

## 2021 - 2022 WPIAL BOYS GOLF SCHEDULE

February 2, 2021– **UPDATED 9/14/21**

First Practice Date:	August 16, 2021	Maximum Contests:	18
First Scrimmage Date:	August 19, 2021	Maximum Scrimmages:	2
First Play Date:	August 19, 2021		

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

**OVERVIEW:** The WPIAL provides guidelines for all aspects of the golf season and schools, coaches, players and spectators should be aware of the following information.

### SECTION MATCHES / GOLF COURSE USE:

1. Section matches will be played in a **nine-hole** format.
2. Section competition will begin on **August 23, 2021** and must be completed according to the schedule.
3. 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 or other extenuating circumstances. The WPIAL recognizes these problems and we ask that the home school notify their opponents when this occurs.
4. Assigned section matches must be completed by **September 29, 2021**.
5. The 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.
6. 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.**

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

1. 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.
2. The PIAA and the WPIAL forbid the use of e-cigarettes, vapes, tobacco or tobacco products by any coach, player, or spectator at any WPIAL matches.
3. 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.
4. Coaches must remain at the golf course until the match is completed. No exceptions.

**COACHING RULES:** Coaches are responsible for knowing the rules of WPIAL golf competitions and educating both students and parents of these rules. Coaches are responsible for distributing the "WPIAL Golf Spectator Rules" (addendum to this document) to all students and parents in their program. It is highly recommended that coaches review the current USGA Rules of Golf prior to the start of the season.

1. During all **TEAM** matches:
  - a. Coaching **IS** permitted during team matches by **ONE** coach that is identified **BEFORE** the competition to the *Committee* as the "Advice Giver" for that team (USGA Rule 24.4).
  - b. The Coach identified as the "Advice Giver" for the team is the only person of that team that may communicate with players during that competition as allowed by USGA Rule 10.2b.
  - c. Coaches may only make comments to their players during the competition.
  - d. Any contact between coach & player may neither disrupt pace of play nor distract other players.

2. During **INDIVIDUAL** tournaments:
  - a. Coaches should not approach players nearer than twenty-five yards.
  - b. Coaches should not cross over tees, fairways, or putting greens.
  - c. Coaches should observe from cart paths or “rough”.
  - d. Follow the rules of golf etiquette while players are addressing the ball.
  - e. Coaches should not attempt to apply the rules of golf.

### **UNIFORMS & APPAREL:**

1. All contestants are required to wear school-issued shirts, shorts/pants, and hats in ALL WPIAL Team and Individual events.
2. If a school does not issue a particular item of apparel, players should wear apparel in their school colors that does not have any non-school or non-golf company logos (i.e. players may not wear a hat with the logo of their favorite professional or college team).
3. They may choose to wear either golf shorts or slacks (cargo shorts or pants excluded) if they are of an appropriate length.
4. Sweaters, jackets, & sweatshirts may be worn over the school issued shirt if the weather is a factor.
5. No advertisements other than a 2” x 2” logo is permitted on the golf shirt. No exceptions are permitted.

### **TEAM COMPETITION / CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

#### **RULES & MATCH ADMINISTRATION:**

1. All matches are conducted under the rules of the **United States Golf Association (USGA)**. Local rules of the course may modify USGA rules (items such as “double par”) for regular season matches only. Local rules should be discussed and clarified prior to the start of the match. The Tournament Committee will define rules for all championship and championship qualifying events.
2. **Players failing to hole out and proceed correctly under USGA Rule 3-3c will be disqualified.**
3. All clubs and balls used in the WPIAL regular season and tournament play must conform to USGA Rule 4. Use of non-conforming equipment will be penalized as per the most updated USGA Rule Book.
4. In WPIAL golf matches, the coaches will function as the Rules Committee as specified in the USGA Rule 20.2. 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. 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.
5. 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 3.3b).
6. Coaches are to teach the Rules of Golf as well as the etiquette of the game as prescribed by the USGA.
7. During all matches, the player should play the ball as it lies (Rule 1.1). 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.
8. WPIAL One Ball Rule – WPIAL contestants are reminded that only the ball in play should be on their person during the round.
9. A player may obtain information by using a device that measures distance only (range finders, GPS Unit and cell phones with a GPS Application). If a player uses a distance measuring device designed to measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g.-gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.) the player is in breach of Rule 4.3 for which the first breach is a general penalty (2 strokes) and a second breach (unrelated to the first breach) is disqualification. The sharing of yardage information among players is encouraged but not required.
10. The use of a cell phone by a player for any reason other than accessing a GPS Application (e.g. communications, taking photos, texting, etc.) is strictly prohibited and the penalty for such use is disqualification.
11. Caddies and motorized carts are not permitted at any round of the tournament series.

