

The ECIC Boy's Golf League

# STANDARDS

# ECIC BOY'S GOLF LEAGUE: RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



**Thank you!**

“Special thanks to our dedicated ECIC Boy's Golf Coaches (past and present) for their tireless efforts and passion for youth golf. It is this kind of dedication that shapes important documents like this one - the ones that directly affect the experiences of our players. These standards will undoubtedly continue to evolve with the best interest of our players in mind and the future of the ECIC Boy's Golf League.

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Thank you once again for your valuable input and active involvement in shaping the experiences of our players in the ECIC Boy’s Golf League!” - *N. Leary, ECIC Boy’s Golf Chairman.*

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## NYSPHSAA Eligibility Standards for Participation in the ECIC Boy's Golf League

1. Student Athletes in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to be added to their Varsity Golf Team's roster as per their school's sports standards and policies.
2. "Any 7th or 8th grade student may be given the opportunity to try out for a junior varsity or varsity golf team. At the completion of the tryout sessions, which must include 18 holes golfed over a three-day period (the first three days of the individual's tryout when the course is accessible), if the individual's golf average puts him/her in the top 8 of your golfers, he/she is eligible for the team." *Athletic Placement Process (APP): NYSED Special Tryout Processes, GOLF.*
3. Students who move into the district and want to participate on the golf team must satisfy all NYSPHSAA criteria in order to compete.
  - a. Please consult the most up to date NYSPHSAA Handbook for all Eligibility Requirements.

### Supervision

1. Individual schools that have at least one player competing in any ECIC Boy's Golf League event (Regular Season Matches and/or League Playoffs/Championships), are expected to provide on-premises supervision for their player(s), for the duration of the event, at all times. This supervision should come from the player's own coach, or a coach from their district. If a coach (or certified/approved school chaperone) is unable to serve in a supervisory capacity for the full duration of an ECIC (or Section VI) Boy's Golf Event, it is the responsibility of the School and/or their Coach to

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arrange for their replacement in order for their player(s) to participate. Players will not be permitted to participate (or continue) without being accompanied by a certified coach/chaperone from their school for the full duration of the event. Generally speaking, Coaches (or certified district-approved chaperones) are expected to remain on premises with their player(s) regardless if a parent/guardian is present, while the player is still competing and until their duties for that event are complete. *Finding a replacement for a coach (especially on the day of an event) is NOT the responsibility of the ECIC Boy's Golf Chairman.* The ECIC Boy's Golf Chairman will work directly with Athletic Directors in rare instances of emergency situations that may occur with their coach (or district approved chaperone).

- a. The success of all ECIC Boy's Golf League (and all NYSPHSAA Golf) events is dependent on coaches who not only serve in a supervisory capacity by being on premises, but are also expected to work in that supervisory role as markers, spotters, scoring area officials, etc. for the duration of all events.
- b. Players who end up in sudden victory playoffs to break ties will finish a boy's golf event later than players who don't. It is expected that all coaches remain ready and willing to work in a supervisory capacity for as long as their school district's player is competing in any event and/or their tournament/match duties are complete. ECIC Boy's Golf Coaches are expected to anticipate this common and widely understood possibility and plan accordingly for all ECIC (and Section VI) Boy's Golf events.

### **ECIC Boy's Golf League DATES**

1. Official NYSPHSAA Season Start (Tryouts and Matches may begin): as determined by NYSPHSAA Calendar and League approval.
2. Final day to play regular season matches. Individual and Team IWR Rankings all close: as determined and communicated by Chairperson.

3. Final day to play divisional tie-breaker matches: as determined and communicated by Chairperson.
4. Small School Team Championship, and Large School Team Championship: as determined and communicated by Chairperson.
5. ECIC League Championship: traditionally held on the Tuesday immediately following Indigenous Peoples' Day, 8:45 AM Shotgun Start.

