ARTICLE 26

GOLF
(BOYS GOLF)
(GIRLS GOLF)

26.1 RULES

26.1.1 All golf competitions will be conducted using the current edition of "The Rules of Golf" as approved by The United States Golf Association.

26.1.2 The Games Committee for:

26.1.2.1 Matches – Shall be the coaches of the teams competing.
Chairman: The coach from the host school.

26.1.2.2 Invitational Tournaments – Shall be determined by the host school.
Chairman: The coach from the host school.

26.1.2.3 Post-Season Tournaments – Shall be the Chairman (Tournament Coordinator in charge or the tournament/Tournament Director) and members of the Golf Games Committee.

26.1.3 The Rules Committee in charge of the event may adopt some local rules, which are necessary to allow the competition to be conducted fairly. The necessity for local rules is usually determined by the golf course management.

NOTE: See Article 15, Section 15.11 regarding amateur standing.

26.1.4 In the event of a question or a protest during the qualifying match or post-season tournament, the decision of the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Games Committee shall be final.

26.2 SEASON OF SPORT

26.2.1 The AIA Standardized Calendar shall be used to identify the starting week for practice, competition and the conclusion of post-season competition.

26.2.2 The season of competition for a school shall conclude with that school's last AIA sanctioned competition.

26.2.3

Fall Season	Practice	no sooner than the	5th week
Division I & II	Season of Competition	begins Monday of the	6th week
	Championship	to be concluded by the	23rd week
Spring Season	Practice	no sooner than the	32nd week
Division III	Season of Competition	begins Monday of the	34th week
	Championship	to be concluded by the	45th week

26.3 NUMBER OF MATCHES IN SEASON

26.3.1 No school shall schedule more than 14 varsity matches.

26.3.1.1 Division schools shall not exceed five invitationals. An invitational shall count as one match.

26.3.1.2 No player may participate in more than 14 matches per season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.

26.3.1.3 Division III - No school shall schedule more than ten junior varsity matches per team.

26.4 CONTEST PARTICIPATION

26.4.1 When a student enters an interscholastic contest, regardless of the length of time, it shall be considered participation in the interscholastic contest.

26.5 INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION

26.5.1 Golf matches may be two-way, three-way or four-way matches.

26.5.2 A match is either nine or eighteen holes. An 18-hole match will count as two qualifiers and two matches.

26.5.3 Scores will be determined by counting the lowest 4 of 5 scores. If a team fails to post 4 scores, they will be disqualified. When a team is disqualified, its individuals may still post a score.

26.5.4 Distance Measuring Devices, per USGA and local association guidelines, are permitted in all high school play (including regular season matches and tournaments as well as the State Tournament).

26.6 COACHES / COACHING

26.6.1 The AIA shall not have regulations concerning coaches coaching their own school teams outside of the AIA defined season of sport.

26.6.2 Coaches / Players - Match participation outside the season of sport between coaches and players of a single school for fund raising or entertainment purposes will not jeopardize the eligibility of any high school player.

26.6.3 Coaching will be permitted as per USGA Rules of Golf, Rule 24.4. Each team may have one designated coach per match / tournament. Coaches may not be on the greens or in the bunkers.

26.7 SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

26.7.1 School Transportation - School provided transportation for activities is a local option.

26.7.2 School equipment outside of the season of sport is a local option.

26.8 POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS

26.8.1 Post-Season Tournaments

NOTE: See Article 12 for additional post-season tournament rules.

26.8.1.1 Dates and Sites

26.8.1.1.1 A Rules Committee for each post-season championship should:

26.8.1.1.1.1 Make the pairings.

26.8.1.1.1.2 Determine the responsibility for on-course rules decisions.

26.8.1.1.1.3 Determine any adjustments (local rules) which are necessary to conduct the tournament fairly and prepare an information sheet explaining these changes as well as each player's responsibilities during the tournament.

