

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
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2026 CIAC FALL GOLF PACKET

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1. **CIAC RULES AND BY-LAWS**

All coaches are expected to follow the CIAC rules and by-laws which can be found at www.casciac.org.

All coaches must adhere to the medical guidelines defined by the CIAC, the State of Connecticut, First Aid and CPR practice, and the school district in which they are employed.

Coaches are expected to exemplify the highest order of sportsmanship and to teach sportsmanship to their student-athletes. Guidelines for sportsmanship and Class Act Standards are listed in the CIAC Handbook which can be found on the [CIAC Class Act Website](#).

2. **IMPORTANT DATES**

Change of Division	Monday, August 10, 2026
First Practice Date	Monday, August 10, 2026
First Match Date	Tuesday, August 18, 2026
Last Date to Enter Tournament Rosters on iWanamaker	Monday, October 12, 2026
Last Date to Count	Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Last Date to Enter Scores on iWanamaker	Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Pairings Meeting	Thursday, October 15, 2026
Tee Times and Groups Posted	Friday, October 16, 2026

Fall State Tournaments

Division I -- Wednesday, October 21, 2026 – Keney Golf Course –
9:00 a.m.- off 1st and 10th tee (Blue Tees)

Division II -- Tuesday, October 20, 2026 – Stanley Golf Course -
9:00 a.m. – off #1 on the White Course
9:30 a.m. – off #1 on the Red Course (10th tee) – White tees

3. **ALERTS**

- 1) **New! – Course Care Etiquette** – It is incumbent on every CIAC coach to teach and reinforce proper care for golf courses to their team. Specifically, players should always follow PGA procedures for divots, ball marks, bunkers, tees, trash, safety and other golf etiquette related to course care. Coaches should reference the [PGA guidelines for course care](#).

During CIAC championships, coaches and CIAC Golf Committee members should take responsibility for enforcing course care guidance by addressing the offending golfer, even if the offending player is not a member of their own team.

- 2) **New! – Ties** – In the event of a tie for a team championship the following tie break system will be invoked.
 - a. The 5th best individual score will be the tie breaker. (Note: this is the 5th best score, not the #5 seeded golfer.
 - b. If the 5th score is tied, the aggregate score from the first, second and third best individual scorers will determine the team championship.
 - c. If there is still a tie, the aggregate score from the first and second best individual scorers will determine the team championship.
 - d. If there is still a tie the top individual score will determine the team championship.
 - e. If all team scores and all individual scores are tied then co-champions will be declared.
 - f. If one team doesn't enter 5 players the other will be declared the champion.

- 3) **New! – Team Rosters** – Coaches need an access log in from your athletic director to complete the form. To complete the team roster form:
 - a. Go to the CIAC website at casciac.org
 - b. Click the menu icon on the upper left of the website
 - c. In the left-hand column select “Eligibility Center”
 - d. Select “Team Roster / Tournament Roster”
 - e. Check off each player that is on your roster
- 4) **New!** – Sixteen (16) teams will qualify for all divisional tournaments. Plus any team with an IWR average of 20.000 or better.
- 5) **New!** – As of the Fall of 2026, unattached players playing in the fall season will be allowed to compete as part of a team for PGA Junior League Golf Championship Rounds and are also allowed to compete in the Remy Tournament Championship Round. Each round a player participates in the Junior League Championships or the Remy Tournament Championship counts toward one of their eight (8) allowable unattached events. No other team events are allowed during the CIAC season. Players cannot play in other PGA, USGA, CSGA events or any other event as part of a team during the season.
- 6) It is strongly recommended that coaches keep the USGA Rules Hotline number in their contact list during matches and during state tournaments. The USGA Rules Hotline number is (908) 326-1850. The USGA Rules email is Rules@usga.org.
- 7) **New!** – Coaches should instruct their players to obtain an official ruling when a rule is in question before continuing play. If a player cannot get an official ruling, they should play both balls.
- 8) **New!** – During regular season play and during championships coaches and players must have the clubhouse phone number in case of emergency. Coaches should have the phone number of the tournament site director with them in case of emergency.

4. **SCHEDULES**

- 1) The schedule must be submitted online through the arbiter. This is for scheduling purposes only. In addition to putting the team schedule on the arbiter, coaches need to add their schedule to the iWanamaker app. The home team should input the event on the app and both schools should put in their line-ups in advance of the match.
- 2) No games may be added to the schedule that count for the tournament after the first play date as listed under “Important Dates.”
- 3) Member schools must make every effort to complete their season as scheduled, including make-up matches. Any effort to gain an advantage in tournament play by not playing a match is unacceptable and is subject to action by the CIAC Board of Control. Cancellation of any regular season contest / make-up to play in a league tournament will not be allowed.
- 4) The season limit for the number of dates a team can play to count for the state tournament is sixteen (16). In addition, a school can compete in two (2) “In-Season” tournaments that do not count toward qualifying for the state tournament. Also, teams can play in league tournaments. League tournaments do not count toward the state tournament, but they can be played in addition to the 16 regular season dates, and in addition to the in-season tournaments.
- 5) **Event Designation in iWanamaker** - *Only the home team should enter events in iWanamaker.

