

ARTICLE 20

GOLF

Section 1. RULES

All matches under the jurisdiction of the RIIL will be played according to the United States Golf Association rules as amended by the local club rules, except for any special rulings made by the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Lack of knowledge of the rules of play will not be acceptable for any violation of same.

- A. No coaches, players, parents, or spectators will be allowed to coach or give advice to any players while they are competing during regular season matches or the state tournament. **Also, coaches, parents and spectators must maintain a distance of at least 25 yards from all players.**
- B. Coaches will be responsible for maintaining the constant play of their respective teams which will not cause a slow down in overall play.
- C. Caddies, caddie carts, pull carts, or other vehicles for riding by the contestants may not be used in RIIL golf match. Excerptions due to physical handicaps will be allowed. **Requests for exceptions, accompanied by supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Director of Golf.**
- D. All participants must abide by the dress code as established by the golf course on which the match is being held
- E. Betting by participants is strictly prohibited. Participants who violate this rule will be disqualified.
- F. Misconduct and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and violators will be disqualified. This specifically refers to improper language, improper behavior and unnecessary damage to the golf course, golf course equipment, property, etc.
- G. Male players will use the middle (i.e., white) tee markers during the regular season matches and the state tournament. Female players may utilize the forward (i.e., red) tee markers or the middle (i.e., white) tee markers during the regular season matches and the state tournament. **However, prior to the start of the regular season, female players must declare which of the tee markers they will use. Whichever tee marker they select will be the tee marker that they must use during the regular season and the state championship.** Each coach must submit a list of female players to the Director of Golf and indicate which tee marker they will use.

H. GPS or Laser Devices cannot be used in any RIIL League match or tournament.

Section 2. SCHEDULE/MATCHES

The Director of Golf will make up the schedules and order of games. Schools may make changes depending on the availability of courses. Each team will consist of four (4) to six (6) players who will be ranked No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, and No. 6, respectively.

- A. Each match will consist of single matches which will be played concurrently as single twosomes, single threesomes or single foursomes at the discretion of the home team.
- B. The four (4) lowest scores for each team will determine the team score. The team with the lowest score (strokes) will be declared the winner of the match.

- C. Each coach will make out his/her lineup before his/her team reaches the course on which the match is to be played. The lineups will be mutually exchanged upon the team's arrival at the course. Once a coach receives his/her opponent's lineup, s/he may not make any changes in the lineup, since s./he is to pass the lineup to the opposing coach at the same exchange. It is strongly advised that the golfers be assigned by their ability so that the best golfers on each team are opponents and other golfers are ranked 2,3,4,5, and 6 by their skill in golf.

- D. Responsibility for finding a course rests with the home team. As soon as arrangements for course have been complete, the home school should notify the visiting team. Matches should start by 3:30 PM. It is imperative, especially prior to daylight saving time, that this time requirement be adhered to. By mutual agreement of the opposing school's Principals, matches may be scheduled earlier.
 - 1. In the event of inclement weather or a shortage of daylight, the coaches may, by mutual agreement, reschedule the match.

- E. All protests must be made before leaving the ninth/eighteenth green(s) and presented to the RIIL office in the usual form within the regulation time.

Section 3. POSTPONEMENTS

The Postponement rules contained in Article 4, unless otherwise stated, shall govern all postponed golf matches.

- A. In case of postponements, the match will be played on the next day. If this impossible, the match will be played on the next available date that is satisfactory to both teams.

- B. If coaches consider that for any reason the course is not in a playable condition, or that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the match impossible, they may order a temporary suspension of play.
 - 1. Where players feel they are in imminent danger due to the lightning, they have the right to stop play. However, the final decision to suspend play rests with the coaches.

 - 2. When play has been temporarily suspended, the match will be resumed from where it was discontinued, even though resumption occurs on a subsequent day.

Section 4. OFFICIALS

In the absence of the Director of Golf or an RIIL appointed supervisor, the coaches of the receptive teams will act as the officials of all RIIL golf matches and will supervise said matches in accordance with these rules.

- A. The responsibility of reporting scores rests with each coach. The scores must be reported to *The Providence Journal* and the Director of Golf as follows:
 - 1. The coach of the home team will call *The Providence Journal* office (277-7340) within one-half hour following the completion of the match to report the scores to the *Journal* office.

 - 2. Immediately following each match, the coach of the home team will mail to the Director of Golf a score sheet, provided by the RIIL, indicating each team's total strokes for the match, the

players and their strokes on the team in their No. 1-6 position, and the team winner of each match. The sheet will also include arrangements for the make-up of postponed matches. The Director of Golf is authorized to forfeit the match of any team not complying with the above regulations.

Section 5. PLAYOFFS

The Championship Playoffs will be conducted under the direction of the Director of Golf using a format determined by the Director of Golf approved by the Committee.

- A. The **first and second** place team in each division automatically qualifies for the state tournament.
- B. The **third, fourth, and fifth** place teams in each division participate in a nine-hole playoff match to determine which of those teams will qualify for the state tournament. The playoff match will be scheduled at the home course of the **third seeded** team.
- C. Three teams from each division will participate in the state tournament.
- D. At the end of the regular season competition, all ties in the standings will be resolved as follows:
 - 1. results of head-to-head competition between the teams that are tied
 - 2. team scores from regular season matches of head-to-head competition between the teams that are tied
 - 3. average team score for all regular season matches
- E. **Each team will bring six (6) players (top four scores count) to the playoff matches and the state tournament team will consist of five (5) players (top four scores count).**

Section 6. STATE TOURNAMENT

The State Championship Tournament will be conducted under the direction of the Director of Golf using a format determined by the Director of Golf and approved by the Principals' Committee on Athletics. The course for the State Championship Tournament will be selected by the Director of Golf.

- A. The State Team Championship will be decided based upon the team play of three qualifying teams from each division. Each team will consist of four to five players. The four lowest scores for each team will determine the team score. The team with the lowest score (strokes) will be declared the winner of the State Team Championship. In the event of a tie at the end of 18 holes, a sudden-death playoff will be established by the Director of Golf or his/her designee to determine the State Team Champion. The course for the State Championship Tournament will be selected by the Director of Golf.
- B. The State Individual Championship will be decided based upon the following:

The RIIL Statewide Stroke Average is based on the stroke average relative to par during any league match. In order to qualify for the State Individual Championship, the player must participate in a minimum of 6 league matches.

- 1. **Three teams consisting of 5 players from each division will qualify for the State Team and Individual Championships. The total number of team participants will be 75 players. Each team must declare which 5 players are eligible to compete for the team championships in advance of the state tournament.**

2. **In addition to the 75 players, the next 30 players and ties as ranked by the RIIL Statewide Stroke Average will also qualify for the State Individual Championships.**
 3. Upon completion of eighteen (18) holes of play, those individuals with the low twenty (20) scores and ties and all individuals who are within 10 strokes of the lowest score will qualify for a second round of eighteen (18) holes.
 4. The individual with the lowest total for two rounds (36) holes will be declared the State Individual champion.
 5. In the event of a tie at the end of 36 holes, a sudden-death playoff will be established by the Director of Golf or hi/her designee to determined the state Individual Champion.
- C. Once a course of play has been selected and announced by the Director of Golf for the State Tournament and the course superintendent or manager has stated the course is closed and ready for playing the Tournament, no person or team competing or practice on that course.
1. **PENALTY:** Any team or individual player who violates this rule will be disqualified by the Director of Golf from participating in the State tournament.

