

# GOLF

## STATE TOURNAMENT DATES

Classes AA and A..... September 30-October 1  
Classes B and C..... May 15-16

### I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The MHSA recognizes golf as an interscholastic high school sport for both boys and girls.
- (2) Any high school student participating in any meets or tournaments in golf must meet all MHSA eligibility requirements, including the award and amateur rules. USGA playing rules will be used for all competition.

- (3) Participants will wear the following school-approved appropriate golf attire (uniform to include top and bottom garments): shirts will be full-length with finished edges with collars, traditional crewneck, v-neck or mock-turtle neck design. Sleeveless shirts must extend from the base of the neck to the top of the shoulder on each side. Halter tops, spaghetti straps and tank tops will not be permitted. Long pants, shorts and skirts must be worn at the waist and be appropriately sized for the individual. Shorts and skirts must have a minimum five-inch inseam. All skorts (a pair of compression shorts having a flap or panel across the front and back to resemble a skirt) are legal bottom garments. The skort must be appropriately sized for the individual, worn as the manufacturer intended, and the flap or panel must be long enough to cover the compression shorts.

Adornments on clothing or headwear will not advertise drugs or alcohol or contain offensive material as deemed inappropriate by the meet director or tournament manager. Participants must be appropriately attired during play or they will be disqualified.

The meet director has the right to waive the uniform rule due to inclement weather; however, each participant must be dressed appropriately during all competition.

- (4) Golf shall be divided into four classifications: Class AA, Class A, Class B and Class C. Golf for Classes AA and A is in the fall; golf for Classes B and C is in the spring.
- (5) The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any match can be played. No individual shall play in any association golf contest until he/she has a minimum of three (3) days of practice of at least one practice session per day on three (3) different days (no practice permitted on Sunday) prior to the date of the first allowable game.

If a student begins his/her three days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury or academic ineligibility for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional two (2) days and to produce a doctor's release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSA post season play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSA sanctioned activity starting practice date, may be credited for practices during the overlap period toward meeting the minimum practice requirement of the overlapped activity season.

- (6) The golf season for both boys and girls officially closes with the end of the state tournament for the classification of the school concerned.

- (7) Twelve (12) **dates of competition** shall be the maximum number **per individual golfer** excluding association sponsored tournaments. **A two-day tournament counts as two days of competition towards the season limitations.**
- (8) There is no stroke limit per hole in all MHSAs tournaments.
- (9) The use of any communication or electronic devices by participants (i.e. cell phones, walkie-talkies, sky-caddies, headphones or any other electronic measuring devices) during any golf tournament is prohibited. The timeframe is from being called to teeing off on the first designated hole until that player's signed card is turned into the scoring table. The penalty for the first infraction is the player(s) using such device(s) will incur a two stroke penalty. Any further infraction by the same player(s) will incur immediate disqualification from the tournament, to include the second day if a second infraction occurs on day one of a two-day tournament.
- (10) MHSAs Golf Cart Policy for Participants - Except as required by applicable law, participants may not use golf carts in MHSAs golf events. The MHSAs will evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, any request to use a golf cart in MHSAs golf events due to a claimed disability. In order for the MHSAs to evaluate such requests, the student must submit medical documentation regarding the exact nature of the disability and how that disability prevents the student from walking during a round. In addition, the student must complete the MHSAs Golf Cart Application. An exemption is valid for one calendar year; the medical information and MHSAs Golf Cart Application must be submitted each year an exemption is sought.

Please note that requests due to "temporary" injuries or impairments that do not qualify as a "disability" under the ADA will not be granted. A disability protected by the ADA is "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual."

- (11) No spectators/fans are allowed on the course except for certain locations as designated by the tournament manager and club professional.

#### INTERPRETATION

Once competition begins, coaches are not allowed to instruct or to consult with players. During competition, coaches are only allowed in designated spectator areas when observing players.

- (12) No Caddies may be used. Automotive transportation can only be used if the golfer is approved by the MHSAs Executive Director by meeting the criteria of the MHSAs Cart Policy. Pull carts are legal.
- (13) No school is required to take part in any contests or athletic events, but once entered, teams are obligated to participate in a contest or athletic event to its normal conclusion unless the contest is terminated by mutual consent of the school officials involved due to unusual weather or game conditions, or situations which could be hazardous to participants or spectators. Any coach is prohibited from unilaterally refusing to play.

