

Rules in this section shall pertain to boys' and girls' golf unless otherwise specified.

15.1 IMPORTANT DATES – Due to COVID-19, all dates below are subject to change.

2020-2021 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	First Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Match (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, March 8, 2021	36th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Monday, April 12, 2021	41st	Girls' Entry to Regionals
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	42nd	Deadline for Boys' District Tournament
Monday, April 26, 2021 – Thursday, April 29, 2021	43rd	Boys' and Girls' Regional Tournament
Monday, May 3, 2021 – Tuesday, May 4, 2021	44th	Boys' and Girls' State Tournament
Sunday, May 16, 2021	46th	Summer Rules Begin

15.2 CONTEST LIMITS

15.2.1 A team may participate in an unlimited number of golf matches/tournaments in a season during a school year. The sports seasons rule shall not apply to golf.

15.2.2 A team shall be limited to one 18-hole match/tournament or two 9-hole matches/tournaments during a school week. (Monday-Friday) Each school shall be limited to one 36-hole tournament during at school week between March 1 and the regional tournament.

15.2.3 A school shall not compete during instructional time (Monday-Friday) during the regular season. This rule is explained in bylaws in Section 9, "Athletics and Instructional Time." This rule shall be waived for the state playoffs. *Exception: A school shall be allowed to participate in two boys' and two girls' 18-hole golf matches or tournaments during a school day from March 1 through the week prior to the regional golf tournament provided the contest does not begin before 11:00 am and provided the school participates in no more than one match or tournament during that week.* If a student is receiving a failing grade in any class at the time, he/she shall not be permitted to be released from school to participate in the match or tournament. There is no limit to the number of golf tournaments played when a school is out of session.

15.3 GENERAL (The general rules apply to both boys' and girls' in regular season, district, regional, and state competition.)

15.3.1 Boys' golf shall be divided into four equal or nearly equal divisions. Girls' golf shall be divided into two equal or nearly equal divisions. Golf divisions shall be based on a school's October 1st enrollment that is certified to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution-Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fourths for boys' and equal halves for girls' shall begin with lowest and end with the highest golf school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. A school may elect to play in the next higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA by 12:00 noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. The declaration shall apply for the next two years.

- 15.3.2** The LHSAA shall place each boy's golf school into one of four equal or nearly equal districts and shall place each girl's golf school into one of two equal or nearly equal regions.
- 15.3.3** United States Golf Association's (USGA) rules shall prevail, except where modified by LHSAA and/or local course rules approved by the tournament director/committee. A course's rules shall be clearly defined in writing to coaches and his/her golfers. In questionable situations involving the rules of play or the course, golfers shall abide by the decisions made by the local professional and his/her staff.
- 15.3.4** Anyone, including coaches, parents, and/or marshals, shall be allowed to assist a golfer in searching for a lost ball.
- 15.3.5** A contestant shall not be allowed to have a cell phone, smart watch, CD player with headphones, or any other communication device on the course at any time during actual competition. Violation of this rule shall be a two-stroke penalty. Use of a range finder and GPS device are permitted.
- 15.3.6** No contestant shall use any form of tobacco at the competition site. Violation of this rule shall be a two-stroke penalty. No coach or other school personnel shall use any form of tobacco at the competition site. Violation of this rule shall be a two-stroke penalty assessed to the team score or to the individual golfer(s) score if there is only medalist(s) entered in the competition.
- 15.3.7** A medalist is defined as any golfer who records a legal score. A medalist may be a member of an official LHSAA team or an individual golfer from a school that does not have enough golfers entered in the regional/state tournament to field an LHSAA defined team. Individual medalists from the same school that qualify to the regional/state tournament, two girls or four boys shall constitute a team and score as a team.
- 15.3.8** Coaches shall be prohibited from playing golf on the competitive course during the regional and state golf tournaments. Violation of this rule shall result in the school being disqualified for the tournament.
- 15.4** **GENERAL RULES FOR DISTRICT, REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS (Boys and Girls)**
- 15.4.1** Only teams and medalist that are listed on the official entry blank shall compete in the district, regional, or state tournament.
- 15.4.2** The head golf coach shall be allowed to coach and/or converse with his/her golfer(s) at any time during the competition. Assistant coaches shall be allowed to coach and/or converse with his/her golfer(s) only from the green to the next tee box and only once all players in that playing group have completed the hole. *Example: Once a player of Team A steps onto the tee box to tee off, the other assistant coach(es) of Team A shall have no further verbal contact with their player. The tournament director/committee shall provide some method to identify a coach who is allowed to give advice (armband, neck tag, etc.).* Violation of this rule shall be a two-stroke penalty to the individual golfer. The individual golfer shall be disqualified by tournament officials and the coach shall lose coaching privileges for a second offense of this rule. Coaching and/or conversing with the golfers should in no way affect the pace of play.
- 15.4.3** During the tournament, non-coaching spectators (parents, friends, and other golfers) shall be allowed on the course to observe golfers during play. The following rules shall apply to observers:
1. Spectators shall be notified that they are spectators and it is not their responsibility to report possible rule violations.
 2. Spectators shall remain a reasonable distance (at least 50 yards) from golfers at all times.
 3. After play has started, spectators shall not "coach or advise" players by having either verbal or visual communication with golfers or interfere with play in any way at any time. On course encouragement, support, applause, etc. is not considered coaching or advice; therefore, it is permissible.
 4. On the first violation of this rule the individual golfer shall be assessed a two-stroke penalty and the spectator shall be warned. The individual golfer shall be disqualified by tournament officials if the coaching continues and the spectator shall be removed from the course.
- 15.4.4** If golfers who have completed play walk or ride onto the course, they assume the role of spectators and shall abide by all appropriate spectator guidelines. No competitor, after completing play, shall drive a cart while assuming the role of spectator.

