



## 2022 TMSGA Guidelines

### History

The Tennessee Middle School Golf Association (TMSGA) was established in 1998 as the East Tennessee Middle School Golf Association and laid the groundwork for its incorporation in 1999 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. In late 2009 the Tennessee Golf Foundation took ownership and currently carries full responsibility of the organization.

### Mission

The TMSGA is dedicated to the promotion of golf and its life enhancing values to the middle school population across Tennessee.

### Philosophy

The TMSGA exists to provide competitive golf events for middle school students. More importantly, the students have an avenue to learn the valuable skills necessary to take their game to the next level.

### Membership

Membership in the TMSGA shall be open to any school in Tennessee that has students enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, both for boys and girls. Individual memberships are open to those players in grades 6-8 that are either home-schooled or their current school cannot field a team. Member schools that continue to serve students within the state of Tennessee may also submit an application for membership.

### Participation / School

All students participating on a team registered in the TMSGA must be enrolled in grades 6-8, attend the same school, and be under the supervision of the same administrative head, unless permission is granted by the TMSGA office to allow students from another school to participate (see cooperative teams below).

**No student in a grade below the 6<sup>th</sup> grade can practice or participate as a member of a team in the TMSGA.**

A school with teams in any combination of the Senior High Division, Junior High Division, and Middle School Athletic Association may certify a student for any division in which he or she may participate. A student may participate in only one division at any time. A student who has been certified as a member of the TMSGA may be advanced to a higher division at any time, provided the TMSGA office is advised to remove his or her name from the lower division eligibility report and a new eligibility report is filed to show that the student has advanced to a higher division.

Once an eighth-grade student who is enrolled and in regular attendance at a high school participates in a sport at that level, he/she will be ineligible to participate in the same sport for a member middle school.

No student shall be eligible to compete in the TMSGA during any school year if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 1.

### Participation / School – JV Teams

If a member school has enough players to form more than one team, they may field one or multiple JV team(s). There will be no additional cost for fielding a JV team and each school must submit the team roster with the TMSGGA office (see below). JV teams are allowed to compete only against other JV teams per TMSAA guidelines.

### Participation / Cooperative Teams

Two or more schools may petition the TMSGGA annually for permission to have a cooperative golf program if the schools cannot field a full team (4 for boys, 2 for girls). The administration of the TMSGGA may approve such cooperative programs subject to approval by the principals of the schools involved.

### Participation / Home-Schooled Students

Home-schooled students are able to participate as an individual, as a team, or as a member of a member schools' team.

- 1.) If competing as an individual, the player will be placed in a district based upon their location.
- 2.) If competing as a team, all players must be home-schooled students and they will be placed in a district based upon their location.
- 3.) If competing on another member schools' team, all TMSAA home school regulations must be met. Full details including "eligibility requirements" and "application for participation" can be found on the TSSSA/TMSAA website at [www.tssaa.org](http://www.tssaa.org). Look under Section 25 of the TMSAA By-Laws for a further detailed explanation.

### Participation / Individual Participation

Individuals in grades 6-8, in good academic standing, who attend a middle school that cannot field a full golf team can participate in the TMSGGA as an individual participant. If competing as an individual, the player is "attached" to a TMSGGA member school – meaning they can participate in that school's practices and matches. Individual participants will compete in TMSGGA matches solely as an individual and will not have ties to any TMSGGA member school or non-member school. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) of the individual participant to contact and acquire permission from the head coach of the TMSGGA member school the individual participant wishes to be "attached" to as well as their own middle school before they can join the TMSGGA as an individual.

Individual players must comply with the following to be eligible:

1. Attend the school they are representing.
2. Submit the TMSGGA Individual Registration Form.
3. Submit the Parent Consent Form.
4. Submit the TMSGGA Schedule Form if different from a school you are attached to.
5. Submit season payment of \$25 upon receipt of a TMSGGA invoice.

