

Revised August 2019

## COLONIAL LEAGUE GOLF RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. U.S.G.A. and PIAA rules will be followed. Pursuant rule changes instituted in August 2011, golfers may use range finders to measure distance only. Note: U.S.G.A. rule changes published on January 1, 2019 will be instituted.
  - a. Rule 3-3 Doubt of Procedure Rule is in effect for all Colonial League matches. If any questions arise concerning a rule, players should play two balls, record both scores, and request a ruling at the end of the match from the coaches. If coaches cannot agree, a ruling should be requested of the U.S.G.A. professional on site or the Colonial League Golf Chairman.
  - b. Local Rule E-5 is in effect for all Colonial League Matches. Lost Balls or Balls Out of Bounds, the player may take stroke and distance relief, or the player has the additional option to drop a ball and play from the proper relief area. This area shall be no closer to the hole, from two club lengths into the fairway to the point of entry and as far back as the player prefers. This option however, comes with a two-stroke (+2) penalty.
  - c. A maximum score of 10 is instituted for all players in Colonial League regular matches. After a player makes their 10<sup>th</sup> stroke, they must pick up their ball, record 10 on their card, and move to the next tee.
  - d. The embedded ball rule shall be in effect for all areas of the course (except penalty areas) during Colonial League play.
2. Matches shall consist of 18 holes unless weather, darkness or circumstance beyond the teams' control comes into play.
3. In order for a match to be official, 9 holes must be completed. Incomplete matches of 9 or more holes would be scored from last completed hole of all golfers in the match. Example: Group 1 completes 18 holes but the last playing group completes 15 holes. The match shall be scored for all groups with scores from holes 1-15. For District XI scoring average purposes, coaches shall obtain an 18 holes score by proportionally taking the score complete for each group and extrapolating that out over 18 holes. In this case, players who finish a round while others did not may use all the holes they have completed.
4. Proper Scoring Procedure: At the conclusion of each Colonial League match, coaches shall establish a scoring area in or near the clubhouse. All players in each playing group shall sit with the coaches of each school, review scores, ask any rules or scoring questions and then sign their scorecard and attest their playing partner's card.
4. Golf etiquette should be stressed at all times.
5. A team shall consist of eight players.
6. Scoring shall be medal play. The team score shall be the lowest five scores of team. Therefore, at least five players must play for a team score. In case of a tie, the next lowest player's score

should determine the winner. Scores may not be accepted until card is signed by participant and the opponent. In the case of a tie using the 6<sup>th</sup> score, the 7<sup>th</sup> score shall break the tie and subsequently, the 8<sup>th</sup> score if the first 7<sup>th</sup> scores results in a tie. If the result of the match is tied after the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> scores have been match, the result of the match shall be a tie.

8. The League Tournament Champion is determined by a four team (2 Divisional Champions and 2 Wild Cards) tournament to be held simultaneously with the league individual tournament. The League Champion will be determined by medal play, scoring the best five of eight golfers for each school.
9. Players must carry their own bag at all times. As per PIAA rule change in Aug. 2015, players may use a non motorized push or pull cart if allowed by the host course. Physically handicapped players may be exempted from this regulation and be approved for use of a motorized cart upon application to, and approval from the PIAA only.  
Note: Olde Homestead (Northwestern Lehigh) does not permit pull carts.  
All players must carry their bags.
10. Pursuant USGA rule 8-1, each team may appoint one coach who may give advice to members of that team, provide such advice is given in between holes and in a private manner that does not unduly delay play.
11. Spectators who choose to walk the course BEHIND the contestants, during competition, may do so under the following restrictions:
  - A. DO NOT offer comments or make suggestions to the competitors. NO COACHING!
  - B. DO NOT observe play closer than twenty-five (25) yards BEHIND the group of competitors being observed.
  - C. DO NOT cross over or observe play from teeing areas, fairways or putting greens. Play may be observed from cart paths or the “rough” only.
  - D. DO NOT move or talk when a player is addressing the ball or making a stroke.
  - E. DO NOT attempt to decide questions of fact nor attempt to apply the Rules of Golf. In the event of a spectator refusing to abide by the PIAA regulations concerning spectators at an interscholastic golf meet (A-E above); the following guidelines are to be used:
    - A. The coach will advise the offending person(s) of the PIAA regulations and request that they abide by the rules.
    - B. If the offending spectator(s) refuses to observe the rules, he is to be asked to leave the course.
    - C. If the spectator(s) refuses to leave, the play of the foursome is to be suspended until the offender removes himself from the course.
    - D. If the offender(s), after a few moments, will not remove himself from the course, play will resume and the player(s) from the school (in that foursome) that are “associated” with the offending person will not be counted in the final scoring.
12. Practice shall be limited to practice areas.
13. This league shall sponsor a League Tournament. Tournament rules are included in the Tournament Colonial League Golf Tournament section.
14. Appropriate dress and proper etiquette shall prevail. If any breach of the aforementioned is observed, coaches may mutually assess a penalty of two strokes.