## ECIC Boy's Golf League

### Match Format, Regulations and Procedures:

1. A varsity golf match will consist of two or more teams fielding a max. of 8 starting players per team. All players will complete 9 holes of competition and their medal (total strokes) score will be recorded on the official ECIC score sheet and inputted into iWanamaker.com. Each team shall drop their two (2) highest scores, add up the remaining six (6) scores to determine the winning team. The low team-total score wins (Low 6 of 8).
2. Only ECIC Boys Golf League Divisional-Matches will count towards the rankings, by the close of rankings. Non-division matches or Non-League matches are eligible to be conducted towards a player's NYSPHSAA Representation minimum (6) in order to be eligible for Sectionals but NOT the ECIC Rankings. Only ECIC Boys Golf Divisional (Regular Season by the close of rankings) matches are counted towards a player's (and their team) rankings.
3. It is imperative that the tee markers(white, blue, etc.) selected for play, correctly match the tee markers selected in the iWanamaker event setup so that the proper USGA Course Rating gets applied in the calculation of a player's IWR (differential to par). Failure to match the tee box in iWanamaker to what was played in actuality, will result in skewed and/or invalid player differentials. It is for this reason that the players of an ECIC match all play exclusively from consistent and regular/normal marker placements (in close proximity to the permanent marker locations) at a

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given golf course. USGA approved rating associations (NYSGA) rely on accurate permanent marker placements in the rating process which reflect the average placement of the moveable tee markers over time (USGA Handicap Manual 12-1). If an ECIC coach instructs his/her players to play from a teeing area(s) that was not considered when the USGA course ratings were determined for specific sets of tees, they are skewing their player and team rankings (along with the opposing team's ranking data). The tees played for a match must be consistent to ensure the integrity of our ECIC rankings. It is incumbent upon all ECIC coaches to protect the integrity of the ranking data resulting from our ECIC matches.

4. At no time, will there be any pairing in an ECIC Match that consists of all players from the same team. Coaches should work together to make sure that combinations of "2-somes, 3-somes and 4-somes" are utilized to ensure that at least one (1) player from each competing school is represented in any and all pairings regardless of the number of schools in attendance (including Tri-Matches).
  - a. Failure to pair players in this manner will invalidate the match and must be rescheduled and played again.
5. In the event of a match tie:

Each team shall add their (3) lowest individual scores together. The team with the (3) lowest score total (aggregate) is deemed to have won the tie-breaker and thus the match. If the teams are still tied after adding their (3) lowest scores, add in the 4th lowest score. If the teams are *still* tied, continue to add the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th lowest scores respectively until there is a match winner.
6. In the event that two teams are tied in the STANDINGS for the division title (1<sup>st</sup> Place) at the end of the ECIC season, the team with the largest margin of victory (strokes) from one of the two matches vs. their opponent shall host the tie-breaking match BEFORE ECIC's (see ECIC Championships).
  - a. If there are more than two, co-division champions, the team with the lowest IWR average will host the tie-breaking match.

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- b. The ECIC constitution states, “ties in final divisional standings will result in Co-Champions of the division.” The tie-breaking match will be conducted for the sole purpose of deciding which team will advance to the Large or Small School Team Championship event (see ECIC Championships).
  - c. If it is not possible for two or more teams to hold a tie-breaking match before the last day to play tie-breaker matches date (as per the league calendar), the team with the lowest IWR average will advance to the Large or Small School Team Championship (see ECIC Championships).
7. During a competition, if a player becomes injured or ill, and must discontinue play, the individual’s score will be discarded, and the remaining players scores from his/her team will be used to determine the team total.

**ECIC Boy’s Golf League**  
**Match Format, Regulations and Procedures:**  
*(Continued)*

8. In the event a team only has six (6) players competing, that school is still eligible to compete, but they lose the option of dropping their (2) high scores. (If a team has (7) players, they may only drop one (1) high score.) All scores returned will be used in determining a 6-Player team’s aggregate total score.
9. If a team has less than 6 players, they automatically forfeit the match for the team standings (assuming the other team has 6 to 8 players). Assuming the opposing team has 6 to 8 players. As long as the other team has 3 players (minimum), they may still play the match in order for those 3 players to post an official score to the rankings – **provided they are paired with at least one player from the opposing school in all pairing, in order to validate the score(s).**
  - a. If there are less than 3 players present to represent a team, it is numerically impossible to have at least one player from that school

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- assigned to each pairing - assuming the other team has 7-8 players and the max size per pairing is 4 players. In this instance, the match must be cancelled and rescheduled. If one school only has 6 players, then the other school would need to have a minimum of 2 players to conduct the match for record. There would be two foursomes with one of the two players in each pairing.
- b. If both teams have less than 6 players minimum, the match will not be recognized officially, and should be rescheduled.
    - i. Schools that have low participation levels (to the point where it becomes a real possibility that the school may not always have 6 players at their matches) should consider combining teams with another district to prevent disruption to the league and to the teams within their division due to the increased risk of mandatory cancellations and rescheduled matches.
10. Traditional 2 team matches and/or Tri-matches are the only acceptable forms of matches allowed in the ECIC Boys Golf League for the ECIC rankings and standings.
- a. Tri-matches only count ONCE towards a player's individual rankings and the involved teams' team-ranking.
    - i. In order to be eligible for ECIC's, players must compete in a minimum of 5 ranked ECIC divisional matches.
11. During competition, if lightning or thunderstorm is in the area, all competition must cease immediately and seek appropriate shelter. A period of 30 minutes must elapse from the last sighting and/or sound of lightning/thunder before play can resume.

