

2024 MID-PENN GOLF CONFERENCE POLICIES

General Information

Length of Contest

- Each full-length regulation regular season conference match will consist of 18 holes.

Player Knowledge of Rules

- It is not expected for players to know every rule in the Rules of Golf. They are expected to know the basic rules such as how to proceed from hazards, OB, abnormal ground conditions, immovable/movable obstructions, unplayable balls, and rules of the like.
- **Coaches are responsible for making sure that they and their team members are knowledgeable about the rules of golf.**

Coaching of Players

- Coaches are allowed to coach during regular season Mid Penn matches as long as it does not slow-down play.

Regular Season Game Operations

Procedures for Play

- It is recommended that the starting time for conference matches will be no later than 2:00 PM.
- Teams should report no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled tee-off time. If unforeseen circumstances arise that would cause a team to be late, the home coach should be notified as soon as possible.
- Practice prior to a match shall be limited to the areas designated for practice by the local course.
- All participants shall play from the same tee markers, except as noted:
 - A girl is playing as a member of the boys' team will play on a course that is approximately 85% in length of the course the boys will play on. This distance and course set up will be determined by the hosting school coach and/or course professional.
- Pairings should consist of foursomes, threesomes, or twosomes. No player is allowed to play by him/herself.
- Competing golfers will exchange scorecards on the first tee and keep a fellow competitor's score card. If digital scoring is available, players may use cell phones during league matches only to keep score. Players must verify scores at the end of a match in the designated scoring area.
- At the completion of play, both players must sign the scorecard to verify accuracy.
 - The Committee should designate a "scoring area" where competitors are to return their score cards (e.g., in a tent, a trailer, the golf shop, by the scoreboard, etc.). When it has done so, changes to a competitor's scorecard can be made as long as the competitor is within the "scoring area" as he/she is still considered to be in the process of returning his score card. Alterations may be made on the score card even if the competitor has signed and handed the score card to a member of the Committee. Changes cannot be made to the scorecard when he/she has left the scoring area. Team members shall be directed to a specific area so as not to be interfering with course operation following completion of a match while scores are being tabulated. The same scoring area guidelines apply to digital scoring via cell phones when available during the regular season.
- Range finders are allowed during Mid Penn play providing that the device measures or gauges distance only.
 - If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designated to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature etc.) or is also used for communication purposes.
 - Watches that are designed to give solely on course distance measurements are allowed to be used during matches. However, watches that have communication features, i.e. i-watches, are prohibited to be used during a match.
 - Cell phones, smart phones, or other similar communication tools may not be utilized as distance-measuring devices during a stipulated round during the high school golf season. However, cell phones may be used during the regular season to keep score as stipulated by the host school if a scoring app is available for use. **Cell phones when used to track score MAY ONLY BE USED green to tee. A cell phone may be used in the event of an emergency. Please alert all divisional coaches of any special circumstances where a player needs to utilize their cell phone (i.e tracking blood sugars).**

- Audio and Video. The Mid Penn will implement Local Rule G-8. During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device.
- **The penalty for a breach of any of the above rules in this section is the general penalty for the first breach and disqualification from any subsequent breach as prescribed in Rule 4.3**

Match Responsibilities - Coaches

Home Coach

- The home coach should determine if any local rules (not listed on the hard card) are in effect and notify every one of these rules prior to the start of the match
 - Coaches should provide a written “Notice of Competitors” or “Local Rules” to the coaches at minimum. A copy may be provided to the players as well.
 - Local Rules must be in accordance with the Rules of Golf as laid out in Appendix I.
- The home coach shall organize the match by preparing a list of local course rules, preparing scorecards and match parings in advance.
- The home coach, along with the course management, will determine the method of starting a match: shotgun or tee times. The shotgun start is preferred and strongly recommended.
- The home team has the option of providing course markers to assist in spotting and searching for balls.
- The home coach should determine if winter rules/preferred lies, should be played.
 - Winter rules/preferred lies should be limited to extremely unusual circumstances. The host school in conjunction with the local pro and other coaches can determine the abnormal ground conditions.
 - If winter rules/preferred lies are played and the ball must be moved, it shall be done in the following manner in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf:
 1. A tee mark the spot of the ball
 2. The ball must be move within one (1) club length or grip length from the spot marked by the tee.
 3. The ball should not be placed closer to the hole.

Visiting Coaches

- All coaches shall assist with match operations and tabulating scores at the completion of a match.
- Visiting coaches shall provide the home coach with a written lineup prior to the start of the match.
- All coaches are responsible for seeing that all golfers are removed from the course at the first sign of lightning once the match begins.

