



2025-26 Boys and Girls Golf Terms and Conditions

Shaded items (teal online) denote items that are new to the IESA Golf Terms and Conditions this year.

I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

A state series competition shall be held for boys and girls in one class and one grade level.

II. TOURNAMENT DATES AND SITE

A. Season Calendar - these dates will be routinely referenced throughout the Terms and Conditions as they pertain to IESA Golf:

Entry Deadline	June 9, 2025
Cooperative Agreement Due	July 15, 2025
Waitlist Deadline/Final Entry Deadline	August 1, 2025
Refund Deadline	August 15, 2025
Online Roster Deadline	August 25, 2025
Sectionals - Boys	September 3, 2025
Sectionals - Girls	September 4, 2025
State - Girls	September 11, 2025
State - Boys	September 12, 2025
Golf Advisory Committee Meeting	October 23, 2025

B. Sectionals

- Sectionals will be held at sites designated by the IESA office on the dates designated above.
- The number of sectional sites will be determined by the number of entries into the golf state tournament. At the discretion of the IESA golf administrator, sectional sites can be added or decreased.
- A team is defined as any school who registers at least 4 golfers with a maximum of 6 for boys and 6 for girls.
- The intent is to advance 8 boys teams, 6 girls teams, 52 individual boys and 60 individual girls (not associated with one of the advancing teams.) One team from each boys sectional and girls sectional will advance to state, with the objective of bringing 84 male golfers and 84 female golfers to the state tournament. Qualifiers advancing to the state will be based on a percentage of participants in each sectional as of the online roster deadline date. Ties for the final spot will be included. At the discretion of the IESA golf administrator, state qualifying teams and individuals can be added or subtracted based on the number of sectionals.
- Any team that has 5 or 6 golfers will count the low 4 scores to determine their team score. If their team advances, only those lowest 4 golfers will participate in the team competition at state. Those golfers on the team whose score was not counted as one of the 4 lowest can still advance to state as individuals.
- Boys Sectional Yardage should be between 4900-5300 yards
Girls Sectional Yardage should be between 4200-4600 yards
- If sectionals are postponed due to weather, all participants will return to play at a date to be determined.
- In the case of a weather delay and play cannot continue, play may be suspended until a time that the course is deemed playable. Participants will resume play from the point where they left off.

C. State

1. The state tournament will be held at Metamora Fields Golf Club in Metamora on the dates designated above.
2. The schedule for the state final and tee times will be decided based on the number of sectional advancers.
3. Girls will compete on Thursday, **September 11** at Metamora Fields Golf Club. Boys will compete on Friday, **September 12** on the Metamora Fields Golf. Tee times will be determined after all sectional competition has been completed.
4. If the state final is postponed on Thursday and/or Friday due to weather, all participants will return to play on Monday.
5. In the case of a weather issue at the state tournament, with 9 holes being the minimum, we will revert to the score with the most holes possible played. For example, if everyone were able to get 13 holes in and we were delayed, we would use the total for the 13 holes. The exception is if no one is able to get the minimum of 9 holes in, we will suspend play and pick up the tournament where we left off on Monday.

III. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND COACH CERTIFICATION

A. Student Eligibility

1. To enter any of the state series tournaments a student must be eligible under all of the eligibility rules and conditions of competition of the IESA as detailed in this section of the Terms and Conditions and the IESA Handbook.
2. Scholastic Standing (IESA By-Law 2.040) - All contestants shall be in grades five through eight and shall not have passed eighth grade standing. A student shall be doing passing work as determined by the local school district in all school subjects and the school shall certify compliance with this By-Law. Use of a player, contestant, or participant shall be deemed such certification. For all IESA activities, athletic as well as non-athletic, passing work shall be checked weekly. Eligibility will be applied to the Monday through Saturday following the week that was checked. Students must be passing each subject each week to be eligible. Grades shall be cumulative for the school's grading period. The eligibility check shall be the same day each week unless school is not in session; then it must be taken on the last day of student attendance that week. For fall sports, the first eligibility check shall be made following the first full week of attendance at the beginning of the school year. During the succeeding weeks of the school year, the eligibility check shall begin the week prior to the first contest in an activity.
3. Residence (IESA By-Law 2.050) - A student shall be eligible if he/she attends the member school in the district in which he/she resides. If the parents of a student move from one school district to another during the school year, the student may retain eligibility for the remainder of the school year provided the student continues to attend the school in the district from which the parents moved. In cases where ISBE has granted a legislative waiver for children of faculty members to attend the school tuition-free, the students shall have eligibility at the school where the parent teaches.
4. Transfer (IESA By-Law 2.060) - The student would be eligible to participate in a sport at their new school during the current school year if during the IESA designated season for a sport, the student had NOT participated in a tryout, organized practice, or contest in that sport at their previous school. See by-law 2.072 regarding student status as a member of a team. A student who transfers from one school to another and is eligible shall become eligible to participate in contests for the new school on his/her eleventh day of attendance at the new school in any sport or activity and provided all other eligibility requirements are met.
5. Participation Limitations (IESA By-Law 3.040) - No student is eligible to participate at the same academic grade level for two different school years in the same sport. This is true whether the student attended a member or a non-member school. Participation in one interscholastic contest in a sport constitutes one season of eligibility in that sport. No student shall be a

member of a team using ninth grade or high school students. Students that are in grades 5 through 8 who meet all eligibility requirements and attend a member school are eligible to participate. At no time may a student in grade 4 or below participate in any regular season or state series interscholastic contest.

6. Age Qualifications (IESA By-Law 3.050) - For IESA Golf, a student shall be eligible through age fifteen (15). If a student in golf becomes sixteen (16) before the state tournament, he/she is not eligible to participate in golf. Each student must provide the principal of his/her school with certification of his/her birth before practice or participation in any athletic activity. This must be a birth certificate or hospital record or a thermostatic copy of such. A baptismal certificate is not acceptable.
7. Physical Examination (IESA By-Law 3.060) - No student shall be permitted to compete in a tryout, practice, or contest unless he/she has filed with his/her principal a certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician not more than 395 days preceding such tryout, practice, or contest in any athletic activity. Any student who is not allowed to participate in interscholastic activities as the result of a physician's directive may not return to play until they have received written clearance from a physician.
8. Amateurism (IESA By-Law 3.070) - As the result of participating in the IESA state tournament, a student in a member school may accept any award (except cash) which does not exceed \$100.00 in fair market value. A student in a member school may accept a school letter for an interscholastic sport, regardless of cost. Violation of the provisions of By-Law 3.070 causes ineligibility in the sport in which the violation occurred. An official ruling must be secured from the Executive Director before any student who violates these rules may be reinstated to eligibility.
9. Participating Under an Assumed Name (IESA By-Law 3.080) - In the event students participate in interscholastic competition under any other name than their own, the principal shall immediately suspend violators from further interscholastic participation. The Board of Directors shall then consider the future interscholastic participation of violators and/or persons contributing to a violation.

B. Coaching Certification

1. Any coach listed on the school's online roster who will be coaching at sectionals or state must meet the IESA coaching certification requirement as outlined in the IESA Handbook (By-Law 2.110):
 - a. To serve as a Head or Assistant Coach, athletic coaches in member schools in the sports in which the school participates in the IESA state series must:
 - i. be regularly licensed by the ISBE as a teacher, administrator, or school service personnel (i.e. counselor, social worker, speech therapist, etc.), or
 - ii. be a retired teacher/coach from an IESA or IHSA member school, or
 - iii. be a college student coaching as part of an official student teaching assignment, or
 - iv. be certified through an IESA approved coaches education program. The following courses have been approved by the IESA Board of Directors:
 - IESA/Human Kinetics Coaching Essentials
 - IHSA/Human Kinetics Coaching Principles or Coaching Orientation
 - NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course
 - b. In addition, a head coach or an assistant coach must:
 - i. be a high school graduate or equivalent (see exception below for high school students), and
 - ii. be officially employed by the local school board of the member school.
 - c. A person with a substitute-only license must complete one of the approved coaching education courses in order to serve as a coach.
 - d. High school students may be assigned to assist with the coaching of athletic teams in a member school provided they are under the direct supervision of an individual who is qualified to coach under the provision of Section 2.110.

