

2019 Mid-Penn Conference Golf Rules and Regulations

Conference Set-Up

- The Mid-Penn Conference will be broken up into 4 divisions – Commonwealth, Colonial, Capital, & Keystone. Each conference will contain the approximate the same amount of teams.

Length of Contest

- Each full length regulation regular season conference match will consist of 18 holes.

Schedules

- The golf chairperson will provide updated schedules on a regular basis as coaches' report the date and place of their regular season matches.
- Matches are to be scheduled depending on course availability.
- It is the responsibility of the head coach to secure a home course and schedule a regular season match

2019 Season

- The first day of practice can be held on Monday, August 12, 2019.
- The first day a scrimmage/match can be held is Thursday, August 15, 2019.
- All matches must be completed by Friday, September 20, 2019.
- The Boys Mid-Penn Championship will be on Monday, September 23, 2019 at TBA.
- The Girls Mid-Penn Championship will be on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at Armitage at 9:00am.
- The District III Team Championship will be on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at Briarwood East Golf Course at 12:00pm.
- The District III Individual Championship will be on Friday and Saturday, October 4-5, 2019 at Briarwood GC at 10:00am.

Division Chairpersons

- Each division must nominate one or two coaches to act as Division Chairs/Co-Chairs
- Responsibilities of the Division Chairs include but are not limited to:
 - o Collecting and recording the completion of the "Mid Penn Rules Test" for each team in division
 - o Sending match results into the Mid Penn Golf Chair
 - o Being the contact person for the division when issues/news arises

Mid-Penn Coaches Meeting

- There will be at least one official Mid-Penn coaches meeting set up by the Mid-Penn Golf Chairman during the offseason. A representative of each school must be present at this meeting to discuss the upcoming season as well as go over the Mid-Penn Guidelines.

Match Officials/Committee

- The coaches involved with the match shall act as "the Committee"
 - o It is the Committee's responsibility
 - To run and oversee the match
 - Settle any disputes that arise during the match (i.e. rules interpretations, player conduct, etc.)
 - Protect and uphold the integrity of the field
- The home course golf professional acts as the head rules official on any questions that cannot be resolved by the Committee.

Rules of Play

- Players will play by the Rules of Golf as issued by the USGA except where they are modified by the PIAA, or by local rules of the course on which the match is played.

Player Knowledge of Rules

- It is not expected for players to know every rule in the Rules of Golf. They are expected to know the basic rules such as how to proceed from hazards, OB, abnormal ground conditions, immovable/movable obstructions, unplayable balls, and rules of the like.
- **Coaches are responsible for making sure that they and their team members are knowledgeable about the rules of golf.**

Regular Season Game Operations

Procedures for Play

- It is recommended that the starting time for conference matches will be no later than 2:00 PM.
- Teams should report no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled tee-off time. If unforeseen circumstances arise that would cause a team to be late, the home coach should be notified as soon as possible.
- Practice prior to a match shall be limited to the areas designated for practice by the local course.
- The course length for a boys match should be no less than 6,000 yards and no more than 6,400 yards.
- All participants shall play from the same tee markers, except as noted:
 - A girl is playing as a member of the boys' team will play on a course that is approximately 85% in length of the course the boys will play on. This distance and course set up will be determined by the hosting school coach and/or course professional.
- When arranging the team lineup, it is recommended that coaches place their best player according to medal average in the number one position, their second best player in the number 2 position and continue in this manner until the fifth best player is matched with the fifth best player on the opposing team. Independent players will play with other independent players from other schools. Independent players should be matched according to the procedure listed above.
- Pairings should consist of foursomes, threesomes, or twosomes. No player is allowed to play by him/herself.
- Competing golfers will exchange scorecards on the first tee and keep a fellow competitor's score card.
- No caddies will be permitted.
- Mid-Penn Championships.
- At the completion of play, both players must sign the scorecard to verify accuracy.
 - The Committee should designate a "scoring area" where competitors are to return their score cards (e.g., in a tent, a trailer, the golf shop, by the scoreboard, etc.). When it has done so, changes to a competitor's scorecard can be made as long as the competitor is within the "scoring area" as he/he is still considered to be in the process of returning his score card. Alterations may be made on the score card even if the competitor has signed and handed the score card to a member of the Committee. Changes cannot be made to the scorecard when he/she has left the scoring area. Team members shall be directed to a specific area so as not to be interfering with course operation following completion of a match while scores are being tabulated.
- Range finders are allowed during Mid Penn play providing that the device measures or gauges distance only.

