

# WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE

615 Iron City Drive • Suite 300 • Pittsburgh PA 15205-4348 • Telephone (412) 921-7181 • Fax (412) 921-0554

## WPIAL Golf Championships

### Player 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 appropriate golf attire in accordance with generally accepted golf standards. School issued uniforms (collared or mock shirts, golf hat or visor) are required in individual and team competitions. Since some schools do not issue golf uniforms, contestants from these schools are required to wear matching shirts and hats in the school colors in individual and team competitions. Contestants may choose to wear either golf shorts or pants (cargo shorts/pants excluded) provided that they are of an appropriate length. While hats are not required, players who select to use them must wear hats or visors of the same style and color. T-shirts, altered apparel, and advertisements (other than one visible trademark/school logo or school name not exceeding 2-1/4 square inches on a shirt, cap or pants) will not be permitted. Appropriate sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts may be worn over the golf shirt when weather is a factor. Spikeless shoes in accordance with course requirements 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 only the ball in play. Additional balls(s) are not permitted. The penalty for breach of the "one-ball rule" is: 1<sup>st</sup> offense = warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 lay 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: 1<sup>st</sup> offense = warning to the entire group, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense = identification of individual(s) not keeping pace and a warning, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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). Range finders, GPS units, and cell phones with a GPS application that measure distance only are approved for use. Rangefinders that measure slope, wind speed, temperature, etc. are not approved for use. The sharing of yardage information among players is encouraged but not required. The penalty for the use or possession of non-approved devices is disqualification. b.) 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. c.) Any type of music device is prohibited during WPIAL competitive rounds. The penalty for such use is disqualification.
- 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.** Non-motorized push or pull carts. Players are permitted to use non-motorized push or pull carts where the facility permits