26.8.1.1.2 A Games Committee for each post-season championship should:

26.8.1.1.2.1 Rule on any disputes and violations arising from the interpretations of the AIA Bylaws related to Article 26.

26.8.1.1.2.2 Determine how score will be taken and reported.

26.8.1.1.2.3 Make the final decision on any misconduct penalties and disqualifications.

26.8.1.2 There shall be individual and/or team post-season tournaments as determined by the Executive Board.

26.8.1.3 Each school may qualify one team consisting of a minimum of four or a maximum of five players. Schools must complete a minimum of 7 state qualifying events to compete in state.

(Section 26.8 cont'd. on next page)

26.8.1.4 In order for an individual to represent a school in the post-season tournament, that school must have a regularly organized program and have compete in a minimum of 7 state qualifying events to qualify for state.

26.8.1.5 Post-Season tournament competition shall consist of 36 or 18 holes of stroke play over one or two days.

26.8.1.6 No motorized carts or caddies are to be used by participants. Each player must carry his/her own clubs or pull his/her own cart.
DETERMINATION: The Executive Board or the Executive Director, may in individual cases, upon written request by the member school, waive or modify 26.9.1.6 when it is determined that:

1. *The student has a disability as defined in the Americans With Disabilities Act; and*
2. *Waiver or modification would constitute a reasonable accommodation for the disability; and*
3. *Waiver or modification would not result in a competitive advantage to the student.*

If requested by the Executive Board or the Executive Director, the student shall submit to a medical examination by a physician selected and paid for by the Association, and/or shall provide to the Association medical records for review by said physician or other experts, as the Association deems appropriate.

26.8.1.7 An AIA qualified coach must accompany the school team.

26.8.1.8 Tie – Teams

26.8.1.8.1 In the event of a tie in team scores at the completion of Regulation play (four out of five scores counted each day), the winner shall be determined by comparing the fifth score posted on the second day from each involved in the tie. If a tie still remains, then the same procedure will be used by comparing the firth score posted on the first day of competition. If a tie remains after both scores have been compared, the teams will be declared co-champions.

26.8.1.8.2 Individual Tie – in the case of a tie for the medalist championship at the conclusion of regulation play, the individuals tied for the championship will proceed to a hold designated by the tournament games committee as the first play-off hole. Play will continue from designated holes until a champion is determined. (In case of darkness co-champions will be declared).

26.8.1.9 The four low individual scores from each team each day shall count toward the team total. The team with the lowest two-day team total shall be the Post-Season Champion. Low medalist will be the person with the lowest two-day total.

26.8.1.10 Players are to wear appropriate golf attire as established by the AIA rules at all times on the golf course. It is recommended that teams wear matching shirts (identifying uniforms).

26.8.1.11 Inappropriate behavior (club throwing, abusive or profane language, mistreatment of the golf course, etc.) will be dealt with by the Games Committee. A player may be disqualified from the tournament.

26.8.2 Awards - The AIA shall be responsible for the purchase and standardization of all post-season tournament awards. *(See Article 13, Section 1)*.

26.8.3 Practice On-Site

26.8.3.1 Post-Season Tournaments - A practice (including walking of the course) or competition on the site of the state tournament, is not permitted beginning with the Sunday prior to the week of the state tournament.

26.8.4 Unmanned aerial systems at AIA post season events

26.8.4.1 The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all AIA post season events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.

26.9 **UNIFIED GOLF** – A joint effort between the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and Special Olympics of Arizona (SOAZ) to incorporate Unified programs in AIA member schools recognizing and offering opportunities for SOAZ athletes and partners to compete in an AIA sanctioned activity. Unified Golf programs shall be administered by each participating member school and follow the requirements per AIA Bylaws for eligibility, rules and program administration.

26.9.1 Official rules for Unified golf shall be those published by SOAZ and the AIA prior to each season, as approved by the AIA Executive Board. See Article 35.