

2009-2010 WPIAL BOYS GOLF SCHEDULE

January 28, 2009

First Practice Date: August 17, 2009
First Scrimmage Date: August 22, 2009
First Play Date: August 20, 2009

Maximum Contests: 18 Contests
Maximum Scrimmages: 2

NOTE DATE CHANGE ONLY

NOTE: *A copy of this schedule must be given to your coach.*

OVERVIEW/SCHEDULE: WPIAL boys' golf section competition will begin on Monday, August 24, 2009, and must be completed according to the schedule. Section matches will be played in a **nine-hole** format.

- Since the WPIAL is dependent upon outside facilities for the golf program, it may be necessary for some dates to be adjusted due to restrictions placed on the school by the golf course management. The WPIAL recognizes this problem and we ask that the home school notify their opponents when this occurs.
- The correct starting time should be established by the home team and made known to the visitors in plenty of time. It is recommended that regular season section matches do not start before 3:30 PM unless the golf course dictates another time. Both school principals should be notified when this occurs.
- IF YOU SHARE A GOLF COURSE WITH OTHER MEMBER SCHOOLS, PLEASE MOVE HOME DATES TO PREVENT TOO MANY TEAMS FROM BEING ON THE SAME COURSE ON THE SAME DAY. **ATHLETIC DIRECTORS SHOULD CONTACT EACH OTHER TO MAKE THESE ARRANGEMENTS.**

ALIGNMENT/TEAM PLAYOFFS: The alignment is a two-division system for team play, Division I and Division II. The top two (2) teams and ties for second place in each section will enter the team championship semi-finals on **October 14, 2009**. If two teams tie for second place but one of the teams has lost both head-to-head contests, that team **will not** enter the tournament round. Three-way ties will be broken in the following manner:

- a. Section records of the tied teams will be compiled.
- b. The team that has the best numerical record among the tied teams will be the qualifier.
- c. If the tie cannot clearly be broken, all tied teams will enter the tournament.

A team champion will be declared in both divisions. **In 2009, the WPIAL WILL participate in the PIAA Team Tournament.**

MATCH FORMAT: The format for boys' golf is a team comprised of six golfers who play for a combined team total medal score for the day. Only the top five scores will count to determine the team winner for the match. This format is in effect for all team matches. It is imperative that all shots are played and no concessions permitted.

All teams **must** field a minimum of five players. Failure to field five players will result in a forfeit victory for the opponent, provided they have at least five players ready to play.

A match once started must be completed that day with two exceptions:

[1] DARKNESS

[2] AUTHORITIES CLOSE THE COURSE DUE TO STORMS OCCURRING DURING PLAY.

In either case, the match must be completed on a subsequent day starting play at the last completed hole for each contestant. On a crowded course, it may be necessary to start play at Tee #10 or even #1, but scores are used for only the un-played holes of the first day.

In case of a tie in the total medal score, each coach will choose two players to represent their squad in a two-hole playoff with the twosome shooting the lowest combined score winning. If there is still a tie after the two-hole playoff, the players will play "sudden death" extra holes until the tie is broken.

RULES/MATCH ADMINISTRATION: All clubs and balls used in the WPIAL regular season and tournament play must conform to USGA rules. Use of non-conforming equipment will be penalized as per the 2009 USGA Rule Book.

- All matches are conducted under the rules of the **United States Golf Association**. Local rules of the course may modify USGA rules in certain cases. Local rules should be discussed and clarified prior to the start of the match.

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- In WPIAL golf matches, the coaches will function as the Rules Committee as specified in the USGA Rules Book. The Rules Committee will decide applications of the rules, resolve disputes, and verify all individual and team scores prior to leaving the course. Once competing coaches agree on the final results and depart the course, the competition is deemed to have closed (Rule 34-1B). The Rules Committee has no power to waive a Rule of Golf. If the coaches cannot resolve a dispute, a third party ruling may be obtained from the resident golf professional or by contacting the WPIAL Office no later than the day following the competition.
- Competing players may report violations to the Rules Committee, but are not permitted to call penalties except for applications of the Rules of Golf. While contestants are responsible for entering the correct score for each hole played, the Rules Committee is responsible for the addition of scores (Rule 33–5).
- Coaches are to teach the Rules of Golf as well as the etiquette of the game as prescribed by the USGA.
- **During all matches, the player should play the ball as it lies. Exceptions will be limited to adverse course conditions, such as prolonged rain or extreme heat that make the fairways unsatisfactory. In such cases, the Committee will enforce the local rule of lift, clean, and place. Players are not to improve their lies by rolling their ball with a club.**
- WPIAL One Ball Rule – Competing players may carry on their person only the ball in play. Additional ball(s) are not permitted. Penalty – First time warning, second time 2-strokes penalty.
- THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES (E.G.-RANGE FINDERS, CELL PHONES, ETC.) BY PLAYERS IS PROHIBITED. (See attached WPIAL Golf Event Official Player and Coaches Rules).

