

USGA & NJSIAA Current Rule Modifications and Changes

Section 1. Rules. The Current United States Golf Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA matches; except as modified by the NJSIAA tournament committee on the day of competition. All High School competition will be Medal Play. In the interest of time, continuous putting will be in force in the State Championships and at the discretion of the Director in the State Groups. The penalty for slow play will be enforced. LOST balls or out-of-bounds balls will be enforced as per USGA rules. Unfamiliarity with the rules will not be a basis for appeal in case of disqualification.

For a summary of the 2023 USGA rule changes see the attached table. It is also recommended that all coaches visit the USGA site and view the video tutorial with their team.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/video-hub.html#brightcoveId=6285033766001&pageTitle=Historic%20Belmont%20Golf%20Course%20Gets%20New%20Lease%20on%20Life&playlist=carousel>

The NJSIAA golf tournament committee has adopted the following tournament rules to be used in all high school competition.

1: **DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES** – For NJSIAA competition a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures **Distance ONLY**. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a device designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g. gradient, slope, slope assist, windspeed, temperature, weather, 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 or turned off. Any GPS watch that allows communication with others is an illegal device for use during play.

The use of cell phones, ipods, and palm pilots (multifunctional devices) are NOT ALLOWED, therefore, they are NOT to be used as a distance measuring device for this competition. Also, distance is public knowledge, and a distance measuring device is not part of a player's equipment, therefore the device may be shared during a round.

No DRONES Are allowed at any NJSIAA Championship event.

Clubs: The USGA has listed on their website all non-conforming driving clubs which the NJSIAA will honor in competition. Their website is www.usga.org

2: Option for pace of play -**Maximum Score** – The NJSIAA rule committee recognizes that there is a wide range of skill among Teams throughout the state. **This local rule does not apply to sectional, group or T.O.C. play.**

Coaches May institute a **Maximum score** for players competing in a dual match as listed below:

1. **Prior to the start of a match** both coaches **MUST** agree to allow players to use a maximum score during the play of that round only.
2. A player's score is capped at **Double par**. Upon reaching the capped score the player must pick up and notify their opponent they have reached the capped total for said hold. The player **cannot** pick up prior to reaching the capped number of strokes, If a player

picks up prior to reaching double par and fails to correct this mistake, they are disqualified.

3. All double par scores will be noted on the scorecard with a double circle.
4. Individual rounds shot using the double par rule are not eligible to be used as an individual qualifying round for sections.
5. Rounds containing double par scores can count towards a team's total to determine that day's "Match Winner".

3: **Lost ball and Out of Bounds** – The committee has adopted USGA Model Local Rule E-5 for Match Play. **THIS WILL NOT BE USED DURING SECTIONAL OR STATE FINAL TOURNAMENTS.** Players are always allowed the option of stroke and distance for a lost ball or a ball hit out of bounds. Beginning in 2020 teams are no longer required to get a waiver for option.

This option allows the player to drop under the **PENALTY of 2 strokes** using rule E-5.

Model Local Rule 8E - E-5 Specific Relief Alternative to Stroke and Distance

“When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):

Directions for using Model Local Rule E-5 Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. **Ball Reference Point:** The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the course, or
- Last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.

b. **Fairway Reference Point:** The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the general area that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the hole through the ball reference point (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the general area, and
- Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was lost or out of bounds is no longer in play and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.

Video Explanation of E-5

See: <http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/golfs-new-rules-stroke-and-distance.html>

4: Players are allowed to use NON-motorized pull carts during high school competition. Players may not share pull carts at any time. The pull cart and all parts become part of the player's equipment as stated in the Rules of Golf. Pull carts must be kept out of all penalty areas, hazards, bunkers and off all greens.

5: Advice – Not Allowed. This rule has not changed. Since all players in the field are eligible to qualify as individuals, it is their duty to protect the field. NO PLAYERS or Coaches may give advice during a match or tournament.

All players MUST keep their own scores and also the scores of others in the group during all matches.

Section 2. Start of Practice. March 16, 2023

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. – March 23, 2023

Section 4. End of Season. The end of the golf season will be up to and including the Friday before the final NJSIAA championships in baseball - **June 11, 2023**

Section 5. Transfers on or after **March 23, 2023** not eligible for post-season play. (See Article V, Section 4.K (2).c)

Section 6. Team. A team shall consist of a minimum of four (4) players and a maximum of six (6) players.

Section 7. Match. An interscholastic match shall consist of nine (9) holes; if a match is not completed, the winner will be based upon those holes completed by all players of the teams. If less than five (5) holes have been completed by the teams, the match will be replayed.

CL 1 The girls will use the same tee as the boys in State, Sectional, and Championship Tournaments. During the regular season, girls will use the next forward tee which includes all conference, county, etc. tournaments that take place during the regular season.

Section 8. Scoring.

Article 1.... Type of play – Medal (stroke) Play

Article 2.... The winner of the match will be the team with the lowest total strokes for any 4 out of six players. In case of a tie each team will add their 5th lowest score to the team total, if still a tie, the 6th lowest score will be added to the team total. If both teams are tied after using 6 members, the team with the low medalist is the winner. If the low medalist is a tie, then the match is a tie.

Note: All conferences **MUST** play medal play to decide their teams' wins and losses.