

GOLF BOYS

I. RULES: GOVERNING ASSOCIATIONS

A. United States Golf Association: Regulations in the U.S.G.A. Annual Book govern play.

B. CIAC - current regulations regarding:

1. Opening day of practice
2. Length of season
3. Number of dates per week
4. State Championship qualifications
5. Any other ad hoc rules

C. FCIAC

1. Players are responsible to sign and return to their coach both the FCIAC Player Participation Contract and the FCIAC Safety Contract in order to be eligible to participate in practices or matches. The FCIAC guidelines and/or practices identified in the FCIAC Safety Contract have been established in order to protect the student athletes and others from injury and or/illness. Attention to these safety guidelines is essential if players are to ensure their own safety and the safety of others and each participant is expected to follow them. By signing and returning these contracts each player is indicating his understanding of and willingness to adhere to everything therein.

2. Dress Code: Players are responsible to dress in accordance with the FCIAC dress code. Proper attire consists of a collared golf shirt and four pocketed slacks (jeans of any kind and pants with more than four pockets are not permitted). Knee-length, four-pocketed shorts are optional where permitted. Players must wear soft spike golf shoes or sneakers – penalty is disqualification. Baseball style hats must be worn with the brim forward at all times – first offense – warning; second offense is disqualification. Though this code is consistent with the policy of the C.I.A.C and most golf courses, the dress code of the host club supersedes the FCIAC dress code and anything not permitted by a host club is not permitted in that match. Players will not be allowed on the golf course without proper attire.

3. Only one school certified adult representative per team will be allowed from a visiting school for varsity only matches. If both the varsity & JV teams are competing at the same location then the visiting team can bring two coaches). Prior to the start of a match both coaches must present each other with a line-up card containing the names of the five competing players. Each coach is free to configure the order of their line up any way they wish. Any team that plays six players must designate one of the six as the “exhibition” player before the start of the match and that player’s score cannot count in the match for any reason – not even to replace an injured/disqualified player.

4. All matches will be nine holes unless both coaches agree ahead of time to play an eighteen-hole match. If an eighteen-hole match completes the front nine but cannot complete the back nine then the match reverts to a nine-hole match. Eighteen-hole matches that complete nine holes cannot be rescheduled. Once a match has started both teams are obligated to try and complete nine holes unless the course closes due to inclement weather or darkness.

5. Players are required to carry their own bag or use a non-motorized pull cart during FCIAC matches. Players are prohibited from using caddies or motorized golf cars in an FCIAC event without prior medical/committee approval. Penalty for breach of this rule is two strokes per hole, maximum of four strokes per round. Use of any unauthorized caddie or golf car shall be discontinued immediately upon discovering that a breach has occurred. Otherwise, the player shall be disqualified.
6. All play is covered by U.S.G.A. rules and any local rules in effect the day of a match. Should the coaches have a question regarding any rule - before, during or after a match - they should seek the council of the local PGA Professional. Rule infractions must be called before play begins on the next hole, or in the case of the last hole, before the cards are signed & attested. Players cannot ignore, waive or modify the rules - individually or collectively. The penalty for doing so is disqualification (Rule 1-3) and must be assessed even if discovered after the competition is closed (34 b (i)).
7. It is the responsibility of the home coach to give pre-match instructions on the day of a match to visiting players and coaches regarding anything affecting play that day that is not already covered in the FCIAC Player Participation Contract. These instructions can include but are not limited to local rules, distance markers, pin position indicators, hidden hazards, interior out of bounds, stones in sand traps plus the required pace of play and cell phone policy for the match. The decision on whether or not to adopt a local rule to play winter rules will be made by the home coach in consultation with the Head Professional and/or Course Superintendent.
8. Pace of Play Policy: "The first group will be considered out of position if they are not being held up and, at any time during the round, they are behind the prescribed pace for that day. Any following group will be considered out of position if it (a) is taking more than the allotted time to play and (b) reaches the teeing ground of a par-3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee; reaches the teeing ground of a par-4 hole and the putting green is clear; or reaches the teeing ground of a par-5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position. It is the players' responsibility to recognize when they are out of position and to regain their position without having to be instructed to do so by coaches/marshals. Once a group has been warned by a Marshall they are officially on the clock. Failure to regain their position within three holes will result in a two shot penalty being assessed to each member of the group. If they fail to regain their position within an additional three holes they will be disqualified and told to leave the course. Additionally, once they have teed off, no player is allowed to hit a practice shot or putt during FCIAC competitions. First offense: warning. Subsequent offenses: two shots for each offense. (USGA Rule 7-2 and note 2).
9. FCIAC DMD Policy: For all FCIAC competitions, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses **any** distance-measuring device that has the capability to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect their play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used. Any doubt of conformity will be ruled *against* the player. Any player in possession of a DMD is **required** to share distance information from their own location when asked by a fellow competitor. Penalty for refusing to provide this information is disqualification (Rule 3-

