



# Golf By-Laws

## Article I

### Governing Rules

**Section 1.** U.S.G.A. rules shall govern all matches, unless options are agreed upon prior to the match by the coaches involved.

## Article II

### Competition

**Section 1.** League play is authorized on the Varsity level only.

**Section 2.** There shall be two (2) recognized teams; boys' only and boys and girls combination, if there is no girls' team in fall season. Teams will consist of six (6) players for league matches.

**Section 3.** Summer rules shall be played unless the conditions of the course dictate otherwise, and it is mutually agreed upon by the coaches involved before the match, otherwise summer rules.

**3.1** Local rule for lost ball and out of bounds is in effect for league matches.

**3.2** League standard for lift, clean and place is one club length of the fairway you are playing.

**Section 4.** For SCVAL competition, the following special rules shall apply:

4.1 All league matches shall be nine (9) hole matches. If groups fall behind, which is determined by falling a hole behind, players will first be given a verbal warning and second event will be put on a 40 second clock. (USGA rule 5.6)

4.2 All play shall be stroke play and scoring shall be determined by total scores best of five (5) of six (6).

- 4.3 The winner of the match will be determined by the lowest total strokes of those five (5) players. A league member shall be entitled to a league match with only five (5) players or lacking a fifth player, a phantom score of double par, see rule 6.6.1, may be used for the 5th score and count towards the team's match total. Double par shall be the max score on any hole. ie contests will remain and be recorded as a tie.
- 4.4 A Coach must be present at the course for the entire match, or the match will be forfeited. Proper etiquette while coaching should be of focus at all times. Loud conversations across course should not occur.
- 4.5 All matches scheduled should be played according to the arrangements made by the two coaches prior to the season starting. If a change is to be made the coaches in question need to agree prior to the match being played. Any questions not resolved by the coaches, need to be presented to the committee of coaches for final resolution. Reasons for changing the match would include dangerous weather on the day of the match, or golf course conditions.
- 4.6 Individual league standings will use the USGA scoring differential formula using the USGA 9 hole course slope and rating.

### **Article III**

#### **Golf Committee**

- Section 1.** The League chairperson will be selected by the coaches of the league and will serve a minimum of two (2) years.
- Section 2.** The League chairperson(s) is responsible for C. C. S representation, by-Law review and scheduling along with Athletic Director assigned to Boys' and Girls' Golf.
- Section 3.** The Committee will consist of the league coaches. The committee shall submit by-Law changes and schedule in writing to the January and May meetings to the coaches and Athletic Directors' Council.

### **Article IV**

#### **Practice and Game Limitation**

- Section 1.** No school shall engage in practice matches before the date established by the CCS Board of Managers. Article V.
- Section 2.** No team or individual shall play more than eighteen (18) total matches per golf season.
- Section 3.** A tournament may be substituted for one match. (One tournament = One match).

## **Article V**

### **League Schedule**

- Section 1.** The SCVAL will be split into (2) divisions based on strength with the 7-8 best in the DeAnza division utilizing the SCVAL differential computations to determine the balance of the two divisions. The league chairperson and Athletic Director liaison will develop a draft league schedule for both divisions each fall and spring.