\*Individual players who compete in the District tournament have the opportunity to advance to the Region Championship as an individual.

\*Individuals may also pursue the Co-op Team participation as outlined above.

### Academic

**Section 1** - To be eligible to participate in athletic contests a student shall have been academically promoted to the next higher grade. Any student repeating a grade is ineligible to participate. A student who is ineligible at the beginning of the school year may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five (5) subjects, or the equivalent, the preceding semester provided the student is not repeating the same grade.

If a student is forced to withdraw from school, or is prevented from enrolling in school, due to the student's illness, his/her accident, or his/her disability, the principal may request a ruling in regard to the student's eligibility, provided the student was eligible at the time the illness or accident forced the student to withdraw or prevented the student from enrolling in school. If ruled eligible, such a student shall be charged with a semester of attendance for athletic purposes for the semester of non-attendance or withdrawal.

A student who returns to a member school after attendance at a school of correction or alternative school may be eligible for athletic participation provided the school of correction or alternative school is accredited by the Tennessee State Department of Education and provided the student returns to the school attended before entering the school of correction or alternative school.

**Section 2** – For athletic purposes the scholastic record filed in the office of the principal or superintendent at the end of a semester shall be final. Credits earned in a summer school accredited by the State Department of Education shall be recognized for eligibility purposes provided the student was enrolled during the spring semester immediately preceding the summer session and attended at least 40 days of that spring semester.

**Section 3** - A student who drops out of school before the end of the semester shall be ineligible to participate in secondary school athletics until the student has been in school a semester and has passed in at least five full unit subjects or the equivalent. (To become eligible under this regulation, a student must attend school for at least 40 days of the semester, but in no case shall the eligibility become effective until the beginning of the succeeding semester.)

**Section 4 (Semester Rule)** - A student shall have 6 semesters to complete 4 possible semesters of participation after entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Attendance of 40 school days of any semester shall be regarded as a "semester" under this rule. If a student participates in athletics during a period of attendance of any number of days less than 40, he/she shall be charged with a semester of attendance. No student shall participate in any sport more than three seasons.

**Section 5 (Repeating Rule)** - Any student who repeats 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall not be eligible until they have reached the next higher grade.

### Membership Fees

The following will be the fee structure for the 2022 season:

1. Boys' Team (comprised of 4 or 5 players): \$50.00
2. Girls' Team (comprised of 2 or 3 players): \$30.00
3. JV Team (Boys or Girls): \$0.00 - JV teams can play at no cost, but only against other JV teams (see "Membership")
4. Individual: \$25.00
5. For teams that advance to the Region Championships, they will be responsible for an additional entry fee. This fee will cover two rounds of tournament golf, range balls prior to each round, and coach's cart.

These fees cover each team/individual for one season and must be submitted by **February 28, 2022**. Each coach/individual will receive an email with an attached invoice that they can submit to the school for payment.

### Coaches

All coaches must be approved and signed off on by the principal, superintendent, and/or local board of education. The TMSGGA needs to be notified immediately if there is a permanent coaching change during the season. Due to the nature of the guidelines pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic, a substitute coach for a match may be necessary.

Teams that have one coach coaching boys and girls may appoint an assistant coach to advise one of the teams during competition.

Coaches may advise their players throughout regular and post season play only between the green and next tee without holding up play. Coaches need to keep in mind that per our "match guidelines" (see forms section of website); players can take no longer than 40 seconds to hit a shot. Any player taking more than the allotted time should be warned by the host official. Subsequent bad timings will subject the player to penalty strokes added to their score for that particular hole.

More Coaching Do's and Don'ts can be found on the TMSGGA website.

### Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The TMSGGA and its schools believe strongly that the major purpose of athletics at the middle school level is to be a part of the total educational program. A major part of this purpose is to stress to coaches, players, officials, and spectators the vital importance of sportsmanship. It is critical that all people in each of these categories understand the major role that they play and the role model that they can be for others.

