

Message to Golf Coaches:

Welcome to the Fall 2020 golf season. In the past, many of you have been very conscientious about spending time on the rules and etiquette of golf. Each year, however, we find students who have little knowledge of either the rules or etiquette. We cannot stress enough the importance of this aspect of the game. Rule books should be ordered from the V.P.A. Office. These books and this guide are an excellent means of teaching rules and expectations for golf in Vermont. Be certain you and your players are knowledgeable of recent rules changes.

It is a privilege and not our "right" to be able to use many golf courses throughout the state. Coaches and the players should take the time to thank the proper course staff after each golf match. Additionally, you should stress to all your players that we are dependent on the generosity of Country Clubs and the Vermont Golf Association for sites to play and that every effort needs to be made by the participants to be courteous. You should also do everything possible to create an image that would make schools welcome for years to come.

By its very nature, golf requires an absolute level of integrity on the part of all coaches and participants. Coaches should remind their players of their responsibility to report accurate scores for themselves and their competitors. Each player must protect the integrity of the game for the entire field. In addition, all coaches are responsible for ensuring that all players are match ready and well versed in the rules and etiquette of the game.

It would be very helpful to the committee if coaches would insist on proper scorecard procedure, both keeping score, and signing and turning in scores. There are very specific rules about this and they will be enforced in state level tournaments. We would encourage you to see that these same rules are followed at each of your own matches.

If a suspected violation has occurred, the following procedure is recommended for your golfers:

- a) Immediately discuss the situation with the player suspected of a violation;
- b) Confer with all players in the group to try to resolve the situation;
- c) If a decision cannot be reached, bring the matter immediately to the coaches after finishing play. Do not sign card until a decision has been made by the coaches.

Pat Merriam, Chair
V.P.A. Golf Committee

POINTS OF EMPHASIS - FALL 2020

DURING THE REGULAR SEASON (9/8 TO 10/1 FOR BOYS TEAMS; 9/8 TO 10/6 FOR GIRLS' TEAMS, QUALIFYING SCORES FOR THE STATE TOURNAMENT MAY BE USED FROM PRACTICE ROUNDS SINCE THE START OF THE REGULAR SEASON IS BEING DELAYED. ONCE WE ENTER INTO STEP 3 (THE PHASE THAT ALLOWS COMPETITIONS), SCHOOLS MAY PLAY A MATCH AGAINST ANOTHER SCHOOL(S) AND ALSO COUNT THAT SCORE.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR POSTING/ENTERING THEIR STUDENTS' SCORING AVERAGES ON THEIR VPA APPLICATION - due date details may be found below.

A SCHOOL'S TEAM MEMBERS WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME TEE TIME PAIRING/GROUP AT QUALIFIER AND STATE FINAL SITES, WITH THEIR COACH SERVING AS THEIR GROUP'S MARKER.

SCHOOLS WITH FEWER THAN THREE (3) BOY GOLFERS, MAY BE GROUPED WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL'S STUDENTS.

1. Applications must be filed electronically. Due date is September 23, 2020 by 10:00 am.
2. Pairings for boys state finals will be based on player's scores at state qualifiers.
3. **During a school's regular season only Coaches will be allowed to provide individual coaching between each hole. In addition rule violations/pace of play may be addressed while the hole is in play.**
4. All spectators **must** stay at least 25 yards away from players at all times. If any player is observed receiving advice from any spectator, a two-stroke penalty will be enforced. Spectators may not provide advice or assistance (including ball searching). Doing so may result in removal from the event.
5. **During the Fall 2020 season, a team that receives three disqualifications during the season or tournament (due to behavioral issues) will be required to meet with the Activity Standards Committee before entering or continuing in the tournament.**
6. The use of inappropriate behavior/ language will not be tolerated and will result in an immediate disqualification. The VPA has been requested by host clubs to address the issue of slow play. It is further emphasized that throughout the regular season coaches address slow play through instruction in course management.
7. The use of cell phones, headsets or electronic devices (**excludes GPS applications & laser**) during play in qualifiers and states is prohibited and will result in disqualification.

V.P.A. GOLF—FALL 2020
RULES AND REGULATIONS TO COVER THE STATE QUALIFIERS AND STATE
FINALS OF INTERSCHOLASTIC GOLF

1. All participants must satisfy the eligibility requirements of the Vermont Principals Association. Schools making applications to the qualifiers are expected to fulfill their obligations. **There is a \$10.00 registration fee per boy/girl golfer. The fee is to be sent to the VPA a week before the regional for boys and the championship for girls. Failure to do so will result in your team/players not being able to play.**
2. **In order to participate in the boys' qualifiers the following standard has been set per 18 holes. Boys – 110 average.**

All teams or individuals competing in the qualifier and state tournaments must be accompanied by a coach or a faculty advisor who is familiar with the team membership and the rules of golf. The coach or advisor is responsible for the team and/or individual and shall be present at the first tee and will (be assigned to their team's group) remain on the grounds until the final positioning of the score for their team. Only student competitors shall be allowed playing privileges during the state golf qualifiers and finals.

3. Each **boys team*** competing in the state qualifier shall be restricted to five members from an original list of eligible participants. *Definition of a boys' team - not more than five students or less than four, from a school, may tee off for team competition in either the sectional or state tournament. **Please make sure to include all of your golfers on the application. In order to participate in the boys' qualifier the following standard has been set per 18 holes. Boys – 110 average.**

The Golf Committee shall assign starting times **to the first five members listed** on each school's team application. These five members shall be listed by lowest average score in order. The original order and line up may be amended in writing, by phone call, or fax to the VPA office prior to the meeting of the VPA Golf Committee on **September 24, 2020**, at 9:00am **After the VPA Golf Committee meets the original five members may be substituted for.**

Once tee times have been set, schools must notify the Meet Director 48 hours in advance of any withdrawals. Failure to do this will result in a \$25 fine per withdrawal.

The coach must confirm the team roster to the starter before the first member participates in the tournament. A member of the team participating in the final tournament does not have to participate in the sectional tournament to be eligible. However, all student participants must be recorded on the original entry blank supplied by the participating school.

VPA rules do not prevent a school during the regular season from allowing girls to try out for the boys' golf team. **However, girls may not participate in boys' qualifier or state finals.**

4. A. Each **girls team*** competing in the State Tournament shall be restricted to four members from an original list of eligible participants (a girls' team - not more than **four** students or less than two).

B. In order to participate in the girls' championship, the following qualifying standard has been set per 18 holes. Girls -120 average based on a double par scoring unless you cannot field a team. The Golf Committee shall assign starting times to the first four members listed on each school's team application. These **four** members shall be listed by lowest average score in order. The original order and line up may be amended in writing, by phone call, or fax to the VPA office prior to the meeting of the VPA Golf Committee on **September 24, 2020** at 9:00am **After the VPA Golf Committee meets the original three (two) members may be substituted for.**

The coach must confirm the team roster to the starter before the first member participates in the tournament. However, all student participants must be recorded on the original entry blank supplied by the participating school. **Once tee times have been set, schools must notify the Meet Director 48 hours in advance of any withdrawals. Failure to do this will result in a \$25 fine per withdrawal.**

5. Schools competing in the qualifier and state finals may make arrangements for practice rounds. The option of granting these requests and greens fees is left with the host club.
6. All play in the state qualifier and finals shall be stroke play.
7. Coaches, advisors, and spectators shall not coach players in **any manner or give specific counsel during the qualifier/final match.**
8. There will be **two** boys' qualifier sites. Schools will be assigned to a qualifier site by the VPA Golf Committee and listed in the Golf Guide. The representative of the VPA at the qualifier site will deny participation to any one who is not at the assigned site.
9. In the Boys' Tournament, the **top 6 teams** from each state qualifier advance to the State Tournament. Individual golfers may also be included in state play based upon Qualifier scores. The low five (5) scorers and ties from each qualifier will be eligible to be in the State Tournament. These individuals may or may not be a member of a team that qualifies for team competition at the State Tournament. There will be a Division I and Division II champion and finalist.
10. No caddies or motorized carts will be allowed. Non-motorized carts are allowable. The VPA Golf Committee may grant exceptions based upon documented evidence of need. This request must be made at least two (2) weeks in advance of the sections and/or finals.
11. **Boys' Team Scoring**
 - a. The total gross score of the lowest four members of each competing school team shall determine the qualifier and state winners.
 - b. In qualifier play, all necessary ties will be broken to send teams to the state finals site. In team competition the four lowest scoring members of each team shall commence on the first designated hole and play shall continue until the tie is broken.
 - c. In state competition, team ties and first or second place ties shall be solved as above. Medalists shall continue to play to determine the states' champion if a tie occurs.

Girls' Team Scoring

- a. There will be a Division I and Division II champion and runner-up.
- b. The total gross score of the lowest two members of each competing school team shall determine the state winners.
- c. In state competition, team ties for first or second place shall be resolved as follows: in team competition, the two lowest scoring members of each team shall commence on the 1st designated hole and play shall continue until the tie is broken. Medalists shall continue to play to determine the state's champion if a tie occurs.

12. It is the responsibility of the coach and team to learn of any special rules from the VPA representative.
13. Instruction to the starters: In addition to the regularly assigned duties, you must instruct all golfers on the methods of handling their scorecards.
14. **Scoring at State Qualifiers and State Tournament:**