- Cell phones, smart phones, or other similar communication tools may not be utilized as distance-measuring devices during a stipulated round during the high school golf season.
- If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designated to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature etc.) or is also used for communication purposes, the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.
- Cell phones must be turned off at all times during matches.
 - Players will be disqualified for using a cell phone during a match.
 - EXCEPTION: Players can use a cell phone in the case of a dire emergency to get ahold of a coach
- It is recommended that each division establish a rotation of teams for conducting Mid Penn matches.
- The home team has the option of providing course markers to assist in spotting and searching for balls.

Match Responsibilities - Coaches

Home Coach

- The home coach should determine if any local rules are in effect and notify every one of these rules prior to the start of the match
 - Local Rules must be in accordance with the Rules of Golf as laid out in Appendix I.
- The home coach shall organize the match by preparing a list of local course rules, preparing scorecards and match pairings in advance, and preparing a match score sheet or chart.
- The home coach, along with the course management, will determine the method of starting a match: shotgun or tee times. The shotgun start is preferred and strongly recommended.
- The home coach should determine if winter rules/preferred lies, should be played.
 - Winter rules/preferred lies should be limited to extremely unusual circumstances. The host school in conjunction with the local pro and other coaches can determine the abnormal ground conditions.
 - If winter rules/preferred lies are played and the ball must be moved, it shall be done in the following manner in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf:
 1. A tee mark the spot of the ball
 2. The ball must be move within one (1) club length from the spot marked by the tee.
 3. The ball should not be placed closer to the hole.

Visiting Coaches

- All coaches shall assist with match operations and tabulating scores at the completion of a match.
- Visiting coaches shall provide the home coach with a written lineup prior to the start of the match.
- All coaches are responsible for seeing that all golfers are removed from the course at the first sign of lightning once the match begins.
- Coaches are allowed to coach during regular season Mid Penn matches as long as it does not slow down play.

Regular Season Match Format/Scoring

- The four (4) best scores from five (5) competitors will be totaled at the end of the match to determine a team score.

- Ties shall be broken by comparing the score of the player with the 5th best score. If the scores of the 5th best score player are still tied, the scores of the 4th highest score will be compared and so on down through the line-up until the tie is broken.
- Teams may also bring up to two (2) more players from each team to play as individuals during the match at the home coach's discretion.
 - Individual player's scores will count toward their Mid-Penn averages as well earn them a Mid-Penn match played
 - Individual player's scores will not count toward the team score during a given match
- When reporting individual scores and averages, all seven player scores should be listed and reported to the Mid-Penn Chairperson. The first five (5) players listed should be the players that made up the team for the event. The last two (2) being the individual players. Players playing as individuals during the match should be also clearly delineated as well.

Score Reporting

- Scores for each match must be reported on the reporting forms provided by the Mid Penn Conference or a spreadsheet created of the like.
- These scores must be reported by fax or e-mail no later than two (2) days after the match to the Mid Penn Golf Chairperson.
- Overall League averages shall be rounded two (2) decimal points. (Hundredths place).
- Team wins and losses will be determined by the aggregate of the 4 best player's scores on a given team, based on completed common holes.

Score Reporting to Media

- The home team or a designated coach from the division should report scores to the news media.
 - Patriot News - scores@pennlive.com
 - Lebanon News – sports@ldnews.com
 - Lewistown Sentinel - sports@lewistownsentinel.com
 - Carlisle Sentinel - sportsdoor@cumberlink.com

Suspension of Play

- If it becomes necessary to call play or suspend match before teams have completed a round of 18 holes, a match will be considered complete when all groups have completed a minimum of seven (7) common holes. Scores shall count for all common holes.
- If a match is called or suspended prior to the completion of 18 holes or seven (7) common holes, the match shall be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety on the next available play date.
- Individual scores of rounds less than 18 holes will not be computed to in the players overall league average and they will receive credit for playing in the match.

Player Withdrawal or DQ

- If a player does not finish a round by either withdrawing or being disqualified, he/she may be disciplined and/or disqualified from participation in the Mid Penn individual and/or team tournament. At no time should a player intentionally walk off the course because he/she is having a bad round of golf that day.
- The match will not count toward a player's Mid-Penn match total if the player is disqualified or withdrawals from a match.

