

The ECIC Girls Golf League
STANDARDS



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NYSPHSAA Eligibility Standards for Participation in the ECIC Girls 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 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, if the individual's golf average/score puts him/her in the top 8 of your golfers, he/she is eligible for the team." *Athletic Placement Process (APP): NYSED*

[NYSPHSAA Eligibility](#)

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, as well as your own athletic office.



Supervision

1. Individual schools that have at least one player competing in any ECIC Girls 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 players' own coaches, or from 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) Girls Golf event, it is the responsibility of the School and/or their Coach to 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 of whether 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 Girls Golf Chairperson.* The ECIC Girls Golf chairperson 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 Girls 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 obviously finish a Girls 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 Girls Golf coaches are expected to anticipate this common and widely understood possibility and plan accordingly for all ECIC (and Section VI) Girls Golf events.



ECIC Girls Golf League

Match Format, Regulations and Procedures:

1. A varsity golf match will consist of two or more teams fielding a max. of 5 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. Each team shall drop their one (1) highest score, add up the remaining four (4) scores to determine the winning team. The low team-total score wins (Low 4 of 5).
 - a. At the conclusion of the match coaches will report their scores to the <https://sectionvigolf.com/girls/season/2022> website.
2. Only ECIC Girls Golf League and Divisional Matches will count towards the rankings by the end of the season.
3. 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).
4. Match Markers: *Match markers are recommended but not required for the 2023-2024.* It is up to the home team to supply match markers/chaperones to count players strokes to ensure proper scoring. You may use both coaches (Not Recommended) as match markers plus one or two chaperones per match. You should at least allow one coach (preferably the home coach) to be able to roam and be the course rules interpreter. If the match consists of two full teams (four (4) or five (5) players each) the school should supply a minimum of two chaperones. See Table 4.1 for suggested Marker/Chaperone Recommendations. These recommendations are suggested to ensure proper pace of play.
 - a. It is up to the home team to supply the adult markers/chaperones.
 - b. The adult marker/chaperone cannot be the parent or relative to one of the participating team members.
 - c. It is recommended that the assigned marker/chaperone have some knowledge of the game of golf.

***It is up to the coaches of both teams to determine and handle all USGA rulings and disputes. The Marker/Chaperone will serve as an impartial witness to the events that have occurred but must never handle any USGA rules interpretations or disputes.

Table 4.1

Team 1	Team 2	Total Players	Groupings	Recommended Markers
5	5	10	3-3-4	2 Chaperones, 1 Coach
5	4	9	3-3-3	2 Chaperones, 1 Coach
5/4	3/4	8	2-3-3	2 Chaperones, 1 Coach
5/4	2/3	7	3-4	1 Chaperone, 1 Coach
5/4/3	1/2/3	6	3-3	1 Chaperone, 1 Coach
4/3	1/2	5	2-3	1 Chaperone, 1 Coach
3/2	1/2	4	4	1 Coach

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 the total strokes for each scoring player (4 lowest scores) for the highest and lowest handicap holes. The team with the lowest score total (aggregate) with these two holes is deemed to have won the tie-breaker and thus the match. If the teams are still tied after totalling the highest and lowest handicap holes, use the scores from the second highest and second lowest handicap holes. The team with the lowest score total (aggregate) with these two holes is deemed to have won the tie-breaker and thus the match.

6. In the event that two teams are tied in the STANDINGS for the division title (1st Place) at the end of the ECIC season, the tie-breaker will be head-to-head match competition between the teams that are tied. If head to

head competition does not settle the tie-breaker then both teams are deemed Co-Divisional Champions.

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 her team will be used to determine the team total.
8. In the event a team only has four(4) players competing, that school is still eligible to compete, but they lose the option of dropping their (1) high score. All scores returned will be used in determining a 4-Player team's aggregate total score.
 - a. If a team has only three (3) players, provided their opponent has at least 4 players, that team will add one (1) BLIND score as their 4th score. The BLIND score will consist of the highest opponents counting score +15 strokes.
 - b. If a team has only two (2) players, provided their opponent has at least 4 players, that team will add two (2) BLIND scores as their 3rd & 4th scores. The BLIND scores will consist of the highest opponents counting score +10 strokes.
 - c. If a team has only one (1) player, provided their opponent has at least 4 players, that team will add three (3) BLIND scores as their 2nd, 3rd, & 4th scores. The BLIND score will consist of the highest opponents counting score +5 strokes.
9. If both teams have less than four (4) players minimum and have an equal number of players then the team with the lowest (aggregate) score is deemed the winner of the match. See the Table 8.1 below to reference player matchups and scoring.