### **MATCH FORMAT:**

1. The format for boys' golf is a team comprised of six golfers who play for a combined team total medal score for the day in a 9-Hole Format.
2. Only the top five scores will count to determine the team winner for the match.
3. 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.
4. This format is in effect for all team matches.
5. Girls playing on boys' teams are permitted to play from the RED (or FORWARD) tees as long as the total length is approximately 85% of the distance from the WHITE (or regular match) tees.
6. It is imperative that all shots are played, and no concessions permitted (USGA Rule 3-3c). Players who fail to hole out and proceed correctly under USGA Rule 3-3 will be disqualified from any WPIAL competition.
7. A match once started must be completed that day with two exceptions:
  1. DARKNESS
  2. AUTHORITIES CLOSE THE COURSE DUE TO STORMS OCCURRING DURING PLAYIn 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.
8. 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.

### **SECTIONAL ALIGNMENT & TEAM PLAYOFFS:**

1. The sectional alignment is a two-classification system for team play, Class AAA and AA.
2. The top two (2) teams and ties for second place in each section will enter the team championship tournament.
  1. 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.
  2. 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.
3. AAA / AA TEAM PLAYOFFS:
  1. The top two (2) teams and ties (as determined by procedure listed above) in each section will qualify for the respective AAA / AA WPIAL Team Championship Tournament.
  2. The qualifiers will participate in a semi-final round on **October 11 or 12, 2021** as determined by the WPIAL Golf Committee.
  3. The top three (3) teams from all AAA & AA semi-final sites will advance to the team championship round on October 14, 2021.
  4. Both the AAA & AA WPIAL Team Champion will advance directly to the PIAA final round.

### **REPORTING SCORES:** The home team is obligated to phone all scores to:

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (412-263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224) [highschool@post-gazette.com](mailto:highschool@post-gazette.com)

Washington Observer Reporter (1-800-222-6397) [orsports@observer-reporter.com](mailto:orsports@observer-reporter.com)

Tribune Review-PGH (1-888-748-8742) [ptrsports@tribweb.com](mailto:ptrsports@tribweb.com)

Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well

**NOTE:** Athletic Directors are responsible for reporting team standings to the League Office before the Fall WPIAL Golf Committee Meeting.

**INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION / CHAMPIONSHIPS:** The WPIAL will provide Class AAA and Class AA golfers with an opportunity to compete for an individual championship in each classification. 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. It is not necessary to determine an alternate from the sectional qualifiers. Each of the WPIAL individual tournaments will consist of 18 holes of stroke play.

