

PCAL SPORTS RULES

GOLF (GIRLS)

Amended by PCAL Board of Managers August 2023

1.1 Season of Sport

This sport shall be conducted in the Fall season as defined by the Central Coast Section and State CIF by-laws. See Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

1.2 Start Dates for Practices, Scrimmages and Contests

Dates for the start of practices, of scrimmages, and of contests shall be as set forth in Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

1.3 Contest Limits per Season

Limitations on the number of contests in which a team or athlete may compete shall be as set forth in Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

1.4 Divisions

League play in this sport shall be conducted in two divisions formed according to league by-laws and policies concerning Division Placement (See Article 19 of the League By-Laws as well as the League's Division Placement Policy as published on the League website.) Those two divisions shall be named as follows: PCAL-Gabilan; and PCAL-Mission.

1.5 League Schedules

1.5.1 Round Robin

The league schedule for each Division shall be a double round robin schedule, constructed as may be decided by the League Board of Managers from year to year.

1.5.2 Preparation and Approval of Schedules

League schedules shall be prepared by the League Commissioner and sent to the League Athletic Directors Council for review, modification as needed. The Athletic Directors Council then send a recommended schedule to the League Board of Managers who consider, change as they deem necessary and vote approval of a final schedule.

1.5.3 Obligation of Schools to Compete According to Schedule

See Article 19 in the League By-laws regarding the obligation of all league schools to compete according to the approved league schedule.

1.6 Contests

The following provisions shall govern all regular season Girls Golf contests hosted by a League School. Tournaments or Invitational events may be conducted under differing rules not in conflict with the rule book for this sport.

1.6.1 Rules

Contests in this sport shall be governed by the rules of the United States Golf Association (USGA) except where these rules contained herein or any local course rules demand otherwise.

1.6.2 League Contest Start Times

Dual match league contests shall begin at 3:30 PM or at a different time agreed upon by the coaches depending on course availability.

1.6.3 Range Finders and Electronic Devices

In all PCAL play, including the league finals, the following shall apply:

- a. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited.
- b. Players may obtain distance information using a device that measures distance only. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect that player's 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.
 - i. iPhones and most other smartphones contain a compass and other applications which make them non-conforming distance measuring devices; thus, distance measuring applications on cell phones are not permitted under penalty of disqualification.
 - ii. If any player in a group uses a distance measuring device, then the player is **required** to share distance information with all other players in the group.

1.6.4 Dual Match Format and Rules

Dual matches may occur with more than two teams present on a course at a given time. There can be double or triple duals occurring within one match involving more than two schools.

The following shall apply to all dual match league contests:

1. Each school shall specify tees used for matches for its home golf course (or a similar yardage if playing an alternate golf course due to scheduling conflicts).
2. League matches will begin at 3:30 p.m. They will be 9-hole matches.
3. Gallery people must stay 25 yards from the players or follow CCS guidelines. Gallery may not help players in any way, may not talk to players, and, may not hinder play in any way. Proper golf attire required for players and gallery.
4. Pull carts are allowed.
5. Caddies are not allowed.
6. Coaching Advice During Matches: It is permitted to appoint one coach to give advice to their team members during regular season League matches. Coaches may not give advice to players on reading greens prior to putting. Such advice shall be given in a private manner and shall not unduly delay play. Advice is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining her play, the choice of club, or the method of making a stroke. *Information on rules, distance or matter of public information, such as position of hazards or the flag stick on the putting green, is NOT advice.* Also, the pace of play cannot be delayed while waiting for a coach to come to give advice to any player. This coaching advice is allowed at any level girls. Finally, NO advice can be given by coaches to any players in the year-end League Tournament.

1.6.5 Teams

To compete in league play, a Varsity team shall consist of three to six golfers. Varsity teams that have fewer than 3 golfers may still play against a scheduled team, and, while individual scores will count toward the individual's season record, the team with fewer than three golfers cannot beat a team with three or more golfers. Schools fielding a full (six) Varsity team may also field a Junior Varsity team of any number of golfers.