Score Reporting

- Scores for each match must be reported on the forms provided by the Mid Penn Conference or on a spreadsheet created of the like.
- Overall League averages shall be rounded two (2) decimal points. (Hundredths place).
- Team wins and losses will be determined by the aggregate of the 4 best team player’s scores on a given team, based on completed common holes.
- **Divisions may choose to utilize Golf Genius for divisional matches. Marc Vogle (CD) is the Mid Penn point person and will help assist in the management of the system for the conference.**

Suspension of Play

- If it becomes necessary to call play or suspend match before teams have completed a round of 18 holes, a match will be considered complete when all groups have completed a minimum of seven (7) common holes. Scores shall count for all common holes.
- If a match is called or suspended prior to the completion of 18 holes or seven (7) common holes, the match shall be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety on the next available play date or canceled entirely.
- Individual scores of rounds less than 18 holes, but with a minimum of seven (7) common holes, will not be computed in the players overall league average but they will receive credit for playing in the match.

Player Withdrawal or DQ

- If a player does not finish a round by either withdrawing or being disqualified, he/she may be disciplined and/or disqualified from participation in the Mid Penn individual and/or team tournament. At no time should a player intentionally walk off the course because he/she is having a bad round of golf that day.
- The match will not count toward a player’s Mid-Penn match total or average if the player is disqualified or withdrawals from a match.

Postponement of Matches

- In the case of undesirable playing conditions, the home team shall notify the visiting teams as soon as possible on the day of the match unless emergency conditions develop which necessitate less notice.

Spectators (PIAA)

- Spectators will be permitted to walk the golf course to follow the contestants during competition as the course allows.
- Spectators who choose to walk the golf course behind the contestants during competition, may do so under the following restrictions:
 - Do not offer comments or make suggestions to the competitors. NO COACHING!
 - Do not observe play closer than ten (10) yards behind or in front of the group of competitors being observed.
 - Do not cross over or observe play from teeing areas, fairways or putting greens. Play may be observed from cart paths or “rough” only.
 - Do not move or talk when a player is addressing the ball or making a stroke.
 - Do not attempt to decide questions of fact or attempt to apply Rules of Golf.
 - Do not engage in the search for a player’s ball.

Boys Matches

Course Set-Up

- The course length for a boys match should be no less than 6,000 yards and no more than 6,400 yards.

Regular Season Match Format/Scoring

- The four (4) best scores from five (5) competitors will be totaled at the end of the match to determine a team score.
 - Ties shall be broken by comparing the score of the player with the 5th best score. If the scores of the 5th best score player are still tied, the scores of the 4th highest score will be compared and so on down through the line-up until the tie is broken.
- Teams may also bring up to two (2) more players from each team to play as individuals during the match at the home coach’s discretion.
 - Individual player’s scores will count toward their Mid-Penn averages as well earn them a Mid-Penn match played
 - Individual player’s scores will not count toward the team score during a given match
- When reporting individual scores and averages, all seven player scores should be listed and reported to the Mid-Penn Chairperson. The first five (5) players listed should be the players that made up the team for the event. The last two (2) being the individual players. Players playing as individuals during the match should be also clearly delineated as well.

Team Divisional Championship

- Divisional champions will be determined by the team with the highest winning percentage.
 - If a tie exists, co-champions will be recognized.

Mid-Penn Boys Individual Post Season

General Information

- An individual league championship will be conducted at the end of the regular season for the purpose of selecting representatives of the Mid-Penn Conference at the District III Tournament.
- The tournament shall be played over 18 holes at a neutral golf course (if possible).
- Players will be paired together in accordance with their season average and AA & AAA school affiliations.
- The golf course for the Mid Penn Championship will be set up to play approximately 6400-6700 yards in length.
 - The golf course for the Mid-Penn Qualifier will be set up between 6300-6500 yards.
- Every effort will be made not to place two players from the same team together in the same group.
- Coaches are expected to act as markers during the championship.
 - Coaches cannot be assigned to mark players from their own team.
- Players are required to participate in at least **3** of the Mid Penn Conference matches to be eligible to participate in the Mid Penn Conference Tournament. (*See “Suspension of Play” section for the protocol for shortened matches*)
 - If a player finishes inside of the qualifying averages but does not meet the minimum required matches, he is ineligible to participate in the post season. To fill the field, the next player who satisfies the minimum requirements will be eligible to play in the Mid-Penn Championship.

