfer(s) shall be allowed to participate in the tournament if the school pays a \$50 fine for one golfer or a \$100 fine for two or more golfers by the end of the coach's meeting on the first day of play.
- 15.8.13** Names of the competing golfers and alternate golfers shall be listed on the official LHSAA entry form. Substitutions shall be on the alternates' list.
- 15.8.14** Tournament directors shall not accept entries from schools located outside of their region.
- 15.8.15** The course selected shall be an 18-hole course, if one is available, unless agreed upon by all participating schools.

**15.9 GIRLS' REGIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT**

**15.9.1** Girls' regional tournaments shall be played in the following divisions:

- Division I - Classes 5A and 4A
- Division II - Classes 3A, 2A, 1A, B, and C

**15.9.2** Regional tournaments in Division I and Division II shall be conducted at the same site on the same day, according to the following qualifying plan:

- REGION I Schools located in the following parishes (29 parishes): Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Union, Morehouse, West Carroll, East Carroll, DeSoto, Red River, Bienville, Lincoln, Ouachita, Richland, Madison, Jackson, Sabine, Natchitoches, Winn, Caldwell, Franklin, Tensas, Vernon, Grant, Rapides, LaSalle, Catahoula, Concordia, and Avoyelles
- REGION II Schools located in the following parishes (19 parishes): Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry, Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana, East Feliciana, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Cameron, Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary
- REGION III Schools located in the following parishes (16 parishes): St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, Livingston, St. Tammany, Ascension, Assumption, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles, Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines.

**15.9.3** Regional tournaments shall be conducted the week before the state tournament on the dates listed in Rule 15.1, Important Dates, in this section. If possible, regional tournament courses shall be determined before the LHSAA's Annual Meeting in January.

**15.9.4** Each region shall be responsible for securing its regional tournament site. The previous year's regional champions in Division I and Division II shall, in alternating years, automatically be the regional chairperson and be responsible for either hosting the tournament or securing another school within its respective region to be the regional host. When a previous year's regional champion changes districts or classifications in a classification year, the chairperson shall become the previous year's runner-up, continuing down the line in the order of finish until one is determined. *Example: The Division I regional champion in 2009 will automatically be the regional chairperson in 2012. If his/her school has changed districts or classifications because of reclassification, the chairperson would be the 2009 runner-up in Division I. The Division II regional champion in 2012 will automatically be the regional chairperson in 2012.*

**15.10 BOYS' REGIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS**

**15.10.1** Boys' regional tournaments shall be played in the following divisions:

- Division I - 5A
- Division II - 4A
- Division III - 3A
- Division IV - 2A
- Division V - 1A
- Division VI - B and C

**15.10.2** Regional tournaments in each division shall be the week before the state tournament on the dates listed in Rule 15.1, Important Dates, in this section.

- 1. If possible, regional tournament courses shall be determined before the LHSAA's Annual Meeting in January.

**15.10.3** Using the alignment of Class 5A boys' basketball districts, Division I (*Class 5A*) shall be divided for regional golf competition as follows:

- Region I - Districts 1-2-3
- Region II - Districts 4-5-6
- Region III - Districts 7-8-9

**15.10.4** Using the alignment of Class 4A boys' basketball districts, Division II (*Class 4A*) shall be divided for regional golf competition as follows:

- Region I - Districts 1-2-3
- Region II - Districts 4-5-6
- Region III - Districts 7-8-9-10

**15.10.5** Using the alignment of Class 3A boys' basketball districts, Division III (*Class 3A*) shall be divided for regional golf competition as follows:

- Region I - Districts 1-2-3
- Region II - Districts 4-5-6-9
- Region III - Districts 7-8-10



