



2026

Fall Golf

Information

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2026 Fall Golf Tournament

Policies and Procedures

A. ANTICIPATED TOURNAMENT DATES*:

- **Cut-off Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2026
- **Sectionals:** Tuesday, October 20, 2026 and Wednesday, October 21, 2026
- **State Finals:** Monday, October 26, 2026 and Tuesday, October 27, 2026
- **New England's:** Sunday, October 25, 2026 (girls)
Monday, October 26, 2026 (boys)

**Dates subject to change*

B. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL GOLF COACH

Failure to observe this rule will result in the Team/Athlete being defaulted.

"In case of an emergency the principal may write and sign a letter written on school letterhead designating a member of the school staff (*not a parent*) as the official school designee. This letter must be presented by the designee to the MIAA Tournament Director upon arrival at the championship site. The designee must remain at the tournament site throughout the entire round."

C. STARTING TIMES - Starting times and pairings will be listed on the MIAA Tournament website as soon as the Tournament Director has established them.

D. COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

At all qualifying rounds and at the State Finals, the MIAA Tournament Director will assign coaches, or official school designee present, to serve as monitors; i.e. whenever possible, a coach will go with each group, monitor play, observe behavior, etc. Coaches will not be monitoring their own players.

While the players keep the official scores for each other, monitors should keep an unofficial score for back-up, help locate balls and assist the Rules officials with situations requiring rulings. Cell phones may be used by monitors for safety precautions and contacting officials when necessary.

Any coach or official school designee who refuses to complete their assigned duty may result in the school Principal, Athletic Director and Coach being required to attend a hearing with the MIAA Golf Committee and the program being censured or put on probation (ineligible for tournament).

E. UNIFORM RULE - All players and coaches must be dressed in proper golf attire that conforms to the golf course dress code and clearly identifies the school they represent. School names on golf bags are also helpful especially during cooler weather. No denim or blue jean pants, cargo shorts or tank tops are permitted. *Those in violation will not be allowed to compete.*

F. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

During the play of the MIAA Sectional and State Championship, a player MAY obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. A player MAY NOT use any device to measure other conditions such as gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc. A player MAY NOT use a Cell Phone at any time for any purpose, other than an emergency situation and cell phones are not allowed to be used as a measuring device. **Any player found in breach of this rule will be removed from the competition.**

G. SPECTATORS - Spectators should have cell phones in silent/vibrate mode while on the golf course. If it is necessary to make or take phone calls spectators should do so out of the range of any golfers. Spectators are not allowed to give any advice to players. Coaches may carry a cell phone in a silent/vibrate mode. This is to allow coaches to contact help in an emergency situation. [Click here to view the MIAA Spectator Guidelines and Advice.](#)

H. MIAA DRONE POLICY: Prohibiting the Use of Drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems or UAS's)

Unless granted special permission by the MIAA Executive Director, the use of drones (UAS), for any purpose, is not permitted at any MIAA tournament event. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and covers a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the MIAA event, including the spectator stands and parking areas.



2026 Fall Golf Tournament

I. RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

All schools are responsible before, during and after a contest for the proper conduct of their coaches, athletes, students and spectators. When requested, a school must complete a report regarding a contest in which a problem occurred.

I. **INCLEMENT WEATHER RULE** - In case of inclement weather, the MIAA Executive Liaison and Tournament Director will collaborate. *The decision of the MIAA Tournament Director will be final (USGA rule).* Please do not contact the golf course as they may not have the official information.

J. **TOURNAMENT MEDICAL COVERAGE** - It is the responsibility of each participating school to provide for the first aid/medical needs of their student athletes.

K. Fall Golf State Finals Rotation

	Fall 2026	Fall 2027	Fall 2028	Fall 2029
DIVISION 1	North	West	Central	South
DIVISION 2	Central	South	West	North
DIVISION 3	West	North	South	Central

2026 MIAA FALL GOLF SECTIONAL & STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS *RULES OF GOLF TERMS OF THE COMPETITION*

The Rules of Golf as approved by the [United States Golf Association](http://usga.org) and the R&A Rules Limited will govern play. Any charges or additions to the MIAA Standard Local Rules (hard card) or information on the MIAA website, including the Handbook, will be supplied by the Notice to Competitors and Local Rules for the event/course and will supersede anything printed on the host club's scorecard. Complete text of the Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023. (usga.org)

- [MIAA Standard Local Rules](#) (hard card)
- [MIAA Pace of Play Policy](#)
- [MIAA Spectator Guidelines and Advice](#)

Administrative issues such as dress codes and sportsmanship, will be settled by the MIAA Tournament Director, in collaboration with the MIAA Executive Liaison. Questions will be settled by the MIAA Tournament Director, any USGA Rules Official(s), MIAA staff, and any other individual appointed by the MIAA Golf Committee, whose decisions will be final.

- **ENTRIES** are made through online survey links sent out from MIAA Office to Athletic Directors.
- **LINEUP CHANGES (Team Only)**- A replacement golfer is inserted directly into the slot of the golfer they are replacing. *Example: A coach replaces their #3 golfer due to an injury; the #7 golfer is added into the #3 position.*
- **FORMAT:** Stroke play, 18 holes. Pairings will separate teammates. Typically a shot-gun start (when possible).
 - **NEW Maximum Score Policy – Double Par + One Stroke.** Par 3's - max score of 7, Par 4's - max score of 9, Par 5's -max score of 11.
- **ASSIGNMENT OF TEES:** All competitors must play from the same set of tees throughout the Sectional and State Championships.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** All players must walk. Push/Pull carts are allowed if allowed by the golf course. No caddies.
- **ADVICE:** There will be NO Coaching or Advice Giving Allowed during the stipulated round by Coaches or Spectators. The Local Rule allowing coaching has not been adopted. Coaching is allowed between the stipulated round and any play-off that may occur.
- **USGA General Penalty** – Two-strokes in stroke play (and loss of hole in match play)

The competition will be deemed closed when the results have been approved and the trophies and medals awarded.



