

2026-27 Golf

Classification — based on grades 9-12

6A	1,400 and over	4A	699-350
5A	1,399-700	3A	349 and under

2026-27 Golf Seasons

6A/5A

Start Date	August 10
Dist. Tourn. Completion	October 8
State Tournament	October 12-13

4A/3A

Start Date	March 1
Dist. Tourn. Completion	May 13
State Tournament	May 17-18

Match Limitation

No team or individual shall play more than 10 matches per season and may not exceed two matches per week. A match must be completed in one day (with the exception of a weather delay) and consist of no more than 18 holes. If 6 or more holes have been completed, and a match is cancelled due to inclement weather or other circumstance out of the team or individual's control, the contest shall count toward the team or individual's match limitation. If fewer than 6 holes have been completed, the match does not have to count towards the team or individual's match limitation. A contestant who exceeds the limitations of regular season participation will become ineligible for district, state or any other additional IHSA sponsored golf competition.

2026 6A/5A State Tournament

Date	October 12-13
Sites	6A Avondale GC, Coeur d'Alene (CDA HS host)
	5A The Links GC, Post Falls (Sandpoint HS host)

2027 4A/3A State Tournament

Date	May 17-18
Sites	4A Twin Lakes GC, Rathdrum (Timberlake HS host)
	3A Stoneridge GC, Blanchard (Kellogg/Priest River HS host)

Representation

Representation from district to state is based on the number of complete teams that actually participated at the district tournament. Quotas for each district or regional tournament to state competitions will be determined as follows:

Complete Teams Competing in District Competition	Teams to state
1-3*	1
4-6	2
7-9	3
10 & over	4

*If only one team participates in a district, the IHSA should be contacted. The following guidelines will be used to determine advancement to state:

- Single teams in a district shall automatically qualify for the state tournament as long as they have competed in five regular season matches and have participated in a district tournament.

Team Hardship Qualification

Teams that miss qualifying by one place in the district tournament may request a hardship under the following conditions: 1) Teams must score better than the 3-year average score for the state tournament 4th place team at their district tournament; 2) Teams must submit their team scores and course ratings for their final five matches of the regular season using the PlusFour Golf platform. At least three of the scores must be better than the 3-year, 4th place State average. A team's performance score will also be calculated and considered (team score – course rating (x4) = performance score); 3) A panel, composed of representatives from multiple districts, will make the final decision on advancement to State.

Individual Qualifiers – Boys and Girls

Individuals may qualify for the state tournament according to the number of complete teams participating in the district tournament. Example: Four teams competing at district, the four lowest scoring individuals qualify for state.

In addition, an individual may qualify by scoring at or below the state qualifying standard at the district qualifying tournament. State qualifying standards are determined by averaging the previous three years' state tournament 5th place finishers and are listed as "strokes over course rating".

State Qualifying Standard

6A Boys	.6	4A Boys	10.8
6A Girls	11.5	4A Girls	16.7
5A Boys	4.8	3A Boys	9.7
5A Girls	9.2	3A Girls	15.9

Ties at District Tournaments

When a tie occurs at the end of regulation play between two or more teams for first, second, third or fourth place, the tie will be broken by a sudden-death playoff. The following procedures will be used:

- The teams that are tied will play one hole with five golfers and score the four lowest individual scores. The team with the lowest combined team score will be declared the winner.
- If the teams remain tied at the end of the first hole played during sudden-death play, the same procedure will be used for the remaining holes until the tie is broken.
- Medalists: When a tie occurs between two or more individuals for medalist honors, the tie will be broken by a sudden-death playoff as outlined above. When a tie occurs for the final qualifying position to the state tournament, both individuals will advance.

Honest Effort

A golfer who starts, but does not finish, the district tournament, may be counted in determining the number of qualifying teams and individuals provided the district manager determines that an honest effort was made and that the non-finish was due to circumstances beyond the golfer's control.

Rules

USGA Rules of Golf will govern all tournament play, with allowed local course rules and/or as modified by IHSA rules and regulations. NOTE: All IHSA golf matches, including district and state, will be played under USGA Rule 21-2, Maximum Score. The maximum score will be "10" on any hole.

Rules for District and State Golf

1. Practice

- a. Qualifiers are not permitted to play the course, any hole, or to practice putt on a course green the same day as the tournament.
- b. Practice between rounds is prohibited. Penalty for breach of rule is disqualification.
- c. During a round, a player shall not play a practice stroke either during the play of a hole or between the play of two holes except that, between the play of two holes, the player may practice putting or chipping on or near any practice putting green or the teeing ground of the next hole to be played in the round, provided such practice stroke is not played from a hazard and does not unduly delay play.
- d. Practice on or near the putting green of the hole last played is prohibited - penalty for breach of rule is two strokes. If a breach occurs between the play of two holes, the penalty will apply to the next hole.
- e. A practice swing is not a practice stroke and may be taken at any location, provided the player does not breach the rules.

2. Caddies Caddies are not permitted during district or state tournament play.

3. Carts Carts are not permitted, except in case of special medical conditions. Permission to use a cart must be granted by the IHSAA or tournament manager.

