

2016-2017 MPA GOLF BULLETIN

Updated 08/18/16

GOLF SEASON

August 1- August 14 – Hands-off Period (Sport Season Policy)

August 15, 2016 – First Regular Season Practice

August 26, 2016- First Match (After 3:00 p.m.)

September 28, 2016 – On line voting begins for Sportsmanship Banner (One week to vote)

October 5, 2016 – Last Playable Date for League Qualifying Tournaments

October 6, 2016 – Rain Date for October 5 Only

October 5, 2016 – Due Date for Individual and Team Tournament Entries (**Online**)

October 7, 2016 – Tee assignments posted on MPA Website

October 8, 2016 –Team Championships (Classes A-B-C) (**SAT DATE**)

October 15, 2016 - Individual Schoolgirl (Open) and Individual Schoolboy Championships

June , 2017 - New England Competition – Bretwood Golf Course, Keene, NH at 8:00 a.m.

*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*Concussion in Sport – What You Need to Know*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*A Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*Sudden Cardiac Arrest*” video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

Each coach must complete the online rules exam for coaches. A printed copy of the exam should be submitted to the athletic administrator.

Schools are recommended to purchase The Rules Caddie – The Rules of Golf Made Simple for their coaches and players (www.therulescaddie); telephone 309-829-5225.

HANDS-OFF PERIOD

In order to provide a window of personal time similar to the time available prior to the winter and spring sports seasons, summer recess is defined as the time period between the last day of the spring sport season to August 4 or fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of the fall sport season, whichever occurs later. This does not exclude individual students from attending camps during this two-week period of personal time as long as all other Sport Season Policy requirements are met. Individuals choosing to attend camps during this two-week period may use school protective gear or track and field implements.

Please refer to the questions and answers which appear on the MPA website used to clarify the policy and questions you may have.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

The MPA Golf Committee sponsors individual schoolboy and schoolgirl championships and state team championships in three classes. The schoolgirl individual championship

will be an open event to those individuals who have a qualifying score of **110**. This qualifying score must come from a league-qualifying event. The names of those qualifying must be submitted to the MPA no later than the Wednesday before the state individual championship. The schoolboy individual championship and team championships will be open to those individuals and teams that qualify through league qualification events. USGA rules will be used in all golf competitions. Unsportsmanlike behavior and/or lack of golf etiquette may lead to disqualification by the tournament committee.

Information on USGA rules and etiquette may be found on the USGA website at www.usga.org. Coaches should be familiar with these rules. Leagues are encouraged to have coaches meetings or clinics where these rules are discussed.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Schools must pay a \$30 greens fee for each golfer representing the school each day of play in the tournaments. Checks must be made payable to Natanis Golf Course. Payment of greens/fees must be made prior to registering for the tournament. The greens fee for practice rounds will be \$20.
2. All of these tournaments will be a minimum of 18 holes of stroke play.
3. Teams or individuals must be accompanied by their school's regular season coach as documented on the annual eligibility roster. In an emergency, a school administrator may contact the committee chair prior to play and appoint a substitute coach. One coaching ribbon will be issued only to the MPA eligible coaches or principal's appointee for each team.
4. Coaches are allowed to approach and talk to their players during matches only after a group has holed out and is walking to the next tee. Coaching at any other time is prohibited. Coaches are not to act as rules interpreters. **Coaches need to be immediately present in the need of emergencies.**
5. Caddies may not be used in any of the MPA tournaments. Parents and spectators may follow players around the course, but must observe the rules and etiquette of golf including refraining from giving advice or coaching in any way, in person or by the use of electronic communication devices. **(They must not be closer than fifty (50) feet from the players.)**
6. Teams or individuals seeking to practice at the sites of the tournaments must pay greens fees for practice rounds, must reserve tee times in advance, and must have a responsible adult accompanying each group. The greens fee for practice rounds is \$20. **Checks must be payable to Natanis Golf Course.**
7. The MPA representatives will be responsible for the administration of the tournament and will monitor the competitions. However, the resident Golf Professional Rules Official will make all rules interpretations and judgments.
8. Coaches are expected to provide all student-participants with instructions in appropriate golf play etiquette and golf rules. This may be accomplished, for example, by requiring athletes to view a video such as the "USGA Spirit of the Game" or similar

instructions provided by the local pro. **Athletes and coaches are required to wear appropriate attire. Jeans and t-shirts are prohibited.**

9. At the discretion of the tournament director, players will be grouped in threesomes or foursomes with priority being given to providing consistency within the tournament.

