

Article IV - Golf

400. Practice

"The WBAL will reflect the CCS By-Laws (Article V, Section 3, F-Practices) regarding practices."

- a) Interscholastic practice during the school year is defined as:
 - i. Any school team or individual activity organized by the coach that is intended to maintain or improve a student-athlete's skill proficiency in a sport AND/OR
 - ii. Any school team or individual activity that includes skill drills, game situation drills, inter-squad scrimmages or games, chalk talks, film review, meetings outside of school time (excluding parent meetings). AND/OR
 - iii. Any other coach-directed or supervised school team or individual activity or instruction for a specific sport AND/OR
 - iv. Any other team or individual instruction for a specific sport organized or supervised by any team member, or anyone else associated with the team or the school AND/OR
 - v. Tryouts.
- b) Any single practice session shall be no longer than 3 hours in length.
- c) There shall be a minimum of 3 hours between any two practice sessions in a single day.
- d) Double days should not be consecutive days.
- e) Conditions for Optional, Non-Mandatory Off Season Individual & Small Groups Skill Development: Coaches are allowed to work with their athletes in a designated off season 8 week program individually or in a small group of no more than 4 athletes, no more than one hour a day and no more than twice a week for an athlete.

401. Number of Contests

- a) There shall be a limit of 18 matches played per season, including league matches, practice matches and tournaments. Any tournament lasting up to two consecutive days will be counted as one (1) contest, regardless of how many holes are played. Additional days of competition in that same tournament, whether or not they are consecutive, will count at the rate of one (1) contest per day, regardless of the number of holes played.

- b) League finals, district, CCS sectional, CCS regional, Northern California and State Tournaments do not count as part of the 18 match limit.
- c) Competition in league is authorized on the varsity level only, schools may have a JV team that competes as non-league
- d) All players will be limited to 18 total matches per season.

402. Rules

- a) Except as modified by these by-laws, the current edition of *The Rules of Golf* from the United States Golf Association shall govern all play.
- b) There shall be one (1) recognized team, consisting of a maximum of six (6) players for all WBAL matches.
- c) A coach (or representative of the school) must be present and remain at the course for the entire match.
- d) Summer rules shall be played, unless the home coach and/or course decide to play winter rules.
- e) There shall be a mandatory Rules and Etiquette Clinic arranged by the chairperson before the beginning of the league season, but after school starts. All teams and coaches must be present.
- f) For WBAL dual match contests, the following scoring rules shall apply:
 - i. Matches shall be played over nine (9) holes.
 - ii. All play shall be stroke play, with no handicap.
 - iii. Team scores shall be the total aggregate score of the best 5 out of 6 scores; the highest score will not count in the team total.
 - iv. Matches can end in a tie.
 - v. The maximum score on any hole is double par plus one (1).
 - vi. Embedded ball rule – A ball embedded in its own pitch mark on the green may be lifted, cleaned and dropped.
 - vii. If a team has four players, they may use a score of double par plus nine for the fifth score.
 - viii. If a team has fewer than four players, they will forfeit the match.
- g) All dual matches will be played from the regular women's tees for the girls season (Fall) and the men's regular tees for the boys season (Spring).
- h) For league won/loss records, no more than four wins can count without at least five players physically playing.

- i) League play will consist of a double round robin schedule, with a home and home format.
- j) In all league matches, a player may obtain distance information using a device that measures distance only. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his or her play (e.g. gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc.) the player is in breach of Rule 14-3 for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.
 - 1. iPhones and most other smartphones contain a compass and other applications that make them non-conforming distance measuring devices, distance measuring applications on cell phones are not permitted under penalty of disqualification.
 - 2. If any player in a group uses a distance measuring device then all players in the group, shall have access to the distance information. Failure to share distance information with other players will be considered a serious breach of etiquette under Rule 33-7 and will result in disqualification.

i. Adoption of USGA Local Rule. Add the following

k) Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 from The Rules of Golf are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his/her opponent, or equipment.

The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

[This local rule was made available starting on January 1, 2017 and has been adopted by the USGA and The R&A for all of their championships.]

403. Match Management

- a) The host school is responsible for greens fees.