**INDIVIDUAL SECTION QUALIFIERS:**

1. **Member schools not fielding a team in the WPIAL competition may enter one (1) golfer, who is capable of playing tournament golf, have knowledge of the rules of golf and practice proper golf etiquette.** It is strongly recommended that 18-hole scores for boys should be less than 100. If a school has more than one (1) who wants to enter, the school must determine the best golfer in head-to-head competition. Those Athletic Directors must submit the name, grade, Board Approved Coach and average score of their player (18 holes) via the provided registration form to the WPIAL Office no later than the designated deadline.
2. Each Class AAA and AA sectional qualifier will be comprised of a maximum 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. It is strongly recommended that 18-hole scores for boys should be less than 100. Each sectional qualifier will be contested at an approved section course.
3. **HOST SCHOOLS for SECTION QUALIFIERS:**
  1. The HOST school for the SECTION QUALIFIER is designated by an asterisk (\*) on the applicable WPIAL Golf Alignment page which lists the schools in each section.
  2. The host school is responsible for selecting an 18-hole course (with different greens) of sufficient length and difficulty appropriate for a boys or girls sectional championship tournament. As a guide course length should approximate 6,200 yards for boys.
  3. **It is the responsibility/requirement of the sectional host to secure an adult marker to each playing group during the sectional tournament.** The adult marker must be a school approved employee or volunteer from the host, or participating, schools.
  4. The athletic director of the host school will serve as tournament manager and will be responsible for communicating appropriate information to section schools.
  5. The designated sectional qualifier date is listed in the Important Individual Dates and Venues section of this document. In the event a school is unable to secure an appropriate course on the designated date, alternate dates to host section qualifiers are also listed. If an alternate date is used, scheduled dual matches could be played on any non-section qualifier dates.
  6. \*The WPIAL Golf Steering Committee will determine the course rating, target score, distance, tees and local rules to be played. A Committee member will notify each sectional manager of this information.
  7. **Sectional Site Managers must submit the names, grade, and scores of the participants and designate qualifiers to the WPIAL Office no later than the day following the sectional tournament.**
4. Athletic Directors of competing section schools must furnish the names, grades and average scores of their entries to the sectional manager by the deadline listed in the Important Individual Dates and Venues section of this document.
5. In each Class AAA sectional qualifier, players will only advance to the AAA semi-final round by shooting the designated target score (within 10 shots of the course rating\*). If no player meets the target score requirement, the lowest scoring individual from the sectional qualifier site will advance as the site champion.

6. In each Class AA sectional qualifier, players will only advance to the Class AA championship round by shooting the designated target score (within 15 shots of the course rating\*). If no player meets the target score requirement, the lowest scoring individual from the sectional qualifier site will advance as the site champion.
7. Caddies and motorized carts are not permitted at any round of the tournament series.

#### **INDIVIDUAL SEMI-FINAL ROUND:**

1. **Class AAA Individual Semi-Final Qualifier**
  1. The Class AAA semi-final qualifiers will consist of qualifiers from each of the Class AAA sectional tournaments.
  2. The semi-final round will be conducted on **September 27, 2021**.
  3. The site will be determined by the WPIAL Golf Steering Committee with the top thirty-six (36) contestants moving on to the WPIAL AAA Individual Finals.
  4. Ties for the final qualifying spot will be broken with "sudden victory" extra holes.
  5. An alternate will be selected from the semi-final site by designating the player finishing next in order after the top 36 scorers have been determined.
2. **Class AA** qualifies straight from the sectional tournaments to the WPIAL AA Individual Final.

#### **INDIVIDUAL FINALS:**

1. **Class AAA Individual Final**
  1. The AAA Individual Final Round will consist of top thirty-six (36) contestants from the semi-final round.
  2. The Individual Championships will be held on the dates and venues listed below and will be managed by members of the Golf Committee.
  3. The top scorer in the Class AAA Championship round will be named the WPIAL Class AAA Individual Golf Champion.
  4. The top **14** scorers from the WPIAL Class AAA Individual Final will qualify directly to the PIAA Championship Round provided their score in the WPIAL Championship round does not exceed 100.
  5. Ties for the final qualifying spot will be broken with "sudden victory" extra holes.
  6. An alternate will be selected by designating the player finishing next in order after the top scorers have been determined.
2. **Class AA Individual Final**
  1. The AA Individual Final Round will consist of qualifiers from each of the Class AA Section Tournaments.
  2. The Individual Championships will be held on the dates and venues listed below and will be managed by members of the Golf Committee.
  3. The top scorer in the Class AA Championship round will be named the WPIAL Class AA Individual Golf Champion.
  4. The top **18** scorers from the WPIAL Class AA Individual Final will qualify directly to the PIAA Championship Round provided their score in the WPIAL Championship round does not exceed 100.
  5. Ties for the final qualifying spot will be broken with "sudden victory" extra holes.
  6. An alternate should be selected by designating the player finishing next in order after the top 18 scorers have been determined.