Table 8.1

Scenario	Team 1 Player(s)	Team 2 Player(s)	Result
Scenario 1	3	3	Total aggregate score.
Scenario 2	3	2	Team 2 adds 1 BLIND score equal to the highest Team 1 score +15 strokes.
Scenario 3	2	2	Total aggregate score.
Scenario 4	2	1	Team 2 adds 1 BLIND score equal to the highest Team 1 score +15 strokes.
Scenario 5	1	1	Total aggregate score.



10. Traditional 2 team matches and/or Tri-Matches are the only acceptable forms of matches allowed in the ECIC Girls Golf League for the ECIC rankings and standings.
 - a. Tri-Matches count twice towards a player's individual rankings and the involved teams' team-ranking.

- i. In order to be eligible for the ECIC Tournament, players must compete in half of their ECIC league matches. (See Table 9.1 for reference)

Table 9.1

ECIC League Matches	Matches to Qualify
8	4
9	5
10	5
11	6
12	6
13	7

- 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.
 - a. Please refer to the NYSPHSAA Section VI Lightning/Thunder Policy for details.

[NYSPHSAA Thunder & Lightning Policy](#)

- 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.
- 14. Coaches (the home coach) may choose to move tee boxes or set up an alternate or new set of tee boxes to improve/speed up pace of play. 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, the tee markers should be placed at or near the same area for the entire season.



ECIC Girls Golf League **Pre-Season Responsibilities:**

1. Enter your roster and home schedule in the sectionvigolf.com website. Local newspapers and reporters will use the website for articles and information on their respective teams.
2. Be sure all members of the team are familiar with proper golf etiquette and have a general understanding of USGA and course local rules.
3. Be sure all parents/spectators are familiar with expectations according to USGA and E.C.I.C. rules.

ECIC Girls Golf League **Pre-Match Responsibilities:**

1. It is highly recommended that the participating coaches communicate before the match to discuss the number of golfers participating, start times, warm-up procedures etc.
2. Enter your planned starters in the sectionvigolf.com website before the match begins.



ECIC Girls Golf League **Post-Match Responsibilities:**

1. The home coach is responsible for entering the match information in the sectionvigolf.com website by noon the next day. This is to ensure that the information on the website is factual and up to date.
2. The away coach should verify the scores once the scores are posted in the sectionvigolf.com website.



iWannamaker & the NYSPHSAA Scoring System

After much discussion it has been decided that the E.C.I.C Girls Golf League will not use the iWannamaker scoring system for league play. This is, in part, due to the number of teams and golfers we have in our current league. It is of the opinion of the current league coordinators that the iWannamaker scoring system should be considered in the future as girls golf and the E.C.I.C. Golf League grows.

We will use the iWannamaker live scoring system during the league tournament championship, however.

***iWannamaker will be used for the Section 6 Tournament.

Player Guidelines:

1. 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 and can be pointed out before the match begins.
2. 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.

3. Players are allowed a maximum of 14 clubs in their bag during a round of competition. All Golf clubs/balls must conform to USGA standards.
4. 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. Players shall mark provisional balls with a different mark to differentiate between balls in case both balls are found.
5. Score cards will be used during all matches and tri-matches.
 - a. Players will freely announce their scores at the conclusion of each hole and at the time of reasonable request from a fellow competitor or coach.
 - i. 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).
6. Players within a pairing 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 when certain errors must be corrected before teeing off the next hole, as per USGA Rules.
7. Club throwing in anger or frustration is absolutely unacceptable and is considered a breach of etiquette (USGA Rule 1).
 - 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.
8. 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.

9. Unsportsmanlike conduct (serious breach of etiquette):
 - a. 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 an unfavorable score, etc., etc.
 - b. "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.*
10. The NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship policies found in the most current NYSPHSAA Handbook addresses all ECIC Girls Golf League participants (both players and coaches). [NNYSPHSAA sportsmanship policy](#)



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 be made, place a call to the ECIC Girls 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 personally inform them of any resulting consequences.
 - a. In rare instances where coaches are unable to resolve a situation, the coaches should 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 her Team’s aggregate Match Score (Low 6).

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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., etc. will NOT be suspended from their next ECIC Girls Golf event. They are, however, ineligible to count towards his/her team’s score in the match he/she was disqualified from.

Coaching During ECIC Girls 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 Girls Golf team event/match as they see fit. Coaching may take place anywhere and anytime during the course of play.



