

501 GOVERNING BODY

United States Golf Association is the governing authority in golf. The State CIF, NCS, or the MCAL may make modifications to the USGA rules.

502 GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Girls golf shall be a fall sport. Boys golf shall be a spring sport.
2. MCAL golf is based on a complete double round robin schedule, sixteen (16) matches for girls and eighteen (18) matches for boys as defined by NCS and approved by a majority of the coaches. (5/30/07)
3. Matches may be played any day of the week, Monday-Friday, subject to course availability.
4. MCAL golf matches will be scheduled to start no later than 3:00-4:00 depending on season of sport.
5. If the coach or coaches must leave due to an emergency, the match will be suspended and must be replayed.
6. Cancelled or suspended matches must be rescheduled or completed on the next date available to both teams.
7. No match may begin unless both coaches are present.
8. Inclement weather: Home teams will be responsible for canceling matches due to inclement weather. Matches must be cancelled by 1:00. Coaches and athletic directors of teams affected need to be notified.
9. MCAL golf has adopted a code of conduct for all golfers as noted in 505.12.

503 OFFICIALS

Golf is a self-officiated sport.

504 ADMISSION

Admission may be charged at any MCAL contest although it is not customary to charge admission for golf matches.

505 LEAGUE RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. Any practice on the golf course before the match is strictly prohibited.
2. Use of the course driving range by team members competing in the match is prohibited unless agreed to by both coaches. Practice squad players can use the driving range.
3. Only the course practice putting green may be used for putting or chipping (if allowed).
4. The coach of the home team determines whether to “lift, clean and place” or play “the ball down”. The home team coach is responsible for explaining any “local rules” of the home course. (4/30/06)
5. No spectators will be allowed on the course unless agreed upon by both coaches and the course manager. If spectators are allowed they must stay on

- cart paths, remaining no closer than 30 yards from the players at all times, and may not communicate in any way with any player or coach regarding rules.
6. Players and coaches must wear collared shirts. Shirts are to be tucked in at all times. Shorts must meet the course requirements usually no more than 3" above the knee. Players are not allowed to wear blue jeans in any competition. Caps must be worn with the bill forward. Face and body paint are not allowed. No scarves, do-rags, headbands, or any other attire deemed inappropriate by the host coach may be worn. Golf shoes or tennis shoes must be worn. The dress code for a respective Golf Course used by MCAL teams may have rules which are more stringent regarding dress. In these situations all participants and coaches must confirm to the established rules of the course.
 7. A. For boy's season of sport: All matches will be played in "stroke" format, scoring the lowest 5 of 6 scores recorded for each team. Teams may play with only five players.
B. For girl's season of sport: All matches will be played in "stroke" format, scoring the lowest 4 of 6 scores recorded for each team. Teams may play with only four players.
 8. All MCAL play will include a double par +2 system for each hole played. Once a player reaches double par plus two and has not holed out, that player shall pick-up and scores a double par +2 on the hole. (i.e.: on a par 4, the player would write down 10 on the score sheet and circle it to indicate that they had picked up on the hole.) If a player holed out with a score of double par +2 that player would not have to circle the score indicating that the player holed out and did not pick up. A player no longer has to declare a double par +1 since league play is now double par +2 for all.
 9. In case of a tie, the team with the lowest 6th score for boys and 5th score for girls wins. If after six scores are used, the teams remain tied, the scorecards of the players listed in the number one position will be compared starting with the first handicap hole and proceeding hole-by-hole until one player has a lower score on a hole. If there is still a tie, the same procedure is applied to the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth player until the tie is broken.
 10. Players are to exchange scorecards with their opponents before their group tees off. Players **MUST** check scores at the end of each hole. Upon completion of the round, the competitor and their marker will compare scorecards for discrepancies. If the competitor and the marker cannot resolve discrepancies, both coaches are to be advised of the situation and, after discussion, make a ruling. Once the scorer signs the card and it is attested, the score is considered final. No further protests or rulings will be allowed.
 11. The school's head coach or person appointed by the head coach may speak/coach with their players **WITHOUT DELAY** until the players have reached the green, at which time no coaching should occur until all players have "holed out" on that hole. Note: Information on the Rules of Golf is not considered to be advice. **Note: Information on the Rules of Golf is not considered to be advice. (8/27/08)**
 12. Forfeits. A team, which does not show up for a scheduled match, will be deemed to have forfeited the match. The winning team should play the match for all league points. A team, which shows up with less than five players, will be deemed to have lost the match but the match will be played with those players available eligible for individual scoring.
 13. Players are responsible for knowing the rules of golf and for scoring Correctly. Players will sign the following statement prior to the first league

match and a copy will be forwarded to the league office.

“I understand that, under USGA rules, attesting an incorrect score can result in disqualification of the competitor from the match. I also understand, under MCAL rules, scoring incorrectly for an opponent may result in disqualification of the scorer from the match.” A form with the above will be handed out to all coaches at the preseason meeting (pg. 18b of this section).