- b) Coaches will travel with groups 2s and 3s to keep play moving and scoring honest.
- c) A player must pick up his/her ball as soon as double par is reached. A ball picked up at double par is indicated by a circle on the scorecard. The score for a hole in which a ball is picked up at double par will count as double par plus one (1).
- d) Play ready golf. This should be encouraged by each team.
- e) Any group that falls one hole behind for a 3 hole period will be assessed a two stroke penalty.
- f) In case of inclement weather or darkness, in order to count as an official match, the final group must have completed a minimum of five (5) holes. Any holes unplayed will be scored as a double par.
- g) Caddies are not permitted in league play. The use of pull carts is permitted if allowed by the golf course. The use of motorized golf cars is prohibited.
- h) If allowed by the golf course, spectators are allowed but must remain 30 yards from the players, must not speak to players or assist the players regarding pace of play or rules questions, and may not walk on the fairways.
- i) Coaches are allowed to give advice to players. Each team may appoint up to two coaches to give advice to their players during the match. If one team only has one coach present at the match, the opposing team may only appoint one coach to give advice. Except to prevent injury from occurring, advice may only be given after a player has left the green and prior to the player entering the teeing ground, provided such advice is given in a private manner and does not unduly delay play. Advice is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining her play, the choice of club or the method of making a stroke. Information on rules, distance or matter of public information, such as position of hazards or the flagstick on the putting green, is not advice.
- k) Uniform scoring sheets shall be used by each league school.
- l) Any dispute over rules interpretations among players are to be settled, if possible, immediately by the players. If there is any doubt, an optional ball is to be played along with the original, and coaches are to settle the dispute before score cards are signed. Coaches are encouraged to ask for help from the golf course professional when possible or necessary.
- m) All players must wear appropriate length shorts (if allowed by the course), pants, skirts, and shirt with collars or turtlenecks. Jeans of any kind are never

allowed. Coaches may not allow any of their own players to break this rule, and a player will not be allowed to play until properly attired.

- n) Each coach will send to the other coaches, a list of their local course rules pertaining to dress, conduct, expected behavior, directions to the course and where to park, prior to the start of the season.
- o) At each dual meet site, the home team coach will be designated as the match director and will have the following duties: prepare scorecards, instruct players concerning local course rules, identify regular tees for play, oversee the match and announce the results.
- p) Once score cards are signed and the home team coach announces results, the results shall be final and there can be no changing of scores.

404. Team League Champion

- a) The WBAL team champion will be determined based on the winner of the double round robin play. In the case of a tie for first place following the completion of round robin play, teams tied for first will be declared co-champions.
- b) For Boys CCS advancement only, the following criteria shall be used to break ties:
 - i. If there are two co-champions at the end of the round robin play, the co-champions shall receive both automatic entries to the CCS tournament.
 - ii. If there are more than two co-champions at the end of round robin play, the two co-champions that return the lowest scores in the league tournament shall receive the two automatic entries into the CCS tournament.

405. Section Tournament Automatic Qualification

- a) Girls
 - i. The automatic entry into the Section Tournament will be based on points awarded for the result of the round robin match schedule and the League Tournament result.
 - ii. Points for the round robin match schedule carry double weight and are awarded based on how teams finish in the round robin standing and the number of teams participating in the league. If six teams play the round robin match schedule, the winner receives 12 points for first place (number

of participating teams times 2), second place receives 10 points, third place 8 points, etc.

1. Teams that tie for a position in the final standings split the points for all the places that are tied. For example, if two teams tie for second place, those teams split the 10 points for second place and 8 points for third place giving each team 9 points.
- iii. Points for the League Tournament carry single weight and are awarded based on how teams finish in the tournament and the number of teams participating in the league. Using the same six team league as above, the team that returns the lowest team score (play six, count five) in the League Tournament receives 6 points, second place 5 points, third place 4 points, etc.
1. Teams that finish with the same score in the League Tournament split the points for all places that are tied. For example, if two teams tie for second place, those teams split the 5 points for second and 4 points for third place giving each team 4½ points.
 2. If a team does not participate in the League Tournament, they receive 0 League Tournament points.
- iv. The team with the highest combined point total from the round robin match schedule and the League Tournament receives the automatic entry into the Section Tournament.
- v. If two or more teams have the same highest combined point total following the League Tournament, the tie will be resolved by:
1. lowest team score in the League Tournament
 2. score of the 6th player in the League Tournament
 3. head to head win/loss record in the round robin schedule
 4. lowest combined score in head to head league matches
 5. coin toss
- vi. If the League Tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the automatic entry into the Section Tournament will be determined based on the result of the round robin schedule.
1. If the round robin result is used to determine the automatic entry into the Section Tournament and there is a tie for first place in the round robin result, the tie will be resolved by:

- a. head to head win/loss record in the round robin schedule
 - b. lowest combined score in head to head league matches
 - c. lowest combined score in head to head league matches including the 6th player
 - d. coin toss
- vii. The points awarded for the round robin match schedule and League Tournament are only used to determine the league's automatic team entrant into the Section Tournament; the scores from the League Tournament, and only the scores from the League Tournament are used when determining the order for at-large team entrants in the Section Tournament.
- b) Boys
- i. The round robin team champion will receive the first automatic entry into the Regional Tournament. In the case where more than one league champion exists, the tie-breaker described in section 404 shall be used to determine which team receives the first automatic entry.