**ECIC Boy's Golf League**  
**Match Format, Regulations and Procedures:**



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*(Continued)*

- a. Please refer to the NYSPHSAA Section VI Lightning/Thunder Policy for details.
12. 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.
13. All teams are expected to play out their full season schedule regardless of their standings within their divisions.

### **ECIC Boy's Golf League** **Pre-Match Responsibilities:**

1. The HOME Coach will be responsible for creating the "event" in iWanamaker.
2. This includes: Creating the event, creating the Round, creating the pairings (so players can be entered into the pairing) and selecting the proper match settings.
3. TRI-Matches in iWanamaker:
  - a. Create ONE (1) Event only.
  - b. Select one Home School, then select the other two schools
  - c. Re-Name the Event: "TRI-Match: School 1, School 2, School 3".  
(Insert School Names)
4. Each Coach will be responsible for 1) adding their OWN players to the event and 2) placing them in the pairings template (that the HOME Coach set up).

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- a. For the coaches that intend for their players to Live Score the match (via the NYSPHSAA Golf app), those coaches should have their pairings entered into iWanamaker.com before the event begins or, players won't be able to Live Score via the app.
    - i. It is possible to Live Score even if the other coach doesn't have his/her players in the pairings before the event starts. Your players would simply be scoring for themselves. Remember that all errors made in Live Scoring will ultimately be corrected once the coaches go through the process of verifying their own player's scores and finalizing the match in iWanamaker.
    - ii. The OFFICIAL Record of Match Results will continue to be the ECIC Boy's Golf League OFFICIAL Scoresheet that gets signed by both coaches in the event that electronic scores are not verified correctly. Please hang on to the sheets for your own records at least until the season concludes.
5. Direct your players to Live Score via their NYSPHSAA Golf app (recommended).
    - a. This skill can be taught and rehearsed in team-practices.

### **ECIC Boy's Golf League** **Post-Match Responsibilities:**

1. BOTH coaches are responsible for inputting and/or confirming the hole by hole scores (for their own players) via our NYSPHSAA app or via iWanamaker.com on a web browser. It is each coach's responsibility to ensure that the digital scores mirror the Official ECIC Score Sheet that gets emailed to the ECIC Chairperson the following school day (by 10 AM).
2. Methods for inputting scores that were not Live Scored via the NYSPHSAA Golf app (during the event):
  - a. Direct your players to enter scores via their NYSPHSAA Golf app after they finish and before they turn in their scorecards.
    1. This skill can be taught and rehearsed in team-practices.

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- b. You, the coach inputs the scores after the event has concluded, for your own players.
3. Regardless of the method, each coach always has the responsibility to a) make sure scores get entered into iWanamaker, b) verify the scores for accuracy and c) Close the Round to send the latest inputted scores to the ECIC Rankings.
    - a. If your players did not Live Score the round and the round was closed before you logged in to iWanamaker.com (or the NYSPHSAA Golf App) to enter or edit scores, always remember that any changes you make will NOT be reflected in the rankings until you re-open and then re-close the round.

**ECIC Boy's Golf League**  
**Post-Match Responsibilities:**  
*(Continued)*

4. The ECIC Chairperson will be responsible for verifying that the emailed ECIC Scoresheet totals match the results in iWanamaker as a failsafe for accuracy.
5. At least one coach needs to email the League Chairperson (ecicgolf@me.com) an image of the "Official ECIC Boy's Golf Scoresheet" (both sides) by 10 AM the next school day.
  - a. Coaches should decide together, who will email the signed Official scoresheet by 10 AM the next school day.