2. Any coach who does not meet the IESA coaching qualifications as detailed above will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) contests and will not be permitted to coach again until he/she completes an IESA-approved coaching education course - this includes practices as well as contests.
3. Additional sanctions may be applied by the Board of Directors to schools with multiple violations for non-compliance with the coaching education By-Law.
4. Per Illinois state mandate, all golf coaches are required to have active concussion certification.

IV. ENTRY FEES AND ONLINE ROSTER (ENTRY FORM)

A. IESA Entry Fees

1. Schools must pay an entry fee of \$45 per golfer to the IESA by the initial entry deadline to be eligible for the IESA Golf state series.
2. As part of the online registration process, schools may enter up to six (6) boys and/or up to six (6) girls who are certified contestants for the state series.
 - a. The number of participants entered online during registration locks in the number of participants the school may send to the state series.
3. **Refunds will be issued only upon a written request prior to August 15, 2025. All refund requests must come from a school administrator by the refund deadline**

B. Greens Fees

1. Sectionals - participants shall be responsible to pay greens fees directly to the course the day of the sectionals. Greens fees for each course can be found online. This amount is in addition to the \$45 per golfer fee paid by the school to enter IESA Golf.
2. State - participants who advance to state will not be charged a greens fee.
3. Participants are responsible for fees for any practice round(s) they schedule including state final practice round(s).
4. Season golf passes at an assigned golf course may not be used for the sectional or state tournament courses.

C. Online Roster

1. The online roster shall be used to list the students who will represent the school in the state series and this information must be submitted by the online roster deadline.
 - a. Coaches must be designated on the roster by August 1. A certified coach must be in attendance at the sectional and state golf tournaments in order for a golfer to compete.
 - b. Schools must list the first and last name, grade in school, and the **18-hole** average for each student entered.
 - c. Cooperative teams are permissible.
 - d. It is the ultimate responsibility of all schools with entries to ensure that each participant representing the school is eligible.
2. The 18-hole average should be for a 70-72 par course.
3. Substitutes
 - a. A school may replace one or more of the golfers on the submitted online roster with a substitute and the information about the substitute must be submitted to the IESA office no later than noon on **Tuesday** prior to the boys sectionals, and no later than noon on **Wednesday** prior to the girls sectionals
 - b. Substitutions after noon on **Tuesday** for boys and **Wednesday** for girls sectionals can be made at the course; tee time changes will be made by the course golf professional at the sectional site if necessary.
 - c. After the conclusion of sectional play, no changes may be made to the school's roster.
 - i. If an individual on an advancing team is no longer able to compete at state, they can replace them with a golfer on their roster that competed at sectionals.
4. Head coaches and assistant coaches listed on the online roster must meet the IESA coaching certification requirement (see IESA By-Law 2.110 and III.B of these IESA Golf Terms and

Conditions) and the state-mandated concussion certification. Schools must designate all coaches by the roster deadline.

- a. Individuals who are not listed on the online roster form will be considered spectators and may not coach during the state series.
5. Failure to submit the online form by the roster deadline will cause students from the school to be ineligible to compete in the state series.

V. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A. Playing Rules and Competition Format