AAA – Individual Mid-Penn Championship Qualifying Tournament

- Players from any AAA school whose final scoring average in the range of 41-90 and who played in 3 matches during the regular season will be entered into the Mid-Penn Championship Qualifier.
- Every AAA team may send at least one player to the Mid-Penn Qualifier even if they don't have a player in the top 90 AAA averages.
- Top 10 players and ties will advance to the Mid-Penn Championship from the qualifier.

AAA – Individual Mid-Penn Championship

- The AAA boys field of the Individual Mid-Penn Championship will be made up of the following:
 - Top 40 AAA averages from the regular season of players who played a minimum of 3 matches
 - The top 10 qualifiers and ties from Mid-Penn Qualifying Tournament

AA – Individual Mid-Penn Championship

- The AA boys field of the Individual Mid-Penn Championship will be made up of the following:
 - Double the amount of AA District III qualifiers (X) consisting of the top AA averages from the regular season of players who played a minimum of 3 matches
 - For example if there are 3 qualifying spots available, the field will be made up of at least 6 players.
 - Every AA team may send at least one player to the Mid Penn Championship even if they don't have a player qualify.

Independent School - Qualification to the Mid-Penn Tournament

- It is recommended that Mid Penn independent entrants have an average score confirmed by the Athletic Director and Principal equal to or less than the established qualifying score for the school classification (AAA or AA) that the player is in.
 - The Mid Penn Golf Chairperson will determine if any slots are available by the match prior to the tournament entry deadline.
 - An entry fee of \$35 must be submitted for participation. Checks made payable to the MPC. Additional fees may be required by the local course.

Mid-Penn Individual Championship Tie Breaking & Playoff Procedures

- In the event of a tie for the overall champion, a sudden victory play-off will be conducted immediately following play
 - Procedure of Playoff:
 - Competitors will be assigned a marker from a neutral school.
 - All playoff competitors will play in the same group regardless of the number of participants.
- In the event of a tie for the final entry spots into the District III Championship, a sudden victory play-off will be conducted immediately following play
 - Procedure of Playoff:
 - All playoff competitors will play in the same group regardless of the number of participants
 - Players with the lowest score on the hole will advance to the District III Championship
 - Players with the highest score on the hole will be eliminated.
 - The playoff will continue in this format until all spots for the District III Championship have been filled.
- All other ties will be broken using USGA guidelines for matching cards
 - An acceptable method of matching cards is to determine the winner on the basis of the best score for the last nine holes. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, the winner will be determined on the basis of the last six holes, last three holes and finally the 18th hole.
 - The "last nine holes, last six holes, etc." is considered to be holes 10-18, 13-18, etc.
- Medals will be awarded to the overall top finishers.

District III Individual Qualifiers

- The top XX individual finishers from AAA and top X individual finishers in AA will advance to the District III Championship.

Mid-Penn Team Championship (AAA)

General Information

- The tournament will also determine a team representative to represent the Mid-Penn Conference at District III Team Tournament.
 - If State College or Mifflin County (both District 6 teams) win the Mid-Penn Team Championship, the top District 3 team will earn the right to represent the Mid-Penn at the District 3 tournament.

- The team championship will take place simultaneously with the individual championship.

Team Qualification

- Divisional champions/co-champions earn an automatic team qualifying spot in the Mid Penn Team championship.
 - Teams will select 5 players prior to the start of the championship and will count their top 4 scores.
 - If a divisional champion does not have 5 players qualify for the Mid-Penn Championship, the head coach may elect to bring up to 5 players to fill their team.
- Any team who finishes the regular season at a 335.0 team average or better qualify to compete for the Mid Penn team championship.
 - Qualifying teams will be able to bring up to 5 players to represent their team to count 4 scores towards the team score.
 - Qualifying teams must use players who qualified for the Mid Penn Individual Championship as members of their team and fill the team out with additional players who have not qualified.
 - Example – If Team A has 4 qualifiers in the Individual Championship, they may bring one additional player.
 - For any additional players playing for the team and who did not qualify individually for the Mid-Penn Championship, their score will only count towards the team score. They cannot move on as an individual to the District Championship.
- If a school has more than five (5) players qualify for the Individual Mid-Penn Championship, it is the responsibility of the coach to submit his/her line-up prior to the start of play for the Mid-Penn Team Championship. If a coach fails to submit his/her line-up prior to the start of play, they will forfeit their chance to win the Mid-Penn Championship due to a serious breach of equity.
- If a female player plays on the boys' team (within the rules of the Mid-Penn), she is eligible to represent her school in the Boys Mid-Penn Team Championship as a member of the boys team.