**ECIC Boy's Golf League**

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## Individual and Team Ranking System (IWR):

1. Players will be ranked by their individual IWR or differential to par based on the difficulty of the golf course and tees played.
2. Individual IWR's are updated automatically after each match is closed by the coaches involved in that match.
3. If scores are edited after the match is closed (due to a data entry error), the match must be manually opened and re-closed when the edits are complete.
4. Team IWR's are also automated in iWanamaker. The low-6 individual IWR's per team are tallied at the end of each match to determine the Team-IWR. Once 2 or more official matches ("tournament" rounds as opposed to "practice") are calculated, the average the school's Team IWR's will be used to determine the Team's Ranking.
5. How an individual IWR is computed:
  - a. The ECIC IWR rating is based on the formula developed by the USGA (United States Golf Association) for rating professional and amateur golfers. It is a measure of how the golfer performed on the golf course where they produced the score. The ECIC IWR rating system utilizes the same formula made available by the USGA and GHIN (Golfer Handicap Index Network) to calculate ratings for golfers based on a player's ranked ("tournament" rounds as opposed to "practice") league events. All eligible scores posted are used to calculate each golfer's IWR. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
6. All tee boxes at all USGA Rated golf courses have their own course rating and a slope rating. The USGA Course Rating and Slope Rating together reflect the difficulty of the course. This is factored into a player's individual IWR.

## IWR/USGA Definitions

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1. Course Rating: The evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for a scratch golfer under normal conditions based on yardage and other obstacles that affect scoring ability.
  2. Slope Rating: A measure of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers.
  3. ECIC IWR Ranking: A measure of how well a player has performed throughout the season and is based only on league match scores during the regular season.  
\*Regular Season Tie-Breaker matches are excluded and should be marked as a “practice” event in iWanamaker so the results don’t affect the rankings.

### Calculating an Individual IWR:

1. After each round is completed, a player round rating (IWR) is calculated based on the golfer’s score, the tee box course and slope rating as per the USGA/GHIN system.
2. The ECIC Individual IWR (9 Hole Rating) is computed using the following formula:
  - a. 
$$\text{ECIC Individual IWR} = (\text{Gross Score} - 9 \text{ Hole Course Rating}) \times 113 / 9 \text{ Hole Slope Rating}$$
3. Front-9 and Back-9 Course/Slope Ratings are not typically the same.
4. The Course Rating is what the USGA deems a scratch golfer would score on a course under normal playing conditions. A Slope Rating of 113 is for a course of standard difficulty according to the USGA. Please note that the (113 / slope rating) part of the formula is related to non-scratch golfers. Therefore, this portion of the formula is omitted for gross scores equal to or lower than the course rating of the tee being played. A golfer who shoots the course rating would be rated at a zero and golfers who post a score less than the course rating would receive a negative rating. Please remember that lower is better.
5. Tri-match scores will only count once towards a player’s individual ECIC IWR and once for each team’s team-IWR. The match may be counted however, for a Team’s Standings (w/l record) as more than one match (the entire point of the tri-match) depending on what matches were intended to be played at one Tri-Match event. Coaches are asked to clearly identify their overall team record to the ECIC Chairman after the Tri-Match concludes, for accuracy.

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## iWanamaker FAQs, Common Issues:

1. If one were to click on their team to view the IWR summaries of matches played and noticed that the team IWR average does not match what is displayed in the Rankings view, it is almost always because that team has a player on their roster, marked as F instead of M. The iWanamaker system can only display Boys rankings or Girls rankings (for Girls Golf Leagues), so it's important that all players (regardless of sex) in the boys golf league get marked as M so those players and their teams are ranked properly. The same would be true if we were a Girls Golf League and a Male played in that league. In this example, all players would need to be marked as F in iWanamaker for the rankings to be correct.
2. "I can't score on my app."
  1. The player or coach is using the iWanamaker app instead of the NYSPHSAA Golf app. They are 2 separate apps and only 1 will work properly: the NYSPHSAA Golf app.
  2. The email used to log in to the app MUST match the email on that player's online profile, otherwise, they won't be able to score.
    1. The player's email can be checked once the coach gets onto a computer and pulls up the player on their roster. Click the edit icon to the right of the player's name (from the Roster view) to see what email is associated with that particular player.
      1. Sometimes the email address is misspelled. (i.e. golfer123@gmail.con (n instead of m), golfer123@gmail.com (added space between @ and gmail), golfer123@gmall.com (l instead of i), etc. etc. etc.

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## iWanamaker FAQs, Common Issues: (continued)

2. Sometimes it's a totally different email address than the one a player (or coach) is trying to use. In either case, the app won't function properly because the person simply won't be able to log in.
  1. The confusion gets compounded when a person starts registering using different or multiple email and password combinations. Once the player is logged in successfully, the coach can go in and delete duplicate accounts on their roster - recommended.
- c. The app is not the newest or latest version. Sometimes people turn off automatic updates. This can be tested by having the player log in using someone else's phone and app (that is working properly) and if the player can access score round from that phone, the problem is that the player hasn't updated to the latest version of the NYSPHSAA Golf app.