If a school fails to complete contests or athletic events that they have entered, the violating school would be subject to penalties as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Executive Director.

No school is required to take part in any match or tournament, but when once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented. Any team taking part in season play is automatically entered into the first tournament held in that district or in that division. That team shall not be allowed to withdraw from playing in such tournament with the specific approval of the Executive Director. The penalty for violation shall be as outlined under Penalties, Article VIII, Section (2).

- (14) The MHSA prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other mood altering drugs during competition. Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.
- (15) Hair devices made of soft material or unadorned hair devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes, or hair clips, no longer than two inches, may be worn to control a player's hair. Hair adornments made of soft material and no more than two inches wide may be worn.

## **II – GENERAL RULES FOR POST SEASON GOLF MEETS**

- (1) Four state golf meets will be held — one for Class AA, one for Class A, one for Class B and one for Class C. The Class B & C meets will be held one week prior to the state track and field meets and the Class AA & A meets will be held in the fall.
- (2) For Classes AA, A and B, schools may enter up to five individuals to constitute their team. The four individual boys with the low score each day will determine the boys' team score and the four individual girls with the low score each day will determine the girls' team score. A school may choose to enter only four boys or four girls.
- (3) For Class C, schools may enter up to four individuals to constitute their team. The three individual boys with the low score each day will determine the boys' team score and the three individual girls with the low score each day will determine the girls' team score. A school may choose to enter only three boys or three girls.
- (4) Tie breaking procedure:
  - A. The hole or holes to be used for the individual and team competitions will be selected by the tournament manager or committee.
  - B. If a competitor is involved in both playoffs, the competitor will play in each playoff separately. The playoff for the individual competition is not to be played concurrently with the team competition. The playoff for the individual competition will occur first, if a competitor is involved in both playoffs.
  - C. A tie for the individual competition (for first place only) shall be decided immediately by a hole-by-hole playoff. Procedure for breaking individual ties:
    - 1. All competitors tied for first place, individual competition, will play together. The order of play will be determined by lot.
    - 2. All players tying for low score for the hole will complete a second hole or subsequent holes until a competitor wins. A player will not continue in the playoff unless the low score of the hole is obtained.
    - 3. A first place individual competitor will be determined. All other competitors involved in the playoff will be tied for second, regardless of what hole they were eliminated from the playoff.
  - D. A tie for team competition (for first place only at State and all places at the divisional tournaments) shall be decided immediately with a hole-by-hole playoff. At the state tournament, only first place team ties are broken. For example 2 teams could receive a 2nd place trophy, 3 teams a third place trophy. At the divisional tournaments, all team ties must be broken to determine which teams will advance to state and which teams will be awarded the appropriate trophy. Procedure for breaking team ties:
    - 1. In Classes AA, A and B, each team in the playoff will be represented by five players on the team. The four best scores of the players in the playoff will be used for the team score.

2. In Class C, each team in the playoff will be represented by four players on the team. The three best scores of the players in the playoff will be used for the team score.
  3. All teams tied for first place, team competition, will play together (See Divisional exceptions in Sections IV and IV). The order of play will be determined by lot.
  4. On the first hole, the team will determine their own order of play. The order of play thereafter will be individual stroke play.
  5. When balls are in play, the ball farthest from the hole shall be played first. If two or more balls are equidistant from the hole, the ball to be played first should be decided by lot. Balls belonging to the same team may not be played in the order the team considers best.
  6. The competitor with the lowest score at a hole shall have the honor at the next teeing ground. The competitor with the second lowest score shall play next and so on. If two or more competitors have the same score at a hole, they shall play from the next teeing ground in the order as at the previous teeing ground. The order at the next teeing ground may not be played in the order the team considers best.
  7. All teams tying for low score for the hole will complete a second hole or subsequent holes until a team wins. A team will not continue in the playoff unless the low score for the hole is obtained and a first place team will be determined. The remaining teams involved in the playoff will be tied for second, regardless of what hole they were eliminated from the playoff.
- (5) Golfers for the same team may be allowed to play in the same group on the second day of the state tournament. In a foursome only two golfers from the same team may be in that group. In a five-some, three players from the same team may be in that group.
  - (6) The host club pro or their designee will be the sole judge on rule interpretations. Situations brought to the judge will not include team or individual names so the ruling can be as objective as possible.
  - (7) The meet manager shall appoint a person(s), as designated per classification, to walk with each group (scorers) to verify scores of every individual in the group. It is recommended that scorers not be students or student-athletes.
  - (8) After completion of the round, the competitor should check his/her score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the tournament committee. He/she shall ensure that the marker has signed the card, countersign the card, and return it to the committee as soon as possible. The scorecard shall be considered returned when it is placed in the card box.
  - (9) Each state meet shall consist of 36 holes of medal play per player.
  - (10) Because of injury, illness or other emergency situations, one boy or one girl, who was named as an alternate before the start of competition, may be used as a substitute before the round begins either day of competition. The substitute will not be eligible for an individual award. The player for whom the substitute played will not be eligible for an individual award. Their scores shall count toward team scores.
  - (11) Disqualification:
    - A. The committee may impose a penalty for unsporting behavior (i.e. use of inappropriate language, club throwing, or other disruptive behavior). Penalty for unsporting conduct, two strokes, for repeated or a serious breach of player conduct, disqualification.

