

## ECIC VARSITY GOLF STANDARDS:

### **I. Eligibility**

- A. Any male or female in high school grades 9 thru 12 is eligible to play and compete on the Varsity Golf Team
  
- B. Students in grades 7 and 8 must meet all NYSPHAA rules in order to participate on the Varsity golf team. These students must be in the top 8 golfers on the team after completion of tryouts. Tryouts must consist of at least 3 rounds of golf at 9 holes each. Students that cannot make one of the top 8 spots cannot play on the team. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders do not have to meet any other minimum physical regulations.
  
- C. Students who move into the district and want to participate on the golf team must meet all NYSPHAA rules, in order to compete.

### **II. Golf Match**

- A. A varsity golf match will be conducted using 8 starting players from each team represented. Each player will complete 9 holes of competition and their medal (total strokes) score will be recorded on the official ECIC score sheet. Each team is allowed to drop their highest score and use the remaining seven scores to determine the winning team. The team with the lowest total score wins. In the event of a tie at this point, each team will drop their second highest score and use the six remaining scores to determine a winner. If still tied, drop the third highest score and proceed as before.
  
- B. During a competition, if a player becomes injured or ill, and must discontinue play, the individual's score will be deemed the high score and all seven remaining players' scores from that squad must be used for total.
  
- C. In the event a team only has seven players competing, the school is still eligible to compete, but they lose the option of dropping the high score. All seven scores returned must be used in scoring.
  
- D. If a team has less than seven starting players, they will forfeit the match.
  
- E. During competition, if lightning or thunderstorm is in the area, all competition must cease immediately and appropriate shelter must be taken. A period of 30 minutes must elapse from the last sighting of lightning before play can resume.

- F. If a scheduled golf match cannot be completed due to weather, it is the coaches responsibility to reschedule the competition. Play for a rescheduled match will begin anew, and 9 holes of competition will be played.
- G. Official score sheets of **Division Matches Only** will be faxed to Rick Wargala at 686-2334 prior to **12 noon** the day following competition. The official score sheet will include each players: full name, the number of rounds they have played, their 9 hole medal score, and the opposing coaches signatures. It is extremely important to be accurate in the number of the round a player has played. Rankings and championship eligibility are determined from this information.
- H. All results from a golf match must be called in to the Buffalo News Sports department that evening. The number to call is **849-4461**. Information to be given is the winning school and score, losing school and score, medalist name-school-score-course played.

### III. The Player

- A. Players are allowed a maximum of 14 clubs in their bag during a round of competition
- B. Players must be able to identify their ball in play at all times. Players are encouraged to mark their ball with an identifiable mark and must announce to their competitors the type of ball, number, and markings prior to placing a ball into play
- C. Players are responsible for the accurate hole-by-hole score of 1 competitor in their group. Scores are to be recorded immediately after the completion of a hole and prior to the beginning of another hole of competition. Players within a foursome should make every attempt to resolve a discrepancy of strokes a player took on a given hole before proceeding to the next hole.
- D. Players are not responsible to accurately add up the 9 hole total score, but are responsible for accurately recording the score for each hole played.

### IV. Rules

- A. USGA Rules of Golf will be adhered to during all ECIC golf competitions
- B. It is the responsibility of the player and coaches to be familiar with all rules interpretation and procedure. Each player and coach should carry a USGA Rules booklet during competition. Special attention to Out of

Bounds, Water Hazard, Lateral Hazard, Unplayable Ball and Cart Path Relief should be exercised.

- C. USGA Rule 3-3 “Doubt as to Procedure” should be exercised by a player when there is any uncertainty about a rule interpretation. Rule 3-3 allows a player to play 2 balls to complete a hole. A determination by the **coaches** as to proper procedure will take place at the end of competition and before the scores are taken.
- D. If a situation arises where the proper procedure or infraction of the rules cannot be determined, the following procedure is recommended:
  - 1. Coaches (only) determine rule interpretation and procedure
  - 2. The host club PGA Professional will interpret
  - 3. Call the ECIC Chairman Rick Wargala, if a decision cannot be made. The ECIC Chairman will contact the USGA Rules Committee in New Jersey.
- E. **Summer rules or Play the ball as it lies** should be followed for all golf matches. Local rules may be implemented for a competition due to course and/or weather conditions. If **Winter Rules or Preferred Lies** are needed, the ability to lift, clean and place a ball in play should be restricted to **fairway only**. At no time should a player be allowed to move a ball outside the defined fairway of the hole being played.
- F. **Winter Rules or Preferred Lies in Fairway**- The only acceptable procedure is as follows:
  - 1. Player must mark ball position in fairway
  - 2. Player may lift and clean their ball
  - 3. Player will replace their ball in fairway, no more than 6 inches from its original spot
  - 4. Once the ball is replaced, it is in **play**, and cannot be touched again.