### Player Guidelines:

1. ~~USGA Rules of Golf will be adhered to during all ECIC golf competitions.~~
2. It is the responsibility of each player and their coaches to be familiar with all rules interpretations and procedures. Each player and coach should have access to the USGA Rules during competition - electronic or hard copy. Special attention to Out of Bounds, Penalty Areas, Unplayable Ball and Cart Path Relief should be exercised.

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3. USGA Rule 20.1c(3) “Doubt as to Procedure” should be applied when there is any uncertainty about a rules interpretation and coaches/officials are not available to assist with rulings. Rule 20.1c(3) allows a player to play 2 balls to complete a hole. The player must report the facts of the situation to the committee before returning the scorecard, even if the player scores the same with both balls.
  4. Players are allowed a maximum of 14 clubs in their bag during a round of competition. Golf clubs/balls must conform to USGA standards.
  5. 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.
  6. Player Scorecards:
    - a. Players shall be responsible for the accurate hole-by-hole scoring of at least 1 other opposing team player in their group, in addition to their own score.

It is recommended that there be one (1) official card for each foursome which is to be signed by all competitors in that foursome at the completion of the round.

It is expected that all individuals in each group be required to voluntarily declare their individual score at the conclusion of each hole to all of their fellow competitors and also upon request from their fellow competitors or coaches. Refusal of a player to announce their individual scores at the time of request is considered a breach of etiquette. Penalty for the first breach is a verbal warning from a coach, followed by the USGA general penalty for a second breach, and then disqualification. (USGA Rule 1).

7. Players within a foursome should make every attempt to resolve a dispute of strokes reported vs. strokes actually taken by a player on a given hole BEFORE proceeding to the next hole, even if it means allowing the group behind them to play through -to protect a player(s) from disqualification



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when certain errors must be corrected before teeing off the next hole, as per USGA Rules.

8. Players are responsible for the accuracy of their hole-by-hole scores on the physical or electronic scorecard that is to be signed and turned in. The coaches will be responsible for the addition in the event a player makes an unintended error in addition.
1. Club throwing in anger or frustration is absolutely unacceptable and is considered a breach of etiquette (USGA Rule 1).
9. .
  - a. If a player deliberately throws a club because of an unfavorable stroke played, the player will receive a 2-stroke penalty on the hole.
  - b. If a player deliberately throws a club because of an unfavorable stroke a second time, the player will be disqualified from the competition.
10. 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, removed from the course of play and referred to his/her school administrator(s) for disciplinary action.
11. Unsportsmanlike conduct (serious breach of etiquette):
  1. If a player has been deemed to have demonstrated unsportsmanlike conduct by BOTH coaches, both coaches may agree to apply a 2-stroke penalty or disqualification from the match. Any coach may penalize their own player for unsportsmanlike conduct without consulting the opposing coach. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct would include but is not limited to: insubordination to a coach/adult, disrespectful behavior, actions that violate their school's code of conduct, players who quit mid-round in order to avoid a high score, etc., etc.
  2. "Any member of a squad disqualified by a sport official for unsportsmanlike conduct, shall not participate in that sport in the next

previously scheduled contest with a member school or in NYSPHSAA tournament play." *NYSPHSAA Handbook, Sportsmanship, Player, pg. 47.*

12. The NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship policies found in the most current NYSPHSAA Handbook addresses all ECIC Boys Golf League participants (both players and Coaches).

## Guidelines for Resolving Disputes, Penalties and Disqualifications (Coaches):

1. If a situation arises where there is a dispute over procedure, play of a hole, scoring, or rules interpretation it is recommended that coaches resolve the situation by exercising one of the following methods:
  - a. All Coaches involved will discuss, determine and agree on the rule interpretation and procedure.
  - b. The host club PGA Professional may interpret the rule(s).
  - c. If a decision still cannot <sup>[ ]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> be made, place a call to the ECIC Boy's Golf Chairperson who will work on behalf of the coaches to appropriately resolve the situation as an objective 3rd party.
    1. In these situations, it is best if names and schools are not mentioned to allow the arbitrator(s) to remain objective. Terms like "School A, B, Player A, B etc. etc." should be used when reporting the facts of the situation to be resolved.
2. Coaches should generally avoid assessing "behavioral" penalties (unsportsmanlike conduct, player/spectator communication, etc.) to an opposing player without discussing the matter with the opposing coach first. These are rare occurrences in ECIC and while a coach may need to intervene or respond to negative player behavior (in their supervisory role as a coach), coaches should refrain from issuing rulings to opposing players without first discussing the matter with the opposing coach so that the player's coach may adequately discuss the matter with their player and inform them of any resulting consequences.