RESPONSIBILITY/CONDUCT: The conduct of players, coaches, and spectators is subject to the following restrictions:

- A. A two-stroke penalty shall be assessed for conduct unbecoming interscholastic players. Such conduct shall include but not be limited to: club throwing, (defined as releasing the club in anger or in a manner intended to cause harm to any person or to the golf course), willful acts which damage the property or equipment of the golf course, use of profane or inappropriate language, or other unbecoming conduct as determined by the tournament or match director.
- B. The PIAA and the WPIAL forbid the use of tobacco or tobacco products by any coach, player, or spectator at any WPIAL matches.

COACHES/SPECTATORS: Coaches and spectators who choose to walk the course **behind** the contestants during all individual tournaments must follow these rules:

1. Do not offer comments to players. No coaching. Coaches may make comments to their own players during **team** play only.
 2. Do not approach players nearer than twenty-five yards from behind the group being observed.
 3. Do not cross over tees, fairways, or putting greens. Observe from cart paths or “rough”.
 4. Follow the rules of golf etiquette while players are addressing the ball.
 5. Do not attempt to apply the rules of golf.
- Coaching is permitted during all **team** matches. A coach, assistant coach, or a playing member of the team may assist in coaching instruction. **(See the attached WPIAL Golf Event Official Player and Coaches Rules).**
 - Coaches are **not** permitted to play golf during section matches or individual tournament play and must remain out on the course to monitor the competition. Coaches must remain at the golf course until the match is completed. **No exceptions.**

UNIFORMS/APPAREL: All contestants are required to wear school issued golf attire (school issued collared or mock shirt, golf hat or visor). They may choose to wear either golf shorts or slacks (cargo shorts or pants excluded) provided that they are of an appropriate length. While hats are not required, players who select to use them must wear school issued hats or visors. Appropriate sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts may be worn over the school issued shirt when the weather is a factor. No advertisements other than a 2” x 2” logo are permitted. No exceptions are permitted.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP: The WPIAL Individual Championship will be contested by qualifying players representing member schools. Each player must follow the approved qualifying process in order to qualify for the championship. No alternates need to be decided from each sectional qualifier; however, for the semi-finals and final alternates should be selected by designating the player finishing next in order after the qualifiers has been determined.

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- Ties for the final qualifying spot at the WPIAL Semi-Finals or Final should be broken with “sudden victory” extra holes.
- Caddies and motorized carts are not permitted at any round of the tournament series.
- Each of the WPIAL individual tournaments will consist of 18 holes of stroke play.
- **Member schools not fielding a team** in the WPIAL competition may **enter one (1) golfer** who is capable of playing tournament golf. In the event that a school has more than one (1) that wants to enter, the school must determine the best golfer in head-to-head competition. **Those Athletic Directors must submit the name, grade, and average score of their player (18 holes), in writing, to the WPIAL Office no later than Tuesday, September 8, 2009.**

SECTIONAL QUALIFIERS: Each sectional qualifier will be comprised of six (6) players from each section team. It is expected that these players be qualified to play tournament golf, have knowledge of the Rules of Golf, and practice proper golf etiquette.