14. FOR GIRLS ONLY: If a ball is lost outside of a water hazard; players shall determine agreed upon spot that ball is most likely to be and use Rule 28 “Ball Unplayable” procedures based on that spot. If a ball comes to rest out of bounds; determine the spot in which the ball last crossed the out of bounds margin and use Rule 26 “Water Hazards, Including Lateral Water Hazards” procedures based on that spot. The ball may not be played from out of bounds. Return to the Rules of Golf for the MCAL Tournament.
15. If a player is disqualified from two matches in a season he/she is excluded from postseason participation.
16. Use of a distance measuring device is allowed provided it measures distance only. The MCAL will follow the NCS rule 19.077H as noted below:

19.077H Assistance During Play

It is an unfair act when a competitor receives any assistance from any other person that could improve that competitor’s performance. Assistance includes:

- a) Advice regarding improvement of play
- b) Use of electronic equipment or any other aid on the course
- c) Use of a distance measuring device is allowed provided it measures distance only.**
 - a. The features that would render the use of the device contrary to the rule include but are not limited to:**
 - i. The gauging or measuring of slope*
 - ii. The gauging or measuring of other conditions that might affect play or climate-based information such as temperature, humidity, etc.*
 - iii. Calculating the effective distance between two points based on slope or other conditions affecting shot distance.*
 - iv. Such non-conforming features render use of the device contrary to the Rules, irrespective of whether or not; the features can be switched of or disengaged; and the features are switched of or disengaged.*
 - v. Players may not use any cell phone application as the use of a cell phone is prohibited.*
 - b. In each grouping (2-4 players), if any player uses a distance measuring device then all players will have access to the distance information.**
 - c. Any player using a device who does not share the distance information with other players in his grouping, when asked, will be subject to disqualification for a serious breach of etiquette.”).**

506 CHAMPIONSHIP

1. All teams with a win/loss ratio of 500 or better will advance to the MCAL championship tournament. (1/11/10) Additionally, any non-qualifying team may send one golfer to the tournament. (4/30/06) Any 1st or 2nd team all league player not on a qualifying team, may also attend 5/16)
2. Teams, which have forfeited a league match during the season, are ineligible to participate, as a team, in the league tournament.
3. Winner of the MCAL automatically advances to TOC. MCAL 2nd place team will automatically be NCS qualifier. And all others may apply for an at large berth to the NCS Tournament.
4. The top three individuals not on a qualifying team will qualify for the NCS regional tournament.

5. All ties in team competition will be broken according to section 505, paragraph 8. In the event of a tie between two or more individuals for the last qualifying berth to the NCS regional or NCS section tournament, the players tied shall have a sudden death playoff, for that final position only, starting on the 1st hole and continuing only until the tie(s) is/are broken. If time does not permit a playoff, the last nine holes will be compared, if a tie still exists the last six holes are compared, if a tie still exists the last three holes are compared. If a tie still exists the last hole will determine the winner.
6. In the MCAL championship, the tournament committee will determine the conditions of play.
7. During the league tournament, coaches/school officials will marshal the competition. Order of assignments will be drawn by lot. Coaches may serve as the tournament committee but coaches will not serve as members of the rules committee.(5/30/07)
8. Rotation of sites for the play-offs will be the same for boy's & girl's seasons:

School Year		
2017-2018	Indian Valley	2018-2019 Peacock Gap
2019-2020	San Geronimo	

If a course is not available, drop to the next course and keep rotations as is.

507 AWARDS AND PENNANTS

1. After completion of the regular season, the team with the best record will receive the league championship pennant. If two teams have the same won/loss record, the tie will be broken by head to head competition between the teams. If a tie remains, the tie will be broken by comparing total strokes of the scoring players in the head-to-head match(es) will be totaled. The team with the lowest stroke total will receive the pennant for being the round robin champion. If teams are tied, both teams will be declared co-champions and receive a pennant. If the winner of the championship tournament is a different team than the round robin winner, a pennant will be awarded to that winner also.

508 ALL LEAGUE

1. To determine the Player of the Year and 1st and 2nd Team All League honorees the average strokes over the course rating method will be used. The number of strokes over/under the course rating for each course played a competitor totals during the round robin competition will be divided by the number of league matches the competitor participated in.
2. Averages will be calculated and the players with the lowest average (rounded to two decimal places) will be the Player of the Year. The next six lowest averages, plus ties, will be first team all-league. The next lowest six players and ties will be second team all-league. In addition, each coach may add one player to the honorable mention category. (5/30/07)
3. In order to be eligible for all-league and Player of the Year honors, a player must play in at least ten league matches.
4. To qualify for all league a golfer must participate in 50% of eligible matches.
5. In determining all league, each golfer will have their lowest score deleted.