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- a. In rare instances where coaches are unable to resolve a situation, the coaches should not sign the score sheet, and then place a call to the League Chairperson as soon as possible to report the facts of the situation. The Chairperson will then take the necessary steps to resolve the matter appropriately.
  3. If a player finishes the round and is then deemed to be disqualified from a match, the individual's score may not be factored into in his/her Team's aggregate Match Score (Low 6).
  4. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Serious Breaches of Etiquette:** "Any member of a squad disqualified by a sport official for unsportsmanlike conduct, shall not participate in that sport in the next previously scheduled contest with a member school or in NYSPHSAA tournament play." *NYSPHSAA Handbook, Sportsmanship, Player, pg. 47.*
  5. Any player that is deemed to be disqualified from a match for USGA rules infractions other than a serious breach of etiquette and/or unsportsmanlike conduct (i.e. signed for a score lower than what they actually shot, played from the wrong spot and didn't correct the error in time, etc will NOT be suspended from their next ECIC Boys Golf event. They are however, ineligible to count towards his/her team's score in the match he/she was disqualified from.
  6. **COACHES:** In iWanamaker under edit round, edit results, a coach should designate the affected player(s) with the code "DQ", which will exclude the player's score from the team tally and the individual rankings for that event.

### Coaching During ECIC Boy's Golf Team-Events:

1. Coaches approved by their School District (with a current NYSED coaching license) are allowed to coach/advise their own players during an ECIC Boy's Golf team event/match as they see fit. Coaching may take place anywhere and anytime during the course of play.

### ECIC Boy's Golf League

#### Local Rules (USGA):

USGA Rules of Golf will be adhered to during all ECIC golf competitions. Local rules should be implemented as per USGA recommended guidelines.

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## **ECIC Local Rules (USGA):**

\*In effect all season long, for all ECIC Boy's Golf events unless otherwise noted.

1. Lost Ball, OB (*USGA Local Rule E-5*)
  - a. When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance.
  - b. For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (*see Rule 14.3*):
  - c. Two Estimated Reference Points:
    - i. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:
      1. Come to rest on the course, or
      2. Last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.
    - ii. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

**ECIC Boy's Golf League**  
**Local Rules (USGA)**  
***(Continued):***

- d. For purposes of this Local Rule, "fairway" means any area of grass in the general area that is cut to fairway height or less.
- e. If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a

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grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

f. Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points:

Anywhere between:

- i. A line from the hole through the ball reference point (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and
- ii. A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

g. Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- i. Must be in the general area, and
- ii. Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

h. Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

- i. The original ball that was lost or out of bounds is no longer in play and must not be played.
- ii. This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (*see Rule 6.3b*).

i. But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- i. That ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area, or

**ECIC Boy's Golf League**  
**Local Rules (USGA)**  
***(Continued):***

- ii. The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.3).

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- j. A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.
  - k. Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule:  
*General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*
2. Aeration (*USGA Local Rule E-4*)
- a. If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:
    - i. Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under *Rule 16.1b*. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule.
    - ii. Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under *Rule 16.1d*.
  - b. But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play.
3. Advice (*USGA 10.2, Local Rule H-5*)- Team Events Only:
- a. Where two players from the same team are playing together in the same group, those players may ask for advice and receive advice from each other during the round.
4. Personal audio or video devices (*Rule 4.3a(4), Local Rule G-8*):
- a. During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device - this includes but is not limited to cell/mobile devices. Penalty for first breach from single act or related acts: General Penalty (2 Strokes). Penalty for second breach unrelated to first breach: Disqualification.

**ECIC Boy's Golf League**  
**Distance Measuring Devices & Cell/Mobile Devices**

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## (USGA):

### 1. Distance Measuring Devices

- a. The USGA's current default position on DMD's is:
  - i. Rule 4.3 Players may use DMDs to measure distance.
  - ii. But a Committee may adopt a Local Rule prohibiting such use of DMDs.
- b. The ECIC Boy's Golf League default position on the use of Cell/Mobile phones and/or multi-functional devices is:
  - i. Cell/Mobile phones will be allowed for the primary purposes of 1) Live Scoring (via the NYSPHSAA Golf App) and 2) the utilization of DMD/GPS Golf Apps as per USGA Rules.
- c. The USGA (and subsequently ECIC Boy's Golf League) default position on DMD's including Cell/Mobile phones, aligns the USGA Rules with the reality that golfers of all ages increasingly expect to be able to use electronic devices on the course for other purposes that are allowed by the Rules such as looking up a Rule of Golf or checking the weather (safety).
- d. Embracing and encouraging the use of all DMDs which includes cell/mobile devices, should also benefit pace of play as has been the USGA's experience and understanding at most amateur championships and clubs that have allowed the use of all DMDs.