## Dates Page

### Important Team Dates and Venues:

1. **August 16, 2021:** First Practice Date
2. **August 19, 2021:** First Scrimmage Date
3. **August 19, 2021:** First Play Date
4. **August 23, 2021:** First Scheduled Section Date
5. **September 29, 2021:** All Section Matches must be Completed by this Date
6. **September 30, 2021:** Competitor Forms due to WPIAL Office from Athletic Directors
7. **October 1, 2021:** WPIAL Committee Meeting to set Team Semi-Final Sites
8. **October 12, 2021:** AA and AAA Team Semi-Finals
  - a. AA Venues: **Indian Run GC** and **Meadowink GC**
  - b. AAA Venues: **Beaver Valley GC** and **Links at Spring Church GC**
9. **October 14, 2021:** AA and AAA Team Final
  - a. AA Venue: **Cedarbrook Golf Club (Gold Course)**
  - b. AAA Venue: **Cedarbrook Golf Club (Gold Course)**
10. **October 25, 2021:** PIAA Team Championships
  - a. AA Venue: **Heritage Hills Golf Resort**
  - b. AAA Venue: **Heritage Hills Golf Resort**

### Important Individual Dates and Venues:

1. **September 3, 2021:** Non-team individuals competition intentions to WPIAL office by school Athletic Director
2. **September 9, 2021:** Submit players to play in the Sectional Qualifiers to the Host School
3. **September 20, 2021:** Sectional Qualifier Play Date
4. **September 21 or 22, 2021:** Sectional Qualifier Alternate Play Date
5. **September 22, 2021:** Deadline for Section Qualifier Hosts to submit qualifier results to the WPIAL office (Information should be submitted within 24 hours of completion of the Qualifier)
6. **September 24, 2021:** WPIAL Committee Meeting to set the AAA Semi-Final and AA Final Tee Times
7. **September 27, 2021:** AAA Semi-Finals at **Willowbrook Country Club**
8. **September 30, 2021:** WPIAL AA Individual Championships at **Allegheny Country Club**
9. **October 5, 2021:** WPIAL AAA Individual Championships at **Nemacolin Country Club**
10. **October 18, 2021:** PIAA AA Individual Championships at **Heritage Hills Golf Resort**
11. **October 19, 2021:** PIAA AAA Individual Championships at **Heritage Hills Golf Resort**

## ***WPIAL GOLF SPECTATOR RULES***

In order to maintain a fair and level playing field for all contestants, spectators who choose to walk the course must comply with the following:

1. Please refrain from walking directly with the players.
2. Do not approach any player nearer than twenty-five (25) yards.
3. Please try to avoid crossing over tee boxes, through fairways or across putting greens during play.
4. Try to observe from cart paths where provided or from the "rough."
5. Everyone is ALWAYS expected to follow the rules of golf etiquette.
6. Please be aware of players hitting from behind you, so that you do not hold up play.
7. Spectators shall not attempt to offer comments or advise to the players and shall never try to tell them the rules of golf! In other words, please do not tell them what they can or cannot do!
8. Spectators are encouraged to forecaddie and may point as well as vocalize the general whereabouts of any ball, BUT THEY MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR A POTENTIAL LOST BALL. The reason is simple, by only having participants, markers and committee members participating in a search there is less chance of a ball being stepped on, or having the original lie altered.
9. All spectators are asked to please dress appropriately. Jeans, sweatshirts and work out attire are not commonly accepted at many courses.

Spectators who do not comply with the above rules may be asked to leave the site immediately. Spectator cooperation is appreciated.