- B. A player disqualified under the Rules of Golf of the United States Golf Association will be permitted to play in subsequent rounds of the tournament. The player's score shall be eligible for the team score in subsequent rounds. The player will not be eligible for the individual competition.
  - C. A player will not be permitted to play in subsequent rounds of the tournament or have a score eligible for the team score if the player is disqualified for player misconduct.
- (12) The state tournament golf course shall not be made available for practice purposes for any tournament team member during the days when the tournament is in progress (other than the practice round and the use of practice facilities) or at any time during the seven-day period immediately preceding the opening of the tournament, except when the site is a team's home course. Regular season tournaments scheduled during the seven-day period preceding the state tournament on the site are allowed.

**III - CLASS AA GOLF PROGRAM**

- (1) Fourteen (14) schools are classified as Class AA. The schools are aligned in one division as follows:
- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Billings Senior  | Flathead (Kalispell) |
| Billings Skyview | Glacier (Kalispell)  |
| Billings West    | Helena               |
| Bozeman          | Helena Capital       |
| Butte            | Missoula Big Sky     |
| Great Falls      | Missoula Hellgate    |
| Great Falls CMR  | Missoula Sentinel    |
- (2) Class AA will not hold divisional tournaments in golf.
- (3) Each AA school choosing to participate in their state golf meet will be required to share proportionately the cost of the tournament at the rate of \$100.00 per school.
- (4) ***At the Class AA State Golf Tournament, no practice round will be allowed on the tournament course the day before the state tournament begins and also during the seven (7) days preceding the opening day of the tournament. (See Section II-General Rules for Post Season Golf Meets, item (12) for all other rules and exceptions in regard to the state tournament practice round.)***

**IV - CLASS A GOLF PROGRAM**

- (1) **Twenty-one (21)** schools are classified as Class A. The schools are aligned in four divisions as follows:
- | <u><b>Southwestern</b></u> | <u><b>Northwestern</b></u> | <u><b>Central</b></u> | <u><b>Eastern</b></u>    |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Anaconda                   | Columbia Falls             | Belgrade              | Billings Central         |
| Beaverhead Co.<br>(Dillon) | <b>Frenchtown</b>          | Browning              | Custer Co. (Miles City)  |
| <b>Butte Central</b>       | Libby                      | Fergus (Lewistown)    | Dawson Co.<br>(Glendive) |
| Hamilton                   | Polson                     | Havre                 | Hardin                   |
| +Stevensville              | Whitefish                  | Park (Livingston)     | Laurel                   |
|                            |                            |                       | Sidney                   |
- + Boys Only.
- (2) Each Class A school choosing to participate in their state golf meet will be required to share proportionately the cost of the tournament at a maximum rate of \$40/participant which includes the practice round and club fees. This rate would

guarantee the tournament be played on a Friday/Saturday with a practice round on Thursday. A maximum rate of \$30/participant which includes the practice round and club fees will be used if the state tournament is played on a Monday-Friday.