Practice – A “practice” event will only be visible on your school’s homepage on the CIAC golf app and iWanamaker.com and will not be counted toward qualifying for the state tournament.

Regular Season – A “regular season” match is one of the 16 allowable play dates. Regular season matches count toward qualifying for the state championship as a team and as individuals. “Regular season” matches count toward the iWanamaker rankings for team and individual (IWR).

Invitational – An invitation is a tournament that counts as one of the 16 allowable play dates. It counts toward the team and individual ranking (IWR) and toward the state tournament as an individual or team. (The CIAC Classic is an example of an invitational.)

League – Designate a “league” match if your league counts head-to-head competition for qualifying for your league tournament. This is a regular season match but allows iWanamaker to filter out just your league matches so it is easier to determine your league standings and rankings. Use either “league” or “regular season”. Not both. League designation will count toward the state rankings and qualifying for the state tournament just like a “regular season” match. “League” matches count as one of your 16 allowable play dates.

In-Season – You are allowed two “In-season” tournaments in addition to your 16 allowable play dates. These tournaments are usually of a different format than the 9-hole stroke play used in “regular season” or “league” matches. (CHAPPA is an example of an in-season tournament.) “In-season” matches do not count toward qualifying for the state tournament or your IWR as a team or individual.

IMPORTANT – You must designate your league championship tournament as “in-season”. League championship matches do not count toward state qualifying or ranking.

State – This is for the state tournament only. Only the CIAC will select this designation. State tournament does not count for team or individual rankings.

5. **PLAY AND RULES FOR CIAC GOLF SEASON**

To maintain uniformity in interscholastic golf competition, the following format must be used by every CIAC member school that wishes to qualify for the CIAC State Golf Tournament.

- 1) Stroke play is to be used for all matches and will be governed by the USGA Rules of Golf.
- 2) It is strongly recommended that coaches keep the USGA Rules Hotline number in their phone contacts during matches and during state tournaments. The USGA Rules Hotline number is (908) 326-1850. The USGA Rules email is Rules@usga.org.
- 3) A maximum of four (4) players’ scores count for any one match. This may include invitational tournaments where the entire team plays. Teams may play five (5) players and count the four (4) lowest scores towards state tournament qualification.
- 4) The CIAC Golf Committee recommends the use of the state-qualifying format for all matches. Low score wins.
- 5) Maximum number of playing dates per season is 16. (Schools may schedule two (2) in-season tournaments in addition to the 16 dates that count toward qualifying for the state tournaments.)
- 6) Number of matches per week on original schedule is 3.

7) **Attire** – Proper golf attire, spikeless golf shoes, shirts with collars, golf shorts and slacks – is mandatory for all players. The inseam of the shorts must be at least four inches. Players may wear pants or shorts at the individual’s discretion. No tennis, gym, or cut-off shorts will be allowed. Denim is not considered appropriate attire. Hats with visors must face forward at all times.

8) **Advertising** – Advertising of beer, wine, liquor or tobacco products on golfer clothing or equipment will not be permitted. Advertising from local sponsors on clothing is prohibited.

9) **Scoring** – All schools will use the CIAC Golf app for scoring all CIAC meets.

All scores must be recorded using the iWanamaker app during play. The iWanamaker app is the official scorecard. Recording scores after the match is over is not allowed unless there is a technology failure. Coaches should remind players to charge their phones prior to the match and bring a portable phone charger to the match. If there is an issue with technology players should write down their score until they can access the app. Coaches may input scores for players during the match if the student’s technology fails.

10) **Scoring Conflicts** – If you have any questions or concerns about other team’s posted scores, please have your Athletic Director contact the opponent’s Athletic Director to resolve the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved between the schools, your Athletic Director (not the coach) must submit the question or concern to the CIAC office in writing.

11) **“X Rule” – Attention Girls’ Golf Coaches** – Players who have not holed out by double the par on any given hole will pick up and apply a one stroke penalty. Example: Par 3 – A player not in the hole by 6 strokes will pick the ball up and apply a one stroke penalty for a 7. Par 4 – A player not in the hole by 8 strokes, will pick up for a score of 9. Par 5 – A player not in the hole by the 10th stroke, will pick up for a score of 11.

- a. The “X” Rule applies to the girls’ divisional championships.
- b. The “X” Rule does not apply to the girls’ Open.

12) **Unattached Matches** – Golfers have the opportunity to participate in a maximum of eight (8) matches as “unattached athletes” during the season. Choice of such outside matches to be made by golfers with the approval of the golfer’s school administration.