1.6.6 Scoring

1.6.6.1. Match Scoring

The match score for each team is determined by playing six and taking the five best scores. A team with fewer than six players shall fill any unfilled slots with a score of 81 (the “6 and 3” rule maximum for 9 holes). Using this scoring, there is a possibility of a tie if each golfer scored a maximum of 81. The top 5 scores shall count toward the team score of the match. In the event of a tie with those 5 scores, the 6th score will be then be compared. If the score is still tied, the win will go to the team who had the medalist for the match.

1.6.6.2 The Scoring Area

At each dual match and at the League Tournament, there should be a designated place to serve as a scoring area where the players will sit as a group and go over each score by hole before scorecards are turned in. Any disputes shall be resolved at that time. Once a player leaves the designated scoring area, the results are final and there shall be no appeals for any reason whatsoever.

1.6.6.3 The “6 and 3 Rule”

Purpose and The Rule: For purposes of speed of play, as well as for purposes of assisting with the development of young golfers, the league allows the use of the “6 and 3 rule”. This rule sets a maximum score on any hole of 6 strokes tee to green and 3 strokes on the green. In essence, this rule allows a golfer to take a maximum of 9 on any one hole.

In league or tournament play, a team has the option of having one or more of its players utilize the following “6 and 3” scoring rule, but note below the effect that this may have on a team’s ability to win a league championship:

- a. After six strokes have accumulated tee to green, the ball is picked up and carried straight from the direction of the last lie to the nearest point of the green, and the ball is placed one club length onto the green. Then complete the hole with a maximum of 3 putting strokes of continuous putting on the green.
- b. Continuous putting – Once you start putting you continue until holed out or take three putts, whichever comes first.

When Rule may be used: The rule may be used by any player in either league dual matches or in the league tournament.

- a. The use of the rule in dual matches is treated as any other score, is used in determining individual and team scores, and does not have any consequences in terms of team league championship determination.
- b. The use of the rule in the league tournament play shall disqualify the individual golfer and her team from any consideration for both league championship and qualifying for the CCS playoffs.

Examples of Rule In Practice:

- a. **Example 1:** Golfer using “6 and 3 Rule” takes six shots on a hole and still is not on the green. Golfer then picks up ball and carries it straight on the line from that spot to the nearest point on the green. The ball is then placed one club length onto the green. Golfer then putts until ball in hole or until total score reaches 9, whatever

comes first.

- b. **Example 2:** Golfer reaches green in 3 shots on a par 3 hole. Golfer will continue to putt until the ball is holed or until 9 strokes have been taken, whichever comes first.

1.6.7 Dress Code

A suitable dress code shall be observed. Girls may wear shorts with minimum 6" inseam, but no blue jeans. All team members must wear appropriate golf attire. Mid-riffs shall not be exposed.

1.6.8 Sportsmanship

Any player displaying poor sportsmanship (club or ball throwing, course destruction or loud excessive swearing) will be penalized two strokes for the first infraction and disqualified for the second infraction in the same match, whether regular season or League Tournament.

1.6.9 Rained Out or Cancelled Match

Match cancellation due to weather is to be determined by the home team coach with approval of the Athletic Director. No match is to be held if the weather causes the players to be in danger. Home coach/AD must notify visiting coach/AD before 12 noon on the day of the match. The home team will reschedule the match as soon as possible by mutual consent.

1.7 League Championship Tournament

There shall be a PCAL league tournament to be held at the conclusion of the season. Each PCAL participating team will share in the responsibilities of coordinating and organizing the League Tournament. The League tournament shall be a one day tournament played under the following format:

- a. USGA rules govern the league tournament, except when these by-laws or local course rules demand otherwise.
- b. It must be conducted over a minimum of 18 holes (one day) on a course with a par of 70 or higher, and shall be played from the yardages on the scorecard for the selected tees.
- c. The League Tournament will be played from the actual tees used at Laguna Seca by CCS (or comparable tees if PCAL and CCS on different courses in year in question).
- d. Stroke play over 18 holes.
- e. In order to be eligible for either the league championship or for CCS playoffs, no team or player on that team shall utilize the 6 and 3 rule in the League Tournament.
- f. Pull Carts are allowed.
- g. Caddies are not allowed.
- h. Range Finders ARE allowed under the same terms and conditions as set forth in Section 1.6.3 above for dual matches.
- i. In the event of a tie in the teams' five best scores, the tie will be broken by adding the sixth golfer's score to each team's score. If the teams are still tied, the tie will be decided by using the recommended tie breaking procedure set forth in USGA Rule 33.6 – total the score of all six players on each team for holes 10-18, if still tied, holes 13-18, if still tied, holes 16-18, and if still tied, hole 18. If after this procedure, the teams remain tied, the same procedure will be used for the team scores on holes 1-9.
- j. Each team shall declare in advance of the tournament whether they choose to use the "6 and 3 Rule" during the tournament. Once declared, it cannot