1. The state tournament will be conducted under the United States Golf Association's Rules of Golf (USGA) and state series adoptions as noted in these Terms and Conditions.
2. By authority of the IESA Constitution and By-Laws, the Board of Directors shall interpret and enforce the Terms and Conditions.
3. The sectional and state competition will consist of one 18-hole round played on a regulation 18-hole golf course.
4. Per USGA rules, a player must not start a round with more than 14 clubs.
5. Traditional tee times will be used for the sectional and state competition. All tee times will be nine (9) minutes apart.
6. During the state tournament, competitors shall play the ball as it lies unless otherwise provided in the USGA's Rules of Golf.
 - a. Preferred Lies: If conditions warrant it, preferred lies will be played. The Games Committee will make this decision the day of the tournament.
7. Pairing Procedure
 - a. Sectional pairings will be based on scores that are submitted on the online roster; threesomes will be used whenever possible.
 - b. State pairings will be based on the scores actually obtained at sectionals.
8. Pace of Play
 - a. Rule 6-7 of the USGA Rules of Golf states, "The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the Games Committee. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player shall not unduly delay play."
 - b. The IESA does not wish to apply penalties for undue delay; however, we insist that in the interest of all participants, the pace of play be reasonable. It would be unreasonable for a group of three (3) competitors to take more than 15 minutes, on average, per hole (4 hours and 30 minutes for the round maximum) to play.
 - c. A group will be subject to being timed (SBT) if at any point in the round the group is taking more than:
 - ii. 13 minutes to complete a par 3
 - iii. 15 minutes to complete a par 4 and
 - iv. 17 minutes to complete a par 5
9. Subject to Being Timed
 - a. Any following group will be subject to being timed if it falls one hole behind and is behind time-par. Time par is the cumulative total time taken it should take to complete a hole, or any number of holes.
 - b. For example, a group starting on a par-4 hole at 8:00 should complete that hole by 8:15. If that group finishes at 8:13, they are ahead of time par, but if they finish at 8:16, they are subject to being timed.
10. Circle Rule
 - a. The Circle Rule applies to sectional play only.
 - b. Girls - The Circle Rule becomes mandatory on a player's second 13 or greater score. Once the second circle 13 has been used, the golfer can no longer advance to state and the golfer moves to double par, as their max score, for the remaining holes. Once

the golfer reaches double par they pick up their ball, wait for their group to finish the hole, and move to the next hole.

- c. Boys-The Circle Rule becomes mandatory on a player's second 11 or greater score. Once the second circle 11 has been used, the golfer cannot advance to state and the golfer moves to double par, as their max score, for the remaining holes. Once the golfer reaches double par they pick up their ball, wait for their group to finish the hole, and move to the next hole.

11. For the entire state series (sectionals and state), the coach will be allowed to coach anywhere on the course except the putting green.

- a. Coaches must wait until the last player on the green putts out before communication takes place on the next hole and must not delay teeing off on the next hole.

12. Caddies

- a. Per USGA Rules, a player is prohibited from using a caddie during the state series.
- b. Coaches, spectators, and parents may not carry golf bags for participants at any time.

13. Electronic Devices

- a. Range Finders, GPS watches, and golf course apps are allowed only for distance measuring. Use of these devices for any other reason can result in a penalty and/or disqualification of the player from the tournament.
- b. Portable communication devices (cell phones, radios used for coaching, etc.) can be used to call a rules official or to use the course's golf app.
- c. These devices cannot be used for coaching or personal music systems.
- d. Coaches/administrators may use cell phones for emergencies only.
- e. Any participant found using the device during their stipulated round could be disqualified.

14. Putting

- a. Continuous putting shall be used at both the sectional and state tournaments. A golfer will putt until their ball is holed.

15. Carts

- a. Participants may not use motorized golf carts or motorized pull carts during the state series.
 - i. A written request for an accommodation for a student-athlete to use a motorized golf cart must be submitted to the IESA by the student's principal by the online roster deadline.
 - ii. Golf carts are not to interfere with play and must adhere to tournament policies.
 - iii. If approved, the player shall ride with the observer and not drive the cart.
- b. Participants may use manual pull carts.
- c. Coaches may purchase a cart at the Sectional Tournament.
- d. At the State Tournament, head coaches may rent a cart if they have two or more golfers participating on that day.

Note: Coaches who coach for two separate schools with two or more golfers may rent a cart.
- e. Spectators may purchase carts on a first come first serve basis at the sectional tournament only. Spectators with a permanent and official disabled parking placard/sticker may rent a cart at the state tournaments. Those approved for a cart must stay on cart paths and designated areas and not give competitors any assistance.
 - i. Letters from doctors or visible injury will not warrant a golf cart without the presentation of an official placard at the state tournament.