## **Article VI**

### **Match Management**

- Section 1.** Home coaches are responsible for arranging starting times between 2:00 and 4:00. Exceptions to this rule will need to be an agreement by the competing coaches.
- Section 2.** Team members and coaches must be ready to tee off at the scheduled match time. Match time is defined as 10 minutes prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled tee time. Coaches are responsible for exchanging line-ups with league rankings at least fifteen minutes prior to the match if you are going to play out of order otherwise prior to the match.
- Section 3.** Pull carts are allowed. Caddies are not allowed. Spectators are allowed at any S.C.V.A.L. competition. Spectators must observe rules as outlined in U.S.J.G.S. Spectators must observe all rules that would apply to any golf course school competition or rules for spectators. Spectators, parents, and non-playing team members must have NO interaction or contact with players once a match begins (food should not be exchanged). Most golf courses do not allow spectators on the course and all non-players must observe these rules. Violation of the rule may result in the disqualification of the player receiving the advice. No electronic devices are allowed to be used by players, including music devices.
- 3.1 Players may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device, only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a device to gauge other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3. The device used may be a cell phone and/or distance app. Any questions about such devices should be resolved before the start of the stipulated round. The penalty for breach of this rule is a (2) stroke penalty. Any subsequent offense is disqualification. Prior to the match, by agreement of the coaches, cell phones may be used for scoring between holes. If any player in a group uses a distance measurement device, then the player is encouraged to share distance information. Individual players may be put on a shot clock if holding up group.
- 3.2 USGA rule 10.2; Where two players from the same team are playing together in the same group, those players may ask for advice and receive advice from each other during the

round.

**Section 4.** Nine holes must be completed for a match to be official. If 9 holes cannot be completed for any reason, the match will be terminated and must be rescheduled. All nine (9) holes must be replayed.

**Section 5.** Any official protest should be brought before the golf coaches committee immediately following the match. If it does not occur that day protest will not move forward. If the question is not resolved, the S.C.V.A.L. League chairperson will be asked to rule on the protest. If this dispute deals with scheduling problems, the question should go directly to the League Chairperson for resolution. The SCVAL Commissioner shall be notified by the chairperson of issues and outcomes.

**Section 6.** All players will have their own scorecard with first and last name, which will be exchanged at the first tee. Each player is responsible for the accuracy of their own score for each hole played. At the end of the round, each player shall verify their scores for each hole, record their overall score, and sign the scorecard before turning it in to the official scorekeeper.

6.1 For league matches, there will be a maximum score of double par on any one hole. Players are instructed to pick up at one stroke prior to double par (5 on a par 3, 7 on a par 4 and 9 on a par 5) if the ball is not in the hole. This is for speed of play purposes. League championships are not subject to this qualification.

6.2 If a player is disqualified for a scorecard violation at the end of the match his score will not count for match purposes, but his actual score must be reported for individual scoring purposes in league rankings.

6.3 If a player is disqualified for a rule violation or for not finishing a hole his score on any hole in question should be recorded as a double par score for reporting purposes for individual rankings

**Section 7.** Coaches and one assistant can give advice and counsel players during league matches in an effort to improve a player's golf skills and to help with pace of play for all league matches. Teammates may advise each other but be mindful of pace of play. Coaching on greens by anyone is NOT allowed. Parents and/or a teaching pro are NOT included in the coaching process during a match. Coaches should utilize proper etiquette, not delay play, or disrupt other players. Players should dress properly in team colors and a collared shirt at the least with school colors and/or logo. They would not be allowed to participate if dress is inappropriate or does not meet a course's dress etiquette.

7.1 If Coaches play, they cannot be paired with players #1-6 during a match.

**Section 8. Communications of results to newspaper and league scoring chairpersons.**

- 8.1 Results should include team and individual scores with medalist (s).
- 8.2 Winning coach to call in results. Text match results immediately after match to Sports Information Director-408-809-1952
- 8.3 League Score Keeper-email: coachzartzim@gmail.com

**Article VII**

**League Championships and C.C.S. Representation**

**Section 1.** The Varsity golf division championship shall be determined on the basis of dual meet competition. Each school will play every school in its division home and away. Two (2) points will be awarded for each win and one (1) point awarded for each tie. The winner will be the team scoring the most points during the league season. If there is a tie between two (2) or more teams, the tied teams shall be declared "Co-Champions".

1.1 When two (2) teams share the championship, the team that won the dual match during the season, shall be identified as the "first place team". In the De Anza division that team will claim the first automatic CCS spot. Further, the league tournament winning team will receive championship certificates.