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ECIC Girls Golf League 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.

[United States Golf Association Weblink](#)

ECIC Local Rules (USGA):

***In effect all season long, for all ECIC Girls Golf events unless otherwise noted.**

1. Lost Ball, OB (*see USGA Local Rule E-5*)
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 Girls Golf League **Maximum Score (USGA):**

1. Maximum Score

- a. As allowed by and as per the USGA, ECIC coaches have established a max score allowed per player by local rule. For all ECIC Girls Golf players during league matches: a player's score for each hole is capped at "Double Par Plus (+) Two":
 - i. Maximum Strokes on Par 3s: 8.
 - ii. Maximum Strokes on Par 4s: 10.
 - iii. Maximum Strokes on Par 5s: 12.

- b. This league wide, season long alternate form of stroke play (as allowed by the USGA) may be waived by the ECIC Girls Golf Chairperson for the 1) ECIC Girls Golf League Individual 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 7th stroke on a par 3 and still hasn't holed out. They must pick up and record an 8 on the scorecard.

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- ii. A player reaches their 9th 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 11th stroke on a par 5 and still hasn't holed out. They must pick up and record a 12 on their scorecard.
- 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 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 Girls 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 discretion of the player's coach (only) to avoid the potential issue of player/spectator communication.
6. 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, the penalty for first breach of this rule is a verbal warning or a 2-stroke penalty for second breach, and then disqualification for a third breach - in the same match/event.
 - a. 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).

- b. In general, there should be no communication between players and spectators at any time during any ECIC Girls 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.
7. 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.
8. Appropriate player acknowledgement of spectator applause and/or verbal acknowledgement of successful strokes is not considered communication or receiving advice.
9. 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.
10. Coaches are encouraged to proactively make their spectators aware of the ECIC Girls Golf League spectator policies.
 - a. This begins at pre-season parent meetings, educating players before their first match, etc. etc.



ECIC Girls Golf League Championships:

1. The ECIC Girls Golf League will conduct a Team and Individual 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 Girls Golf League Individual Championship and Qualifier, players must have started in half of her team's ECIC divisional matches by the close of rankings. (See ECIC Girls Golf League Match Format, Regulations and Procedures Pt 8 Table 8.1)
 1. NYSPHSAA Representation Rule - Players in all sports are required to participate in more than half of the player's league matches to qualify for the Section VI Tournament.
 - a. The ECIC Girls Golf Championship would then be the event used to fulfill the NYSPHSAA required game/match for eligible players, as a minimum standard example.
 - ii. Each team can enter up to 5 players for the ECIC Girls Golf Championship provided their league scoring 9 hole average is 64.99

or less. Coaches may bring more than 5 players, however must designate the 5 golfers who are participating in the team portion of the championship prior to competition.

- b. The E.C.I.C. Tournament will be a 9 hole stroke play tournament. The individual with the lowest score will determine Individual E.C.I.C. Champion. If two or more competitors are tied after 9 holes there will be a two (2) hole playoff to determine the champion. This will begin on hole 8. If a champion is not determined after two holes then there will be a three (3) hole play-off to determine the champion. The three hole play-off will begin on hole 7. And so on.
- c. We will use the same team scoring system for the E.C.I.C. Championships. We will also use the same tiebreaker scoring system used in matches if two teams are tied at the end of the 9 hole tournament.

d. RESULTS and Sectional Qualifications

- i. The ECIC Team Championship is awarded to the teams 4 lowest aggregate score. If a team has 5 participants, the highest score is discarded.

***Teams with less than 4 participants are ineligible for the Team Championship.

- ii. The ECIC Individual Championship:

Top individual (lowest score) will be the medalist and declared ECIC Individual Champion.

The Top 5 (lowest 5 scores) will be declared ECIC All Stars.

The Top 12 (lowest 12 scores) will earn automatic bids to the Section VI championships regardless of 9 hole league average.

**** Golfers with a league average of 54.99 or less and have participated in more than half of their league matches will still qualify for sectional play.*

ECIC Girls Golf League Awards:

1. Individual Championship and Qualifier:

-
- a. Medalist:
 - b. Top 5 Finishers (All ECIC All Stars)
2. ECIC Team Championship
The ECIC Girls Golf Coaches Association will donate a championship trophy that will be passed on from year to year to recognize the team championship. It will be up to the winning team/athletic department to engrave the trophy.
3. ECIC Division Champions
 - a. Large School Division (Up to 14 Individual Blue Patches)
 - b. Small School Division (up to 14 Individual Blue Patches)

Appendix: