



SIJHSAA Boys and Girls Golf Return to Play

Additional information may be found at:

<https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines4/golf.pdf>

SEASON DATES

- Deadline for Entries: April 2, 2021
- Regional Tournaments: April 27, 2021 (Rain Date – April 28, 2021)
- State Tournament: May 11, 2021 (Rain Date – May 12, 2021)
- Regular season matches should be limited to within conference, other schools in the same EMS region, or other schools in the same geographical area (approximately a 30-mile radius)

ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be meeting all eligibility requirements (grades, age, residency, etc.)
- Students must have a current physical on file prior to practice
- E-learning students would be eligible provided the local district allows their participation

STATE SERIES

- If enough individuals enter, there will be regional tournaments hosted by Benton Country Club in Benton and Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course in Okawville. These are scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021.
- The state tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Rain date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021) at Rend Lake Golf Course.

SPECTATORS

- Spectator and group gatherings subject to IDPH guidelines during the time of the event
- During matches there is a limit of 50 people per wave. This number would include participants, coaches, officials, and spectators. Multiple waves can be at an event as long as they are properly spaced, and they don't have to intermingle or wait in queue in common areas.
- Only essential personnel are permitted on the course. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials. All others are considered nonessential and are to be in the gallery remaining by the cart path (when present) or remaining at least 15 yards from the players.
- Spectators must wear face coverings at all times unless eating or drinking or when outdoors and able to maintain a safe social distance.
- Adherence to all CDC guidelines regarding hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Limit spectators to immediate household members or guardians of participants.
- No spectator carts permitted.
- Must maintain social distancing regardless of the position on the golf course.
- Spectators are discouraged from giving participants objects like food, water, umbrellas, etc.

SAFETY

- Individuals should not congregate in common areas to or following the match.
- If an Illinois COVID Region or County is placed in Phase 3 or lower of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan, all sports for schools in that Region or County will be suspended or cancelled.
- Recommended that players have their own hand sanitizer and use it after every hole.
- Athletes must always be at least 6 feet apart from other players and coaches regardless of their position on the course.



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- All participants must refrain from touching anyone not from the same household, including shaking hands before or after the match.
- Participants should not share equipment. Players should not touch the flagstick, bunker rakes, or ball cleaning devices on the course.

MASKS

- **COACHES:** Face coverings must be worn at all times when not actively engaged in strenuous physical activity.
- **SPECTATORS:** Face coverings should be worn except for when eating, drinking, or when outside and able to maintain a safe social distance.
- **GOLFERS:** Face coverings do not need to be worn while playing. A mask shall be worn at all times when a safe social distance cannot be maintained. If an individual would like to wear a mask while playing, they may do so.
- It is recommended that programs require physician's notes for individuals who have a medical contraindication to wearing a face covering. Face coverings must fully cover the mouth and nose, and that they must fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps. Reusable face coverings should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to completely dry after each use.

COURSE ETIQUETTE

- Coaches: do not allow sunflower seeds or spitting on the course during practice or matches.
- Do not touch the flagstick or bunker rakes, nor other players' equipment or golf balls.
- The flagstick is to remain in the hole at all times. If a player needs to re-center the flagstick, they may do so using a club.
- A player is prohibited from making a stroke with the flagstick removed from the hole.
- Regional Course hosts: Consider having sanitizer and disinfectant for starting and scoring areas.
- Only essential personnel are permitted on the course. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials. All others are considered nonessential and are to be in the gallery remaining by the cart path (when present) or remaining at least 15 yards from the players.

BALL HOLED

- The traditional definition of *holed* has been modified to say: *If any part of the ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, the ball is treated as holed even if the entire ball is not below the surface.* This definition will be used for hole inserts (such as plastic piping, pool noodles, etc.) NOTE: If the ball does bounce out of the hole, the ball is NOT considered holed.

BUNKERS

- Any area disturbed in a bunker is deemed an Abnormal Course Condition (Ground Under Repair). The player may take full relief for maximum available relief under **Rule 16.1c**, but the player must drop inside the bunker for free relief.

NOTE: Rule 16.1 shall be modified as follows: interference exists only if the disturbed area in the bunker interferes with the player's lie or area of intended swing (such as a ridge in front of or behind the ball). There is no relief for interference with stance.



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- Disturbed areas include (but are not limited to) footprints and other disturbances that may have been caused by players, animals, or other sources (this does not include a disturbance created as a result of a previous stroke). When confronted with this situation, the player has the following options:
 - The player has the option to play the ball as it lies.
 - If the player takes free relief under **Rule 16.1c**, the player must drop the ball (from knee height) within one club length of the nearest point of relief or maximum available relief with the bunker, not nearer to the hole. The player is not permitted to place the ball unless the ball fails to stay within the relief area after two (2) drops (**Rule 14.3c**). If a drop creates a new disturbance (such as a plugged lie), the player is not entitled to relief from that disturbance or take a second drop because of that disturbance.
 - As an added option under **Rule 16.1c**, for a penalty of one (1) stroke, the player may elect to use back-on-line relief by dropping behind the bunker along the line formed by the hole and the spot where the ball was at rest in the bunker, going back as far as the player wishes.

AWARDS

- The top 5 golfers at each **regional** will receive medals.
- There will be no awards ceremony.
- Individuals placing 1 through 5 will have their medals shipped directly to the school at the conclusion of the regional.
- There will be a sudden death playoff for individuals tied for 1st place. Ties will not be broken for places 2 through 5.
- The top 15 golfers at the **state tournament** will receive medals.
- There will be no awards ceremony.
- Individuals placing 1 through 15 will have their medals shipped directly to the school at the conclusion of the regional.
- There will be a sudden death playoff for individuals tied for 1st place. Ties will not be broken for places 2 through 15.