

GOLF Policies & Pairings

UHSAA ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES:

1. The UHSAA administers and supports both a Fall and a Spring golf program during each school year as follows:
 - a. Fall Golf – Boys 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A
 - b. Spring Golf- Boys 1A and Girls 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A
2. UHSAA Officials shall establish and govern all policies regarding the administration High School Golf including player eligibility.
3. As with all other UHSAA sanctioned sports and activities it is the responsibility of school Coaches and Athletic Directors to follow all UHSAA policies concerning eligibility, travel, and schedules.
4. The Utah Section PGA in conjunction with UHSAA Officials shall administer the State Championship Golf events. The Utah Section PGA will also interpret and apply the current “Rules of Golf” as outlined and published by the United States Golf Association, to include “Local Rules and Notice to Competitors”.
5. Mandatory Rules and Competition Clinics are required to be held on a region basis. Clinics for Spring Golf (1A Boys and 1A-6A Girls) must be concluded by April 15 each season. Clinics for Fall Golf (2A through 6A boys) must be completed by September 15. The Utah Section PGA can assist setting up these important clinics by supplying clinic presenters, outlines, “Rules of Golf” books for each participant, and other important rules materials.
6. Special Player Accommodations need to be applied for in advance of the golf season or event. Accommodation approval will be reviewed and approved or denied as per UHSAA procedures.

NEW “MAXIMUM STROKE PLAY SCORING FORMAT”:

1. The United States Golf Association has established a two year trial period for affiliated golf organizations to use a “Maximum Stroke Play Scoring System”. At their June 15, 2017 meeting the UHSAA Executive Committee unanimously adopted the following rules and procedures to be incorporated into the UHSAA golf programs for 2017/2018 golf season.
 - a. ALL UHSAA Golf Championships (boys and girls) will use a **Maximum Stroke Play Scoring System**. Contestants will PICK UP after reaching a maximum score of ten (10) strokes on any hole of a competition.
 - b. Markers will record a 10 on any hole where the maximum score is scored and then it will be circled on the card for easy identification of that score.
 - c. All designated or sanction Region Events should also use this scoring system. It will provide consistent and fair qualification for the state competitions and All-State considerations.
 - d. Advantages of using this system are increased speed of play and less pressure to finish a very bad hole. This system will also use the modification for Penalties and Disqualification Penalties that are listed under USGA Rules of Golf; Rule 32 Bogey, “Par and Stableford Competitions”. Please review these prior to the start of the golf season.

REGION and STATE COMPETITION POLICIES:

1. **Region Match Schedules:** For both Fall and Spring Golf it is recommended that regions hold at least six 18-hole matches.
 - a. It will also be the responsibility of the Region Coaches to administer fair and equitable Region events based on the most current “Rules of Golf” and UHSAA Rules and Procedures.
 - b. Regions need to provide a pre-determined method for deciding ranking and ties for both teams and individuals to qualify for the state events.
2. **Tournament Formats:**

Both Fall and Spring Golf Competitions will be played according to the **NEW “MAXIMUM STROKE PLAY SCORING FORMAT”**. See details above.

a. Both Fall and Spring Golf Teams will consist of six (6) player teams with the low four (4) “**MAXIMUM STROKE PLAY SCORING FORMAT**” scores counting for the team total. A team may compete for team honors provided they have a minimum of four players.

3. Coaching/Caddies:

a. Two coaches will be allowed per school. The two coaches will be the only people allowed to give advice to a player.

b. One golf cart will be assigned to each school.

c. You may not “switch out” a coach during official play. Once the two coaches are declared at the beginning of the round, they will be the coaches for the remainder of that day.

d. At the State Championship, coaches are not allowed on the putting surface during official play.

4. Golf Cart Use Policies:

a. Players may not use motorized golf carts during the play of any competition except when the Rules Committee determines that player may be transported between holes to help with pace of play; or when a rules official allows a player to ride back to a previous position to put another ball in play during a rules situation.

b. Hand carts or “trolleys” are not considered motorized carts and are acceptable for players use.

c. Any appeals for cart use based on a chronic medical condition must be heard and approved by UHSAA Officials prior to the start of the golf season. Region officials do not have the authority to hear or rule on cart use issues.

d. Spectators are prohibited from using motorized golf carts to spectate at the State Golf Championships. Appeals of this policy, under current ADA policy, will be decided onsite by the Utah Section PGA Officials. A person wishing to use a cart for medical reasons must prove permanent/long term disability by providing an auto handicap sticker or medical specialist (doctors) prescription or note. Coaches and players please alert your fans to this rule!

5. **Distance Measuring and Electronic Devices:** Participants may use “distance measuring devices” that conform to the Rules of Golf- Rule 14-3 Note; Appendix I. This limits the distance measuring to only measure distance and not slope, wind, or barometric pressure, etc. Turning off the applications other than distance on a device does not bring it into compliance.

a. In fairness to the field: a player using a “distance measuring device” must allow a fellow-competitor within their grouping to use the information from that device upon request. If the player does not comply, permission to subsequently use of the device will be withdrawn.

b. No cell or smart phones, or other electronic devices may be used during the competition.