- a. Unattached players cannot play or sub in leagues, or as a team, or partner in another tournament. They can play with a parent in a tournament.
- b. Unattached players cannot play in PGA, USGA or CSGA events as part of a team during the season.
- c. The outside event will be defined as a team event, and therefore become a violation of the in-season rules, if any of the following criteria are met:
 - 1) The athlete’s performance contributes to a team score.
 - 2) The athlete and others on the team wear a team uniform (such as a team shirt, hat or logo).
 - 3) The same group of students participate in a competition where they advance as a team.
 - 4) The athlete’s name is part of a roster that is submitted to the event as a group.
 - 5) The athlete qualifies as an individual for an event but represents a club, organization, municipality or state, along with others, in a competition.
 - 6) An organization, club, or other entity pays a fee for the athlete to participate in the event (even if the athlete pays a fee to belong to that organization).

New! – As of the Fall of 2026, unattached players playing in the fall season will be allowed to compete as part of a team for PGA Junior League Golf Championship Rounds and are also allowed to compete in the Remy Tournament Championship Round. Each round a player participates in the Junior League Championships or the Remy Tournament Championship counts toward one of their eight (8) allowable unattached events. No other team events are allowed during the CIAC season. Players cannot play in other PGA, USGA, CSGA events or any other event as part of a team during the season.

- 13) **Teams With Fewer Than Five Players** – Should a team have less than five players, coaches must make sure that ALL scores are certified per USGA guidelines.

Pairings must have both teams represented.

Four-Man Teams

A1 vs B1

A2 vs B2

A3 vs B3

A5

A4 vs B4

Three-Man Teams

A1 vs B1

A4

A2 vs B2

A5

A3 vs B3

Two-Man Teams

A1 vs B1

A3 & A4

A2 vs B2

One Person Teams – If a team has only one player, that player will play with the first three golfers from the opposing team. Should the coach of the single-player team agree, that coach can accompany the opponents fourth player as a marker and attest their opponent's 4th (and/or 5th) score. Otherwise the match must be rescheduled when each team can field at least two players.

- 14) **Handicap System** – The CIAC Golf Committee, in partnership with the Connecticut State Golf Association, is pleased to provide a USGA handicap system for students, teachers and administrators. Log onto www.csgalink – click on “Become a Member,” fill out the profile information and it's that easy. There is no cost for students below the age of 18.
- 15) **Two Putt Rule** – There is no such thing as a “two putt” rule. Some schools have attempted to use this (non) rule particularly when there are poor course conditions on the greens. All holes must be putt out, even on temporary greens.
- 16) **Distance Devices** – Coaches may use distance devices to advise players on distance. Players may not use measuring devices, including smartphones, to measure other conditions that might affect their play (e.g. gradient, slope, wind speed, temperature, etc.
- 17) **Course Care** – It is incumbent on every CIAC coach to teach and reinforce proper care for golf courses to their team. Specifically, players should always follow PGA procedures for divots, ball marks, bunkers, tees, trash, safety and other golf etiquette. Coaches should reference the PGA guidelines for course care.

During CIAC championships, coaches and CIAC Golf Committee members should take responsibility for enforcing course care guidance by addressing the offending golfer, even if the offending player is not a member of their own team.

- 18) **Team Rosters** – Coaches need an access log in from your athletic director to complete the team roster form. To complete the team roster form:
- Go to the CIAC website at casciac.org
 - Click the menu icon on the upper left of the website
 - In the left-hand column select “Eligibility Center”
 - Select “Team Roster / Tournament Roster”
 - Check off each player that is on your roster

6. **FALL GOLF OPTION RULES**

- 1) The CIAC Golf Committee will organize the number of tournaments for each season relevant to the number of schools who are playing golf in that season. For the purpose of organizing state championship tournaments there must be the following minimums for either spring or fall.
 - a. Under 20 schools – No state tournament
 - b. 20 to 37 schools – 1 state tournament
 - c. 37 to 71 schools – 2 state tournaments
 - d. 72 to 111 schools – 3 state tournaments
 - e. Over 111 schools – 4 state tournaments

If there are fewer than 20 schools that opt for a season, thereby negating a state tournament for that season, those schools would be given the option to change seasons as long as they notify the CIAC by May 30.

- 2) Divisions will be decided on the basis of enrollment for each season. In the Spring, girls Division I will have 25 schools and the remainder of the teams will be in Division II.
- 3) Students can only compete in the state tournament during the season in which they compete. Qualifying standards for the state tournaments are determined by the CIAC Golf Committee.
- 4) If a school has a boys' team then boys can only play on that school's team. (A boy whose school plays in one season cannot play golf in the other season for another school such as for a collaborative team, or on a cooperative team.)
- 5) Only those competing in the fall season will be considered for the New England Tournament
- 6) Girls can play on the boys' team in the fall or the girls' team in the spring but not both. Girls can only play golf in one season during the academic school year.
- 7) If there are three or more divisions in either season then there will be an Open tournament during that season.
- 8) The rules for qualifying procedures, season limitations, out-of-season coaching rules, outside matches, shall remain the same for each season in accordance with CIAC Rules.
- 9) Schools should notify the CIAC liaison for golf by May 30 if they intend to change seasons for the following school year. Schools may be granted an extension to decide which season by requesting such an extension in writing.

