

Golf Advisory Committee Recommendations – Spring 2023-24

- * 1. Recommend adding an exception to Section 2 letter D of the Golf Manual: Exception – During regular season matches or tournaments, student-athletes may use motorized riding golf carts ONLY on courses that do not allow walking. The participant must have a valid driver’s license, in order to operate the golf cart. This exception must be approved by the MSHSAA Office prior to the event.
- 2. Recommend the allowance for the use of electronic devices, including cell phones & smart watches with language as follows to be added to the manual:

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- 1. USGA Model Local Rule G-8 & Rule 4.3.a.(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not use an electronic device (i.e. cell phone, personal audio or video devices) for the purpose of talking, texting, listening to or watching content of any nature.
- 2. With the exception of restrictions noted in Model Local Rule G-8 above, players may use a cell phone or any other type of electronic device (i.e. Apple watch, GPS handheld device, GPS watch) in accordance with Rule 4.3.a, including getting information on distance or direction and the entry of hole-by-hole scores into a tournament application.
- 3. The penalty for Breach of this Local Rule (see Rule 4.3): First breach for single act or related acts – General Penalty (two penalty strokes); second breach unrelated to first breach: Disqualification.
- 4. Non-competitors carrying cell phones on the golf course must turn off the ringer. Those who do not will be asked to turn off the phone and risk being removed from the golf course by tournament or meet officials.

DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES

- 1. Rule 4.3.a.(1) permits the use of equipment that provides information on distance or direction (such as from a distance measuring device or compass). These devices are not allowed if they measure elevation changes or interpret distance or directional information (such as using a device to get a recommended line of play or club selection based on the location of the player’s ball).
- 2. Cell phone distance measuring applications, GPS handheld devices, GPS watches and other similar types of devices are permitted.
- 3. It is acceptable for advice givers (coaches) and players to share distance information upon request as long as the process does not unreasonably delay play. **Spectators are not permitted to share or assist players with information obtained from a distance measuring device or compass.

- *** 3. Recommend Electronic Scoring (live scoring) may be used by participants during the regular season and postseason. Participants will still be responsible for turning in an official written scorecard issued by the course or event as their official score.
- 4. Recommend adding a day to the district tournament window. The window would now be from Wednesday (week 14-g; week 44-b) to Monday (week 15-g; week 45-b) instead of Thursday to Monday.
- 5. Recommend a survey be conducted regarding the use of Markers at the District Tournament.
- * 6. Recommend that a school that qualifies as a TEAM (4 or 5 golfers) for the state tournament, be allowed to rent one golf cart, to a school approved coach, at the school’s expense. In order to secure the cart, it must be communicated with the course prior to Wednesday, the week before the state tournament.

BOARD ACTION

*	DENIED
**	TABLED FOR FURTHER STUDY
***	APPROVED AS AMENDED
****	NO ACTION

ALL OTHERS APPROVED