- 15.4.5** Girl's Attire: School team members shall be attired in the same color shirts and the same color pants, skirts, or shorts, the pants, skirts, or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Shorts and skirts should be of appropriate length and style. Golfers shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans, denim, "cut-off" shorts, or nylon running or tempo shorts. Additionally, all caps/visors must be worn with the bill facing forward at all times during play. In summary, all golfers must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing. A golfer that is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the regional/state tournament.
- 15.4.6** Boy's Attire: School team members shall be attired in the same color shirts consisting of a collar or a mock turtle neck shirt that meets local course rules and the same color pants or shorts. The pants or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Golfers shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans, denim, or "cut-off" shorts. Additionally, all shirts must be tucked in at all times and all caps/visors must be worn with the bill facing forward at all times during play. In summary, all golfers must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing. A golfer who is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the regional/state tournament.
- 15.4.7** All golfers shall walk during the round(s) of play. A golfer shall carry his/her own clubs or use push/pull carts. Golfers shall not be allowed to use a caddy.
- 15.4.8** If possible, the tournament director/golf pro may provide a date and time for a practice round prior to the round of play. A golfer shall arrange his/her practice round tee time. Participating schools shall pay their own green fees. Participating schools may be required to pay green fees for tournament participation.
- 15.4.9** Practice on the playing course shall be prohibited after the tournament begins, except as outlined in Rule 7 of the USGA Rule Book.
- 15.4.10** As per USGA rules, a golfer may be allowed to begin play after receiving a two-stroke penalty and catchup with his/her playing partners, if he/she arrives at the tee box within five minutes of his/her appointed time. If a golfer fails to make his/her tee time, he/she shall be disqualified from the tournament. If a golfer is not on the tee box at the appointed time, he/she shall be ruled as missing his/her tee time. In the state tournament, he/she shall be disqualified from the tournament as a medalist but not as a team member. He/she can still compete on the second day as a team member.
- 15.4.11** Golfers shall be required to adhere to proper sportsmanship while on the course. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as profane, vulgar and/or abusive language audible to others; carelessly and/or deliberately throwing clubs and/or slamming a club to the ground; verbalizing with intent of intimidation; or exhibiting behavior not in accordance with the spirit of fair play. Violation of this rule shall result in the following penalty structure:
1. First Offense – Warning
 2. Second Offense – Two stroke penalty
 3. Third Offense – Disqualification (*Note: If a golfer is disqualified because of an unsportsmanlike act, the act shall be reported in writing to the LHSAA.*)
- 15.4.12** If a golfer is disqualified during the round, his/her recorded score to that point shall be disregarded for team or individual honors.
- 15.4.13** If a golfer is disqualified in a district golf tournament and his/her team qualifies for the regional and/or state tournament; he/she shall be permitted to compete as a team member only in the regional and/or state tournament.
- 15.4.14** If a golfer is disqualified in a regional golf tournament and his/her team qualifies for the state tournament; he/she shall be permitted to compete as a team member only in the state tournament.
- 15.4.15** In the state tournament, if a golfer is disqualified, he/she shall be allowed to participate in the other round of the tournament.
1. If disqualified in the first round, he/she may participate in the second round.
 2. If disqualified in the second round, he/she may use his/her score from the first round.