406. League Tournament

- a) There will be a League tournament, played over 18 holes, at the end of the season. In the League Tournament, there will be no maximum score per hole (i.e. no maximum double par plus one); the ball must be holed out on every hole.
- b) All teams are mandated to participate in the League Tournament
- c) The League Tournament must be played on a public course so all teams have equal access for practice.
- d) League Tournament eligibility and advancement:
 - i. Girls
 - 1. Criteria to participate in the League Tournament:
 - a. A player must have played in at least half of her team's league matches and have a league scoring average of 60 or below, or
 - b. Be on the League Championship Team (that is going to the Section Tournament)
 - 2. Teams
 - a. Teams will qualify as at-large entries into the Section Tournament if they return one of the five (5) lowest League Tournament team

scoring differentials for non-league champions (see CCS Girls Golf Bylaw B.1.).

3. Individuals

- a. Individuals that are not members of a qualifying team will qualify for the Section Tournament if they are the League Tournament winner, or if they return one of the eleven (11) lowest individual League Tournament scoring differentials (see CCS Girls Golf Bylaw B.2.).

ii. Boys

1. Criteria to participate in the League Tournament:

- a. A player must have played in at least half of his team's league matches and have a league scoring average of 50 or below, or
- b. Be on the League Championship Team (that is going to Regional Tournament)

2. Teams

- a. Using the best five (5) scores of a six (6) player team, the team that returns the lowest aggregate score, that did not receive the first automatic entry as league champion, will receive the second automatic entry into the Regional Tournament.
- b. If there is a tie for the second automatic entry into the Regional Tournament, the tie will be decided immediately following the completion of play by a hole-by-hole play-off between the five (5) best scoring players on the tied teams. If daylight, or the golf course, does not permit a play-off, the tie will be decided by adding the 6th player's' score to the team total. If the teams are still tied, the USGA recommended method of matching score cards shall be used to break the tie. If matching score cards, the winner shall be determined by the lowest aggregate total score of the tied teams' top five players for holes 10 through 18. If the teams have the same score for the second nine, the aggregate scores for holes 13 through 18 will be used, then holes 16 through 18 and finally the 18th hole. If multiple players on a team have the same 5th best score, the coach must designate which of the players' scores will be used in the tie-breaking process. Once the tie-breaking process has begun, the selection of players cannot be changed. If the tie-breaking procedure involving the top five scores for each team fails to resolve the tie, the USGA recommended method

of matching score cards shall be used with six players. If the event that a tie still exists after matching score cards with six players, the tie shall be broken by coin toss.

3. Individuals

- a. The top three male finishers that are not members of a qualifying team will qualify for the Regional Individual Tournament.
- b. A tie for the last individual qualifier's place will be decided immediately following the completion of play by a hole-by-hole play-off. If daylight, or the golf course, does not permit a play-off, the tie will be broken using the USGA recommended method of matching score cards. If matching score cards is used to break the tie, the winner will be determined based on the best score returned for holes 10 through 18. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, the winner will be determined using holes 13-18, 16-18 and finally the 18th hole. If matching score cards fails to break the tie, the winner shall be determined by coin toss (two players) or blind draw (three or more players).
- c. Individuals not on a qualifying team may also qualify the Regional Tournament as an at-large individual if they return one of the six (6) low individual differentials from the league tournaments (see CCS Boys Golf Bylaw C.2.b.)

407. Awards/Medals

- a) The league's team champion will receive a WBAL plaque and six (6) small plaques for team members.
- b) Medals: If deemed equitable and within budget, the coach's request funds to purchase three medals to be awarded to the top three finishers in the end-of-season League Tournament.

408. Special Rulings

- a) Canceled matches will be rescheduled when possible. Coaches involved are responsible for rescheduling and must notify the league chairperson of the change. Matches necessary to determine the team League Champion or runner up will have first priority.

- b) If a player is forced to retire because of an illness or injury, he/she will be given a score of double par plus one for all unfinished holes. The withdrawing player must inform his/her coach of the illness/injury and officially withdraw from the match prior to leaving the area.
- c) Any reckless, dangerous, and/or impulsive action such as throwing a club, hitting a ball or any other object in anger, burying a club head in the ground, loud swearing, or any other action not conducive to the game of golf will immediately disqualify a player from the match and suspend the player from the next league match.
- d) Any player that quits during a match, or knowingly breaks a disqualifying rule, will receive a score 10 strokes higher than the highest score returned in the match.
- e) Boys forfeit rule – any stats earned during a match do not count.

409. All-League Selection Guidelines

- a) The goal is to have six First Team, six Second Team and one Player of the Year. If there is a tie for First or Second Team, team size could be adjusted +/- 1.
- b) Players must have returned a score in at least 75% of their team's contested league matches (forfeits excluded) in order to be considered for Player of the Year or First Team; players must have returned a score in at least 50% of their team's contested league matches to be considered for Second Team.
- c) There is no limit on the number of players per school on First Team or Second Team.
- d) Honorable Mention is anyone who is nominated by their coach.
- e) Selection is based on league play only; post-season is not considered. The primary criteria is season long differential scoring average.
- f) Any voting will be done by show of hands (public voting, not private voting).