Postponement of Matches

- In the case of undesirable playing conditions, the home team shall notify the visiting teams no later than 10:30 AM on the day of the match unless emergency conditions develop which necessitate less notice.

Team Divisional Championship

- Divisional champions will be determined by the team winning the most matches.
 - o If a tie exists, co-champions will be recognized.

Mid-Penn Individual Tournament (AA & AAA)

- An individual league championship will be conducted at the end of the regular season for the purpose of selecting representatives of the Mid-Penn Conference at the District III Tournament.
- The tournament will also determine a team representative to represent the Mid-Penn Conference at District III Team Tournament.
 - o In the event that State College or Mifflin County (both District 6 teams) wins the Mid-Penn Team Championship, the top District 3 team will earn the right to represent the Mid-Penn at the District 3 tournament.
- The tournament shall be played over 18 holes at a neutral golf course (if possible).
 - o The top 90 average scores and ties will determine the field for the MPC. This includes players from State College and Mifflin County.
 - o Players are required to participate in at least 3 of the Mid Penn Conference matches to be eligible to participate in the Mid Penn Conference Tournament. *(See "Suspension of Play" section for the protocol for shortened matches)*
- It is recommended that Mid Penn independent entrants have an average score confirmed by the Athletic Director and Principal equal to or less than the established qualifying score.
 - o The Mid Penn Golf Chairperson will determine if any slots are available by the match prior to the tournament entry deadline.
 - o An entry fee of \$35 must be submitted for participation. Checks made payable to the MPC. Additional fees may be required by the local course.
- Players will be paired together in accordance to their season average.
- The golf course will be set up to play approximately 6500-6700 yds. in length.
- Two players from the same team may not be paired together in the same group.
- Coaches are expected to act as markers during the championship.
 - o Coaches cannot be assigned to mark players from their own team.
- Competitors may not solicit or receive advice from anyone.
 - o This includes:
 - Coaches
 - Parents/Spectators
 - Fellow Teammates/ Fellow-Competitors
 - o Breach of above rule – 2 stroke penalty
- The top 24 individual finishers from AAA and top 4 individual finishers in AA will advance to the District III Championship.
- In the event of a tie for the overall champion, a sudden victory play-off will be conducted immediately following play
 - o Procedure of Playoff:
 - Competitors will be assigned a marker from a neutral school.
 - All playoff competitors will play in the same group regardless of the number of participants.
- In the event of a tie for the final entry spots into the District III Championship, a sudden victory play-off will be conducted immediately following play
 - o Procedure of Playoff:
 - All playoff competitors will play in the same group regardless of the number of participants

- Players with the lowest score on the hole will advance to the District III Championship
- Players with the highest score on the hole will be eliminated.
- The playoff will continue in this format until all spots for the District III Championship have been filled.
- All other ties will not be broken unless it affects the medal winners. USGA guidelines will be applied to determine place winners.
- Medals will be awarded to the AAA and AA champions and also the 2nd through 12th place finishers.

Mid-Penn Team Championship (AAA)

- Divisional champions competing in the Mid Penn Team championship will select 5 players prior to the start of the match and will count their top 4 scores.
- Any non-divisional team who qualifies 4 or more players can compete for the Mid Penn team championship.
 - These teams will select their top 5 players prior to the match and count 4 scores towards the team score.
- If a female player plays on the boys' team throughout the year, she is eligible to represent her school in the Boys Mid-Penn Championship as a member of the boys' team.
 - NOTE: The female player is subject to the same requirements as a male competitor to represent their school in the Boys Mid-Penn Championship (must finish in top 90 and play 3 matches).
- It is the responsibility of the coach to submit his/her line-up prior to the start of play. If a coach fails to submit his/her line-up prior to the start of play, they will forfeit their chance to win the Mid-Penn Championship due to a serious breach of equity.
- The team championship will take place simultaneously with the individual championship.
- If a tie exists for the team championship a playoff will be held.
 - A playoff for a Team Champion will begin at an assigned hole, on a sudden victory basis, and continue until the Champion is determined. Each Coach shall select four (4) players from the original five (5) who will participate in the play-off. If there is a two-way tie, players one and two from each Team will comprise the first group; players three and four from each Team will comprise the second group. If more than two Teams are tied, players will be grouped by Team position (i.e. players one comprise the first group, players two comprise the second group, etc.). In all cases, groups will play a predetermined hole(s) until the Champion has been determined. The player's aggregate score will count as the team's score.
 - If the teams are still tied, all players will proceed to the next playoff hole.
 - NOTE: Head coaches may interact with players during the playoff.