6. **Dress Code:** Appropriate golf attire is required for all golfers and coaches at all UHSAA sanctioned events.

a. Each team must dress in golf style uniforms (shirts/tops).

b. Team uniforms/and or golf attire must comply with any and all standards that are set by the various host courses.

c. Male participants may wear long pants or golf appropriate shorts. Host course dress restrictions (including the state championship venues) take precedence over all other policies so consider this when selecting uniforms. Denim, basketball, or cargo style shorts are not recommended. Collared shirts or mock turtleneck shirts are recommended.

d. Female participants may wear long pants, slacks, or golf appropriate shorts, skorts or skirts. Shorts may not have an inseam shorter than 4 inches and must be modest in style and structure. Host course dress restrictions (including the state championship venues) take precedence over all other policies so consider this when selecting uniforms. Denim, basketball, or cargo style shorts are not recommended. Collared shirts or mock turtleneck shirts are recommended. They may wear a well-structured tee-shirt provided it is consistent with the team uniform concept and is modest in design.

e. We recommend that coaches wear the team uniform at their competitions and they are required to conform to the above dress code policies.

f. Violations of any of the above dress code policies will be referred to the UHSAA.

7. **Rules Assistance:** The Utah Section PGA will provide “Call-in Rules Help” should the Region committees or school coaches need additional help. Please call or text the following numbers for Rules Help: Devin Dehlin (801)

556-0393; Aaron Goodman (801) 910-2159 Doug Vilven (801) 502-5432; Annie Fisher (801) 558-2410;. **A USGA interactive rules training module is available for coaches and players use at www.usga.org/rules/trainers**

FALL (Boys) and SPRING (Girls, 1A Boys) CHAMPIONSHIPS:

1. Formal online entries on the UHSAA Website are due by 3:00 p.m. MST the Wednesday prior to the State Championship event. Region Golf Tournaments should be scheduled and played prior to these Deadlines! All teams that qualify for state must have their correct team selections made by then. Late entries will be referred to the UHSAA.
2. Team rankings will be determined by each region. Player Rankings will be determined by each school (coach). The Utah PGA will pair 1st place teams from each region together. They will subsequently pair 2nd place teams, 3rd place teams, etc. together and so on. Individual players not competing on a team will be paired together where they best reflect in the field.
3. Region qualifying events CANNOT be held at the site of the state championship within one week of the state tournament. Availability for scheduling both region events and practice rounds at the state championship site will be determined by the championship host site per their policies & availability.
4. Practice rounds and play ARE allowed the day before the State Championship at the State Championship site.
5. UHSAA will not provide athletic trainers on site at State Golf tournaments.
6. If bad/severe weather dictates that alternate formats/number of holes be used to complete the event, when or if necessary the new format will be determined by UHSAA and UPGA Officials onsite.
7. In case of a tie for first or second place in team standings, there will be a sudden-death playoff. Four golfers from each tied team (as designated by the coach) will tee-off together and play a hole or holes as designated by the Rules Committee until one team scores cumulative lower score than the other(s).
8. A tie for individual medalist honors will be broken by sudden-death playoff. If all players tied for medalist honors are in a playoff with their respective team, no separate medalist playoff will be held but will be determined from scores earned during the team playoff.

BOYS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS REQUIREMENTS:

1. The Boy's State Championships 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, will be 36-hole events held over two days of play.
2. There will be a team cut after the first day of play. The low 60% of the team field and including ties for the final spot will play the second or final day. See qualifying procedure below.
3. Individual players that shoot a score on the first day of play that is within ten shots of the individual leader; or shoots a score that is in the top ten individuals on the first day; or shoots a score of 79 or better will make the cut and play the second day.
4. There will be a \$240 team or \$40 individual registration fee charged all participants at the boys state championships. This fee will cover green-fees, practice balls, and other administrative costs. This registration fee should be paid to the Utah Section PGA who administers at the State Championship events. Payment may be made onsite at the State Championships in the form of cash, check, or credit card.
5. Boy's Championship Qualifying Process: (These qualification policies are subject to UHSAA modification).
 - a. 6A Boys- Region 1= 4 teams qualify; Region 2= 4 teams qualify; Region 3= 4 teams qualify; Region 4= 4 teams qualify. **Individuals:** Twelve (12) individuals who do not otherwise qualify through a team but are in the top twelve individuals for the region are eligible to enter.
 - b. 5A Boys- Region 5= 4 teams qualify; Region 6= 4 teams qualify; Region 7= 4 teams qualify; Region 8= 4 teams qualify. **Individuals:** Twelve (12) individuals who do not otherwise qualify through a team but are in the top twelve individuals for the region are eligible to enter.
 - c. 4A Boys- Region 9= 4 teams qualify; Region 10= 4 teams qualify; Region 11= 4 teams qualify; Region 12= 4 teams qualify. **Individuals:** Twelve (12) individuals who do not otherwise qualify through a team but are in the top twelve individuals for the region are eligible to enter.

d. 1A; 2A; 3A- Each region will sponsor golf and will qualify teams under the following policy based on the number of schools that ultimately field teams. If two (2) schools participate – one (1) will qualify; If three (3) schools participate- two (2) will qualify; If four schools participate- three will qualify; If five (5) schools participate- three (3) will qualify; if six (6) schools participate- four (4) will qualify; if seven (7) schools participate- five (5) will qualify. Each region is responsible for developing guidelines as to the format and number of events that will qualify them to participate in the State Championship from their region. **Individuals:** Twelve (12) individuals who do not otherwise qualify through a team but are in the top twelve individuals for the region are eligible to enter.