2026 Fall Golf Tournament

SECTIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

There will be **4 Sectional Team Championships** – North, South, Central, and West.

Reference the [MIAA Fall Tournament Alignments 2025-26 through 2026-27](#) to make sure your school is going to the correct tournament location.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA AND SCORING- Teams must have played a minimum of 50% of the season competition limits per Handbook Rule 34 (10 contests) and meet the championship qualifications as set forth below:

- A team will consist of 6 players. Each qualified team will be required to complete the formstack tournament and list their players' ranked #1 - #6. In the event a school brings less than six (6) players, there must be a minimum of four (4) to participate in the Team Championship.
- All teams winning 50% of their matches against any and all MIAA member schools and out of state schools in good standing of their own state high school association.
- Please note that in golf you must accumulate 50% of the total number of points possible:
 - 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.

ENTRY DEADLINE - Qualifying teams must complete a Team Entry by **Friday, October 9, 2026** if their golf team may qualify for the championship. This must be done even if the team has not completed its regular season but has the potential to meet the criteria. The entry is *through* an online survey link that will be emailed to Athletic Directors.

TEAM SCORING AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS

- The 4 lowest stroke play scores on each team will make up the team score. The score of the 5th lowest player will be used to break ties. If a tie still exists, the 6th players' score will be used to break the tie. If a tie still exists, co-champions will be declared.
- MIAA Trophies will be awarded to the Sectional Champion and Runner-Up. If Co-Champions, then each school will be awarded a Champion Trophy.

QUALIFYING FOR STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Each section will qualify a minimum of 2 teams for States.
 - If a section has 7 to 14 teams participating, 3 teams will qualify for States.
 - If a section has 15 or more teams participating, 4 teams will qualify for States.

DIVISIONAL STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

There will be **3 Divisional State Championships** – Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3

TEAM SCORING AND DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS

- Each team will consist of 6 players.
- The 4 lowest stroke play scores on each team will make up the team score. The score of the 5th lowest player will be used to break ties. If a tie still exists, the 6th players' score will be used to break the tie. However, if the 6th players' score fails to break the tie, all six team members, of each tied team, will enter into a sudden death playoff, at a hole to be determined by the MIAA Tournament Director. The four best scores from each team will be counted, if still tied, the fifth score will be counted, if still tied, the sixth score will be counted. If the tie still remains, the playoff will continue to a second playoff hole.
- MIAA Trophies will be awarded to the Divisional State Team Champion and Runner-Up.



2026 Fall Golf Tournament

CONCURRENT INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

SECTIONAL INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

All members of qualifying teams and those registered as individuals who meet criteria outlined below are eligible to compete in the Sectional Individual Championship.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA IN THE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP for those athletes from a team that does not qualify:

- Individual must score **4 over par or better** in a minimum of 50% of their 9-hole rounds during the regular season.
- Only one (1) individual athlete per school is allowed entry. Waivers are available if a school feels they have more than one athlete that meets the criteria outlined above. Contact the MIAA Golf Liaison to request the waiver.

ENTRY DEADLINE - All Entries for the Sectional Individual Championship **MUST** be submitted by **Friday, October 9, 2026** through the online survey link that will be emailed to Athletic Directors (same survey as the team entries).

AWARDS - The player that records the lowest score will be declared the **MEDALIST**. In case of ties for the lowest score at each Sectional the players will be declared **CO-MEDALISTS**. There will not be any play-offs for individuals at the Sectional Championships.

QUALIFYING FOR STATE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- The **top 10%** (and ties) of the scores from each of the sections will qualify to play for the State Individual Championship in each division. Any percentage points above a whole number will be rounded up. *Example: If there are 81 players, then 10% would equal 8.1% which is rounded up to 9 players and ties.*
- **Golfers that do not post scores in the top 10% at their sectional tournament cannot individually qualify for the state tournament. The top 10% of posted scores may include individuals that also qualified to move on with their team.**

EXAMPLE:

J. Rahm	71	1	J. Nicklaus	74	6
R. McIlroy	72	2	T. Finau	74	7
X. Schauffele	72	3	A. Palmer	74	8
K. Bradley	72	4	T. Woods	74	9
M. Homa	73	5	C. Morikawa	74	10 (qualifies due to tie)

STATE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

ALL PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS whether they qualified at the Sectional Individual Championship or are participating as a member of a team that qualified at the Sectional Team Championship are eligible to compete for and to win the Individual Championship.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES - The player that records the lowest score will be declared the State Individual Champion.

- **TIE BREAKER** – If at the conclusion of play, two or more players are tied for the Individual Championship, the players who are tied will playoff starting at a hole determined by the-MIAA Tournament Director. If two or more players are still tied at the conclusion of the first playoff hole, those players will continue to a second playoff hole and play will continue in this manner until the tie is broken.

AWARDS - The winner of this championship will receive an MIAA Medal designating them the State Individual Champion.