## ECIC Boy's Golf League Maximum Score (USGA):

### 1. Maximum Score

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- a. As allowed by and as per the USGA, a “Committee” may establish a max score allowed per player by local rule. For all ECIC Boy’s Golf players: a player’s score for each hole is capped at “Double Par Plus (+) Two”:
    - i. Maximum Strokes on Par 3’s: 8.
    - ii. Maximum Strokes on Par 4’s: 10.
    - iii. Maximum Strokes on Par 5’s: 12.
  - b. This league wide, season long alternate form of stroke play (as allowed by the USGA) may be waived by the ECIC Boy’s Golf Chairperson for the 1) ECIC Boy’s Golf League Individual Championship and Qualifier, the 2) ECIC Wild Card Team Playoffs and/or 3) the ECIC Team Championship. The waiving of the Max Score local rule must be announced before any of the aforementioned events commence. In addition, the decision to waive the local rule must be made public information in the printed tournament rules and/or the verbal announcements made to the field before the start of the event.
  - c. A player who does not complete a hole (often referred to informally as “picking up”) will not be disqualified, but simply gets the maximum score for the hole.
  - d. A player MUST pick up when they reach the Maximum Strokes allowable by this league wide Local Rule. Examples:
    - i. A player reaches their 7<sup>th</sup> stroke on a par 3 and still hasn’t holed out. They must pick up and record an 8 on the scorecard.
    - ii. A player reaches their 9<sup>th</sup> stroke on a par 4 and still hasn’t holed out. They must pick up and record a 10 on their scorecard.
    - iii. A player reaches their 11<sup>th</sup> stroke on a par 5 and still hasn’t holed out. They must pick up and record a 12 on their scorecard.

### ECIC Boy’s Golf League



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**Maximum Score (USGA)**  
*(CONTINUED):*

- e. The need to hole out on every hole in stroke play can have at least two downsides: (1) it often leads to a slow pace of play, and (2) it may discourage golfers who feel they no longer have a realistic chance to compete or to make a good score for the round once they get a very high score on one or two holes.
- f. Maximum Score will be an alternative form of play that addresses both concerns, by allowing a player to “pick up” when he or she scores at or above the maximum and by capping the player’s score for any hole at the maximum.

**Spectators:**

- 1. Spectators are allowed to spectate a Varsity golf match as long as the host course allows them to do so.
- 2. Spectators attend ECIC Boy’s Golf League events at their own risk.
- 3. Spectators must maintain a distance of 30 yards from the players at all times (This is the regulation at NYSPHSAA State Qualifiers and Championships).
  - a. 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.
- 4. Spectators are not allowed on greens, teeing areas or fairways.
  - a. Spectators may never tend a flag stick or handle any player equipment during the course of an event.
- 5. If a spectator intends to give a player an item (i.e. umbrella, apparel, food/water, etc), they should do so through the player’s coach and at the

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discretion of the player's coach (only) to avoid the potential issue of player/spectator communication.

- b. Any conversation or communication between player/spectator may be construed as advice (*as defined by the USGA*), therefore any and all communication between players and spectators is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to the use of mobile devices for the purpose of communication and/or any conversation between player/spectator in their native language. In either instance, penalty for first breach of this rule is a verbal warning (for new spectators) or a two stroke penalty for second breach, and then disqualification for a third breach – in the same match.
  - c. In the rare instance where it is known by an ECIC Coach that a verbal warning was issued to a particular spectator in a previous same season ECIC event, and the same spectator is involved in prohibited communication with any player in a subsequent same season ECIC event - a 2 stroke penalty may be issued for the first breach of the ECIC/USGA Communication/Advice rule (above).
  - d. In general, there should be no communication between players and spectators at any time during any ECIC Boy's Golf event from the beginning of an event until a player's card is signed and received by the scoring official(s) for the event.
5. Appropriate and positive spectator applause and/or verbal acknowledgement of successful strokes taken by a player is welcomed and is not to be viewed as communication or advice.