**\*\* At no time is it acceptable for a player to move a ball with their club, foot or any way else. The above procedure must be followed.**

V. Advice

- A. Coaches are allowed to and encouraged to coach during a golf match. Coaching can take place anywhere on the golf course: Tees, fairways, greens, rough, etc.
- B. Players (of the same team and same foursome) are allowed to discuss and determine yardages, club selection, and other factors related to the play of a stroke. Example: Player 1 and 2 from the same school ‘A’ may discuss

yardage, wind direction and velocity, pin location, and club selection prior to playing a stroke. Players 1 and 2 from school 'B' may do the same.

- C. Coaching and advice are limited to the coach of the respective team and the players within the same foursome
- D. **At no time** can parents or spectators offer advice or interpretation and procedure of the rules. Breach of this rule will disqualify the player receiving advice.
- E. Assistant coach or volunteer coach must be an actual hired or registered employee of the school district. Parents, siblings, or other family members who donate their time for a team at practice, **are not allowed to coach during a golf match**. Breach of this rule will disqualify the player receiving advice.

## VI. Behavior

- A. All players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with golf etiquette, and the rules of golf.
- B. Club throwing in anger or frustration is absolutely unacceptable.
  - 1. If a player deliberately throws a club because of an unfavorable stroke played, the player will receive a **2-stroke** penalty on the hole
  - 2. If a player deliberately throws a club because of an unfavorable stroke a second time, the player will be **disqualified** from the competition.
  - 3. If a player deliberately exercises anger or frustration to any part of the golf course, (teeing ground, ball washers, benches, flower beds, the putting surface, etc) and causes visible damage, said player will be **disqualified** and removed from the course of play.

## VII. Championships

- A. The ECIC will conduct an Individual Championship and Section VI qualifier at the same time. The tournament will include the top 80 ranked golfers as determined by the **division matches only**. Rankings are based on a 9 hole medal score for division matches played. There will be no adjustment for par, course rating, slope, or conditions, to determine rankings.
- B. The ECIC will conduct a Team Championship for the four division winners. Winning a division is based on a schools won/lost record for

division matches only. In the event 2 schools tie for a division title, a head-to-head tiebreaker match must be conducted to determine the eventual champion. This match will be hosted by the school, which earned the larger stroke margin of victory in the 2 season matches the respective school's played.

#### VIII. Spectators

- A. Spectators are allowed to watch a Varsity golf match. Various courses may have their own rules about spectators on the course, and those rules must be adhered to.
- B. Spectators must maintain a distance of 30 yards from the players at all times.
- C. Spectators are not allowed to offer advice, or interpret any rule of golf.
- D. If a course has a cart path in place, spectators must use the cart path and are restricted to the path for the duration they are watching.
- E. Spectators should not converse with any players at any time during play. This could be interpreted as advice. Any player who receives advice other than from a coach or their playing partner will be disqualified.

Addition to the ECIC Varsity Golf Policies and Procedures  
Adopted beginning of the 2008 season  
Approved by the Boys Activity Board and a plurality of coaches

TIEBREAKER FORMAT: If a golf match is tied after the 7 individual scores have been tallied, the method to break that tie is as follows:

- A. Add the lowest scores from each team. The team with the lowest three scores total is the winner of the tiebreaker and the match.
- B. If the score is still tied, add the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest score to determine winner.
- C. If still tied then the 5<sup>th</sup>. Etc...
- D. The rationale for this method is to reward the better players on the team in leading them to victory, while still maintaining the team concept.

Revised 2006