B. Check-In, Tournament Tags and Dress Code

1. Coaches must check in at the sectional course to receive a coaches wristband that must be displayed at all times on the course.
2. The state final registration packet must be picked up upon arrival to the state competition.
3. Coaches will be responsible for all information that is included in the packet.

4. Inside of the packet, individuals will find the participant bag tag and/or the coach tag and any pertinent tournament information.
 - a. One (1) bag tag will be issued to each golfer and this must be attached to the golf bag at all times.
 - b. Coach tags for state are only provided to the coaches listed on the online roster who meet both the IESA coaching certification and the concussion certification requirements (see IESA By-Law 2.110 and III.B of these IESA Golf Terms and Conditions) and must be able to be seen at all times on the coach's person.
 - c. It is the responsibility of the golfer(s) and the coach(es) to have the tag distributed to him/her visible at all times and worn as outlined above.
 5. Competitor and Coach Dress Code
 - a. For the entire state series, appropriate golf attire should be worn.
 - b. Tank tops, short shorts or cutoff shorts are not appropriate.
- C. Ethics of Competition and Sportsmanship
1. The Player Code of Conduct is as follows:
 - a. It is the responsibility of all coaches of participating schools and IESA administrative officials to monitor player conduct. Any coach or IESA administrative official who personally observes a Code of Conduct violation may invoke a Code of Conduct penalty. The individual reporting the violation will give notice to the offending player, assess the Code of Conduct penalty and follow up with a written report of the incident to the Games Committee. The Games Committee will notify the player's coach of the penalty.
 - i. For willful acts of defacing the golf course, club throwing or breaking, or abusive language, a player will be assessed a 2-stroke penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - ii. For a second occurrence of unsportsmanlike conduct in the same day, the player will be disqualified and ejected for the day. Additionally, the head coach must submit a "Special Report" to the IESA from the IESA website.
 - iii. For a third occurrence of unsportsmanlike conduct any time during the tournament day(s) or a single act of gross misconduct, a disqualification from the contest will result and in accordance with IESA By-Laws, the competitor will be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level. Again, the head coach must submit a "Special Report" to the IESA from the IESA website.
 - b. Competitors 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 second penalty will provide an explanation of the incident to the Games Committee. The decision of the Games Committee is final.
 2. The Spectator Code of Conduct is as follows:
 - a. Spectators shall remain on cart paths or in the rough 15 yards from the competitors at all times including the practice areas which include the driving range, putting green and chipping area.
 - b. There can be NO communication between the competitors and spectators that could be deemed advice of any nature for the duration of the 18 holes.
 - c. All school personnel and fans with the exception of the school-designated coach(es) are considered spectators.
 - d. The use of tobacco or mood-altering substances on the course or within the tournament property is prohibited during the school competition.
 - e. Uninvited interference with the Games Committee before, during or after making a ruling is prohibited.
 - f. The use of motorized carts by able-bodied spectators is allowed at the sectional only.
 - g. Per USGA Rules, spectators are prohibited from serving as caddie for a player.
 - h. Cell phones shall be silenced.