- Each sectional qualifier will be hosted at one of the section courses. The host school for 2009-2010 is designated by an asterisk (*) in the listing of schools in each section.
- The athletic director of the host school will serve as tournament manager and will be responsible for communicating appropriate information to section schools. **The 2009-2010 sectional qualifiers have been scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2009.** If necessary, the host school may move the tournament to Tuesday, September 22, 2009. If this occurs, scheduled dual matches would be played on Monday, September 21, 2009.
- Athletic Directors of competing schools must furnish the names and grades of their entries to their sectional manager no later than Thursday, September 17, 2009. **Players will advance from each sectional qualifier to the semi-final round by:**
 - a.) **Placing in the top five (5) scores, including ties OR**
 - b.) **By shooting the designated target score (within 10 shots of the course rating)*.**

****The Golf Steering Committee will determine the course rating, target score, distance, and tees to be played and notify each sectional manager of this information.***

SEMI-FINAL QUALIFIERS: Each semi-final qualifier will consist of qualifiers from each of the sixteen (16) sectional tournaments. **The semi-final round will be conducted on Tuesday, September 29, 2009, or Wednesday, September 30, 2009, at four (4) different courses.** Sectional Site Managers must submit the names, grade, and scores of their qualifiers to the WPIAL Office no later than the day following the sectional tournament. All contestants will then be divided among the four (4) sites that will be managed by members of the WPIAL Golf Steering Committee.

INDIVIDUAL FINALS: The Individual Final Round will consist of **forty-eight (48) contestants** – the top twelve (12) from each semi-final round site. **The Final Round will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2009,** at a course to be designated and will be managed by members of the Golf Committee. **A Division I and Division II Champion will be crowned.**

The top **twenty-four (24) contestants** from the WPIAL Final Round will qualify for the Western PIAA Individual Qualifying Round with qualifiers from five (5) other PIAA western districts on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. The top **twenty-two (22) contestants** from the Western Regional Qualifying Round will qualify for the PIAA Championship Finals at Heritage Hills Golf course on October 26 & 27, 2009.

REPORTING SCORES:

The home team is obliged to phone all scores to:

- a.) Don Rebel @ MSA Sports Network (412/539-0360)
- b.) Pittsburgh Post Gazette (412-263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224)
- c.) Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) OR GRSB (1-800-690-8047).
- d.) Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well.

NOTE: All Athletic Directors are responsible for reporting team standings to the League Office before the Pairings Meeting.