10. Shotgun starts will be used in tournament play.

11. Golfers will be able to use global positioning system (GPS) devices in the tournaments in accordance with USGA rules. **Golfers may use cellphones including those that have a GPS app, while competing in the championship.** If this becomes an issue with integrity of the game. IT IS NOT TO BE USED AS A COMMUNICATION DEVICE BETWEEN OTHER PLAYERS OR COACHES. FIRST will be a warning, SECOND a disqualification.

EJECTION RULE

In all team and individual sports (varsity or sub-varsity), ejection or disqualification from a game, meet, or match for unsportsmanlike behavior of any form, by a coach or a player shall result in the suspension of that player or coach. The coach or player ejected from a contest must sit out all contests at all levels until the coach or athlete completes the ejection penalty by sitting out the next game at the level from which he/she was ejected. This rule applies to a game, meet, or match suspended before completion as well as a completed contest. This penalty may not be served by sitting out an exhibition, subvarsity, or other competition.

A suspended coach may not be present at the game site. Not being physically present at the site means the disqualified coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands, or site area before, during, or after the game/meet.

Prior to their return to the sideline any coach ejected from a game must complete the NFHS *"Teaching and Modeling Behavior"* video that is available at the NFHS website (www.nfhslearn.com).

Any coach or player ejected from the last game, meet, or contest of a sports season shall serve a one game suspension in the opening countable game, meet, or contest in the next varsity sport in which he/she participates. The coach/athlete may participate fully in the preseason prior to serving the one game suspension.

This policy will not prevent standing committees from imposing more restrictive disciplinary action. (Effective Date: 1996-97 Winter Sport Season; Revised 2008, 2009)

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (Saturday, October 8, 2016)

Classes A, B & C Team -- Natanis Golf Course, Vassalboro.

Registration will be from 8:00-9:15 a.m. Coaches must register all players and pay all fees by 9:00 a.m. A meeting with players will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tee time will be at 10:00 a.m. The driving range and putting greens close promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Course Assignments:

Tomahawk

Class A & B (Even years Class B holes 1-9)
(Odd years Class A holes 1-9)

1. A team's entry into the team championships will be attained through competition in its league. For each three or a fraction over multiples of three teams, in a class in a league, one team will qualify for the team championships. (Example: A league with 10 schools – 4 A and 6 B – would qualify two A schools and two B schools). Leagues that don't have a minimum of three schools in a classification (A, B, or C) must combine their qualifier with another league in that class so that there are a minimum of three schools in that class. Any league accommodating a non-league school shall not have any of its schools displaced. One additional qualifier shall be allowed for accommodating up to two non-league teams.

Schools that join another league's qualifying tournament under this provision may only join a league that is in their region (east or west) as designated below:

NORTH

Aroostook League
Downeast Athletic Conference
Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference
Penobscot Valley Conference

SOUTH

East-West Conference
Mountain Valley Conference
Southern Maine Athletic Association
Western Maine Conference

*League Qualifiers are administered by leagues. It is recommended that each League Qualifier designate a "Rules Interpreter" for that tournament to handle rules interpretations.

2. Ties for the last qualifying spot in the team tournament must be resolved by the league. It is recommended that the tie breaking procedure be the same as the MPA uses to break ties.
3. A maximum of five players from each school will be allowed to participate in the team championships. A golf team may be composed of any combination of five boys and/or girls. If girls are playing on the team, the course will be sloped and the girls will play from the Ladies Tees.
4. The team score is the gross score of the best four scores of the five member team. In the event of a tie in team competition, the scores of all five players will determine the winner. If a tie still exists, co-champions will be declared. When a tie occurs involving a five member team and a four member team, the five member team shall be declared the winner.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLBOY AND SCHOOLGIRL CHAMPIONSHIPS (October 15, 2016)

The Schoolgirl Championships will be an open event and the Schoolboy Championships will be grouped into Classes A, B, and C at Natanis Golf Course in Vassalboro, 622-6164.