Scoring will be stroke play with individual cards, playing partners keeping each other's scores as assigned off your first tee. **Each player must announce his/her score to his/her marker after the completion of the hole. If this does not happen, the marker shall request the score and mark it down on the way to the next tee.** Check your nine hole scores (player and marker) and agree on the hole by hole score before teeing off on the back nine. After completion of eighteen holes (**the player and marker will check hole by hole score for the back nine.**), **the marker (and player will then proceed immediately to the scorers table and)** will total the score and sign on the attest line. It is the responsibility of the player to confirm his/her card and sign on the player line. If there is no problem then turn in signed cards to the scorers' table. **If there is a problem**, do not sign your card, but report the problem to the jury of appeal.
15. The representative of the Vermont Principals' Association at the state qualifier will notify participating schools of the time and place for the final tournament.
16. All entries for qualifier and state tournaments must be electronically filed no later than **September 23, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.** The Vermont Principals' Association Golf Committee will assemble to establish starting times for all participants in qualifier and State play. The seedings meeting will be on **September 24, 2020** at 9:00 A.M. Any applications received between **September 23, 2020 - 10:00 A.M.** and **September 24, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.** will be subject to a \$100 late fee. Any applications received after 9:00 A.M., **September 24, 2020** will **NOT** be considered (**due to issues with assigning tee times.**).
17. In the state qualifier and state tournaments, the ball shall be played as it lies unless amended by the site director.
18. Officials:
 - A. The Vermont Principals' Association and the Vermont Golf Association shall appoint representatives to each State Qualifier and State Championship tournament site.

One of the representatives shall: make contact with the host club to make sure the arrangements are satisfactory for the tournament, and confirm that all special personnel necessary to the proper functioning of the tournament are aware of their responsibilities

They shall interpret local rules before the start of play. They shall assume the title of referee and all questions which relate to the play of the game shall be directed to them for interpretation.

- B. Personnel may be assigned for position on the course at designated locations. They are not rules interpreters or advisors to players. Representatives from the VGA will be present for rules interpretation.

19. Dress:

The State Qualifier and Championships requires adherence to the host golf course dress policy. It is the coach's responsibility to inform their players of this policy. A dress policy includes a ban on metal spikes. **Players may be prohibited from participation for non-compliance to dress policy.**

- 20. Senior students, boys and girls, are eligible for four year VGA Scholarships if they are planning on attending college. Ask your guidance counselor for details.

BOYS STATE QUALIFIER

DIVISION 1 State Qualifier – Thursday, October 1, 2020 @ Neshobe Country Club Time: TBA

Top 6 schools qualify for State Tournament

BFA, St. Albans	Mt. Anthony
Brattleboro	Mt. Mansfield
Burlington	North Country
Burr & Burton	Rice
Champlain Valley	Rutland
Colchester	St. Johnsbury
Essex	South Burlington
Missisquoi	Spaulding

DIVISION 2 State Qualifier – Thursday, October 1, 2020 @ Woodstock Country Club Time: TBA

Top 6 schools qualify for State Tournament

Fair Haven	
Hartford	Mt. Abraham
Harwood	Otter Valley
Lake Region	Mid-VT Christian
Lamoille	Milton
Lyndon	Northfield/Randolph
Middlebury	Woodstock
Mill River	Oxbow
Black River	Proctor
Enosburg	Rivendell
Green Mountain	U-32
Hazen	Windsor
Leland & Gray	Stowe
Long Trail	Stratton Mountain
Peoples	Thetford
West Rutland	

**GIRLS STATE FINALS
CHAMPLAIN COUNTRY CLUB - ST. ALBANS
TUESDAY. October 6, 2020 TIME: TBA**

DIVISION 1

DIVISION 2

Brattleboro
Burlington
Burr & Burton
Champlain Valley
Colchester
Essex
Missisquoi
Mt. Anthony
Mt. Mansfield
North Country
Rutland
South Burlington
Spaulding
St. Johnsbury

Black River
Fair Haven
Hartford
Harwood
Lake Region
Lyndon
Mill River
Northfield
Otter Valley
Peoples
Poultney
Proctor
Rice
Rivendell
Stowe
U-32
Williamstown
Windsor
Woodstock
Enosburg Falls

BOYS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS
Country Club of Barre
WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2020

At the request of the host site, all play will begin at the first tee. The format will be as follows:

Time TBA **:** **Division 1**
Time TBA **:** **Division 2**

We realize this may cause some lengthy waiting times in order to determine the ten New England Qualifiers. Schools may want to have arrangements made in order to transport students who do not have a need to wait until all golfers have finished play.

NEW ENGLAND INDIVIDUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
SPONSORED BY
NEW ENGLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION

DATE: TBA
SITE: Bretwood Country Club, Keene, N.H.
FEE: \$25.00 per golfer

This spring (2020 season) participation in the New England Individual Golf Tournament sponsored by the New England Secondary School Principals' Association will be available to boy and girl players at the Vermont state tournament site(s). Vermont will be allotted ten (10) spots for boys and ten (10) spots for girls. These spots will be filled by the low ten scores in each of their respective state tournaments. Since the boys are divided into Division I, II and III, but play the same tees and course, the division issue is moot. A playoff will be in place to break any tie for the tenth spot. This playoff would be totally separate from any to determine state winners, either team or individual.

It is extremely important that at each state site the player and coach be prepared to declare acceptance of a qualifying spot immediately at the state tournament site. This acceptance allows the

state director to phone the names of the Vermont representatives to the New England director. It also obligates the player, coach and school to make all financial and supervision arrangements.