

NHSGA

Top 5 broken rules
in high school golf
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High School Golf Involvement

- I specialize in championships, rules, and operations for Nextgengolf (including the NHSGA)
- High School Golf Coach since 2013
- 2008 Ohio State Champion (alt!)
- Volunteer for the Massachusetts High School Athletic Association (MIAA)
- Run MIAA sectional and state tournaments
- USGA certified official

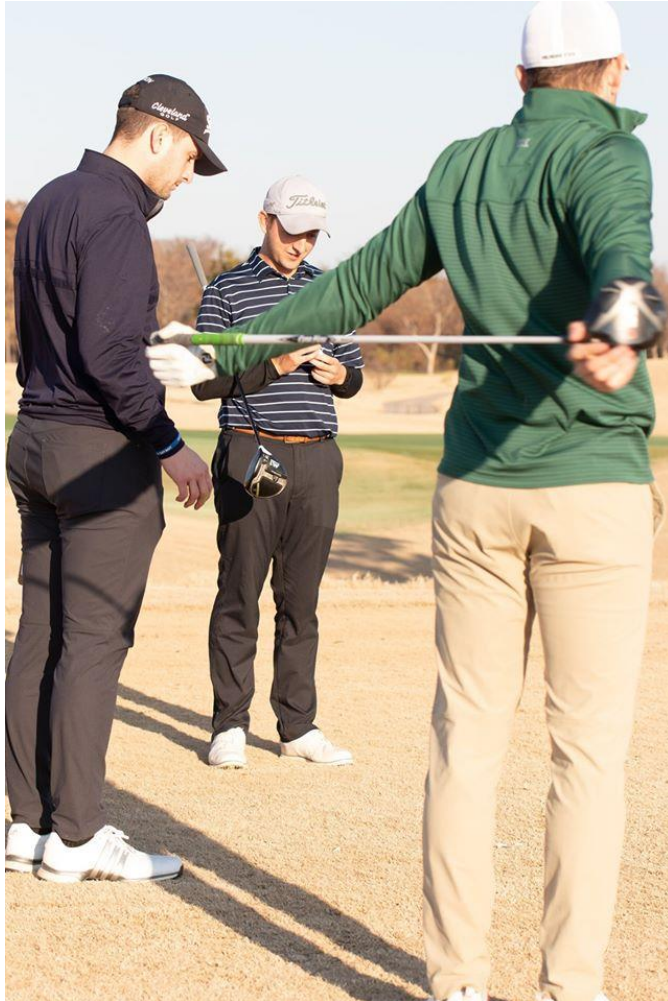
Agenda

- My approach to the Rules of Golf
- Poll the audience
- Review the top 5 broken rules in high school golf
- Q/A

“When in doubt, read the signs”

- *I don't know everything – learn how to use the Rules of Golf book*
- *If you don't know something, look it up or ask (don't guess)*
- *Strive to learn – I attend annual USGA / PGA Workshops*
- *Experience – rulings at local & national events with players of all ages and ability levels*
- *The rules do not need to have a “got ya” or stuffy “members only” type feel*
- *Use rules to your advantage – make rules a positive*





Show of hands for each

- *Head coaches*
- *Assistant coaches*

- *Rules expert*
- *Above average*
- *Average*
- *Want to learn more*
- *Have no interest in the rules*

- *Loves the 2019 rules changes*
- *Don't know much about changes*
- *Dislike the changes*



“Actual” rules that are constantly broken

- *Proper relief from obstructions*
- *Loose impediments (especially since 2019)*
- *Ball accidentally moves*
- *Relief area (new concept)*
- *New optional out of bounds rule*
- *Leaf rule*
- *Etc.*

*Ideas for how to improve
rules knowledge on your team?*



Broken “Rules” – Coaching incorrectly

- *Teach your players what you know and how to learn rules you don't know (don't guess)*
- *I have had players indignant that they are supposed to take relief incorrectly because their coach taught them*
- *If you don't know, play two balls and consult committee (don't put player in DQ position)*
- *Have a PGA Professional on staff to support Rules of Golf learning*



Broken “Rules” – Dealing with discrepancies

- *A certified rules official is not always available. Coaches will often be tasked with discrepancies at local matches*
- *Have someone you can call to assist with rulings*
- *Most important thing – don’t ever ask who was involved – always ask for scenario (player A at hole X had this occur)*

Any good examples of how you have dealt with a rules issue at a high school tournament?



Broken “Rules” – Scoring Area

- *High school tournament scoring areas often differ*
- *Procedure for turning in the scorecard (scoring area)*
- *Support the players but hold them accountable for their scoring and attesting*
- *Make sure they don't leave “Scoring Area” until everything has been confirmed*



Set Clear Expectations for Local Rules

- *Many high school seasons are in the shoulder season*
- *What unique rules are you playing? Abnormal course conditions like lift, clean, place confusing*
- *Pace of Play (“there is no group behind me”)*

Any good examples of how you have dealt with a rules issue at a high school tournament?



USGA.org

- [Rules Poster](#)
- [Rules Major Changes](#)
- [Rules Explained Videos](#)

USGA/PGA Rules of Golf Workshops (local and national opportunities)



The USGA has donated Rules of Golf books for those that need one at the end of today's presentation

Feel free to contact me directly:
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THANK YOU

