

Policy XIII : HCAA Golf Playdowns

(Revised Sept. 8, 2020)

1. Hosting

- a) The HCAA will sponsor championships in each of the following categories of golf:
 - Senior (Grass Greens)
 - Junior (Grass Greens)
- b) Bids for hosting will be solicited by the HCAA designate in the spring, and should include anticipated green fee charges and host amenities.
- c) The need for Pre-District tournaments each fall will be determined at the spring meeting, and based on anticipated entries and number of holes on the District Championship course.
- d) No golf bid shall be accepted if the host facility will not suspend alcohol sales during the event.

2. Eligibility

- a) Students must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the HCAA Bylaws.
- b) A “senior golfer” is an eligible golfer attending grade 9, 10, 11, or 12. A “junior golfer” is an eligible golfer attending grade 6, 7, 8, or 9.
- c) A **grade 9 student** may participate as both a junior and a senior.
- d) Coaches must ensure students have a **reasonable level of proficiency** before entering an HCAA Pre-District or District event. Failure to do this slows the tournament and causes great frustration to others.

Coaches shall NOT enter a golfer into any HCAA golf event if they fail to meet one of the two criteria below:

- i. a senior boy must have played at least 10 rounds of nine holes or have scored 50 or under (nine holes) within the last five months
- ii. a senior girl must have played at least 10 rounds of nine holes or have scored 70 or under (nine holes) within the last five months
- iii. a junior boy must have played at least 10 rounds of nine holes or have scored 60 or under (nine holes) within the last five months
- iv. a junior girl must have played at least 10 rounds of nine holes or have scored 85 or under (nine holes) within the last five months

3. Pre-Districts

In the event a Pre-District tournament is deemed necessary or desirable (see clause 1 c), each school’s golfers will be assigned to one of two host sites based on the location of the host sites, the proximity of participating schools, and an attempt to have close to an equal number of participants at both sites.

If Pre-Districts are held in Junior golf, the Pre-District event will be 9 holes only and held in the p.m.

4. Format and Scoring

- a) Each tournament will consist of individual competitions for both boys and girls.

NOTE: As of 2019-2020, there is **no longer a school team competition** in senior or junior play.

- b) Maximum entries per school:

Senior – maximum of **four male** golfers and a maximum **four female** golfers.

Junior – **maximum of six** entries, with a **maximum of four of one gender**.

- c) Each tournament (junior or senior) is stroke play.

- d) **Maximum score per hole:**

➤ the maximum score to be recorded on any hole shall be:

- Senior Boys – 4 over par
- Senior Girls – 6 over par
- Junior Boys – 5 over par
- Junior Girls – 8 over par

➤ players will be required to attempt to hole out the stroke equivalent to the maximum score:

- i. If the stroke equivalent to the maximum score is holed, the score is recorded as a legitimate score.
- ii. If the stroke equivalent to the maximum score is NOT holed, the maximum score is still recorded, but with a CIRCLE around it to indicate the ball was picked up and not legitimately holed on that stroke.
- iii. At the end of the round, the number of holes for each golfer where the ball was picked up and not legitimately holed (“circled” holes) will be recorded. For the purposes of tie-breaking, a player with LESS circled holes will be placed higher in the standings.
- iv. The tie-breaking clause above – 4. d) iii. – does NOT apply for the purposes of making the cut for advancement from Pre-Districts to the District Championship.

- e) All Senior competitions shall consist of 18 holes. A contingency plan shall be in place in the event of inclement weather.

Junior Pre-Districts will consist of 9 holes only and held in the p.m. The Junior District Championship shall consist of 18 holes.

- f) If possible, a shotgun start shall be used. When a split start or tee times are used, the lowest scorers should be first off the tees and highest scorers last to allow flow. It is recommended higher scoring groups be in threesomes, or even twosomes when possible.
- g) Entries and typical scores for each golfer shall be submitted at least two days prior to the competition to allow for groupings to be made in advance of the competition.