be revoked. If not declared, the rule shall not be used by that team's golfers during the tournament. REMEMBER: Any team that declares to use the "6 and 3 Rule" during the league tournament shall NOT be eligible for either league championship or for CCS playoffs.

1.8 League Championship Determination

Each Division shall have a League Champion team that shall be the team with the highest accumulation of team points for the combined dual match and League tourney season, determined as follows:

1. Each divisional and each cross divisional dual match won will count 2 points and each dual match lost will count as 1 point. A team that does not show up to a dual match will receive zero points.
2. Each team in the League Tournament shall receive points for its place in the League Tournament results for that Division. For example, if seven teams participate in the League Tournament in that division, the team scoring first place will receive 7 points, the team scoring second would receive 6 points, the team scoring third would receive 5 points and so forth such that team scoring seventh would receive 1 point.
3. A team using the "6 and 3 Rule" in the league tournament shall NOT be eligible for the league championship.

1.9 League Qualifiers to the CCS Playoffs

1.9.1 League Team Qualifiers to the CCS Playoffs

PCAL is allotted two (2) Automatic Qualifier spots to the CCS Girls Golf Championships. The Gabilan division champion will receive one of those two spots. The recipient of the second spot shall be one of these two teams, Gabilan #2 (as determined in 1.8), and Mission #1 (Champion as determined in 1.8) determined as follows:

- a. In the event that there is a League Championship tournament with both teams on the same course at the same time to determine their division championships, then the second Automatic Qualifier spot shall go to that team of the two with the lowest team 18-hole score at that Championship tournament; or
- b. In the event that all divisions do not conduct a Championship tournament on the same course at the same time, then the second Automatic Qualifier spot shall be that team winning a 9-hole three way team play-in contest between Gabilan #2 team and the Mission #1 team (champion) said contest to be played no later than the second day after the PCAL League Tournament.

Ties for any of these spots shall be broken in accordance with the PCAL tie breaker by-laws.

- 1.9.2 Individual Qualifiers to the CCS Playoffs:** The Pacific Coast Athletic League is currently entitled to submit one individual for consideration to the CCS playoffs, and that one individual shall be the golfer with the lowest score at the League Tournament. The proposed individual is not automatically a qualifier into the CCS playoffs, but will be considered pursuant to CCS Girls Golf By-Laws. Any

other individual golfers not on a qualifying team shall qualify as set forth in the CCS Girls Golf By-Laws.

- 1.9.3 Effect of Using the “6 and 3 Rule” on CCS Qualifying:** No team and no individual golfer using the “6 and 3 Rule” in the League Tournament shall be eligible for CCS playoffs.

1.10 All League Selections

The PCAL All League individuals **for each division** will be selected by the coaches at the league postseason seeding meeting using their differentials for the entire season. The PCAL All League second team selection **for each division** will be determined by a combination of the seeding meeting and the PCAL League Tournament results.

1.11 Season Long Play

In Girls Golf, an individual athlete will be unable to participate in the CCS playoffs due to failure to meet the CCS Playoff Policy regarding “Season Long Play (at least ½ the regular season league events), that athlete will be ineligible to participate in the League meet on behalf of his/her school. The League Commissioner shall make the final determination with respect to an individual’s eligibility, including the exceptions involved in that CCS Playoff Policy.

End PCAL Girls Golf Sports Rules.

History

March 2018:	Original rules
March 2019:	Amendments to all multi-school dual matches (1.6.4)
September 2019:	Allow limited coaching advice during matches (1.6.4(6); Change how team qualifiers to CCS determined (1.9.1).
May 2022:	Amendment to tees used league tournament (1.7.c)
August 2023:	Tees for dual matches to be determined by each school for home course. (1.6.4.1)