WPIAL Golf Event – Official Players Rules

1. **The United States Golf Association (USGA) rules will govern all play** with the exception of local course rules. WPIAL rules specify that each player have knowledge of the rules of golf and practice proper etiquette. Please check your bag to see that you have no more than 14 clubs as outlined in rule 4-4.
2. **All participants must wear proper golf attire.** All contestants are required to wear school issued golf attire (school issued collared or mock shirt, golf hat or visor). They may choose to wear either golf shorts or slacks (cargo shorts or pants excluded) provided that they are of an appropriate length. While hats are not required, players who select to use them must wear school issued hats or visors. Appropriate sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts may be worn over the school issued shirt when the weather is a factor. No advertisements other than a 2" x 2" logo is permitted. No exceptions are permitted. Spike less golf shoes or tennis must be worn.
3. **All players must mark & identify their golf ball (Rules 6-5 & 12-2):**
This should include announcing the brand, type, number & personally applied mark of the ball to be put into play.
4. **The WPIAL "One-ball rule" will be in effect:**
Competing players may carry on their person only the ball in play. Additional balls(s) are not permitted. The penalty for breach of the "one-ball rule" is: 1st offense – warning / 2nd offense – 2 stroke penalty.
5. **Procedure under Rule 27-2 "Provisional Ball":**
"If a ball may be lost outside a water hazard or may be out of bounds, to save time a player may play another ball provisionally in accordance with rule 27-1. The player must inform his marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play that he intends to play a provisional ball and he must play it before he goes forward to search for the original ball. If he fails to do so and play another ball, that ball is not a provisional ball and becomes the ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 27-1); the original ball is lost.
6. **Rights under Rule 3-3 "Doubt as to Procedure":**
If a competitor is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his marker or fellow competitor that he intends to play two balls and which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit. If he fails to do so, the score with the original ball counts. The competitor must report the facts of the situation to the Committee before returning his scorecard. If he fails to do so, he is disqualified."
7. **The WPIAL "Pace of Play Rule" will be in effect:**
For the purpose of preventing slow play, WPIAL official(s) have, in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), established pace of play guidelines. The penalty for slow play will be determined by the WPIAL assigned Pace of Play official as follows: 1st offense – warning to the entire group/ 2nd offense – identification of individual(s) not keeping pace and a warning / 3rd offense – 2 stroke penalty assessed to the individual(s) not keeping pace.
8. **"Penalty for Conduct Unbecoming Interscholastic Players":** A two-stroke penalty shall be assessed for conduct unbecoming interscholastic players. Such conduct shall include but not be limited to: club throwing, (defined as releasing the club in anger or in a manner intended to cause harm to any person or the golf course), willful acts which damage the property or equipment of the golf course, use of profane or inappropriate language or other unbecoming conduct as determined by the tournament or match director.
9. **WPIAL policy on electronic devices (cellular phones, range finders, & mp3/Ipods):**
 - a). In accordance with the PIAA, the WPIAL does not permit the use of range finders in any capacity.
 - b.) Cellular phone use and/or possession of a cellular phone in the "ON" position are prohibited. The penalty for breach of the cellular phone policy is : 1st offense – 2 stroke penalty/ 2nd offense – disqualification.
 - c). Any type of iPod or mp3 device is prohibited during WPIAL competitive rounds.
10. **Rights for Advice (Rule 8-1) & WPIAL Rules for Spectators:**
In accordance with Rule 8-1 and the WPIAL Rules for Spectators, players may not ask for or receive advice from anyone, except in team competition where the WPIAL Committee (Rule 33-1) has designated each team's coach as the individual able to give advice to his or her own players. For the Protection of all players in the field, players should not take advice from anyone other than the Host Professional, a WPIAL Committee Member, or their own Coach (team events only).
PLAYERS ARE TO HAVE NO CONTACT WITH SPECTATORS.
11. **Post-round scoring procedure:** All players should proceed as a group to the official scorer's table without undue delay. Players should not sign their scorecards until they have cross-referenced their scores and handled any rules questions with the official scorer. Failure to follow this procedure may result in the assessment of additional strokes or result in disqualification.
12. **The WPIAL expects all of its competitors to take proper care of our host facilities.** This includes replacing divots, repairing ball marks, raking traps, not making practice swings on tee boxes, and keeping bags off tees and greens. The WPIAL also encourages all competitors to seek out a representative of the host facility and thank them for the opportunity to play their course and use their facilities.
13. **During all matches, the player should play the ball as it lies. Exceptions will be limited to adverse course conditions, such as prolonged rain or extreme heat that make the fairways unsatisfactory. In such cases, the Committee will enforce the local rule of lift, clean, and place. Players are not permitted to improve their lies by rolling the ball with a club.**



WPIAL Golf Event – Official Coaches Rules

1. **The United States Golf Association (USGA) rules will govern all play** with the exception of local course rules. WPIAL rules specify that each player have knowledge of the rules of golf and practice proper etiquette.
2. Coaches may coach during team competition only. There is NO coaching during any WPIAL individual event.
3. **All coaches will have an assignment.** Coaches may be assigned to act as forecaddies, observers, starters, etc. For those coaches who will server as observers/markers, please note the following instructions:
 - a) A official observer's sheet will be provided. Record all strokes for each player and verify the score with player after each hole.
 - b) At the completion of the front nine, submit the scores of all players to the committee member or coach assigned to 9 hole scoring.
4. **Do not** move, talk, or stand close to or directly behind the ball when a player is addressing the ball or marking a stroke.
5. **Do not** lift a ball or mark its position. You may point out the location of an errant ball shot but please maintain a distance from it.
6. **Do not** attend to the flagstick.
7. **Enforce** the following as you observer and **report** any flagrant violation to the rules committee:
 - a) Parents, spectators, and media who chose to walk the course during competition may do so under the following guidelines:
 1. Do not offer comments or make suggestions to the players. No coaching
 2. Do not observe play closer than twenty-five(25) yards from the group of players being observed.
 3. Do not cross over or observe play from teeing areas, fairways, or putting greens during play. Play may be observed from the cart paths or rough only.
 4. Follow the rules of golf etiquette while the players are addressing the ball.
8. **Do not** attempt to decide questions of fact or attempt to apply to rules of golf. A rules committee has been appointed. The rules committee will act on any rules violations or situations that they observer or is reported to them.

Thank you for your effort in making this an enjoyable event for all our student-athletes!