7. **QUALIFYING AND ENTRY FOR THE STATE TOURNAMENT**

- 1) **Tournament Fee** – For both boys' and girls' golf tournament, the team entry fee is \$175 -- \$30 per individual -- \$50 per individual at the Open.
- 2) **Entry Process** – Enter all scores on iWanamaker. Please note the following important information for golf coaches and athletic directors:
 - a. Confirm all scores on the iWanamaker app as soon after the match as possible.
 - b. All scores must be entered by the "last date to count".
 - c. If you have any multi-opponent matches that are listed on your schedule as two or more matches (one against each opponent), then you should only enter the one score that your team shot that day. You can only use a score you shot one time for qualifying purposes, even if you shot it against multiple opponents.

- d. It is essential that any team that has any chance of qualifying enters its tournament roster by the due date on the iWanamaker app for the tournament event with its top five players ranked in the correct order.
- e. The only changes which can be made are substitutions and substitutes will play in the spot of the player that they are replacing.
- f. If any names on your roster are spelled incorrectly, coaches can fix them by correcting them on your iWanamaker list.
- g. If you will not qualify as a team but have players that may qualify as individuals (differential average of five or less for boys, ten or less for girls), you should notify the CIAC for those players by emailing Joe Velardi at jvelardi@casciac.org.
- h. If you have a girl that plays along with your boys' team whom you wish to enter as an individual competitor in the girls' tournament you need to perform the following steps to do so:
 - Add the girl to your boy's roster on the iWanamaker app.
 - Inform the CIAC that the student will play in the girls' tournament.
 - When entering scores for girls who played from boys tees you need to adjust the course rating accordingly using the adjustment table available at http://content.ciacsports.com/pdfs/rating_adjustment.pdf

3) **Divisions** – Based on the grade 9-12 enrollment for preceding year

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| a. <u>Boys Fall Divisions</u> - | Division I – 570 and Over | Division II – Up to 569 |
| b. <u>Boys Spring Divisions</u> - | Division I – TBA | Division II – TBA Division III – TBA |
| c. <u>Girls Divisions</u> - | Division I – TBA | Division II – TBA |

- d. If a school wishes to change division the athletic director needs to notify the CIAC by contacting Joe Velardi @ jvelardi@casciac.org. Schools may only move up in division and must stay in the higher division for two years.

4) **Minimum Playing Dates** – A team must play a minimum of ten (10) varsity playing dates against CIAC member schools to qualify for CIAC tournaments. League tournament scores cannot be used for tournament qualification.

5) **Individual Tournament Entries** –For any player that has a course rating average that qualifies them to enter the tournament as an individual, the coach must notify the CIAC by the last date to count. No tournament entries will be accepted after the established deadline except those approved by the CIAC Board of Control. Notify the CIAC by contacting Joe Velardi at jvelardi@casciac.org.

6) **Corrections** – Corrections requested by a school to an entry form that was submitted by the established deadline but prior to seeding/pairing data being published on the website, will be assessed a fee of \$50 per correction to a maximum of \$250.

All requests for corrections must be submitted by email to Joe Velardi at jvelardi@casciac.org.

7) **Team Rankings for the CIAC Tournament**

New! – Sixteen (16) teams will qualify for all divisional tournaments.

- a. **Fall Boys** – A boys' team must be one of a maximum of sixteen (16) ranked teams whose rankings will be determined as follows: Teams meeting qualifications will be ranked on the basis of their iWanamaker ranking. Only scores attained during the sixteen (16) regular season matches against teams on a school's original schedule may be used for tournament qualification. The team with the lowest average difference from its average rating will be ranked #1; the team with the next lowest average difference #2, etc. Teams tying for the 16th place will qualify.

- b. **Spring Boys** – A boys’ team must be one of a maximum of sixteen (16) ranked teams whose rankings will be determined as follows: Teams meeting qualifications will be ranked on the basis of their iWanamaker ranking. Only scores attained during the sixteen (16) regular season matches against teams on a school’s original schedule may be used for tournament qualification. The team with the lowest average difference from its average rating will be ranked #1; the team with the next lowest average difference #2, etc. Teams tying for the 16th place will qualify.
- c. **Girls** – A girls’ team must be one of a maximum of sixteen (16) ranked teams in each division whose rankings will be determined as follows: Teams meeting qualifications will be ranked on the basis of their iWanamaker ranking. Only scores attained during the sixteen (16) regular season matches against teams on a school’s original schedule may be used for tournament qualification. The team with the lowest average difference from its average rating will be ranked #1; the team with the next lowest average difference #2, etc. Teams tying for 16th place will qualify. (Note: An individual girl may play as a non-scoring member of her home school’s boys’ team if granted permission to do so by the coach of that team. In such cases, the girls would play with the team’s #5 boy player and have her score certified accordingly. The purpose is to provide an additional opportunity for individual girl players to participate in matches for tournament qualifying.

There are a couple of caveats to these new entry procedures:

- 1) Sixteen (16) schools will qualify as a team. Teams will be grouped according to their team ranking (1-4, 5-8, 9-12, 13-16).
 - 2) Individual qualifiers will be paired together.
 - 3) There is a possibility that individual qualifiers from the same team will play in the same group if several individuals qualify from the same school.
 - 4) If there is only one individual qualifier for the tournament, pairings will be adjusted at the discretion of the CIAC.
 - 5) If there is a tie for 16th team score then both teams will qualify making 17 qualifying teams. In that case teams 13-17 will play together mixed in with the individual qualifiers.
- 8) **Girls Playing on Boys’ Teams** – If your school has a girls’ team, a girl can play on the girls’ team or the boys’ team. They cannot play on both. Therefore, a girl who plays on the girls’ team cannot play in a boys’ match for the purpose of using that score to qualify for the girls’ state tournament.
- a. If a girl competes on a boys’ team and her score counts toward the boys’ team average, in any match at all, then she is on the boys’ team and can only compete in the boys’ tournament and cannot compete in the girls’ tournament as an individual unless the boys’ team does not qualify, and the girl qualifies for the girls’ tournament as an individual.
 - b. If they compete along with the boys because there is no girls’ team, and they play in the second group with an opponent player, who will attest their score, and their score does not count for the boys’ team, they can count that score toward qualifying for the girls’ tournament as an individual.
 - c. A girl playing on a boys’ team that qualifies for the boys’ tournament does not get a “choice” to play in the boys’ or girls’ tournament because it would be unfair for a team to qualify with one set of players, eliminating another school from the tournament, and then compete in the tournament with a different set of players.
 - d. In addition, it is against CIAC rules to compete on two different teams during the same season. Therefore, a girl cannot be on a boys’ team and compete in the girls’ tournament simultaneously.
 - e. If they compete for the boys’ team and their individual average qualifies them for the Open, then they can compete in the girls’ Open tournament, which is not a team tournament.

- f. For the purpose of girls playing along with a boys' team, who wish to qualify for the CIAC Girls' State Tournament as an individual, iWanamaker will determine their OCR from the forward tee. (Their score cannot count toward the boys' team's average.)
 - g. If a girl plays and scores for the boys' team, and the boys' team does not make the tournament, and the school does not offer girls' golf, and that girl qualifies as an individual for the girls' tournament, she may play in the girls' tournament as an individual.
 - h. For girls' who qualify for the girls' tournament under 7.8.g (above) the school should contact the CIAC.
 - i. All scores made by a girl playing from the boys' tees must be converted using a Women's Course Rating from each tee. iWanamaker has already input most of the calculations for Connecticut courses. If your course does not have this information input on iWanamaker, then the coach can request iWanamaker to add the course ratings for women golfers for each tee at your home course.
- 9) **Team Qualifying Scoring** – Only scores attained during the sixteen (16) regular season matches against teams on a school's original schedule may be used for tournament qualification.
- a. Teams may not use their league tournament to make up a match or for tournament qualification.
 - b. All make-up matches must be outside of the league tournament and prior to the last match date.
 - c. The scores made in any match during the regular season will count only once for the tournament.
 - d. For qualification, all matches played within the seasons limitations dates must be reported. One score per date. Maximum 16 dates / minimum 10 dates for qualification.
 - e. Qualification will be based on the best ten (10) varsity scores during the regular season.
 - f. Teams that play 18-hole matches must submit scores for the first 9 holes played only.
 - g. All team scores must be submitted and attested to by the coach on iWanamaker. Final responsibility for submission rests solely with the coach.
- 10) **Individual Entry** – If a school's team does not qualify, it may enter any golfer for individual honors, provided the golfer has attained an average score of the course rating, plus five (5.00) strokes or less per nine (9) holes for boys and ten (10.00) strokes or less for nine (9) holes for girls. This must be an average of the best ten (10) varsity scores attained on Connecticut State Golf Association approved courses and must be attested to by the golf coach. This average must be certified by their principal. There is no limit to the number of individual qualifiers for the divisional tournaments as long as they meet the individual qualifying average.

Individuals on a Qualifying Team – If your team qualifies, and you have other players who qualify as individuals in addition to the five team members who will compete as a team, those individual(s) may compete in the divisional tournament for individual honors. They cannot compete toward the team championship. (Only those on the team tournament roster can compete toward the team championship.)

IMPORTANT – Coaches must notify the CIAC if they have an extra golfer who qualifies as an individual. Individuals are not automatically entered.

- 11) **Regular In-Season Tournaments** – A school may schedule a maximum of 16 dates during the season and the team's ten best aggregate scores will be used for tournament qualification.

The season limit for the number of dates a team can play to count for the state tournament is sixteen (16). In addition, a school can compete in two (2) "In-Season" tournaments that do not count toward qualifying for the state tournament. Also, teams can play in league tournaments. League tournaments do not count toward the state tournament, but they can be played in addition to the 16 regular season dates, and in addition to the in-season tournaments.

Coaches must note the events that count toward the state tournament appropriately on the iWanamaker app.