- (3) State Tournament Exceptions for Class A: If two 18-hole courses are being used for the State Tournament competition, one course will be designated as the boys' course and one will be designated as the girls' course.
- (4) Rules for Class A Divisional golf meets:
  - A. Each division will hold a one day eighteen-hole qualifying tournament. The top three (3) teams from each division will qualify for the state tournament.
  - B. In addition to the top three (3) teams that qualify, the top 15 participants with the lowest score will also qualify. Included in the top 15 participants with the lowest score may be members of the qualifying teams. Four individuals who qualify as individual participants cannot be considered a team. All ties will be broken at the divisional tournaments and only the top 15 individuals will go to the state tournament. See section D in this section for the tie breaking process.
  - C. Each of the Class A Divisions will determine the host site for their divisional tournament.
  - D. Tie breaking process for first place ties at divisional tournaments:
    1. Individual Tie – first place only – hole by hole playoff starting with hole #1 or a hole determined by course management.
    2. Team Ties – first through third place – hole by hole playoff starting with hole #10 or a hole determined by course management. At Divisionals, all teams tied for second and/or third will play together.
    3. If a competitor is involved in both playoffs, the individual playoff will be played first.
    4. All other tie breaking rules/criteria will be followed in accordance with MHSA rules found in Section II – General Rules for Post Season Golf Meets.
  - E. Tie breaker for places second through fifteenth. All individual ties that occur in places second through fifteenth will be broken by comparing scorecards using the following format:
    1. The cards will be reviewed and compared by the golf pro. The golfers' accumulative score for holes 10 through 18 will be the first criteria used. The golfer with the lowest score on these holes will be given the higher place. If there is still a tie, we will use the scorecard starting at the eighteenth hole and working back. The lower score on a given hole will determine the higher place.
    2. Individual ties will be broken in an order on the highest to lowest place. For example, if there are two ties, one for third place and a tie for sixth place, the tie for third will be broken first.
  - F. Ribbons/Medals/trophies will be awarded for the top three teams and top ten individuals.
  - G. The meet manager must receive entries two days prior to the beginning of the tournament. Entries received after that date will not be accepted for participation in the meet.
  - H. In case of emergency, each boys' and each girls' team may be entitled to one substitute to be named before the start of competition.

**V - CLASS B GOLF PROGRAM**

- (1) **Thirty-seven (37)** schools comprising **thirty-five (35)** teams are classified as Class B. The schools are aligned in three divisions as follows:

| <u>Division 1</u>        | <u>Division 2</u>                 | <u>Division 3</u>                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Choteau                  | **Baker/Plevna/ <b>Carter Co.</b> | Broadwater (Townsend)             |
| Conrad                   | Colstrip                          | Bigfork                           |
| Cut Bank                 | Columbus                          | <b>Jefferson (Boulder)</b>        |
| Fairfield                | Forsyth                           | +Lincoln Co. (Eureka)             |
| Glasgow/ <b>Hinsdale</b> | Huntley Project (Worden)          | Loyola Sacred Heart<br>(Missoula) |
| Harlem                   | Lame Deer                         | Manhattan                         |
| Malta                    | Lodge Grass                       | Plains                            |
| Plentywood               | *Powder River Co.<br>(Broadus)    | Powell Co. (Deer Lodge)           |
| Poplar                   | Red Lodge                         | <b>Ronan</b>                      |
| Rocky Boy                | Roundup                           | Sweet Grass Co. (Big Timber)      |
| Shelby                   | Shepherd                          | Thompson Falls                    |
| Wolf Point               |                                   | Three Forks                       |

\*Girls Only

+Boys Only

\*\*Carter Co. co-ops with Baker/Plevna in girls only.

**^Glasgow and Hinsdale co-op in both boys and girls.**

- (2) Each B school choosing to participate in their State Golf Meet will be required to share proportionately the cost of the tournament at a maximum rate of \$40 per participant, which includes the practice round and club fees, and this rate would guarantee the tournament be played on Friday/Saturday with a practice round on Thursday. A maximum rate of \$30 per participant, which includes the practice round and club fees, would be used if the state tournament would be played on a Monday-Friday.
- (3) Rules for Class B Divisional golf meets
- A. Each division will hold a one day eighteen-hole qualifying tournament. The top four (4) teams from each division will qualify for the state tournament. No practice round will be allowed during the week where school time would be missed either traveling to the site or practicing at the course/facility.
- B. In addition to the top four (4) teams that qualify, the top fifteen participants with the lowest score will also qualify. Included in the top fifteen participants with the lowest score may be members of the qualifying teams. Four individuals who qualify as individual participants cannot be considered a team. All ties will be broken at the divisional tournaments and only the top fifteen individuals will go to the state tournament. In the event of a tie for fifteenth place, all individuals tied for fifteenth will advance to the state tournament. See section D in this section for the tie breaking process.
- C. Each of the Class B Divisions will determine the host site for their divisional tournament.
- D. Tie breaking process for first place ties at divisional tournaments:
1. Individual Tie – first place only – hole by hole playoff starting with hole #1 or a hole determined by course management.
  2. Team Ties – first through fourth place – hole by hole playoff starting with hole #10 or a hole determined by course management. At divisionals, all teams tied for second, third and/or fourth will play together.