10. FCIAC Mobile Phone/Smart Watch Policy: Mobile phones cannot be used as a distance measuring device during a match. Smart watches (those with the ability to obtain or use information other than distance) cannot be used as a distance measuring device. Players must turn off all electronic devices before they tee off. If any such device **sounds** while on the course the penalty for the player in possession of the device will be a warning for the first offense and **a two stroke penalty added to the player's whole score for each offense**. If any player **uses** such a device on the course for any reason other than one approved by the tournament committee the user will be **assessed a two stroke penalty added to the player's whole score for each offense.. If this offense is called during the match it will be discussed with both coaches at the conclusion of the match**. Before teeing off, and after signing their card, players need to adhere to the cell phone policy of the host club. It is the responsibility of the home coach to inform all players about the cell phone policy at their home course. Players not informed about where to use phone before or after a match cannot be DQ.

11. Unsportsmanlike conduct including, but not limited to, the use of obscene or abusive language, throwing equipment, disrespecting volunteers, officials, coaches or fellow competitors, or abusing personal or golf course property will not be tolerated. Infractions must be called before play begins on the next hole, or in the case of the last hole, before the cards are signed & attested. There will be a two-stroke penalty for the first infraction and disqualification for any subsequent infraction during the same match. If the committee feels that a player is guilty of a serious breach of etiquette it may impose a penalty of disqualification (Rule 33-7).

12. Smoking and/or chewing tobacco before, during, or after a match results in immediate disqualification and the penalty can be assessed at any point up until one of the teams has left the course. If a player uses tobacco after one team leaves his coach may discipline him but such discipline will not alter the match result.

13. If any coach feels that the severity of any infraction warrants a stronger and/or additional response they have twenty-four hours to make an appeal to the Golf Chairman. In the event of a suspension a player may submit a written appeal of his account of the violation to the FCIAC Golf Chairman within 48 hours of the ruling. The Chairman will also receive a written account from the site committee. In cases of suspension, or any other controversial decision, the Chairman may seek the counsel of two or more coaches not involved if he deems it necessary and/or helpful. The Golf Chairman will determine the length of the suspension/penalty after reviewing both documents and speaking with any relevant parties.

14. Players are responsible to turn in a signed and attested scorecard as per U.S.G.A. rules. The player is responsible to place the correct score in the box provided for each hole. Any player failing to do so (barring injury or committee decision) will be assigned an official score of five (5) strokes more than the highest score shot by any of the other players in the match inclusive of scores dropped from the official team score. This score must be included in their FCIAC differential used to select the field for the Holahan Invitational and the post season award winners. Any player with a second "no card" during the same season will be removed from consideration for the Holahan and any FCIAC post-season recognition. The coaches/committee are responsible for the individual and team totals.

15. The winner of the match will be the team with the lowest aggregate score as determined by using the best four legal scores submitted. A team unable to submit four legal scores will forfeit the match. If the aggregates are equal then the match ends in a tie and will be recorded as such in the league standings. Once a match result is agreed upon by the coaches and either team leaves the course the result is final and cannot be changed. (Exceptions as stated in the USGA rulebook).

16. The coaches will act as officials in all matches. If the coaches are unable to agree on a match result then they will suspend the official result until the Chairman can be consulted. In the event of a controversial decision the Chairman will convene a committee of not less than three people (himself and two coaches not involved in the match in question) to render a decision. Should the Chairman be one of the coaches involved in the match then he cannot include himself on the three man committee making the ruling. If a school wishes to appeal a decision then their Athletic Director needs to file the appeal with the FCIAC Executive Director within 48 hours of the committee's decision.

17. The Boys Golf Chairman will be the official at the Holahan Invitational and the FCIAC Championship. If the Chairman is absent, a committee of five coaches will be elected and make rulings (consulting with the local PGA Professional and/or USGA by phone when appropriate).

18. Spectators are allowed only if, and when, permission is received from the course Board of Directors and/or Golf Professional. Each home coach is responsible to ascertain his club's position on spectators and to communicate that policy to the Chairman and the other coaches. Coaches will assist the Chairman with the running of all tournaments. When permitted, spectators must be informed that they must remain at least 50 feet from the players and that players and spectators are not to speak with each other during the round. First offense (for spectator or player): warning (and a reminder that speaking with players could get the player DQ). Second offense (for spectator or player): spectators will be told to leave the course; player in question will be DQ.

19. All credentialed media personnel should be encouraged and permitted to cover golf matches whenever permission from the club can be attained.