- i. Failure to adhere to the Spectator Code of Conduct will result in the following penalties:
 - i. The first offense will result in a warning to the spectator.
 - ii. The second offense will result in the spectator being removed from the course for the remainder of the day.
 - iii. A spectator will be removed from the course for the remainder of the competition for single flagrant gross act of misconduct or a serious breach of etiquette before, during or after a round.
 - iv. Penalties become immediate and are in effect for the entire state series.
 - j. In addition to the Spectator Code of Conduct, the following expectations are in place:
 - i. Galleries will be encouraged and permitted; however, all spectators must remain 15 yards from the competitors.
 - ii. Spectators and competitors must also understand that competitors may be penalized when spectators violate USGA or IESA rules.
 - iii. Spectators should be respectful of competitors who may be on the course.
 - 3. Spectator Coaching
 - a. 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.
 - i. The first offense of spectator coaching is a warning to the spectator.
 - ii. The second offense of spectator coaching is a 2-stroke penalty to the golfer.
 - iii. The third offense of spectator coaching will result in disqualification of the golfer.
 - 4. Unethical and unsportsmanlike conduct by competitors, coaches and spectators will be punishable under the provisions of By-Laws 2.090 and 2.100. All noise-making devices, signs, banners, placards, or balloons are prohibited from the golf course hosting the sectional and state tournaments.
 - 5. If a golfer or people from any school at the state tournament are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host course, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.
 - 6. Any golfer, coach or other person connected with a school shall not be permitted to use tobacco products at the course either during practice or while the competition is in progress.
 - 7. The possession, distribution, sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages to/by contestants, coaches and spectators are prohibited in the area of the state tournament center where golf is conducted. This includes the parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other tournament center property that cannot be isolated from competitors, coaches and spectators. These alcohol-free zones apply to the dates of the state series. Patrons at the state tournament determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premises and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted.
- D. Rules Officials
- 1. At the state finals, the IESA office will appoint rules officials for the boys and girls tournaments.
 - 2. A Games Committee shall be made up of representatives of the IESA and the host course (preferably the golf pro from the course should be one of the Games Committee members) at the state tournament.
 - 3. The sectional Games Committee shall be comprised of the local golf professionals and will conduct itself within IESA and USGA rules.
- E. Observers
- 1. All participating schools must provide an observer to accompany a playing group.
 - 2. Observers are not rules officials and may not provide rulings.
 - 3. Observers will assist the Games Committee in deciding questions of fact and to report to the Games Committee any breach of a playing rule.
 - 4. Observers are able to observe a group that includes a competitor from their own school.
 - 5. Observer cards will be sent to the sectional hosts.

F. Conditions of Competition

1. The IESA requires that every effort be made to complete the tournament on the scheduled day. If the Games Committee determines that the course is not in a playable condition, or there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the game impossible, the Committee may recommend to the tournament director to temporarily suspend or cancel play.
2. Play can be suspended when it does not impact the equity of the tournament.
 - a. When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, one long prolonged siren will be sounded.
 - b. If the competitors in a match or a group are between the play of two holes, they shall not resume play until the Games Committee has ordered a resumption of play.
 - c. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they shall discontinue play immediately and shall not thereafter resume play until the Games Committee has ordered resumption of play.
 - a. All practice areas (putting green, practice range, etc.) shall be closed during the suspension for a dangerous situation until the Games Committee has declared them open for use.
3. In the event that unplayable conditions become playable again, the Games Committee shall recommend to the tournament director to resume/begin play.

G. Photographer Access

1. Once the competition begins, no flash cameras can be used and in addition, no photographers will be allowed in the competition area.

H. Concealed Carry

1. Schools serving as a host must have signage in accordance with the Concealed Carry, Act 430 ILCS 66. This includes an IESA event that is held on your school property and IESA events held off-premise (i.e. a park).

VI. AWARDS

A. Sectionals

1. A medal will be given to the top 10 golfers at each sectional site.
2. A tie for 1st place will be broken by a sudden death playoff. Ties for 2nd-10th place will not be broken. Section Medals for 1st-10th place will be given to players when they check-in at state tournament.
3. The 1st place team in each sectional will be given a championship plaque.
4. Ties for an advancing team will be broken by going to the 4th score. If a winner can still not be determined, then move to the 3rd score and so on until the tie is broken.

B. State Finals

1. Medals will be awarded to the top 10 golfers in the boys' division and the top 10 golfers in the girls' division who have the lowest score through the round.
2. For purposes of awarding medals only, ties for 1st place shall be broken by a sudden death playoff. All competitors tied for 1st place will compete in a hole-by-hole playoff until all but one player is eliminated.
3. Ties shall not be broken for any other individual award places. The golfer who ties for 2nd-10th place and is not the one selected to take the medal home from the state tournament will have their medal shipped to their school following the tournament.
4. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in both the boys and girls team competition.
5. Ties for the team champion will be broken by going to the 4th score. If a winner can still not be determined, then move to the 3rd score and so on until the tie is broken.