- I. Student Athletes Ejected For Unsportsmanlike Conduct
  - a. In contests in which officials are involved, the officials will immediately notify the state office with both a telephone call and a written report if players are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - b. On the ejection of the student-athlete, the school will be required to submit a report on the action of the player and any disciplinary action taken by the school. The minimum penalty will be two (2) matches.
  - c. In addition to what is presently required when a player is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, a meeting shall be held with the player, coach, principal, and parent(s) or guardian(s) with a report on the meeting and plans to directly address the matter to be filed with the state office.
  - d. If a player is ejected for a second time for unsportsmanlike conduct, a more severe punishment shall be imposed.

- e. In matches where TMSGGA officials are not used, it will be the responsibility of the principal and/or coach of the player involved to report this incident to the state office.
- f. In all situations where ejections occur for unsportsmanlike conduct, the individual will be removed from the next contest(s) following the one in which the ejection occurred.

## II. Coaches Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- a. The school and coach will be required to submit a written report of the incident
- b. The school will be given a choice of removing the coach for a specified number of contest(s) or face further disciplinary action. The school shall not allow the suspended coach to attend matches while under suspension.
- c. In addition to what is presently required when a coach is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, a meeting shall be held with the coach, principal, and superintendent, or his/her appointed representative, with a report on the meeting and plans to directly address the matter to be filed with the state office by the principal.
- d. On any subsequent ejection of the same coach, the school will be given a choice of removing the coach for a specified number of matches or face further disciplinary action. The school shall not allow the suspended coach to attend games while under suspension.
- e. In matches where TMSGGA officials are not used, it will be the responsibility of the principal and/or coach of the player involved to report this incident to the state office.

## III. Appeals

Any appeal request regarding the ejection of players or coaches shall be submitted in writing from the administrator of the school.

### Playing of Ineligible Student – Athletes

**Section 1** - All rulings on eligibility must be in writing, and the accidental, intentional or other use of ineligible players by a member school shall require that team victories in which the ineligible player participated be forfeited to opponents; and any one or more of these additional actions may be taken:

- a. That individual or team records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligible be vacated or stricken;
- b. That team or individual awards earned by such ineligible be returned to the TMSGGA; and
- c. That a fine for the playing of an ineligible player be assessed against the school, if deemed necessary.

**Section 2** - If a student is ineligible according to TMSGGA rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such TMSGGA rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school and/or the TMSGGA, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination, those actions stipulated in Section 1 and 3 shall be taken.

**Section 3** – If an ineligible contestant competes in a match and any violation of TMSGGA rules occurs, the entire contest is forfeited.

When a team plays an ineligible athlete in TMSGGA tournaments or post-season play, the entire contest is forfeited, the team is removed from the event, and no team replaces that team in the tournament series.

**Section 4** – If an otherwise ineligible student-athlete provides false information to a member school and is erroneously determined to be eligible and is allowed to participate on the basis of that false information, the student shall be ineligible at all levels in all sports at any member school for twelve (12) months from his or her last participation date.

#### Rosters and Schedule Reports

An eligibility list (team roster) containing the name of each student who is to participate during the season shall be filed with the TMSGGA office prior to the first contest. If a student whose name does not appear on the original eligibility list wishes to become a member of the squad, the student's name shall be filed with the TMSGGA office before the student is allowed to participate.

Member schools shall file a copy of their season schedule with the TMSGGA office prior to their first contest.

#### Practice and Jamborees

For all TMSGGA schools, mandatory practice can begin no earlier than four weeks prior to the start of the season. If a player asks for help from their coach in the off-season that is permitted, but it must be a voluntary activity for both the player and coach. Those non-TMSAA schools that play golf in the fall season must wait to have mandatory practice until at least four weeks prior to the start of the TMSGGA season to practice again after their fall season ending event.

Jamborees **MUST** take place prior to the first contest. Each team may participate in only one.

