



GOLF SECTIONALS OBSERVER INSTRUCTIONS

OBSERVER'S ROLE

- Observers are not rules officials.
- Important issues, health emergencies or rulings should be reported to the tournament manager.
- DO NOT GIVE ANY ADVICE - it is hard not to try and help the kids in your group, but this is the state finals and it is important competitors do this on their own.
- Report to the rules committee any breach of a playing rule.
- Assist with pace of play and encourage the competitors to help other competitors look for lost golf balls.
- Make sure competitors are ready to play when it is their turn.
- Observers should check with all competitors after every hole to verify scores.
- Observers must stay with the assigned group for the entire round and can observe a group with a participant from the observer's school - be observant of the group in front of your group for safety.
- Encourage participants to go to the score tent after the round because the observer's score card is unofficial, but it may be used in disputes.
- Be in the score tent at the conclusion of the round.

RULES

1. Per USGA Rules, a player is prohibited from using a caddie during the state series.
2. For the entire state tournament, the coach will be allowed to coach anywhere on the course except the putting green. Coaches must wait until the last player on the green putts out before communication takes place on the next hole. Coaches must not delay teeing off on the next hole.
3. Lateral Water Hazard (Red Line) - if the ball is in a water hazard, the competitor may:
 - a. Play the ball where it lies with no penalty stroke.
 - b. Play from the location of the last played shot adding one penalty stroke.
 - c. Play from behind the lateral hazard, as far back as desired keeping a straight line between the hole and where the ball last crossed the hazard margin and adding one penalty stroke.
 - d. Drop a ball within 2 club lengths of where the ball last crossed the hazard margin, no nearer to the hole and adding one penalty stroke.
 - e. Find a point on the opposite side of the hazard that is the same distance from the hole, and drop within 2 club lengths of the hazard's margin and adding one penalty stroke. *Note: there is no such thing as "line of flight" relief under the rule!*
4. Regular Water Hazard (Yellow Line) - if the ball is in a water hazard, the competitor may:
 - a. Play it where it lies with no penalty stroke.
 - b. Play from the location of the last played shot adding one penalty stroke.
 - c. Play from behind the water hazard as far back as desired keeping a straight line between the hole and where the ball last crossed the hazard margin adding one penalty stroke.
5. Out of Bounds
 - a. If the ball is lost or out of bounds, the competitor must add a penalty stroke to the score and lay another ball from where the last shot was played.
 - b. If the ball may be lost or out of bounds, the competitor may play another ball (provisional ball) from the place where the first ball was played. The competitor must tell the opponent or fellow competitor that a provisional ball is being played and it must be played before looking for the first ball. If the competitor cannot find the first ball or if it is out of bounds, the competitor must count the strokes with the first and provisional balls, add a penalty stroke and play out the hole with the provisional ball. If the competitor finds the first ball in bounds, continue play with it and pi up the provisional ball.
6. Unplayable Ball - If the ball is under a tree or in some other bad situation and the decision is it cannot be played, add a penalty stroke and do one of the following:
 - a. Go back to where the last shot was played and play a ball from there.
 - b. Measure 2 club lengths from the unplayable lie, drop a ball and play from there.
 - c. Keep the unplayable lie between where the ball is dropped and the hole, go back as far as desired in a straight line and drop and play the ball.
7. WATER HAZARD "Drop Zone" - In the event a ball is hit into a water hazard and is deemed unplayable, proceed to the drop area and relief is given with the addition of one penalty stroke. All drop areas are located on the opposite side of hazard from where original stroke was taken. Drop (do not place) another golf ball in the white circle that is marked

"Drop Zone." *For scoring purposes: If the ball that went into the water was a second shot, a penalty stroke will be taken for the ball that went into the water (3rd shot), the "Drop Zone" ball would then be the 4th shot. Proceed from there.*

8. Circle Rule - this becomes mandatory for a girl golfer on her second 13+ hole and a boy golfer on his second 11+ hole. Upon their second 13 or 11 stroke, the competitor must pick up the ball and circle the 13 or 11 on the playing card. The player is no longer eligible to receive an award for the tournament or advance to the state finals.