- 15.4.16** In regional and state competition, whenever possible, the tournament director, shall provide an adult to serve as a monitor who shall be assigned to each group to observe play, assist with rulings, request professional rulings and unofficially compute scores for each golfer in the group. These individuals should not be placed in positions of making decisions about students from their school.
- 15.4.17** In regional and state competition, a player shall pick up his/her ball and record a ten after the ninth stroke of the hole. If a player continues to play, the player is not disqualified, but must count all shots played.
- 15.4.18** Competitor's scorecards shall be exchanged on the first tee. Each competitor will serve as a "marker" for his fellow competitor. After each hole the "marker" shall check the score with the competitor and record it on the scorecard. Competitors should also keep their own score to verify that each hole is correct. After completion of the round, the competitor should check his/her score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the tournament director before the scorecard is signed. The tournament director's decision shall be final. The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his/her scorecard. If he/she returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, he/she shall be disqualified. If he/she returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned shall stand. The competitor shall ensure that the marker has signed the card, countersign the card himself/herself and return the card to the tournament director. The tournament director or committee shall be responsible for the addition of scores. When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the rules committee/tournament director, the results are deemed to have been officially announced. The competition is closed when the results have been officially announced and the results shall be final.
- 15.4.19** Ties for Team/Medalist Honors at District and Regional Tournaments: Only ties affecting the advancement of a team or an individual to the next level of play, must be broken. If team scores are tied after the final round of play, the winner shall be determined by each tied team's coach selecting a golfer to represent the team in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with a hole chosen by the golf pro/tournament director. If a tie exists between individuals, the tied golfers shall settle the tie in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with a hole chosen by the golf pro/tournament director. All sudden-victory playoffs shall be decided independent of each other.
- 15.4.20** The LHSAA shall not present awards at district or regional tournaments.
- 15.4.21** In girls' play, in all divisions, a maximum of three golfers may be entered in a regional or state tournament. The two lowest legal scores recorded, each day by the team's golfers, shall be totaled to determine the teamscore.

Example of Team Scoring:

GOLFER	1ST ROUND SCORE	2ND ROUND SCORE	TEAM SCORE
#1	76*	74*	1st Round - 159
#2	83*	89	2nd Round - 158
#3	90	84*	Total Team Score - 317

**Two best scores each day*

- 15.4.22** In boys' play, in all divisions, a maximum of five golfers may be entered in a district, regional or state tournament. In boys' tournament play, the scores of the four boy golfers posting the lowest legal scores each day will be totaled to determine the team's score.

Example of Team Scoring:

GOLFER	1ST ROUND SCORE	2ND ROUND SCORE	TEAM SCORE
#1	76*	78*	1st Round - 303
#2	81*	70*	2nd Round - 300
#3	74*	85	Total Team Score - 603
#4	83	79*	
#5	72*	73*	

* Four best scores each day

15.4.23 Refer to the LHSAA website (www.lhsaa.org) for the most current district and regional assignments, regional and state tournament information, including sites, dates, times, are posted on the LHSAA website. Please note that changes may occur in sites, times, etc., even near the scheduled event, so check shortly before the appropriate date to make sure there are no last minute changes. The pairings will be made in the LHSAA office. Tee times will not be available until 24-48 hours prior to the regional and/or state tournaments.

15.4.24 In district, regional, and state tournaments, no golfer, whether a competitor that has completed his/her round or a non-competitor team member, may drive or ride in a golf cart on the course during competition. Special exemptions will be made for golfers who meet ADA requirements.