Mid-Penn Team Championship (AA)

- The 3 AA teams in the Capital Division will compete for the AA entry into districts.
 - The team with the best divisional record will represent the Mid Penn at team districts.
 - If a tie occurs during the regular season then the tied teams will play off in the Mid Penn Conference Tournament playing five (5) players and counting four (4) scores.
 - If a playoff is necessary, the same procedures will be in place as the AAA follows.
 - Team trophies will be given to AAA and AA winners.

Spectators (PIAA)

- Spectators will be permitted to walk the golf course to follow the contestants during competition as the course allows.
- Spectators who choose to walk the golf course behind the contestants during competition, may do so under the following restrictions:
 - o Do not offer comments or make suggestions to the competitors. NO COACHING!
 - o Do not observe play closer than ten (10) yards behind or in front of the group of competitors being observed.
 - o Do not cross over or observe play from teeing areas, fairways or putting greens. Play may be observed from cart paths or "rough" only.
 - o Do not move or talk when a player is addressing the ball or making a stroke.
 - o Do not attempt to decide questions of fact or attempt to apply Rules of Golf.
 - o Cell phones must be turned off during all matches.
 - o May not engage in the search for a player's ball.

All-Star Selection

- The division coaches will select All-Stars from their own respective divisions
- All-Star selections will be revealed at the respective Mid-Penn Championship for the season

Boys

- Eight (8) male players will be chosen from each division using the following criteria:
 - o The top 6 scoring averages from each division will automatically be named all-stars
 - o Two "at-large" all stars will be chosen by the coaches based on the merit of the player's regular season play

Girls

- Division coaches can nominate any number of female golfers they feel worthy of being an all-star
- There is no maximum or minimum amount of girls that can be nominated during a given season

Girls

General Info

- If a girl plays in a regular season boy's match, they will play the course at a distance that is 85% that of which the boys play. The home coach may set the course up in his choosing to accommodate the modified distance.

Eligibility

- The status of whether your girls consist of a team or as individuals:
- **NOTE:** It is at the coach's digression what a varsity player is. General rule of thumb is the player can routinely shoot 110 or better during a stipulated round
 - o The school has three or more female varsity players on the team
 - **Option 1:** The coach forfeits the right for any of the girls to play in boys matches for the year. However, if a team starts with more than three (3) female competitors and as a result of competitors permanently cannot/chooses not to finish the season dropping the team below three (3), the coach must permanently disband the girls team. If the team is disbanded, they cannot re-band during the season. Once disbanded, the girls may play on the boys' team for the remainder of the season.
 - o The school has less than three (3) female varsity players
 - Result: Girls can play on the boys team
- A girls varsity match takes place when two or more schools compete on the same golf course

- Girls playing in a boys varsity match will count as a varsity match for the participant
- Girls' matches will contain two divisions that will play together simultaneously – Varsity and JV.
 - Varsity Matches
 - Varsity matches are for average to advanced female players who typically shoot 110 or better.
 - Varsity girls matches will follow the same procedures and rules of a boys match
 - Matches will follow the same operations as boys matches(see above) except for the following stipulations:
 - Girls team matches will consist of the play 5, 4, or 3, count 3 format
 - Courses in girls' varsity matches must be set up to a minimum distance of 5000 yards but no more than 5400 yards for a regular season match.
 - JV Matches
 - JV matches are designed for female players new to tournament golf.
 - Players should use the "double par" rule while playing to keep up with the pace of play.
 - A score that is posted during a JV match cannot be used to qualify for the Mid-Penn Individual Tournament

Girls Mid-Penn Championship (Individual and Team)

- Girls who post a one time score of 110 in a varsity match are eligible for the Girls Mid-Penn Championship
- The course for the Mid-Penn Championship will be set up to a minimum of 5100 yds.
- Any player who posts a score less than or equal to 104 automatically qualifies for the District III Championship.
- In the team competition, the winning team's aggregate 3 player score must be lower than 300 to qualify for the District III team tournament.
- If a school has more than four (5) girls qualify for the Mid-Penn Tournament, The coach must designate what five (5) players score will count prior to the start of the match.
- Medals will be given out to the top 10 finishers.