(Registration - 8:00-9:00 a.m.) 622-3561 - (Pro Shop). Coaches must register all players and pay all fees by 9:00 a.m.

The driving range and putting greens will close promptly at 9:00 a.m. A meeting with players will be held at 9:15 a.m. Tee time will be at 10:00 a.m.

Course Assignments:

Tomahawk	Class A & B
Arrowhead	Class C & Girls

LEAGUES

1. Schoolboy individuals qualify based on the total number of schools in the competition and on obtaining a score of 90 or lower—if there were 10 schools, the best ten scorers would qualify irrespective of the school affiliation or the class of the school. Individuals who represent schools without teams must qualify at the nearest individual league championship. Any league accommodating non-league schools will not have any of its golfers displaced. **Notwithstanding the above, all schoolboy qualifiers must shoot a 90 or below in order to qualify.**
2. Schoolgirl individuals qualify for the schoolgirl championships by having a qualifying score of 110 or less during a qualifying event. Qualifying scores will be determined at a minimum eighteen-hole league-qualifying event. Leagues that have girls competing on a boys' team should ensure that those girls have an equal chance of qualifying for the girls' championships as those girls who are competing only in the girls' qualifier.
3. **Individual golfers from schools that do not have golf teams may qualify at a league tournament for the individual championships only if they have been attached to another school's team by a cooperative agreement.**
4. Ties for the last qualifying sport in the individual tournament must be resolved by the league.
5. No league substitutions for individual qualifiers who withdraw will be allowed.
6. In the individual Boy's and Girl's tournaments, ties for first, second and tenth places will stand. Medals will be given to the top ten finishers.
7. The tournament director will match the better players together within the same class. (Players from the same school will not be placed in the same group.) The girls will be considered one class.
8. Individuals must be accompanied by their regular season coach. In an emergency, a school may designate in writing, another certified coach to accompany an individual qualifier.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The safety of athletes (*participants*), spectators, coaches/directors, school personnel, and all others present at an athletic contest must be the first and foremost concern to the contest officials and building administrators.

1. When an interscholastic contest has been scheduled and dangerous playing conditions exist or severe weather is anticipated, the following should be considered:
 - a. Prior to beginning an athletic contest, when severe weather is anticipated, the head contest official and the principals of each school, or their designees, will meet to review the suspension and/or postponement procedures. This would include any playing rule book coverage.
 - b. The host school administrator will be responsible for informing contest officials, visiting school administrators and, if applicable, the individual responsible for public address announcements of designated shelter areas.
 - c. When lightning is observed in the vicinity of a contest conducted outdoors, play should be suspended.
 - d. If any other life-threatening condition occurs, play should be suspended immediately, and predetermined directions to safe locations will be announced.

2. When a suspension of a contest occurs, the following should be considered:
 - a. If the suspension is forty-five minutes or greater, resuming at a later date should be considered.
 - b. Play shall not be resumed until **30 minutes** after the last flash of lightning.
 - c. When it appears that weather conditions are no longer a threat to the safety of participants, spectators, or contest officials, administrators from all schools involved will meet with the head contest official to determine if play will continue.
 - d. If play is to be resumed, contestants will be given at least a fifteen-minute warm-up period prior to competition.

3. If evacuation is necessary, the following should be considered:
 - a. If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators should evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
 - b. All personnel, athletes and spectators should be clearly informed of available safe structures or shelters in the event a thunderstorm approaches. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced. The person in authority must be aware of the amount of time it takes to get to each structure and the number of persons each structure can safely hold. For large events, time needed for evacuation is increased and there must be a method (i.e., announcement over loud speaker) for communicating the need for evacuation and directing both athletes and spectators to the appropriate safe shelters.
 - c. The most ideal structure is a fully enclosed, substantial building with plumbing, electrical wiring and telephone service, which aids in grounding the structure. A fully enclosed automobile with a hard metal roof and rolled up windows is also a reasonable choice. School buses are an excellent lightning shelter that can be utilized for large groups of people. However, it is important to avoid contact with any metal while inside the vehicle.

Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm as the current from a local lightning strike can enter the building via the plumbing pipelines or electrical connections. It is also considered unsafe to stand near utilities, use corded telephones or headsets during a thunderstorm, due to the danger of electrical current traveling through

the telephone line. Cellular and cordless telephones are considered reasonably safe and can be used to summon help during a thunderstorm.

When caught in a thunderstorm without availability or time to reach safe structures, you can minimize the risk of lightning-related injury by following a few basic guidelines:

- Avoid being the highest object. Seek a thick grove of small trees or bushes surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch.
- Avoid contact with anything that would be attractive to lightning. Stay away from freestanding trees, poles, antennas, towers, bleachers, baseball dugouts, metal fences, standing pools of water, and golf carts.
- Crouch down with legs together, the weight on the balls of the feet, arms wrapped around knees, and head down with ears covered.

NEW ENGLAND COMPETITION

The New England Competition will be held on, June , 2017 at the Bretwood Golf Course in Keene, NH. Practice rounds will be allowed on, June , 2017, after 12:00 noon. More information may be found on the New England Council website, which has a link on the MPA website (www.mpa.cc)

Maine may select the top 12 individual boys and girls from the MPA Individual Tournament. Maine takes the top 4 Boys Individuals plus ties in Class A, Class B and Class C. Maine takes the top 12 Girls Individuals plus ties.

GOLF CLASSIFICATION

CLASS A 650+	CLASS B 370-649	CLASS C 0-369
1. Thornton (1422)	1. York (625)	1. Mattanawcook (348)
2. Lewiston (1318)	2. Gardiner (594)	2. Houlton (332)
3. Bangor (1169)	3. Morse (586)	3. George Stevens (320)
4. Bonny Eagle (1134)	4. Waterville (583)	4. Dirigo (314)
5. Oxford Hills (1072)	5. Oceanside (571)	5. Dexter (313)
6. Sanford (1047)	6. Fryeburg (559)	6. Bucksport (305)
7. Scarborough (1034)	7. Cape Elizabeth (555)	7. Traip* (263)
8. Massabesic (1019)	8. Erskine (554)	8. Madison (260)
9. Windham (1005)	9. Medomak Valley (546)	9. Waynflete (260)
10. Edward Little (977)	10. Presque Isle (544)	10. Sumner (248)
11. Deering (927)	11. Belfast (530)	11. Lee* (236)
12. Biddeford (875)	12. Lake Region (524)	12. Telstar (236)
13. Portland (868)	13. Mt. Desert (519)	13. Old Orchard (228)
14. South Portland (846)	14. Freeport (511)	14. Winthrop (227)
15. Noble (842)	15. Poland (502)	15. Monmouth* (214)
16. Gorham (838)	16. Hermon (498)	16. Calais (211)
17. Brunswick (821)	17. Yarmouth (496)	17. Carrabec (211)
18. Mt. Ararat (804)	18. Gray-New Gloucester (495)	18. Wiscasset (202)
19. Messalonskee (784)	19. Old Town (476)	19. St. Dominic (197)
20. Skowhegan (775)	20. Lincoln (473)	20. Narraguagus (196)
21. Marshwood (739)	21. John Bapst (470)	21. Penobscot Valley (172)
22. Westbrook (722)	22. Spruce Mountain (465)	22. North Yarmouth (167)
23. Falmouth (710)	23. Foxcroft (464)	23. Hodgdon (147)
24. Mt. Blue (696)	24. Winslow (464)	24. Fort Fairfield (144)
25. Brewer (693)	25. Ellsworth (459)	25. Central Aroostook (124)
26. Cony (693)	26. Wells (449)	26. Southern Aroostook (117)
27. Hampden (691)	27. Mt. View (448)	27. Shead (108)
28. Lawrence (674)	28. Caribou (442)	28. Machias (103)
29. Kennebunk (673)	29. Maine Central (436)	29. Valley (71)
30. Camden Hills (669)	30. Oak Hill (433)	30. Greenville (67)
31. Greely (664)	31. Maranacook (421)	31. Forest Hills (61)
32. Nokomis (661)	32. Mountain Valley (418)	32. Jonesport-Beals (59)
33. Cheverus (465)	33. Lisbon* (384)	33. Rangeley (47)
	34. Sacopee (379)	
	35. Washington (374)	

***Individuals**