AAA Boys Mid-Penn Championship Team Tie Breaking Playoff Procedures

- If a tie exists for the team championship a playoff will be held.
 - A playoff for a Team Champion will begin at an assigned hole, on a sudden victory basis, and continue until the Champion is determined. Each Coach shall select four (4) players from the original five (5) who will participate in the play-off. If there is a two-way tie, players one and two from each Team will comprise the first group; players three and four from each Team will comprise the second group. If more than two Teams are tied, players will be grouped by Team position (i.e. players one comprise the first group, players two comprise the second group, etc.). In all cases, groups will play a predetermined hole(s) until the Champion has been determined. The player's aggregate score will count as the team's score.
 - If the teams are still tied, all players will proceed to the next playoff hole.
 - NOTE: Head coaches may interact with players during the playoff.

AA Boys Mid-Penn Team Championship

- AA teams will compete for the AA entry into districts during the regular season.
 - The team with the best divisional record winning percentage will represent the Mid Penn at team districts.
 - If a tie occurs during the regular season, then the tied teams will play off in the Mid Penn Conference Tournament playing five (5) players and counting four (4) scores.
 - If a playoff is necessary at the Mid-Penn Championships, the same procedures will be in place as the AAA follows.

Girls Matches

General Info

- The course length for a girls match should be no less than 5,000 yards and no more than 5,400 yards.
- A girls varsity match takes place when two or more schools compete on the same golf course
 - Examples – Invitationals, Dual Matches, Tri Matches & Mega Matches (*more than 3 schools present*)
 - Girls (*from schools who have less than 3 girls on the team*) playing in a boys match will also count as a match for the participant
- Regular Season Girls Matches will follow the same operations as boys matches (see above) except for the following stipulations:
 - Girls team matches will consist of the play up-to 5 players, count 3 format

- It is highly recommended, but not required, if you have a girls team you host a girls match

Eligibility/Status of Girls Players

- To determine the status of whether your girls consist of a team or as individuals:
 - If the school has three or more female players on the team (regardless of ability)
 - The coach forfeits the right for any of the girls to play in boys matches for the year.
 - However, if a team starts with more than three (3) female competitors and as a result of competitors permanently cannot finish the season (*due to a player quitting or sustaining a season ending injury*) which results in the team dropping below three (3) participants, the coach can permanently disband the girls team. If the team is disbanded, they cannot re-band during the season. Once disbanded, the girls may play on the boys' team for the remainder of the season.
 - Please notify the MPC Golf Chair if you plan to have a girls' team.
 - If the school has less than three (3) female varsity players:
 - Girls can play on the boys team in boys varsity matches

Score Reporting

- Any female who plays in a match and completes 18 holes without using a "maximum score" must be reported on the reporting forms provided by the Mid Penn Conference or on a digital spreadsheet created of the like.
- "Double Par" maximum score (Explained)
 - Any player who utilizes the Double Par Maximum Scoring system in a match cannot post a score be used to qualify for the Mid-Penn Individual Tournament

Mid-Penn Girls Individual Post Season

General Information

- An individual league championship will be conducted at the end of the regular season for the purpose of selecting representatives of the Mid-Penn Conference at the District III Tournament.
- The tournament shall be played over 18 holes of golf.
- Players will be paired together in accordance with their season average.
- The golf course will be set up to play approximately 5200-5400 yards in length.
- Every effort will be made not to place two players from the same team together in the same group.
- Coaches are expected to act as markers during the championship.
 - Coaches cannot be assigned to mark players from their own team.
- Players are required to participate in at least **3** matches to be eligible to participate in the Mid Penn Conference Tournament. (*See "Suspension of Play" section for the protocol for shortened matches*)
 - If a player finishes inside of the qualifying averages but does not meet the minimum required matches, she is ineligible to participate in the post season.

Individual Mid-Penn Championship Qualifying Tournament

- The girl's field of the Individual Mid-Penn Qualifier will be made up of the following:
 - Girls (*regardless of school classification*) who finish with an average between 104.01 and 110.00 and have played in at least three (3) matches will play in the Mid-Penn Qualifying tournament
 - Any girl who shoots a score of 110 or better in at least (3) sanctioned matches
- *Qualification to Mid-Penn Championship*
 - Any player who shoots 104 or better in the qualifying tournament will qualify for the Girls Individual Mid-Penn Championship

Individual Girls Mid-Penn Championship

- The girl's field of the Individual Mid-Penn Championship will be made up of the following:
 - Any girl (*regardless of school classification*) who has an average of 104.00 or better from the regular season and who played a minimum of 3 matches
 - Any girl (*regardless of school classification*) who shoots a one-time score of 80 or better at a sanctioned match
 - Any girl (*regardless of school classification*) who shot 104 or better at the Mid-Penn Championship Qualifier
- Any girl who shoots a score of 104 or better at the Mid-Penn Championship will qualify for the District III Championships.