15.5 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT (Boys Only)

15.5.1 A district tournament shall be over one round of 18 holes. The course selected shall be an 18-hole course, if one is available, unless agreed upon by all participating schools.

15.5.2 If a district tournament is canceled because of inclement weather, it shall be rescheduled and completed prior to the date of the regional tournament.

15.5.3 Boys' Golf - District Meet - Each district shall determine its policies for hosting a district golf meet for the purpose of determining its first, second, third, and fourth place team and individual medalists to advance to the regional meet. District tournaments shall be conducted the week before the regional tournament by the deadline cited in Bylaw 15.1, "Important Dates" section. If possible, district tournament courses shall be determined before the LHSAA's Annual Meeting in January. Sites for district, regional and state tournaments shall be different. District tournaments shall be held on courses that will not be used for regional or state tournaments in that division.

15.5.4 Boys' Golf - Qualifiers from District Meet to Regional Meet. Each of the four districts shall qualify the first, second, third, and fourth place teams and the first, second, third, and fourth place individual medalists to one of the two regional competitions. The individual medalist(s) to advance to regional competition shall be the four highest ranked individuals who are not on one of the four advancing teams. If the four individual medalists that qualify to the regional tournament are from the same school, they shall constitute a team and score at the regional tournament.

15.5.5 Follow-up Responsibilities: At the completion of district tournaments, each tournament director shall immediately send a copy of his/her district tournament results to the LHSAA and maintain a copy of results in the event the LHSAA does not receive them.

15.6 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT (Boys and Girls)

15.6.1 The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the boys' and girls' Regional Golf Tournaments and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' regional golf tournaments shall be conducted by hosts selected by the Executive Committee.

15.6.2 A regional tournament shall be over one round of 18 holes. The course selected shall be an 18-hole course.

15.6.3 If a regional tournament is canceled because of inclement weather, it shall be rescheduled and completed prior to the date of the state tournament.

- 15.6.4** Girls' Golf – Qualifiers from Regional Meet to State Meet. Each of the two regions shall qualify the first, second, third and fourth place teams and the first, second, third, and fourth place individual finishers to state competition. The individual medalists to advance to state competition shall be the four highest ranked individuals who are not on one of the four advancing teams. If the four (4) individual medalists that qualify to the state tournament are from the same school, they shall constitute a team and score at the state tournament.
- 15.6.5** Girl's Golf – If a student-athlete scores double par or higher after nine holes, she is disqualified from the girls' regional golf tournament. No score will be posted and included in the team score. *Note: This disqualified student-athlete will only advance to the state tournament if her team qualifies.*
- 15.6.6** Boys' Golf – Qualifiers from Regional Meet to State Meet. Each of the two regions shall qualify the first, second, third and fourth place teams and the first, second, third, and fourth place individual finishers to state competition. The individual medalists to advance to state competition shall be the four highest ranked individuals who are not on an advancing team.
- 15.6.7** A school's official entry form shall be completed, signed by the principal, and sent to the LHSAA by mail postmarked no later than the date listed in Bylaw 15.1, "Important Dates" section. Names of the competing golfers and alternate golfers shall be listed on the official LHSAA entry form. In boys' competition, only those teams and individual medalist that qualified from the district need to send in an official entry form to the LHSAA. Entry forms shall be accompanied by school check payable to the LHSAA, totaling \$10 per golfer entered. If a school fails to submit its entry form and fee to the LHSAA by the deadline, its golfer(s) shall be allowed to participate in the tournament and the school shall pay a \$50 fine for one golfer or a \$100 fine for two or more golfers by the end of the coach's meeting on the first day of play. Substitutions shall be on the alternates' list. Any player whose name is on the school's entry form and is eligible to participate may be substituted on the team prior to the start of play. There will be no substitutes for individual medalists or medalists who qualify as individuals but constitute a scoring team for the regional or state tournament.
- 15.6.8** If a school or individual medalist that qualifies for the regional golf tournament wishes to withdraw, the school's principal should submit a signed statement to the LHSAA Executive Director requesting not to be entered in the tournament as soon as possible after the completion of the district tournament. The team and/or individual player with the next lowest score from the same district may be substituted prior to the pairings being set. If a school fails to withdraw its team or individual medalist from the regional tournament after the pairings have been set and the team withdraws, forfeits, or fails to show up for the tournament, then the school may be fined \$200.
- 15.6.9** After receiving all entry forms, the tournament director/committee shall group golfers and assign each group a tee time for each round of play. If possible, each group shall be formed so that groups consist of golfers from different schools in each round of play. Golfers shall be grouped according to the qualifying scores reported on the team's entry form.
- 15.6.10** A coaches' meeting shall be scheduled before the round of tournament play begins. All coaches/faculty representatives shall be present at the meeting. If this rule is violated, the school shall be fined \$50 for one golfer or \$100 for two or more golfers to allow them to participate in the tournament. The school will be invoiced for this fine and the student athlete(s) shall be allowed to participate provided that their coach or faculty representative is present at the time of play.
- 15.6.11** Follow-up Responsibilities: At the completion of regional tournaments, each tournament director shall immediately send a copy of his/her regional tournament results to the LHSAA and maintain a copy of results in the event the LHSAA does not receive them.
- 15.7** **STATE TOURNAMENT (Boys and Girls)**
- 15.7.1** The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the boys' and girls' state golf tournaments and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' state golf tournaments shall be conducted by hosts selected by the Executive Committee.
- 15.7.2** To participate in the state tournament, a golfer shall be a member of a team that qualifies to the state tournament from the regional tournament in his/her division, or he/she shall qualify as an individual medalist at the regional tournament. Refer to Golf Bylaw 15.3.7.