#### 2022 Season Structure

##### Middle Tennessee (M1, M2, M3 East, M3 West, and M4)

Regular Season – February 28 – TBA

District Tournaments - TBA

Region Tournament - TBA

##### West Tennessee (W1 North, W1 South and W2)

Regular Season – February 28 – TBA

District Tournaments - TBA

Region Tournament - TBA

##### East Tennessee (E1, E2, E3, E4 North and E4 South)

Regular Season – February 28– TBA

District Tournaments - TBA

Region Tournament - TBA

**Regular Season** - Each team/individual is allowed to schedule and compete in a **maximum of 15** dates of competition (1 date = one, 9-hole match). Any team/individual that competes in more than 15 dates will be deemed ineligible for their respective district tournament. The maximum allowable matches apply to all

players as well (i.e. a player cannot play more than 15 combined dates of competition if competing on both Varsity and JV teams).

The district representative will coordinate with their district coaches to design a schedule that falls within the above structure.

For a date of competition to count as played, it must be conducted using the current TMSGGA Rules of Play Guidelines.

Approved formats for the regular season:

- Stroke Play – USGA Rule 3.3
- Match Play – USGA Rule 3.2
- Foursomes (Alternate Shot - Stroke play or Match play) – USGA Rule 22
- Three-Ball Match Play - USGA Rule 21.4
- Four-Ball (Stroke or Match play) – USGA Rule 23
  
- Stableford – USGA Rule 21.1

USGA Rule 21.2 (Maximum Score) will be in place for all competitions. A maximum of triple bogey on each hole in all the above mentioned formats. Rule 3-3c (Failure to Hole Out) will **NOT** be in effect.

**Post Season** - In order to be eligible for post season play, a member school must **SCHEDULE** at least five (5) dates of competition. For players competing as individuals in the TMSGGA (not affiliated with a school) they must also **SCHEDULE** at least five (5) dates of competition to be eligible for the post season.

#### District Tournament

All teams/individuals are eligible to compete in their district tournament assuming they meet the criteria listed above. The boys' and girls' divisions will **ONLY** play 9 holes.

#### Region Tournament

The following is the breakdown of how many teams/individuals will qualify from each district based upon region location:

# teams in District	Spots Available
1 to 5	1
6 to 10	2
11 or more	3

Region 1 – Middle Tennessee (Districts M1, M2, M3 East, M3 West and M4): The top boys' and girls' team(s) (see above) at each district tournament will qualify.

Region 2 – West Tennessee (Districts W1 North, W1 South and W2): The top boys' and girls' team(s) (see above) at each district tournament will qualify

Region 3 – East Tennessee (Districts E1, E2, E3, E4 North and E4 South): The top boys' and girls' team(s) (see above) at each district tournament will qualify

Individuals: In each district tournament the top two (2) individual boys and girls not on an advancing team will be invited to their respective region tournament.

This event is a two (2) day championship. The boys' and girls' division will be playing 36 holes (18 holes each day).

Approved Format for the post season:

- Stroke Play – USGA Rule 3.3

USGA Rule 21.2 (Maximum Score) will be in place for all competitions. A maximum of triple bogey on each hole in all the above mentioned formats. Rule 3-3c (Failure to Hole Out) will **NOT** be in effect.

### Awards

Awards will be given out following completion of play at both the district and regional level.

#### District Awards

The top team and top individual for both boys and girls will be awarded a District Champion plaque (team) or medal (individual) at the completion of play.

#### Region Awards

The top team for both boys and girls will be awarded a Region Champion plaque at the completion of play.

The top five (5) individual boys and top three (3) individual girls will be named to the "All-Region Team". These players will be awarded medals signifying their place on the team.

#### Coaches Award

In each of the three regions (Middle, West, East) the TMSGGA will award one (1) coach the "Coach of the Year" award. This award will be given to the coach that best exemplifies the association's mission of promoting golf and its life-enhancing values to their student-athletes.

Call the TGF Junior Golf Office at 615.790.3336 with any questions.



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