**Spectators:**  
*(Continued)*

6. Appropriate player acknowledgement of spectator applause and/or verbal acknowledgement of successful strokes is not considered communication or receiving advice.

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7. Indicating or aiding any player in the location of a lost ball during the course of play is welcomed and not considered prohibited communication or advice.
  8. Coaches are encouraged to proactively make their spectators aware of the ECIC Boy's Golf League spectator policies.
    - a. This begins at pre-season parent meetings, educating players before their first match, etc. etc.

## ECIC Boy's Golf League Championships:

1. The ECIC Boy's Golf League will conduct **both a Small School and a Large School Team championship before the ECIC Individual Championship and Qualifier.**
  - a. The 2 Small School Division Champions (North and South) & the 2 Large School Division Champions (North and South) will each conduct separate championship matches to determine an overall ECIC Small Schools and Large Schools Team Champion. The team with the lower IWR team-ranking within each classification (Large/Small), will host the championship match. The resulting winners from these matches will be recognized as the "ECIC Large Schools Team Champions" and the "ECIC Small Schools Team Champions" respectively. These two Championship Teams will advance to ECIC's, to compete for the overall ECIC Team Champion Title (and advance to the Section VI Team Championship
2. The ECIC Boy's Golf League will conduct and Individual Championship along with an ECIC Boys Golf League Team Championship at the end of each season, on the same date/event/venue.
  - a. ELIGIBILITY for the individual Championship and Qualifier
    - i. In order to qualify for the ECIC Boy's Golf League Individual Championship and Qualifier, players must have started in at least 50% 5 of his/her team's ECIC divisional matches by the close of rankings.
      1. NYSPHSAA Representation Rule - Players in all sports are required to have a minimum of 6 games/matches in order

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to be eligible for Sectionals. The ECIC Boys Golf minimum above (i) is 5, in order to be eligible for ECIC's.

- a. The ECIC Individual Championship would then be the 6th NYSPHSAA required game/match for eligible players, as a minimum standard example.
- ii. The top-60 players (and ties) as determined by the individual IWR rankings at the close of rankings, will advance to the ECIC Boys Golf Individual Championship.
  - iii. ECIC Member School Representation: Teams that do not have an eligible player for the ECIC Individual Championship and Qualifier may select (as per ECIC) one (1) player to represent their ECIC Member School at the ECIC Individual Championship and Qualifier.

**ELIGIBILITY for the ECIC Boys Golf League TEAM Championship event:**

1. The Large School Team Champion and the Small School Team Champion will field teams of 6 to 8 players per team, at ECIC's, in order to compete for the overall ECIC Team Champion Title (and advance to the Section VI Team Championship).
  1. The eligible Team Championship players who qualify for the Individual Championship will count against the 6 to 8 players that each Championship Team is allowed to add to ECIC's. The added player(s) who did not qualify as individuals for the Ind. Championship will not be eligible to qualify for Sectionals. They will be eligible for the Team Championship event only.
    1. If a school is unable to field a minimum of 6 players, they forfeit the team championship.
    2. If a team already has 8 players who qualified as individuals, those 8 players will by default, compete for the team championship. If there are more than 8 players who qualified to ECIC's as individuals, the coach must declare which 8 players will compete in the Team Championship portion of the event, before the event begins, otherwise,

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the default will be the 8 lowest ranked players on that team roster as per the IWR individual rankings.

3. Players will be paired in the field by their individual IWR along with the individual qualifiers. Players from the same school/team will not be paired together for both the Individual Championship and Team Championship events, similar to the Section VI Team Championship event.

### **ECIC Boy's Golf League Awards:**

1. Individual Championship and Qualifier:
  1. Medalist: Plaque from the BGCA (Section VI Boys Golf Coaches Association).
  2. Top 8 Finishers (All ECIC All Stars):
    1. Shields (1st through 4th)
    2. Ribbons (5th through 8th).
  
2. ECIC Division Champions (LSS, LSN, SSS, SSN): Up to 14 ECIC Division Champion Patches per school.
  
3. ECIC Small Schools Team Champion & ECIC Large Schools Team Champion:
  - a. ECIC Small Schools Team Champion Trophy (BGCA)
  - b. ECIC Large Schools Team Champion Trophy (BGCA)
  
4. ECIC Team Champion:
  - a. ECIC Boys Golf League Team Champion Trophy. (BGCA)

Approved, 11/07/2022, ECIC Executive Meeting.