- 15.7.3** If a school or individual medalist that qualifies for the state golf tournament wishes to withdraw, the school's principal should submit a signed statement to the LHSAA Executive Director requesting not to be entered in the tournament as soon as possible after the completion of the regional tournament. The team and/or individual player with the next lowest score from the same regional may be substituted prior to the pairings being set. If a school fails to withdraw its team from the state tournament after the pairings have been set and the team withdraws, forfeits, or fails to show up for the tournament, then the school may be fined \$200.
- 15.7.4** A state tournament shall consist of two rounds of 18 holes for a 36-hole competition. The course selected shall be an 18-hole course. Interrupted Competition: If competition is interrupted due to darkness, inclement weather, or any other valid reason as approved by the tournament director/committee, if at all possible the competition shall be completed the next day from the point of interruption. If this is not possible due to the availability of the course or other valid reason as approved by the tournament director/committee, if one round of 18 holes of play is canceled because of inclement weather, the state championship shall be determined by the recorded scores after one 18-hole round. If a round of play is canceled because of inclement weather before all of the competitors have completed play on that day, the entire round shall be:
1. Canceled if this occurs on the first day of play.
 2. Canceled if this occurs on the second day of play and the first day of play has been completed.
 3. Suspended if this occurs on the second day of play and the first day of play has been canceled because of inclement weather and shall be completed on the next playable day that is approved by the Executive Director.
 4. If one 18-hole round of play is completed on either day one or day two and every player in the competition completed the same nine holes on the other day of competition, then those nine holes will be computed into the team and individual scores to get a 27-hole total recorded to determine the state championship.
- 15.7.5** Ties for Team/Medalist Honors: If team scores are tied for first place after the final round of play, the tie shall be determined by each tied team's coach selecting a golfer to represent the team in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with a hole chosen by the golf-pro/tournament director. If team scores are tied for second place after the final round of play, both teams shall be declared state runner-up and receive a runner-up trophy. If a tie exists between first-place medalists, the tied golfers shall settle the tie in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with a hole chosen by the golf-pro/tournament director. If a tie exists between second and/or third- place medalists, the tied golfers shall be declared co-second or co-third place finishers and all medalists that are tied shall receive the appropriate medal. All sudden-victory playoffs shall be decided independent of each other. If a sudden-victory playoff cannot be completed or contested due to darkness, inclement weather, or any other valid reason as approved by the tournament director/committee, the tie in team competition shall be resolved by computing the aggregate scores of the four golfers for boys or two golfers for girls on the final day of 18-hole competition beginning with the first hole of play until the tie is broken. If the sudden-victory playoff cannot be completed in medalist play due to darkness, inclement weather, or any other valid reason as approved by the tournament director/committee, all medalists tied for first place shall be declared co-champions.