15. The Colonial League prohibits the use of tobacco and/or tobacco products by participating and non-participating team personnel, including coaches, during any interscholastic athletic contest, at any level of interscholastic athletic competition.
16. The last three dual matches of the Colonial League Regular Season will begin 15 minutes prior (2:30pm) to the regular start time for matches (2:45pm). Teams will not be permitted to hit range balls prior to these last three matches. Tri and Quad matches within the last week should start now later than 1:45 when possible.

#### Colonial League Championship Tournament

1. The Colonial League will sponsor a Colonial League Championship Tournament consisting of two (2) simultaneous tournaments.
  - a. The two (2) Division winners and two (2) Wild Card teams will compete for the Colonial League Championship. These four (4) teams will enter eight (8) players for competition. The eight (8) players from the four (4) championship teams will be paired in the first eight (8) groups of the tournament based on their scoring average. The Colonial League Champion shall be determined by using the team's five (5) best scores. In the event of a tie, the same tie break used to break regular season ties shall be used (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> score).
  - b. The Colonial League shall declare a Male and Female Champion, and entry into the tournament shall be as follows:
    - i. The 2 division winners and two wild card teams will have eight (8) automatic entries into the tournament as League Champion competitors.
    - ii. The top 20 remaining players and ties. The top 20 players will be based on individual scoring averages as submitted by each coach. Entered scores will be from Colonial League Matches only from the first contest of the year to the deadline date for entry.
    - iii. Additional players beyond the 8 playing members of the 4 championship teams may qualify for the tournament provided they meet the following conditions.
      1. They fall within the top 20 remaining averages.
      2. Their average is not lower than any of the 8 players playing for the team championship (to prevent teams from manipulating lineup for more individual entries)
      3. That any players beyond an 8<sup>th</sup> team member establish a playing average by posting at least 3 score in League Matches
    - iv. Each team in the Colonial League shall be entitled to 1 entry in the tournament. If a player from any school does not make the cut for entry, that school may enter their top player in the tournament.
    - v. Females that are not part of one of the four championship teams or do not make the cut, may be entered to compete for the Girls Individual Championship. As per the coaches' recommendation, a female who a coach feels may have the ability to score approximately 100 or better at the championship course for that year may be entered into the tournament.

- vi. Colonial League Members who do not sponsor a golf team are entitled to individual entry into the league golf championship provided they meet the same criteria for entry into the District XI qualifier based on an established USGA Handicap. Players must have an established USGA handicap of 10.0 or less.
2. Medals will be given to the Top twelve (12) Male finishers and the Top five (5) Female finishers. In the event of a tie for the Individual Championship a playoff shall determine the outcome of the tie. Players will begin on a hole determined by the tournament director and play medal play until a tie is broken. All remaining ties will be broken by matching scorecards beginning with the #1 handicapped hole and moving through the scorecard in order of handicap until a tie is broken.  
NOTE: That the Top 5 Male finishers (and ties) and the Top 2 Female finishers (and ties) earn exemption from the District XI Qualifier and move directly to the District XI Championship Tournament
  3. The tournament director shall secure a tournament site (preferably a neutral course not used by schools for regular matches, conveniently located for a majority of the participating schools).
  4. The tournament director shall assign marshals to each foursome who should be a golf knowledgeable adult. The pool of marshals shall include all coaches (except those coaches whose team is competing for the championship) and additional personnel provided by schools on an identified rotation (see misc.). It is recommended that each school provide two marshals (that of the school's coach and athletic director) whenever possible to ensure proper coverage of the tournament. It is presently expected that two additional marshals be supplied.
  5. The responsibilities of markers shall include keeping score, monitoring and encouraging players in adherence to golf etiquette and U.S.G.A. rules. If a rules questions arises, players shall play a second ball and request a ruling at the end of the match from the tournament director in consultation with the coaches. If this cannot be determined, a U.S.G.A. professional shall be consulted, if available.
  6. All boys will play from the tees designated by the tournament director. All girls will play from the tees closest to 85% of the tees in which the boys are competing from.

Miscellaneous:

1. At the annual tournament the listed schools are required to provide 2 marshals in addition to their coach and the list shall be alphabetical rotation. New teams added will take a turn in the rotation in order of entry to the golf league competition.
 

2015 – Bangor	2021 – Southern Lehigh
2016 - Moravian Academy	2022 - Wilson
2017 – Palmerton	2023 – Notre Dame G.P.
2018 - Pen Argyl	2024 – Northwestern Lehigh
2019 – Salisbury	
2020 - Saucon Valley	

2. Home team is required to report the results of match through use of the Colonial League statistician submission form by 9:30pm the day of the match.