- All ties for medal placement will be broken using the same procedures listed under “Mid-Penn Individual Championship Tie Breaking & Playoff Procedures.”

Girls Team Mid-Penn Championship

- Any school who meets any of the below requirements may compete in the Girls Mid-Penn Team Championship
 - Any school who has a minimum of 3 girls with an average of 110 or better during the regular season may compete for the Mid-Penn Title.
 - Any school/team that meets the above requirement may bring up to five (5) players to compete for the Mid-Penn Team Championship.
 - These teams must use players who already qualified for the Mid Penn Individual Championship as members of their team and fill the team out with additional players who averaged under 110 and played in a minimum of 3 matches during the regular season.
 - Example – If Team A has 4 qualifiers in the Individual Championship, they may bring one additional player as long as she averaged under 110 in the regular season.
 - For any additional players playing for the team and who did not qualify individually for the Mid-Penn Championship, their score will only count towards the team score. They cannot move on as individual to the District Championship.
 - A team must shoot under an aggregate score of 300 to move on to the District Championships.
- All ties will be broken using the same procedures listed under “AAA Boys Mid-Penn Championship Team Tie Breaking Playoff Procedures”

Important Dates

- The first day of practice can be held on Monday, August 5, 2024.
- The first day a scrimmage/match can be held is Thursday, August 8, 2024.
- All matches must be completed by Monday, September 23, 2024.
- The Mid Penn Championship Qualifier (AAA and Girls) will be on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at Manada Golf Course.
- The Mid-Penn Individual & Team Championship (AAA, AA, and Girls) will be on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at Dauphin Highlands.
- The District III Team & Individual Championships will be on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, October 10-12, 2024 at Honey Run
- District III AAA Team and Singles Round 1 is October 10th, AA Team and Singles Round 1 is October 11th and AA and AAA Individual Championship Rounds are October 12th.

LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF COMPETITION FOR THE 2022 MID-PENN GOLF CONFERENCE

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of Competition are in effect for all Mid-Penn Conference Matches including the Mid-Penn Championship. See Applicable Individual Match & Championship Notice to Competitors for modification or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2019.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.

LOCAL RULES

OUT OF BOUNDS – Defined by the line between the course-side points of white stakes and fence posts at ground level.

the out of bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with the out of bounds.

ALTERNATE TO STROKE AND DISTANCE FOR LOST BALL OR BALL OUT OF BOUNDS – The Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures will not be in effect for any Mid-Penn Golf Contest.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR – Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair. Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where cart traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of the obstruction.

PENALTY AREAS – When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF - The Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO THE PUTTING GREEN – Relief is available only when the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in a closely mown area, the ball lies in the general area, and an immovable obstruction on or within two club lengths of the putting green and within two club lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole. (Drop ball within one club length of complete relief)

WHITE LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS – White lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions that are connected to a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH - Are loose impediments.

INTEGRAL OBJECTS – Include cables, rods, wires, and wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers. An exposed bunker line may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINES AND CABLES – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-11.

BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED CLUB – Local Rule as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect. Model Local Rule G-9.

BACK-ON-THE-LINE RELIEF – Local Rule as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect. Model Local Rule E12.

LIMITING WHEN STROKE MADE FROM PUTTING GREEN MUST BE REPLAYED UNDER EXCEPTION 2 TO RULE 11.1b — Local Rule as

prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect.

STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J1. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to cease doing so; failure to stop practicing may result in disqualification. An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged air horn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive air horn notes, repeated. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short air horn notes.

MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION – Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a round unless for an emergency or to return where the previous stroke was played. Transportation is allowed getting players to their starting hole or returning to the scoring area for shotgun starts. Also, players may ride from green to the next teeing ground only on holes where shuttle carts have been provided to the entire field by the committee.

PRACTICE – Between the play of two holes, a player must not make a practice stroke or roll a ball on or near the putting green of the hole last played. See Committee Procedure Section 8.

CADDIES – Are prohibited in all PIAA sponsored events.

DROP ZONES – All drop zones listed on the course scorecard should be disregarded and ignored. If a Drop Zone is to be used during a competition, it must be listed in the Notice to Competitors for the event.

WHEN THE COMPETITION IS FINAL – The Competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.