3. If a competitor is involved in both playoffs, the individual playoff will be played first.
  4. All other tie breaking rules/criteria will be followed in accordance with MHSA rules found in Section II – General Rules for Post Season Golf Meets.
- E. Tie breaker for places second through fifteenth:
1. The cards will be reviewed and compared by the golf pro. The golfers' accumulative score for holes 10 through 18 will be the first criteria used. The golfer with the lowest score on these holes will be given the higher place. If there is still a tie, we will use the scorecard starting at the eighteenth hole and working back. The lower score on a given hole will determine the higher place.
  2. Individual ties will be broken in an order on the highest to lowest place. For example, if there are two ties, one for third place and a tie for sixth place, the tie for third will be broken first.
- F. Ribbons/medals/trophies will be awarded for the top three teams and top ten individuals.
- G. The meet manager must receive entries two days prior to the beginning of the tournament. Entries received after that date will not be accepted for participation in the meet.
- H. In case of emergency, each boys' and each girls' team may be entitled to one substitute to be named before the start of competition.

#### VI - CLASS C GOLF PROGRAM

- (1) **Thirty-five (35)** schools comprising **thirty-three (33)** teams are classified as Class C. The schools are aligned in one division as follows:

|             |                            |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Absarokee   | Gardiner                   | <b>Saco</b>                |
| Bainville   | Great Falls Central        | Saint Labre (Ashland)      |
| *Belt       | **Harlowton/Judith Gap     | Saint Regis                |
| Brockton    | Heart Butte                | Scobey                     |
| Centerville | **Lambert/Richey           | Seeley-Swan                |
| Chinook     | <b>Lone Peak (Big Sky)</b> | Sunburst (North Toole Co.) |
| Culbertson  | <b>MSDB</b>                | Superior                   |
| Ennis       | <b>Manhattan Christian</b> | <b>Two Eagle River</b>     |
| Fairview    | Medicine Lake              | Valier                     |
| Fort Benton | Nashua                     | Westby                     |
| Froid       | Park City                  | Whitewater                 |
|             | Plenty Coups (Pryor)       |                            |

\*Girls Only

\*\*Cooperative Sponsorship

++Cooperative Sponsorship Boys Only

- (2) Each C school choosing to participate in their State Golf Meet will be required to share proportionately the cost of the tournament at a maximum rate of \$40 per participant, which includes the practice round and club fees, and this rate would guarantee the tournament be played on Friday/Saturday with a practice round on Thursday. A maximum rate of \$30 per participant, which includes the practice round and club fees, would be used if the state tournament would be played on a Monday-Friday.

- (3) For Class C tournaments, qualifying scores must be shot during a meet with at least three teams present and markers must be used. Markers should walk or ride with each group from tee to green. If not enough tournament personnel are available to assign markers to each group, then markers can be assigned to each hole. Markers should be positioned to watch from tee to green. Scores will be for 18 holes and the score sheet will be verified and signed by all coaches present. This sheet will be sent to the Class C scorer who will maintain a record of all qualified golfers. The list of qualified golfers will be sent (faxed) to the state tournament coordinator one week (seven calendar days) before the state tournament practice round. If these scores are not sent to the classification scorer and the state coordinator, the golfers will not be eligible for the state golf meet. A list of eligible golfers will be faxed to all coaches for verification of their teams before being sent to the state coordinator. Any errors or omissions will be corrected at that time.

Qualifying scores for the State C meets ***must occur on a regulation golf course [on a 9-hole course (minimum of a par 35) or on an 18-hole course (minimum of a par 70)] and*** will be:

Boys = 100                      Girls = 120.

- (4) If a divisional tournament is not conducted in a classification, entries must be certified to the meet manager one week prior to the date set for the state meet by the classification scorer. Entries received after that date will not be accepted for participation in the meet.