



# PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

## **RATIONALE**

Unlike many sports, golf is played without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrate courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, regardless of how competitive they may be; this is the spirit of the game of golf and the IESA. If individuals consistently disregard the spirit of the game during a round of golf or over a period of time to the detriment of others, the Games Committee will take the appropriate action against the offending spectator, player or school representative. The code of conduct is designed to protect the interest of the majority of the golfers who wish to play within the spirit of the game, the rules of golf and the IESA. In cases of a serious breach of etiquette during the state tournament, a player may be disqualified or a non-player may be removed from the course during the day of the tournament.

## **REPORTING PROCEDURES**

### Games Committee

At the state series, a Games Committee will be appointed to oversee the code of conduct of spectators and players. Coaches will report, in writing, code violations to the Games Committee.

### Procedure for Reporting a Code Violation

It is the responsibility of all coaches of participating schools to monitor conduct. Any coach, Games Committee member or tournament personnel who personally observes a code of conduct violation may invoke a code of conduct penalty. The coach will give notice to the offending player, assess the code of conduct penalty on the scorecard and follow up with a written notification of the incident to the Games Committee.

Players and coaches will be allowed to appeal the first and second offense by submitting, in writing, an inquiry concerning the penalty. The inquiry must be submitted by the end of the same day of the incident. The coach and player appealing the first or second penalty will provide an explanation of the incident to the Games Committee and the decision of the Games Committee is final.

## **PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT PENALTIES**

1. For willful acts of defacing the golf course, club throwing/breaking, or abusive language, a player will be assessed a 2-stroke penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. For a second occurrence of unsportsmanlike conduct in the same day, the player will be disqualified and ejected for the day. The head coach must submit a special report to the IESA - a link to the special report form can be found on the IESA website.
3. A third occurrence of unsportsmanlike conduct any time during the tournament or a single act of gross misconduct will result in a disqualification from the contest and in accordance with IESA By-Laws, the player will be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level. Again, the head coach must submit a special report to the IESA - a link to the special report form can be found on the IESA website.

## **SPECTATOR COACHING AND PENALTIES**

All school personnel and fans with the exception of the school designated coach(es) are considered spectators. There can be no communication between the players and spectators that could be deemed advice of any nature for the duration of the 18 holes.

1. The first offense of spectator coaching is a warning to the spectator.
2. The second offense of spectator coaching is a 2-stroke penalty to the golfer.
3. The third offense of spectator coaching will result in disqualification of the golfer.