



Golf

Sport Handbook – Spring 2026

Section 1: Rules

- A. All contests under the jurisdiction of the RIIL shall be played according to the National Federation of State High School Association Rules, except for any special rulings adopted by the RIIL and listed in this handbook below.
- B. The RIIL strongly recommends head coaches/officials obtain a copy of the most recent NFHS Rulebook.

Section 2: Mandatory Coaches Certification & Continuing Education

- A. ALL Coaches must be appointed by their School Administration and upload their valid certificates to the Coaches' Certification website below. A coach is any adult with access to student-athletes through an education-based athletic program.
 - a. Including, but not limited to: Volunteer Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Head Coaches.
- B. Coaching Requirements: Article 13
- C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: Article 7, Section 8
- D. Rules on Recruitment: Article 3, Section 11
- E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches: Article 12, Section 3

Section 3: Medical Coverage/Emergency Action Plans

- A. Medical Coverage should be provided by the host school, be in attendance and on duty for the duration of all interscholastic scrimmages and games during the regular season and all tournament round games. The medical personnel must introduce themselves to both coaches and referee prior to the start of the game.
 - a. Pre-Game Safety Checklist
- B. Schools are responsible for providing Medical Coverage for their team throughout the playoffs, including the Semis and Finals/Championships.
- C. Home team medical coverage shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting school provides its own medical coverage.

D. Levels of Medical Coverage:

<i>Medical Professional Legal Limitations</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. <i>Education/Schooling/Training & Licensure</i> B. <i>Scope of Practice</i> C. <i>Able to Return to Play</i>
Medical Doctors-MD/DO or Advanced Practice Provider-NP/PA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Advanced degree (Medical School/Successfully passed the licensing board, and RI Licensed) B. Preventative Care, On field Evaluation, Immediate Care, Diagnosis C. Can they Return to Play – Yes
Athletic Trainer (RI Licensed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Minimum Bachelor's Degree (Successfully pass the BOC exam, and RI licensed) B. Preventative Care, On field Evaluation, Immediate Care, Assessment of injury, referral for further diagnosis C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – YES
Physical Therapist (RI Licensed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Degree varies from BS, MS to DPT (Successfully pass the board exam, and RI licensed.) B. Preventative Care, Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – NO
Physical Therapist w/ Orthopedic Clinical Specialist (OCS) credential (RI Licensed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Advanced Certification (Successfully pass the board exam, successfully complete requirements for and pass the OCS exam, and RI licensed) B. Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation. On the field coverage - not qualified, no emergency training incorporated into initial certification or required to be annually updated. C. Can they Return to Play – NO (During a Game/Contest), Yes (In Clinical Setting)
Physical Therapists w/ Sports Certified Specialist (SCS) credential (RI Licensed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Advanced Certification (Successfully pass the board exam, successfully complete requirements for and pass the SCS exam, and RI licensed) B. Rehabilitation, Orthopedic exam evaluation. On-the-field coverage – Qualified C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – YES
EMT - Basic, Intermediate & Paramedic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Successfully complete the EMT program, pass the board exam, and RI licensed) B. Emergency care C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? - NO, per RI EMS laws/regulations/protocols
School Nurse (RN)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Successful completion of a nursing program (Successfully pass the board exam, and RI licensed) B. Emergency care, referral for further treatment/diagnosis C. Can they Return to Play during a game/contest? – NO

- E. The judgment of the medical person will be final with regard to the medical condition of a player. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice under any circumstance.
- F. An Emergency Action Plan with clearly defined written and practice protocols as required by RI General Laws must be developed and in place at every high school.
 - a. When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games. An athletic trainer is a key component in any strategy to minimize injury risk and optimize safety for all participants.
 - b. *Rationale:* An effective emergency action plan (EAP) must be in place as a prompt and appropriate response to any emergency situation that can save a life. The EAP should be designed and practiced to address all teams (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) and all practice and game sites.

Section 4: General Regulations for all Sports

- A. Heat Acclimatization: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 3
- B. Definition of a Game/Scrimmage: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 2
- C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 8
- D. Use of Equipment During the Summer: RIIL R&R Article 6, Section 13
- E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches, Student-Athletes, & Spectators: RIIL R&R Art. 12, Sect. 3
- F. Loyalty to Home School: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 7
- G. National Events: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 11
- H. Penalties for Ejections: RIIL R&R Article 6, Section 7
- I. Protest Procedure: RIIL R&R Article 5

Section 5: Sport Advisory Committee

- A. Each Sport Advisory Committee is comprised of Member School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Officials, and other relevant individuals who work with and report to the RIIL on all matters concerning their sport.