- 12) **Boys Scoring** – Any player on a boys’ team qualifying for state tournament play may not submit scores using the “X” rule.
- 13) **Make-ups** – Make-up matches must be completed on or by the last match date in order to count for the state tournament. Matches played after the last match date will not be considered for the state tournament.
- 14) **Entering Scores** – All scores must be recorded using the iWanamaker app during play. Recording scores after the match is over is not allowed unless there is a technology failure. Coaches should remind players to charge their phones prior to the match and bring a portable phone charger to the match.

Coaches must affirm match scores as soon after the match as possible.

- 15) If a school fails to comply with tournament regulations and such requires the CIAC tournament sports committee, central office staff, or the CIAC Board of Control to redo any portion of the tournament pairings or such non-compliance adversely impacts the management of the tournament, an administrative violation fee will be imposed upon the school before entry into the tournament will be allowed.

8. **STATE TOURNAMENT PLAY**

1) **Tournament Divisions**

- a. The fall golf championships will consist of two tournaments of eighteen (18) holes.
- b. The spring boys’ tournament will consist of three tournaments of eighteen (18) holes.
- c. The spring girls’ tournament will consist of two tournaments of eighteen (18) holes.
 - Girls Spring State Tournament – Division I will be at Timberlin
 - Girls Spring State Tournament – Division II will be at Tashua Knolls
 - Boys and Girls Spring Open Tournament will be at Mohegan Sun

- 2) **Weather** – Teams/individuals should come prepared to withstand weather delays. Further, it is to be clearly understood by all that the course managers make the decisions about play or no play; the tournament director does not have control over any aspect of that decision. The tournament, in the case of poor weather, may be reduced from an 18-hole event to a 9-hole tournament or cancelled.

Coaches should be aware that it is not possible to pre-determine a make-up date for championship matches because it is not possible to “hold” a course for more than one date. The CIAC will attempt to make up rain outs of championship matches only if an open course can be found, and that will not be determined until after the rainout occurs.

- 3) **Tournament Rules** – USGA and local rules will govern the tournament. No practice or play will be allowed on the tournament course, except on the putting green or practice fairway (if available) on the day of the tournament.
 - a. No caddies are allowed unless granted a waiver by the CIAC Golf Committee.
 - b. Stroke and distance will apply during the tournaments. Should a player lose a ball out-of-bounds off the tee they must return to the tee to re-hit and take a one stroke penalty.
- 4) **Tournament Start Times and Groups for Divisional Championships** – Contestants must report at the prescribed time for each site.
 - a. Sixteen (16) schools will qualify as a team. Teams will be grouped according to their team ranking (1-4, 5-8, 9-12, 13-16).
 - b. Individual qualifiers will be paired together.

- c. There is a possibility that individual qualifiers from the same team will play in the same group if several individuals qualify from the same school.
 - d. If there is only one individual qualifier for the tournament, they will be scheduled at the discretion of the CIAC.
 - e. If there is a tie for the 16th team score then both teams will qualify making 17 qualifying teams. In that case teams 13-17 will play together mixed in with the individual qualifiers.
- 5) **Disabled Athletes** – The CIAC Golf Committee will make reasonable accommodations for disabled athletes in the state tournaments. Please alert the tournament director with such requests well in advance of the tournament. A golfer who has qualified for the CIAC State Tournament and/or the CIAC State Open and requires the use of a golf cart must get a doctor's note which will be sent to Joe Velardi at the CIAC office for CIAC approval. The driver of the cart must be a designated school official and cannot be a parent or relative. The CIAC strongly recommends that all conferences adopt this rule.
- 6) For state tournaments, push carts are allowed, electric push carts are allowed, ridden golf carts require a medical note. Medical notes must be forwarded to the CIAC office prior to the start of the tournament.
- 7) Schools will bear their own expenses going to and from the tournament.
- 8) **Determining the Champion** – A team consists of five (5) players, each of which is considered an individual honors entrant.
- a. If a team wishes, they may bring only four (4). A school should enter either a team or as many individuals that qualify.
 - b. Champions in each division shall be determined by the best four of five scores.
 - c. Each of the team entries is eligible for individual honors.
 - d. The team with the lowest total score will be awarded the championship in each division. The second lowest score in each division will be considered the runner-up. In the event of a tie for first place, a three-hole aggregate playoff will be held to determine the championship team, provided the course can accommodate the extra holes. In the event that there is still a tie, co-champions will be declared.
- 9) **Spectators** – During the CIAC State Championship tournaments for boys and girls, and for the State Open Tournament, spectators will be allowed on the course providing the course hosting the event allows spectators. Spectators must follow the course and PGA regulations for proximity to golfers. Spectators may cheer but may not have any communication with the golfers.
- a. The rules for spectators should be disseminated by the school's coach and/or athletic director to parents prior to the tournament. Spectator rules are available at www.casciac.org on the golf web site.
 - b. Parents and spectators may not give scores of other competitors to golfers during the state tournament nor in the State Open. This is considered coaching and violates the spectator code of conduct.
- 10) **Awards** – Plaques will be given to the winning school and the runner-up school in each division. Medals will be awarded to the winning team members and the winning individual player and the runner-up in each division.
- 11) **Ties** – In the event of a tie for a team championship the following tie break system will be invoked:
- a. The 5th best individual score will be the tie breaker. (Note: this is the 5th best score, not the #5 seeded golfer.)
 - b. If the 5th score is tied, the aggregate score from the first, second and third best individual scores will determine the team championship.
 - c. If there is still a tie, the aggregate score from the first and second best individual scorers will determine the team championship.