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- 15.10.6** Using the alignment of Class 2A boys' basketball districts, Division IV (*Class 2A*) shall be divided for regional golf competition as follows:
- Region I - Districts 1-2-3
  - Region II - Districts 4-5-6-7
  - Region III - Districts 8-9-10
- 15.10.7** Using the alignment of Class 1A boys' basketball districts, Division V (*Class 1A*) shall be divided for regional golf competition as follows:
- Region I - Districts 1-2-3-4
  - Region II - Districts 5-6-8
  - Region III - Districts 7-9-10
- 15.10.8** Using the alignment of Class B and C boys' basketball districts, Division VI (*Classes B and C*) shall be divided for regional golf competition as follows:
- Region I - Districts 1-2-3 Class B and Districts 1-2-3 Class C
  - Region II - Districts 4-5-6 Class B and Districts 4-5-6 Class C
  - Region III - Districts 7-8 Class B and Districts 7-8-9 Class C
- 15.10.9** Each region shall be responsible for securing its regional tournament site. The previous year's regional champion shall automatically be the regional chairperson and be responsible for either hosting the tournament or securing another school within his/her respective region to be the regional tournament's host. When a previous year's regional champion changes districts or classifications in a classification year, the chairperson shall become the previous year's runner-up, continuing down the line in the order of finish until one is determined. All golf regional sites and hosts shall be determined by January 1 each year.
- 15.11** **STATE TOURNAMENT (GENERAL)**
- 15.11.1** The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the boys' and girls' state golf tournaments and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' state golf tournaments shall be conducted by hosts selected by the Executive Committee. The rotation plan for conducting these tournaments shall be approved by the Executive Committee.
- 15.11.2** Play shall include 36 holes. However, if one round of 18 holes of play is canceled because of inclement weather, the state championship shall be determined by the recorded scores after one 18-hole round. If a round of play is canceled because of inclement weather before all of the competitors have completed play on that day, the entire round shall be:
1. Canceled if this occurs on the first day of play.
  2. Canceled if this occurs on the second day of play and the first day of play has been completed.
  3. Suspended if this occurs on the second day of play and the first day of play has been canceled because of inclement weather and shall be completed on the next playable day that is approved by the Executive Director.
- 15.11.3** If a school that qualifies for the state golf tournament wishes to withdraw from the state tournament, the school's principal shall submit a signed statement to the LHSAA Executive Director requesting not to be entered in the tournament no later than 24 hours after the completion of the regional tournament. If a school fails to withdraw its team from the state tournament and is seeded in the tournament and the team withdraws, forfeits, or fails to show up for the tournament, then the school shall be fined \$200.
- 15.12** **GIRLS' STATE TOURNAMENT**
- 15.12.1** Girls shall compete for state championship honors in the following divisions at two different sites:
- Division I - Classes 5A and 4A (one site)
  - Division II - Classes 3A, 2A, 1A, B, and C (one site)
- 15.12.2** Only teams and medalists that have qualified in their respective divisions in regional tournaments or alternates that are listed on the official entry blank shall compete in the state tournament.
- 15.12.3** The following special rules shall be applicable to the state tournament:
1. Golfers shall be grouped in the tournament according to their qualifying scores.
  2. The girls' state tournament shall be over 36 holes of play. If a golfer shoots more than 72 strokes the first 9 holes of play either day, she shall be eliminated from the tournament at that point, and her score shall be doubled giving her a final score for the day that the elimination occurred. This score may also count toward her team score.

**15.13 BOYS' STATE TOURNAMENT**

- 15.13.1** Only teams and medalists that have qualified in their respective divisions in regional tournaments or alternates that are listed on the official entry blank shall compete in the state tournament. *Exception: If a team does not qualify for the state tournament, but qualifies four or five medalists, they shall be allowed to compete for team and medalist honors at the state tournament.*
- 15.13.2** A team shall enter a maximum of five golfers in the tournament. Team member substitutions may be made before or during the coaches' meeting, but substitutions shall be listed as alternates on the regional tournament entry form.
- 15.13.3** The first, second, and third place medalist winners shall be the three golfers that post the lowest legal scores.