4. Coaches

- a. Coaches may talk/give advice to their players from the tee to the green, but coaches cannot go onto the green. Once a player steps onto the green, coaching must stop until the player holes out and leaves the green for the next teeing area, regardless of whether the player steps back off the green during that hole. Communicating with the player after they have stepped onto the green is a breach of the rules and is a two stroke penalty. Only two coaches per team are allowed to coach during an event.
- b. It is imperative that coaches do not slow the pace of play. Slow play will be penalized as per USGA rules.
- c. Coaches are not allowed to play the course during the hours the state tournament is in progress.
- d. Coaches should make an effort to help all participants abide by the rules of golf and the rules set up for district and state play. It is unethical to try to win a championship by disqualification.

5. Gallery The gallery must be a reasonable distance (at least 25 feet) from the competitors at all times. Penalty for continued breach of gallery distance rule is one stroke.

6. Aiding a Competitor There shall be no aiding of any competitor, except to look for a lost ball or to provide relief items such as water, sunscreen, etc. Penalty for breach of rule is two strokes.

7. Sportsmanship A player who violates the sportsmanship rules of golf will be assessed one penalty stroke for each unsportsmanlike act. Such acts include (but not limited to) profanity, throwing a club, damaging the course, etc.

8. Attire All players must wear appropriate golf attire — slacks or shorts and a collared shirt. Denim jeans are not permitted.

9. Electronic Devices Competitors are not permitted to wear headphones or use cell phones (except for scoring or hole data purposes on the PlusFour Golf platform) during tournament play. Penalty for breach of rule is two strokes.

10. Distance Measuring Devices A player may obtain distance information by using a golf-designed device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a

distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of USGA rules, for which the penalty is two strokes.

11. Illegal Substances The use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs is prohibited. Penalty for breach of rule is immediate disqualification.

Substitutions at the State Tournament

Substitutions are not allowed after final line-ups are submitted to tournament managers (deadline is Thurs prior to the state tournament). In the event of **injury, illness or bereavement**, teams may be allowed to replace a participant after the submission deadline or between Days 1 and 2 of the state tournament with permission of the tournament manager and the IHSAA. No substitutions will be allowed mid-round.

Supervision of Play

1. A Rules Official will supervise district and state tournaments.
2. At the State Tournament, schools are asked to bring one adult monitor for each of their qualifying teams. Host sites will provide adult monitors as well.
3. Adult volunteers will monitor play and assist in keeping score, but will not make rules interpretations. These monitors will be assigned in the following manner:
 - a. The tournament manager will assign one adult volunteer to follow each group. He/she should not be a coach or relative of any player in that group.
4. As each group finishes a hole, the assigned monitor will ask:
 - a. Are there any concerns regarding this hole?
 - b. Are you all in agreement on the scores of each player?
5. If there are concerns or reports of rules violations, the monitor will:
 - a. Attempt to resolve concerns through group discussion, or
 - b. Notify the Rules Official via cell phone of a possible rules violation.
 - c. The Rules Official will attempt to resolve issue before the group plays the next hole.
6. After the 18th hole, the monitor will escort each group to the scoring area. Note: Coaches, spectators or other players will not be allowed in the scoring area.
7. The scoring area manager will have each group sit together and double-check their scorecards. He/she will then ask the group if anyone has questions or concerns about their round.
 - a. If there are no concerns, players will sign and turn in their scorecards. Coaches may review their players' scorecards before the cards are signed.
 - b. If there are concerns, players will be moved to a separate location until the issue can be resolved and the Games Committee will convene.
 - The golfer will state his/her concern in front of the entire group. If the concern is accusatory in nature, the committee will gather information and facts surrounding the issue by privately interviewing all players of the group.
 - Once the issue has been resolved, the coaches of each affected school will be notified of the Games Committee's decision, the players will sign their scorecards and will be released. Coaches may review their players' scorecards before the cards are signed.

The games committee shall consist of the tournament Rules Official, an IHSAA representative and the host golf professional or assistant pro.

Scoring

1. Players in the foursome will be assigned as markers for another member of the foursome. Player 1 will score for 2, 2 will score for 3, 3 for 4, and 4 will score for 1. (Rule 3-3)
2. After each hole the marker should check the score with the competitor. The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded and shall check his/her score after each hole. Any concerns or possible violations must be reported to the adult monitor assigned to their foursome before proceeding to the next hole.
3. After the final hole, the group will be escorted to the scoring area as outlined under "Supervision of Play" and settle any doubtful points with the Rules Official or games committee, ensure that their marker has signed the card, and countersign the card him/herself. Penalty for breach of Rule 3-3b is disqualification.
4. **Teams are required to use the PlusFour Golf platform for a minimum of their last five matches of the season.**

State Tournament Format

Team and individual awards will be determined from a combined two-day total score.

All teams and individuals will play 36 holes -18 holes each day.

Ties at State Tournament

1. All ties that occur at the end of regulation play for 1st – 4th team places and 1st place medalist will be resolved by a sudden-death playoff. The procedure is as follows:
 - a. Teams who are tied will play 5 golfers and score the 4 lowest individual scores. The team with the lowest combined score after one playoff hole will be declared the winner.
 - b. If the team score is still tied after the first playoff hole, the same procedure will be used for the remaining holes until the tie is broken.
 - c. Ties for first place medalist will be broken in the same manner as explained in (a) and (b) above.
2. Ties for medalist places 2-10 will be resolved by use of a "card-off". The procedure is as follows:

Using scores from the final day of play:

 - a. The scores of the highest rated hole on the course will be compared. Individual with the lowest score on that hole will be declared the winner.
 - b. If a tie remains after the first card-off hole, scores on the second highest rated hole will be compared. This system will be continued until the tie is broken.