GIRL'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS REQUIREMENTS

1. 1A and 2A : 18-hole event (one day)
2. 3A; 4A; 5A; and 6A: 36 hole event (two day). There will be a team cut after the first day of play. The low 60% of the team field including ties for the final spot will play the second day. Individual players that shoot a score on the first day of play that is within ten shots of the individual leader; or shoots a score that is in the top ten individuals on the first day; or shoots a score of 85 or better will make the cut and play the second day.
3. Registration Fee: There will be a registration fee charged for all participants at the girls state meets. This fee will cover green-fees, practice balls, and other administrative costs. This registration fee should be paid to the Utah Section PGA who administers at the State Championship events. Payment may be made onsite at the State Championships in the form of cash, check, or credit card.
 - 1A & 2A Fees: \$120 team or \$20 individual
 - 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A Fees: \$240 team or \$40 individual
2. Girl's Championship Qualifying Process: (These qualification policies are subject to UHSAA modification).
 - a. 6A Girls- Region 1= 4 teams qualify; Region 2= 4 teams qualify; Region 3= 4 teams qualify; Region 4= 4 teams qualify. **Individuals:** Twelve (12) individuals who do not otherwise qualify through a team but are in the top twelve individuals for the region are eligible to enter.
 - b. 5A Girls- Region 5= 4 teams qualify; Region 6= 4 teams qualify; Region 7= 4 teams qualify; Region 8= 4 teams qualify. **Individuals:** Twelve (12) individuals who do not otherwise qualify through a team but are in the top twelve individuals for the region are eligible to enter.
 - c. 4A Girls- Region 9= 4 teams qualify; Region 10= 4 teams qualify; Region 11= 4 teams qualify; Region 12= 4 teams qualify. **Individuals:** Twelve (12) individuals who do not otherwise qualify through a team but are in the top twelve individuals for the region are eligible to enter.
 - d. 1A; 2A; 3A Girls- Each region will sponsor golf and will qualify teams under the following policy based on the number of schools that ultimately field teams. If three (3) schools participate- two (2) will qualify; If four schools participate- three will qualify; If five (5) schools participate- three (3) will qualify; if six (6) schools participate- four (4) will qualify; if seven (7) schools participate- five (5) will qualify. Each region is responsible for developing guidelines as to the format and number of events that will qualify them to participate in the State Championship from their region. **Individuals:** Twelve (12) individuals who do not otherwise qualify through a team but are in the top twelve individuals for the region are eligible to enter.

ALL-STATE SELECTION:

The Utah Section PGA All-State Tournament and Awards Banquet will be held the last week of May. Every First Team All-State team member will be invited (120 player's total). The selection of All-State Golf Teams is not a function of the UHSAA and questions concerning the process should be directed to the Utah Section PGA. (801) 566-1005

- First Team All-State is the top 10 players in each classification. Second team and honorable is also 10 players. Visit utahpga.com for a full All-State Team list.
- All-State Team Selection: The number of region scores used in the All-State Selection process needs to be uniform across the state. The number of matches to be turned in to the Utah PGA to use in the All-State Team selection process is as follows: **(These matches will need to be declared before the season begins.)**

- **THE NEW “MAXIMUM STROKE PLAY SCORING FORMAT” must be used in region play for scores to be turned in for All-State Team calculations.**
 - All Girls- Turn in 4 scores, 3 will be used for All-State Selection
 - 1A Boys- Turn in 4 scores, 3 will be used for All-State Selection
 - 2A & 3A Boys: Turn in 7 scores, 5 will be used for All-State Selection
 - 4A, 5A & 6A Boys: Turn in 8 scores, 6 will be used for All-State Selection
 - Can be combined, NOT doubled. (Example: 8- 9 hole scores OR 4 – 18 hole scores)9 hole or other region meets based on individual regions.
- All-State Team Selection is on a 35% Region score / 65% State score formula.
- Region score reporting forms will be provided by the PGA one week prior to the State Championships.

Contact the following people for clarification or additional questions:

Jan Whittaker, UHSAA

jwhittaker@uhsaa.org

Devin Dehlin, Utah Section PGA

ddehlin@pgahq.com

Annie Fisher, Utah Section PGA

afisher@pgahq.com

Aaron Goodman, Utah Section PGA

agoodman@pgahq.com