II. SCHEDULE

A. The divisions for golf are set up by the FCIAC Board of Directors.

B. At the call of the Chairman, coaches or representatives from each school will meet before November 1 each fall and draw up the conference schedule for the Spring season. Each school must play every other FCIAC school each season. All schools must follow the F.C.I.A.C. Spring Baseball schedule to determine who is home/away to ensure that competitively balanced schedules are maintained by every school each season. If coaches agree to change the location of a match in any given season no reciprocal agreement can be made the following season. Should any school wish to schedule an additional match with any F.C.I.A.C. school then the match played at the location designated by the F.C.I.A.C. Baseball schedule will count as the official league match for purposes of determining league records/standings. Should both matches take place at the same location then the FIRST of the two matches will count as the official league match.

III. HOLAHAN INVITATIONAL

- A. The Holahan Invitational is an official F.C.I.A.C. eighteen hole event held every year on the Tuesday following Memorial Day in which F.C.I.A.C. players compete as individuals for first, second and third place medals. The three Country Clubs in Darien rotate hosting the event. The Chairman submits a letter every October to the Board of Directors of the club hosting that Spring to secure permission for the tournament. Players tee off #1 & #10 simultaneously starting at 12:30pm.
- B. The field of thirty will consist of the player from each school with the lowest differential average plus the lowest remaining differential averages (and ties) regardless of school and/or division. The differential averages must be calculated using every F.C.I.A.C. regular season match played in before the Holahan. In addition, a player must have played in a minimum of ten F.C.I.A.C. regular season matches prior to the Holahan to be considered. If a school's low differential player cannot compete then he will be replaced by the next lowest differential player from the same school only if that school has no one else who has qualified. If, for any reason, a school decides not to send a player to the Holahan his spot will be taken by the lowest at large differential that has not already qualified regardless of school and/or division. Players will be paired by differential averages adjusted, when necessary, so that no two players from the same school play together
- C. Differential averages (calculated to two decimal places - i.e. 3.27) will be submitted to the Chairman no later than the Thursday before the Holahan. The Chairman will select the field that night and then send the results to all of the coaches by noon the next day so they can inform their players before leaving for the Memorial Day weekend.
- D. The Golf Chairman will serve as the Tournament Director and all coaches will assist with the running of the event. If two or more players are tied after eighteen holes then the Champion will be determined by a three hole play-off. If still tied, play will continue until the Champion is determined by sudden victory. Ties for second and third will remain tied and duplicate medals will be provided.

IV. DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS

- A. Divisional Champions (and F.C.I.A.C. Championship wildcard teams) determined by:
 1. Best overall F.C.I.A.C. regular season record.
 2. Tie breaker
 - a. Head to head
 - b. Best record vs. Divisional teams
 - c. Team that defeated the highest ranked F.C.I.A.C. team (i.e. team with the most wins)
 3. Tie breaker with multiple ties:
 - a. Use point system on a divisional basis to reduce teams to two, then head to head.
 - b. If tie still exists, use point system for overall conference play.
 4. Point System:
 - a. Ten points per win
 - b. Five points per tie.
 - c. One point for each win recorded by teams you beat.

- d. One-half point for each team you tied
- e. Divide the total points by the number of matches played
- f. The team with the greatest number of points is the winner.

V. F.C.I.A.C. CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

A. The league champion will be determined in an eighteen-hole tournament of eight teams (two divisional champions plus six wildcard teams). Each team qualifying will play five players and the winner be the team with the lowest four out of five legal aggregate scores. If two or more teams are tied after eighteen holes then a three-hole playoff using the best four of five legal aggregate scores for the three holes will determine the winner. Any team still tied will continue playing until the league champion is determined by sudden victory. If darkness or weather halts play before a winner can be determined then both teams will be declared co-champions. If all teams are unable to complete eighteen holes (weather, darkness, etc.) the tournament will revert to a nine hole event and the team with the lowest nine hole best four of five legal aggregate scores will be declared the winner. The Golf Chairman will serve as Tournament Director and all coaches will assist with the running of the tournament.

VI. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

A. Trophies

1. FCIAC. team trophy to East and West Divisional champions.
2. FCIAC team trophy to conference champion and runner-up.
3. First (gold), second (silver) and third (bronze) place medals for Holahan winners.
4. Mike Chappa Memorial Award plaque goes to the player with the lowest F.C.I.A.C. differential for **all** regular season matches played in (10 minimum for consideration).
5. Two FCIAC "Coaches Award" plaques for players demonstrating leadership integrity and sportsmanship.

B. Awards

1. All-FCIAC

- a. Coaches will submit to the Chairman those players on their team who played in a minimum of ten regular season matches and finished with a differential average of 8.0 or less. This differential averaged must be calculated using every regular season match played in by the nominated player.
- b. The five players with the lowest differential averages will be named to the All-FCIAC team.
- c. An All-West and All-East Division team of six players plus ties (to 3 places) will be selected from the remaining qualified nominations.
- D. FCIAC certificates will be awarded to members of the All-FCIAC and All-Division teams.