1.2 When more than two (2) teams share the championship or second place, or any other place identification of rank will be determined by the following procedure:

1.2.1 Teams will compare their win-loss records during "Head-to-Head" league match competition.

1.2.2 If still tied, then total strokes against each other in the two matches will be compared. The team with the fewest number of strokes will be declared the winner.

1.2.2 If all these procedures do not break the tie, a simple flip of the coin will break the tie. The League Chairperson will flip the coin.

**Section 2. C.C.S. representation:** The first-place team in the De Anza Division based on league record will qualify for CCS automatically. The first-place team in the league tournament will automatically qualify for CCS. If the De Anza division winner also wins the league tournament, then the second-place team in the league tournament will qualify for CCS.

If there is a tie in the team competition at the league tournament the tie will be the U.S.G.A.

scorecard tiebreaker will be used to determine who advances (Appendix I, Part C of the current rule book.) All five scores will be counted.

Any teams not qualifying may submit at-large applications and will be considered by the C.C.S. golf committee based on their finish in league and competition outside of league.

2.1 The top five (5) players not on a C.C.S. qualifying team shall participate at the C.C.S. regional golf event. The top five (5) players will be the golfers with the lowest season long differential including league tournament which will count as two 9-hole scores. If the player no-shows for the league tournament they will get a score of 180 for their score. If there is a tie for the spot the U.S.G.A. scorecard tiebreaker will be used to determine who advances. All qualifying team members qualify as individuals for the C.C.S regional. At large individuals will be based on current CCS qualifications outlined in Section 3 of the CCS bylaws. \* The SCVAL will only advance golf athletes or teams to CCS who have played in the league year-end tournament.

### **Section 3.**

The league tournament starting time shall be as soon after 1:00 pm as the course can accommodate. Starting before 1:00 pm requires special permission of the SCVAL Board of Managers. Teams with a differential equal to or less than the prior year's CCS at large qualifier can also attend the SCVAL finals as a team. The league tournament will be played over eighteen (18) holes.

3.1 The DeAnza division regular season champion will automatically qualify for the league tournament. The El Camino division regular season champion will automatically qualify for the league tournament. The next best (4) teams based on USGA scoring differential formula will qualify for the league tournament regardless of division with highest match differentials will be dropped for qualification purposes. Teams with a differential equal to or less than the prior year's CCS at large qualifier can also attend the SCVAL finals as a team. CCS differential is calculated by removing the two highest league scores.

3.2 Each school shall be allowed to bring at least 1 automatic competitor to the League Tournament. It must be their highest ranked player based on the USGA scoring differential formula. If the school chooses not to send its one automatic qualifier it is allowable by school and athletic department notification. But all league head coaches are required to attend the league tournament whether they have a player in the tournament or not. An additional 8 individuals will qualify based on league play using the USGA scoring differential formula. A player must participate in 50% of matches to be eligible for the tournament and/or CCS.

#### **Section 4. League and Tournament Awards**

- 4.1 First Team All-League certificates will be awarded to the top six (6) individual golfers in each division based on league matches using the USGA scoring differential formula using the USGA 9-hole course slope and rating.
- 4.2 Second Team All-League certificates will be awarded to the next top six (6) individual golfers in each division based on league matches using the USGA scoring differential formula using the USGA 9-hole course slope and rating.
- 4.3 Senior, Junior, Sophomore and Freshman of the year will be awarded in each division to individual golfers based on league matches using the USGA scoring differential formula.
- 4.4 Team Champion certificates will be awarded to each Division Champion or co-champion.
- 4.5 First through Tenth certificates will be awarded to the top ten (10) golfers in the S.C.V.A.L. League Tournament.
- 4.6 The League Chairperson will oversee the League Tournament.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

#### **Realignment**

**Section 1** At the end of each season the divisions will be realigned. The top 7-8 teams based on the team scoring differential for non-seniors will be in the De Anza Division. The other(s) will be in the El Camino Division.

- 1.1 Any coach can propose a different alignment and it passes a 3/4ths vote of the league coaches, then it shall move forward to ADC and BOMs.