5. Advancement

a) Senior

Should a Pre-District tournament be held, the following will advance to the District Championship from each Pre-District:

- i. the top three individual males (and ties*), as well as the fourth to tenth finishers (and ties*) whose scores were 105 or lower (18 holes)
 - ii. the top three individual females (and ties*), as well as the fourth to tenth finishers (and ties*) whose scores were 150 or lower (18 holes)
- (*notwithstanding clause 4. d) iv.)

From the Senior District Championship, the top 4 male and top 4 female golfers (*tie-breaker from 4. d) iii. applies*) advance to the Provincial Championship (as per SHSAA policy). Each golfer plays as an individual AND as a member of the District team (minimum 3 golfers in the male category and minimum 2 golfers in the female category).

b) Junior

Should a Pre-District tournament be held, the following will advance to the District Championship from each Pre-District:

- i. the top two males (and ties*), as well as the third to tenth finishers (and ties*) whose scores were 65 or lower (9 holes)
 - ii. the top two females (and ties*), as well as the third to tenth finishers (and ties*) whose scores were 80 or lower (9 holes)
- (*notwithstanding clause 4. d) iv.)

- c) Where pre-districts and a district championship are held, the school which is designated as the host school for Districts shall, at the coach's discretion, be allowed to advance any or all of their golfers who participated in pre-districts, regardless of their placing at pre-districts.

6. Tie-Breaking

In the event of a tie where breaking the tie is necessary for determining the Pre-District gold medalist, the District Champion, the District silver medallist, or the fourth place finisher in senior for the purposes of advancing to Provincials:

- the player with the lower number of "circled" holes (*clause 4. e) iii.*) will be placed higher
- if still tied, the SHSAA tie-breaking format will be used: extra "sudden death" holes are played until an outright winner is determined.

7. Rules and Guidelines:

- a) Royal Canadian Golf Association Rules will apply as will the local rules of the host club (as determined by the commissioner).
- b) At least one course marshal shall circulate throughout the course, acting as head official and shall be available to help resolve any rules issues.

- c) A rules facilitator (coach or local course-appointed official) shall accompany **each group** in their round. These facilitators will assist in rule interpretation, and help ensure the rules are being enforced.
- d) All golfers (both junior and senior) must adhere to the SHSAA dress code: tailored slacks, dress shorts, or skirts; school athletic suits; collared shirt with sleeves. Jeans, cut-offs, jammers, muscle shirts, or any shirt bearing numbers or bearing offensive slogans will not be allowed.
- e) Caddying and/or coaching are not allowed during the course of play.
- f) All coaches or teacher-supervisors must be present at the golf course for the duration of the event and will be assigned tournament duties while their student-athletes golf.
- g) In the case that a player does not understand the rule of a particular situation, they should consult their group and the rules facilitator for an interpretation of the rule. Should the group nor rules facilitator be able to provide a clear interpretation of the rule, it is recommended that the player play a second ball (to avoid hold-ups awaiting the head official). Both scores of the hole should be recorded. Once the player gets a rule interpretation from a head official, they shall then record the correct score.
- h) A Technical Committee of three people shall be formed by the commissioner prior to the beginning of each tournament (as per HCAA Policy VII: Duties of Commissioners) to deal expeditiously with protests or disciplinary actions. The Technical Committee should consist of the Commissioner and two others who are knowledgeable in local and RCGA rules (the Club Pro, if available, should be one). The Technical Committee shall have power to rule on all issues pertaining to play at that tournament (notwithstanding the right of appeal as per HCAA Bylaws).

8. Awards

Pre-Districts:

- a gold medal to the top individual male and top individual female

Districts:

- a gold medal to the top individual male and top individual female
- a silver medal to the second place individual male and second place individual female

9. Financial

- a) **The HCAA is not responsible for green fees** for Pre-Districts and Districts. Refer to your Board or Band policies to determine how green fees payment shall be made and if any funding or reimbursement is available.
- b) Transportation, supervision, and accommodation arrangements/bookings/costs for Pre-Districts, Districts, and Provincials are the responsibility of the individual school and its coach. Refer to your Board or Band policy to determine which costs can be recovered through Board or Band funding. **EXCEPTION:** The HSD ASA may coordinate the booking of a block of rooms for all coaches and players attending Senior Provincial Golf, depending on the location of the event.