- d. If there is still a tie the top individual score will determine the team championship.
 - e. If all team scores and all individual scores are tied then co-champions will be declared.
 - f. If one team doesn't enter 5 players the other will be declared the champion.
- 12) **Distance Measuring Devices** – The CIAC Golf Committee, in accordance with USGA Rule 14-3 will allow a player to use a distance-measuring device at the state championships. Players may not use measuring devices, including smartphones, to measure other conditions that might affect their play (e.g. gradient, slope, wind speed, temperature, etc.)
- 13) **Golf Logix** – Students are allowed to access Golf Logix through the iWanamaker app.
- 14) **“X” Rule for the Girls Tournament** – The “X” Rule will apply for the girls’ divisional tournament.
- 15) **Coaches** – Teams must have a certified coach or bona fide faculty member as an advisor with them. Coaches or other faculty members will not be allowed to play the course. Coaches or other faculty members accompanying teams shall accept marshaling assignments as assigned by the chairman of the committee / site director if they are not coaching on the course. Any individual or team entering the tournament must have a certified coach with him/her as an advisor. Unaccompanied teams or individuals will be disqualified.
- 16) **New!** – During regular season play and during championships coaches and players must have the clubhouse phone number in case of emergency. Coaches should have the phone number of the tournament site director with them in case of emergency.
- 17) **New! – Phones and Other Devices** – Under USGA Rules of Golf, players are not permitted to text call, or communicate during a regular season round and during CIAC tournament play if they are sending or receiving advice that is not permitted under USGA rules (e.g., asking about club selection or swing mechanics).
- a. Using phones during CIAC tournament play is discouraged other than to keep score using the iWanamaker app, calling for help in case of an emergency, calling a coach/official for a rules clarification.
 - b. Leagues can adapt their own rules for phone use and texting during the regular season.
 - c. **Electronic device and phone content that are NOT allowed during CIAC Tournament play:**
 - * Listening to or watching any type of programming during a round, listening to music, a news report, a sporting event or a podcast. Watching a televised program or a TikTok or YouTube video. Texting for social purposes.
 - * Coaches and officials will instruct the player to discontinue use and put the device away during play.
 - d. **Can an advice giver or player use an electronic device to get certain information?** Yes.
The following are examples of what would NOT be a breach of MLR G-8 or Rule 4.3 (Use of Equipment).
 - * Using an electronic device app to get weather information (including wind speed) that is available from weather forecasts.
 - * Using an electronic device to get information that was gathered before the round (such as an AimPoint chart or playing information from previous rounds).
 - * Using an electronic device to record playing information or physiological information during the round, but must NOT process or interpret this playing information or use this physiological information recorded from the round.
 - * Watch a video that is being broadcast to spectators at the course, such as a video scoreboard.
 - * Receive messages from the tournament director.
 - e. A coach is allowed to coach a golfer and provide rules interpretations within CIAC regulations with their phone.
 - f. **Can an advice giver or player use an electronic device to communicate non-advice information to others?** Yes, for example, during a round an advice giver or player may text the third coach or a parent to bring out a rain suit, an umbrella, food, more golf balls or a replacement club.

18) **Coaching on the Course** – The following provisions for the CIAC Golf Championships are intended for coaches to provide as much support as possible while remembering that players compete themselves during competitions and to help improve the pace of play. During the CIAC Championships two school designated certified coaches with proper lanyard ID will be allowed to coach/advise players from his/her school team during play.

- * The USGA definition of “advice” will be adhered to in the state championship competition. “Advice is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining his/her play, the choice of club or method of making a stroke”.
- * Information on the rules or on matters of public knowledge, such as position of hazards or the position of the flag stick on the putting surface is allowed.
- * Coaching may begin (give advice) once all players have completed teeing off. Coaches may continue to provide advice and support until play has reached the putting surface at which time coaching shall cease. Coaching from green to tee is allowed but once the players are on the tee, coaching is suspended until all players have teed off.
- * Players must proceed immediately to the next hole without delay – the pace of play in the state championship is of paramount importance to all the competitors. Any violation of USGA Rule 5.6a. “Unreasonable Delay of Play” may be subject to a two-stroke penalty for the first offense and disqualification for the second offense. Coaches should assist in monitoring not only their own player(s), but all players in the competition.

