

## **Mandatory Rules for 2026 Golf Matches and Tournaments**

### **USGA & NJSIAA Current Rule Modifications and Changes**

**All Rounds submitted to iWanamaker Ranking system must be played using the following rules. This includes all High School Matches and any NJSIAA approved Tournaments played during the season. Any team that submitted a round where the rules are modified will be prohibited from participation in the State Tournament.**

#### **i-Wanamaker (IWR) Rounds**

- **Must be 9 holes, 18 hole tournaments will be counted as two separate 9's to generate an I-Wanamaker Ranking (iWR). Rounds of Less than 9 holes will not count towards the iWR.**
- **If a team plays a tri or quad match the round will only count as a single 9 for that day.**
- **Players must enter scores using the NJSIAA Golf app on cell phones.**
- **All coaches and golfers must be registered for their school via the NJSIAA Golf app**
- **Coaches will manage their roster throughout the season.**
- **All events must be created and configured on <https://iwanamaker.com>**
- **All events must be scored live on the NJSIAA Golf app. Event managers can override scores during or after the event.**
- **All scores must be recorded by golfers and coaches during or at the conclusion of the event.**
- **All players must electronically sign their score card upon conclusion of their round.**

**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 competitions 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. Unfamiliarity with the rules will not be a basis for appeal in case of disqualification.

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

1. **SUMMER RULES** -All matches **MUST** be played using **summer rules**. (play the ball down). Under extreme course conditions, coaches and/or the Club Pro may make the recommendation to lift clean and place the ball one club length, no closer to the hole in closely mown areas (fairway) of the hole being played.
2. **Out of Bounds or Lost Ball** - Stroke and Distance is to be used for all matches and tournaments.. Model Local rule E5 - 2 stroke penalty may be used if the golf course deems it necessary for pace of play/ skill level.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE WHITE STAKES ALLOWED TO BE PLAYED AS A RED HAZARD. ANY TEAM OR PLAYER THAT PLAYS THIS MODIFICATION WILL BE **DISQUALIFIED**.

1. **Rule 4.3 - DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES** – For NJSIAA competition a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures **Distance ONLY**. If the device has

the capability to measure Slope, this option **must** be turned OFF during the match. Players may use a Rangefinder, an electronic watch or Cell Phone App to get the distance.

- a. Penalty - General Penalty for 1st breach, 2nd breach is disqualification.

**Please read number 2 below carefully!**

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

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

1. 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.
2. All double par scores will be noted on the scorecard with a circle
3. Individual rounds shot using the double par rule are eligible to be used in the iWanamaker Ranking. **If a player picks up on a par 3, a 6 should be recorded, if they pick up on a par 4, an 8 should be recorded, if they pick up on a par 5, a 10 should be recorded. All scores will be counted towards the team score for the event and all scores will be submitted to the player and team ranking system.**
4. Rounds containing double par scores can count towards a team's total to determine that day's "Match Winner". The iWanamaker system calculates the team score by summing the best 4 scores of eligible golfers on the team. To determine the team winner of the match, manually calculate the team score.

**3:** 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.

**4. Advice** – One board approved coach may act as an advice giver during a match. The advice giver must be introduced prior to the match and to all players on both teams. IF a teams has more than one coach the designated Advice Giver (Coach) may not communicate with any other assistants/ co- coaches once the match has started. All other coaches **MUST** stay 25 yards from all players, tees and greens during the play of the round.

- A. Advice Givers may only speak to their team players.
- B. Advice Givers may only give advice from TEE to Green. No Advice can be given once a player steps on the TEE or the GREEN. All Coaches and Advice Givers must stay 10 yards from any green or tee.
- C. **Teammates may not** give each other advice during the play of a match or tournament.
- D. Slow Play will not be tolerated. If the advice giver causes a slowdown in the pace of play players will be subject to the penalties below.

**Penalties for Violations:**

1st Offense - Warning, 2nd Offense- General Penalty (2 strokes), 3rd- Disqualification

**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 9, 2026

**Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule.** – March 9, 2026

**Section 4. End of Season.** The end of the golf season will be - **June 14, 2026**

**Section 5.** Transfers on or after **March 9, 2026 or your team's first scheduled match** are not eligible for postseason 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.

NOTE - IF LESS THAN 9 HOLES ARE PLAYED - The rounds cannot be used for the IWR ranking.

**Section 8. TEE Box** - The girls on a Co-Ed team will use the same tee as the boys in State, Sectional, and Championship Tournaments. During the regular season, girls on coed teams will use the next forward tee which includes all conference, county, etc. tournaments that take place during the regular season.

**Section 8. Scoring.**

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

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 5<sup>th</sup> lowest score to the team total, if still a tie, the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

- All Team and Individual State tournament qualification will only be determined using the I-Wanamaker Ranking. We will not be using win/losses. See Tournament Regulations.