

Message to Golf Coaches:

Welcome to the 2011 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. I cannot stress enough the importance of this aspect of the game. Rules 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 definite rules about this and they will be enforced in state level tournaments. I 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.

Sean Farrell, Chairmen
V.P.A. Golf Committee

POINTS OF EMPHASIS FOR 2011 SEASON

1. Applications must be filed electronically. Due date is Wednesday, May 25, 2011 by 10:00 am
2. **The use of carts for coaches (spotters) at Middlebury is prohibited.**
3. Pairings for boys state finals will be based on player's scores at sectional tournaments.
4. **During a school's first 5 matches (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.**

5. 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.
6. **During the 2011 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.**
7. 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.
8. The use of cell phones, headsets or electronic devices (**excludes GPS & laser**) during play in sectionals and states is prohibited and will result in disqualification.

V.P.A. GOLF--2011
RULES AND REGULATIONS TO COVER THE SECTIONALS AND STATE FINALS
OF INTERSCHOLASTIC GOLF

1. All participants must satisfy the eligibility requirements of the Vermont Principals Association. Schools making application to the sectionals are expected to fulfill their obligations. **There is a \$5.00 registration fee per boy/girl golfer. This fee is to be sent to the VPA before the sectionals.**
2. To be eligible for tournament competition, a team or individual must have competed in **TWO** regularly scheduled interscholastic matches or tournaments on two different dates or as amended by the Golf Committee.

All teams or individuals competition in the sectional 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 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 sectionals and finals.

3. Each **boys team*** competing in the sectional tournament 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.

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 May 26, 2011, at 9:00am **After the VPA Golf Committee meets the original five members may be substituted for but the order will not change.**

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' sectional or state finals.**

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

The Golf Committee shall assign starting times to the first three (two) members listed on each school's team application. These three (two) 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 May 26, 2011, at 9:00am **After the VPA Golf Committee meets the original three (two) members may be substituted for but the order will not change.**

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 sectionals 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 sectionals and finals shall be stroke play.
7. Coaches, advisors, and spectators shall not coach players in **any manner or give specific counsel during the match.** (Rule #8-2 Note. . . has not been adopted by VPA.)
8. There will be six boys' sectional sites. Schools will be assigned to the sectional site in which they are to participate. The representative of the VPA at the sectional site will deny the right to participate to anyone who is **not at the site assigned to them.** In the boys' tournament, the number of teams from each sectional that go onto the State Championships will be based on the number of teams in each sectional (%). A total of 6 teams and 10 individuals will be in the State Meet. There will be a Division I, Division II and Division III champion and finalist. **(No caddies or motorized carts will be allowed. Non-motorized carts are allowable. Exceptions can only be granted by the VPA Golf Committee in advance of the sections and/or finals. Documented evidence of need is also required).**

9. Boys' Team Scoring

- a. The total gross score of the lowest four members of each competing school team shall determine the sectional and state winners.
- b. In sectional play, all necessary ties will be broken to send teams to 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. Divisional medalists shall continue to play to determine the states' divisional 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. Divisional medalists shall continue to play to determine the state's divisional champion if a tie occurs.

10. It is the responsibility of the coach and team to learn of any special rules from the VPA representative.

11. Instruction to the starters: In addition to the regularly assigned duties, you must instruct all golfers on the methods of handling their scorecards.

12. Scoring at Districts 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.

13. The representative of the Vermont Principals' Association at the sectional tournaments will notify participating schools of the time and place for the final tournament.

14. All entries for sectional and state tournaments must be electronically filed no later than **Wednesday, May 25th, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.** The Vermont Principals' Association Golf Committee will assemble to establish starting times for all participants in sectional and State play. The seedings meeting will be on May 26th, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. Any applications received between May 25th, 2010 - 10:01 A.M. and May 26th, 2011- 9:00 A.M. will be subject to a \$100 late fee. Any applications received after 9:00 A.M., May 26th, 2011 will **NOT** be considered (**due to issues with assigning tee times.**)

15. In district and state tournaments, the ball shall be played as it lies unless amended by the site director.

16. Officials:

A. The Vermont Principals' Association and the Vermont Golf Association shall appoint representatives to each Sectional 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.

17. Dress:

Sectional and Final Tournament play 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.**

18. 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 SECTIONALS

DIVISION 1 NORTH - St. Johnsbury.C.C. 10:00A.M.

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

BFA, St. Albans
Burlington
Champlain Valley
Colchester
Essex
Missisquoi
Mt. Mansfield
North Country
St. Johnsbury
South Burlington
Spaulding

DIVISION 1 SOUTH - Equinox 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Brattleboro
Hartford
Burr & Burton
Mt. Anthony
Rutland

DIVISION 2 -NORTH – Orleans C.C.

9:30A.M. TUESDAY, May 31, 2011

BFA, Fairfax
Harwood Randolph
Lake Region
Lamoille Middlebury
Lyndon Rice
Montpelier U-32
Oxbow

DIVISION 2 – SOUTH - RUTLAND 9:00 A.M.

TUESDAY, May 31, 2011

Mt. Abe
Fair Haven
Mill River
Otter Valley
Springfield
Woodstock
Vergennes

**DIVISION 3 NORTH – Stowe 10:00 AM
TUESDAY, May 31, 2011**

Burke Mountain
Hazen
Milton
Northfield
Peoples
Richford
Rochester
South Royalton
Stowe
Twinfield
Whitcomb
Enosburg
Williamstown

**DIVISION 3 SOUTH – MT. SNOW 10:00 AM
TUESDAY, May 31, 2011**

Arlington
Black River
Green Mountain
Leland & Gray
Long Trail
Poultney
Proctor
Rivendell
Mid Vt Christian
Stratton Mountain
Thetford
Twin Valley
West Rutland
Windsor

*Updated 2/9/11

**GIRLS STATE FINALS
PROCTOR-PITTSFORD
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011 9:30 A.M.**

DIVISION 1

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

DIVISION 2

Lyndon
Fair Haven
Mt. Abraham
Mill River
Montpelier
Lamoille
Woodstock
Peoples
Northfield
Poultney
Stowe
Arlington
South Royalton
Proctor
Mt. St. Joseph
Harwood
Stratton Mtn.
Otter Valley
Windsor
U-32
Rice
Rivendell
Springfield
Lake Region
Black River

**BOYS GOLF FINALS
RALPH MYHRE COUNTRY CLUB, MIDDLEBURY
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011**

At the request of the host site, all play will begin at the first tee. The format will be as follows for 2011:

8:00 - Division 2
9:30 - Division 3

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: Monday, June 20, 2011
SITE: Bretwood Country Club, Keene, N.H.
FEE: \$5.00

This spring (2011 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.