

## Article IV - Golf

### 400: Practice

- a) Interscholastic practice during the school year is defined as:
  - a. 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
  - b. 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
  - c. any other coach-directed or supervised school team or individual activity or instruction for a specific sport AND/OR
  - d. 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 tryouts.
- b) Any single practice session shall be no longer than 3 hours in length.
- c) There shall be a minimum of 2 hours between any two practice sessions in a single day.
- d) 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.
- 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:
  - 1. Matches shall be played over nine (9) holes.
  - 2. All play shall be stroke play, with no handicap.
  - 3. Team scores shall be the total aggregate score of the best 5 out of 6 scores. The highest score for girls and the highest score for boys will not count in the team total.
  - 4. Team tie scores will be resolved by comparing the total score of each team's 5th scores, starting with the last hole and working backwards until one team wins. If multiple players on a team have the same 5<sup>th</sup> best score for the match, 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 golfers cannot be changed.
  - 5. The maximum score on any hole is double par plus one (1).
  - 6. Embedded ball rule – A ball embedded in its own pitch mark on the green may be lifted, cleaned and dropped.
  - 7. If a team has four players, they may use a score of double par plus nine for the fifth score.
  - 8. If a team has fewer than four players, they will forfeit the match.
- g) All dual matches will be played from the forward most regular women's tees for girls and the men's regular tees for boys.
- 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.

#### 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 score card. 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 may not speak to players or assist the players regarding pace of play or rules questions.
- i) Coaches are allowed to give advice to players.
- j) Uniform scoring sheets shall be used by each league school.
- k) 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.
- l) 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.
- m) 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.
- n) At each dual meet site, the home team coach will be designated as the match director and will have the following duties: prepare score cards and starting line-ups and pairings, instruct players concerning special course rules or problems, identify regular tees for play, and oversee match.

#### 405: Team League Champion

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.

- a) For Girls CCS advancement only, the following criteria shall be used to break ties:
  - a) Head-to-head win/loss record
  - b) Second round win/loss record (originally scheduled matches)
  - c) Head-to-head competition with the next highest finishing team (2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.)
  - d) Winner of originally scheduled second round game
  - e) Coin toss

- b) For Boys CCS advancement only, the following criteria shall be used to break ties: TBA

406: Section Tournament Automatic Qualification

1. Girls

- a) The round robin team champion will receive the automatic entry into the Section Tournament. In the case where more than one league champion exists, the tie-breaker described in Section 405 shall be used to determine which team receives the automatic entry.

2. Boys

- a) 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, both teams will receive the two berths.
- b) If there is a league champion and a tie for second place in league finish, then the higher finisher of the second place teams at the league tournament will advance to the CCS tournament.

407: League Tournament

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. The League Tournament must be played on a public course so all teams have equal access for practice.

1. Girls

- a) Criteria to participate in the League Tournament:

1. 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
2. be on the League Championship Team (that is going to the Section Tournament)

b) Teams

1. Teams will qualify as at-large entries into the Section Tournament if their average team score for five (5) players is equal to or better than 75% (without rounding) of the course slope for the golf course used for the League Tournament.

c) Individuals

1. The individual returning the lowest score in the League Tournament will qualify for the Section Individual Tournament.
2. Any individual, including members of qualifying teams, returning a score that is equal to or better than 75% of the course slope (without rounding) for the golf course used for the League Tournament will qualify for the Section Individual Tournament.

## 2. Boys

### a) Criteria to participate in the League Tournament:

1. 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
2. be on the League Championship Team (that is going to Regional Tournament)

### b) Teams

1. 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.
2. 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 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 18<sup>th</sup> hole. If multiple players on a team have the same 5<sup>th</sup> 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 score for the sixth (dropped) player's score shall be added to the team totals. If the addition of the sixth player's score 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.

### c) Individuals

1. The top three male finishers that are not members of a qualifying team will qualify for the Regional Individual Tournament.
2. 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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).

408: Awards

The league's team champion will receive a WBAL plaque and six (6) small plaques for team members.

409: 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.