19) **Guidelines for Coaching During the Championship**

COACHES MAY:

- * Address golfers from any team, regarding the etiquette for maintaining the course properly for divots, ball marks, bunkers, tees, trash, safety and other course maintenance.
- * Input scores into the CIAC golf app for any player who is having trouble with their technology.
- * Talk to their player after all players have teed off and until the player has arrived on the putting surface.
- * Give advice to their player on matters such as club selection, wind direction, stance, grip, hole strategy, swing adjustments and mental adjustments.
- * Talk to all players about rule options when asked by a player for advice.
- * Answer public knowledge information to all players in the group when asked to do so.
- * Help players look for a lost ball, provided that the USGA rules governing lost balls are adhere to. (USGA Rule 18)
- * Motorized carts may be rented by the coaches at their expense with the site director’s and club pro’s approval. A coach may share a cart with another designated coach from another school.
- * Coaches are required to monitor sportsmanship and report unsportsmanlike behavior to the tournament management.
- * Contact the rules official via cell phone for a rules interpretation when requested to do so by a player.
- * Use distance measuring devices while coaching their players. (Distance only.)
- * **IMPORTANT** – Coaches should instruct their players to obtain an official ruling when a rule is in question before continuing play. If a player cannot get an official ruling they should play both balls.

Additional Examples to Help Improve Place of Play:

- * Coaches may fix ball marks as needed on the putting surface when players are exiting the green.
- * Coaches may rake the bunkers, which would help the pace of play.
- * Coaches may advise players where to leave their bag in proximity to the next tee.

COACHES MAY NOT:

- * Provide advice to their player once the player is on the putting surface.
- * Read putts for a player at any time.
- * Offer advice to players from another school.
- * Caddy for their player.
- * Raise their voice in such a manner to interrupt play anywhere on the course.
- * Coaches may not assess penalties to a player.
- * Coaches may not give rule interpretations. They can only remind players of option and the need to follow the rules.

9. STATE OPEN TOURNAMENT

- 1) The Open Tournament will only be played during the spring season.
- 2) To qualify for the Open, boys need to achieve a (3.00) average or better during the regular season. Girls need to achieve an (8.00) average or better during the regular season. Head coaches should inform players who are eligible for the Open of the date and time of the tournament. Coaches should anticipate if their players may be in contention for qualifying throughout the season and communicate the date, time and site of the Open to the student.
 - * The CIAC will use the iWanamaker ranking to determine averages.
- 3) The top three medalists and ties in each division automatically qualify for the Open tournament.
- 4) Each golfer must have a coach attend the Open.
- 5) You do not need to enter a player into the Open tournament. Players will automatically qualify and be seeded into the tournament.

10. BOYS NEW ENGLAND INDIVIDUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

- 1) **Eligibility** - Only boys who play golf in the Fall can qualify for the boys' New England Individual Golf Tournament. Boys listed on the school's golf team eligibility form will be eligible to compete in the boys New England.
- 2) **To Qualify** – Boys who finish as one of the top three (3) medalists (and ties) in each of the Divisions for a total of six, plus;

The next six spots will be filled by the Coordinator by going down the individual forms and selecting the next lowest OCR until a minimum of 12 players are confirmed.
- 3) **Information** – All information pertaining to the New England's will be handed to the individual golfers at their division tournament.
- 4) **Coaches** – Coaches are responsible for contacting the New England Coordinator within 48 hours of the division tournament's conclusion to confirm entry. The boys' coordinator is Brett Franklin. (Listed under "Contact")

11. **GIRLS NEW ENGLAND INDIVIDUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

- 1) **Eligibility** – Only girls who play golf in the Fall can qualify for the New England tournament. This would mean that a girl would have to play on a boy's team in the Fall to qualify. Girls listed on the school's golf team roster will be eligible to compete in the Girls New England. Girls do not have to play in any minimum number of matches.
- 2) **Nominations** – Girls playing in the Fall who want to play in the New England tournament must be nominated by their coach and selected by the golf committee. The student's coach must send a letter detailing the player's qualifications. Nominations must be sent to the New England Tournament Girls Coordinator.
- 3) **Information** – All information pertaining to the New England's will be sent to the accepted players' coach.

12. **CIAC GOLF COMMITTEE**

The CIAC Golf Committee members are listed on the CIAC web site at casciac.org.

13. **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other at all levels of competition in a spirit of good sportsmanship. The school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and the conduct of activities in the school. The CIAC "Class Act" standards will be used in all CIAC contests. The CIAC Standards for Sportsmanship as defined in the Class Act program are found at http://ciacsports.com/site/?page_id=10438.

14. **MEDICAL AND SAFETY REGULATIONS**

Medical regulations, expectations and certifications are stated in the CIAC medical handbook. Coaches, trainers, athletic directors are expected to maintain certifications and follow the procedures as described in the CIAC Medical Handbook and as required by law.

New! – During play for regular season and during championships coaches and players must have the clubhouse phone number. Coaches must have the phone number of the tournament site director with them in case of emergency.

15. **CERTIFICATIONS / COACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

For a list of all coaching certifications and links to forms go here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KnzXy81GK9x88bY1-5JBSuP-8SY34sdc/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104830910406558409235&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Volunteer Coaches - The State of Connecticut Department of Education does not distinguish between volunteer or paid coaches when considering certifications or responsibilities. All coaches who are responsible for or instruct students in any way must follow Connecticut State Law for certifications and responsibilities. Therefore, volunteer coaches are required to obtain the same certifications as all other coaches.