

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
POST-SEASON CHAMPIONSHIPS
Rules of Play

The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and the R&A govern play. See applicable GHSA By-Laws for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.

Local Rules and Terms of the
Competition

STROKE LIMIT: A 10 stroke limit will be utilized in all Post-Season Championships.

TEAM SUDDEN-DEATH PLAYOFF: See GHSA Constitution and By-Laws, Section 8 – Golf General Information, Item G, for “team sudden-death playoff” procedures. Team playoffs will be conducted for 1st and/or 2nd place (if necessary).

INDIVIDUAL PLAYOFFS: In the case of a playoff between individuals, sudden death will be utilized. Please refer to the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws for identifying the situations in which a playoff is appropriate prior to the State Tournament. During the State Tournament, playoffs will be conducted to declare a single individual champion (1st place ONLY).

WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL: The competition is final when all the scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the Tournament Committee and Rules Official.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Coaches and players may be permitted to use electronic devices during play, so long as the information gained is within the Rules of Golf.

OUT OF BOUNDS: Out of Bounds shots are not eligible for a drop and two-stroke penalty. This policy also applies to lost balls. Provisional balls are encouraged if a ball MAY be out of bounds or lost outside of a penalty area.

PENALTY AREAS: Defined by stakes, lines, or physical features. When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the out-of-bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with out of bounds. An unmarked penalty area should be treated as a red penalty area.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by enclosed white lines, and the line itself is in the ground under repair. French drains are ground under repair.

SOD SEAMS: If the lie of ball and/or area of intended swing is interfered with by a sod seam, the player may take free relief for an abnormal course condition. All sod seams within the same condition are treated as the same seam.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIOs): Model Local Rule F-23 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. If a player has interference from a TIO the player may take relief on either side of the TIO.

DROPPING ZONES: A dropping zone is a special form of relief area that may be adopted by the Committee. When taking relief in a

dropping zone, the player must drop the ball and have it come to rest in the dropping zone. A dropping zone is an area enclosed by a white line identified by the words “ball drop” or “drop zone”. The line itself is in the dropping zone.

ADVICE: Each participating school may have two (2) coaches (identified to the Rules Committee) who may give advice to their players during play. Advice may be given in all areas, excepting the greens. However, Coaches are not permitted to adjust the alignment of their players at address. The pace of play (40 seconds per shot) may not be slowed by advice. All other advice, offered or received, is prohibited. This prohibition includes teammates. The First Offense = Warning; Second Offense = 2 stroke penalty; Third Offense = DQ. This penalty is GHSA-specific and is intended to be applied for each unique instance.

COMPETITORS WITH DISABILITIES: In extreme circumstances, a competitor may be deemed by the GHSA to be eligible for the use of a golf cart during competition. This exception must not be made for injury, but rather for a long-term or permanent disability. All parties seeking this exception must obtain an approved waiver from the GHSA prior to the date of the Championship (all levels). Local course rules apply concerning who drives the cart; a coach must be the adult (not a parent).

SIGNALS FOR SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF PLAY: When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, players in a match between the play of two holes shall not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If players are in the process of playing a hole, they shall discontinue play immediately and shall not thereafter resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. All practice areas shall be closed during suspension of play until the Committee has declared them open for use. The penalty for a breach of this Local Rule is disqualification. The designated signal for suspension and resumption shall be determined and communicated at the Rules Meeting prior to play (for example, a horn blast or siren).

MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION: If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes). The penalty applies to the last hole of the player’s round.

BEAUTIFICATION AREAS: All beautification areas marked in blue, as well as those areas not marked but identified by Local Rules, are to be treated as No Play Zones. Relief is mandatory.

ETIQUETTE AND SPORTSMANSHIP: The following statement covers expectations of etiquette for the event. Any violation may result in a Disqualification:

“The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators (including Parents) are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today’s event.”

GHSA RULES COMMITTEE