B. Golf Sport Advisory Committee Membership:

Committee Role	Member	School	Position
PCOA Representative	Adolfo Costa	Cumberland	Principal
Co-Director (RIIAAA)	Greg O'Connor	Lincoln	Athletic Director
Athletic Director	Vin McGinn	LaSalle	Athletic Director
Athletic Director	Justin Erickson	Johnston	Athletic Director
Coach	Larry Tremblay	Moses Brown	Coach Representative
Coach	Craig Boucher	Burrillville	Coach Representative
Coach	Gary Sykes	Portsmouth	Coach Representative
Coach	Dave Adamonis	Prout	Coach Representative
Coach	Mike Ouellette	West Warwick	Coach Representative
Tournament Coordinator	Marc Brocato	East Greenwich	Coach Representative
Tournament Coordinator	Cam Quinn	West Warwick	Coach Representative

C. The 2024-25 and 2025-26 Alignment received the following endorsements & approvals:

- a. Sport Committee Approval: 06/25/24
- b. RIIAAA Executive Board Endorsement: 08/14/24
- c. Principal's Committee on Athletics Approval: 08/19/24

Section 6: Regular Season:

A. Important Dates:

School Year	2025-26
Season	Spring of 2026
Sport	Golf
Start Date	Monday, March 16, 2026
Days in the Preseason	10
Games Can Begin	Thursday, March 26, 2026
Week #1 Begins On	Monday, March 30, 2026
Week #2 Begins On	Monday, April 6, 2026
Week #3 Begins On	Monday, April 13, 2026
Week #4 Begins On	Monday, April 20, 2026
Week #5 Begins On	Monday, April 27, 2026
Week #6 Begins On	Monday, May 4, 2026
Week #7 Begins On	Monday, May 11, 2026
Last Day of the Regular Season	Friday, May 15, 2026
RIIL Championships Concluded By	Wednesday, May 27, 2026

a. Postseason:

i. Team, Boys Individual, and Girls Individual State Championships:

1. Location: Cranston Country Club
2. Day One Date: Tuesday, May 27th
3. Day Two Date: Wednesday, May 28th

B. Divisions:

a. Golf utilizes Five (5) Coed Regional Divisions:

Regional Division Breakdown				
NORTH (7)	SOUTH (7)	EAST (9)	WEST (7)	CENTRAL (7)
Burrillville	Chariho	Barrington	Achievement First	Bishop Hendricken
Cumberland	Exeter/W. Green.	East Providence	Classical	Coventry
Lincoln	Narragansett	Middletown	Johnston	Cranston West
North Smithfield	North Kingstown	Mt. Hope	La Salle	East Greenwich
Ponaganset	Prout	Portsmouth	Moses Brown	Pilgrim
Smithfield	South Kingstown	Prov. Country Day	North Providence	Toll Gate
St. Raphael	Westerly	Rogers	Scituate	West Warwick
		St. Mary-Bay View		
		Tiverton		

C. Game Cap: 12 team match dates

D. Play every team in division twice

E. The RIIL assigns 7 or 8 league match dates depending on the number of teams within a division.

- a. Teams can schedule additional league match dates up to the Cap of 8 dates to count towards team playoff qualification.
- b. The RIIL will create the league schedule and order of matches.
- c. Schools may make changes depending on the availability of courses.
- d. Each team will consist of four (4) to six (6) golfers who will be ranked No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No.4, No. 5, and No.6, respectively.
- e. The four (4) lowest scores for each team will determine the team score. The team with the lowest score (strokes) will be declared the winner of the match.
- f. Coaches will set each match and lineup on the iWanamaker website to be administered through the RIIL Golf App at least 24 hours prior to the start of the match.
- g. Responsibility for finding a course rests with the home team. As soon as arrangements for the course have been completed, the home school should notify the visiting team. Matches should start no later than 3:30 PM. It is imperative, especially prior to daylight

saving time, that this time requirement be adhered to. By mutual agreement of the opposing school's Principals, matches may be scheduled earlier.

- F. If coaches consider that for any reason during a match the course is rendered unplayable, or that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the match impossible, they may order a temporary suspension of play.
 - a. Where players/coaches feel they may be in imminent danger due to lightning, they have the right to stop playing. However, the final decision to suspend play rests with the coaches.
 - b. When play has been suspended, the match will be resumed from where it was halted, even if resumption occurs on a subsequent day.
- G. Girls' Golf Regular Season Individual Match Dates:
 - a. In order to create participation opportunities, each division will host girls' golf individual match dates during the regular season that are first open to all female golfers in the division and can be expanded to girls from other divisions if additional golfers can be accommodated.
 - b. Schools will post girls' golf regular season individual match dates on the RIIL website and register students through iWannamaker.
 - c. The girls' golf individual match dates can be used as qualifying scores for the individual girls' golf state championship.
 - i. Please note that students may participate in a maximum of 8 designated state qualifying match dates (League and/or Individual Girls match dates).
- H. Score Reporting for all Regular Season and Postseason League Games: In accordance with Article 6, Section 14, all contest scores are to be reported on-line on the RIIL Website. Coaches obtain access to the system through their Athletic Director.
- I. It shall be the responsibility of school officials/administrators/supervisors to provide a safe and secure environment for the teams and officials by ensuring the playing field and sidelines are continuously cleared of **everyone** except certified & appointed coaches, team managers/scorers, student-athletes, medical personnel, and school designated personnel. Media are allowed with prior permission of the host school.
- J. Home teams shall set a date/time for all contests.
 - a. If there is a conflict in the date/time of the contest with the visiting team(s) and mutual agreement cannot be reached, the visiting school Principal/Athletic Director shall submit a **written request** to the RIIL to review the circumstances of the disagreement and render a decision. **This must be done prior to the submission of the Home Confirmation Schedule.**
 - b. Once the Home Confirmation Schedule is submitted, changes will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- F. Postponement of Regular Season Varsity Games after the confirmation deadline:

- a. Where unusual circumstances prevail or where weather conditions are unfavorable, a game may be postponed by mutual consent of the Principals and/or Athletic Directors
- b. Postponed games shall be rescheduled to the next day when the teams, facility, and officials are available.
 - i. Includes weekends and/or school vacations.
 - ii. League games must take precedent over non-league games or lesser events
 - iii. Rescheduled games must be within all other guidelines contained in this handbook and the RIIL Rules & Regulations.
- c. Additional Officials Fees for Games Changed within Two Weeks of original date/time:
Article 6, Section 5

G. Practice Limitations:

- a. Preseason Practice Limitations are also located in Heat Acclimatization: Article 7, Section 3
- b. Scrimmages allowed after 5 days of practice
- c. Games allowed after 10 days of practice

Section 7: Postseason Qualification & Format:

A. STATE TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL BOYS & GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. The State Championship Tournament will be conducted under the direction of the RIIL and Director of Golf using a format determined by the RIIL and approved by the Principals' Committee on Athletics.
 - i. The course for the State Team and Individual Boys and Girls Championships will be selected by the RIIL.
- b. The Coed Team State Champion, Boys Individual and Girls Individual Champions will be crowned over a two-day tournament format (36 holes). Day 1 of the Championships will consist of all qualified teams and individual boys and girls.
 - i. Qualification for the State Team Championship will be based on the following:
 - 1. Twelve coed teams will qualify for the State Championship Tournament:
 - a. The Five (5) Division winners based on team (W-L) record will automatically qualify for the State Championship Tournament.
 - i. Division Winner Tie break:
 - 1. Head-to-Head record in regular season league matches between the tied teams
 - 2. Team Scoring Average (iWR)
 - b. The next 7 coed teams based on Team Scoring Average (iWR) will qualify for the State Championships regardless of division
 - c. The top 6 team scores out of 8 league match dates will be used to calculate each school's Team Scoring Average (iWR).

2. Each team will consist of six (6) players. The four lowest scores for each team will determine the Day 1 team score.
 - a. The top three (3) teams and ties, and any team within 20 strokes of the lead will qualify for Day 2 of the State Team Championship.
 - b. In the event of a tie at the conclusion of 36 holes, a sudden-death playoff will be conducted by the Director of Golf or his/her designee to determine the State Team Champion.
- c. Qualification for the State Individual Championship for Boys and Girls will be based upon the following:
 - i. The Individual (iWR) ranking will be determined by the golfer's best 5 regular season designated league scores out of a maximum of 8 regular season match dates. Scores outside of regular season designated league matches (i.e. Invitationals, non-league matches, tournaments will not count towards qualification for the State Championship Tournament
 - ii. Qualification Requirements for Girls: The Individual (iWR) ranking will be determined by the golfer's best 4 scores in league match dates. Scores may be submitted whether student-athlete is part of the top 6 or not. In order for score to count towards qualification if student-athlete is not part of the top 6 for a given match date the student-athlete must play against a student-athlete from an opposing school on that date. Opposing player may be male or female.
 1. Any qualified female golfer participating from the White Tee is eligible to win the Individual Boys State Championship and any qualified female golfer participating from the Red Tee is eligible to win the Individual Girls State Championship.
 - iii. Any golfer designated as one of the 6 golfers competing for a qualified team (regardless of # of regular season matches played) automatically qualifies for the individual championship (Boys or Girls).
 - iv. Any individual golfer, who is not participating as one of the designated 6 golfers on a qualified team, may qualify based on their Individual (iWR) ranking. The Individual (iWR) ranking will be determined by the golfer's best 5 regular season designated league score out of a maximum of 8 regular season league match dates for boys and 4 designated scores out of a maximum of 8 dates for girls.
- d. **Boys Individuals (White Tees)** – after the team members are selected for the qualified teams in the State Championships, the next 15 golfers plus ties by Individual (iWR) ranking will qualify to play for the Individual Boys State Championship.

- i. Upon completion of eighteen (18) holes of play, the low twenty (20) scores and ties and all individuals within 10 strokes of the lowest Individual Boys State Championship score will qualify for round 2.
 - ii. The individual with the lowest total score for two rounds (36 holes) will be declared the State Individual Boys Champion.
 - iii. In the event of a tie at the end of 36 holes, a sudden-death playoff will be conducted by the Director of Golf or his/her designee to determine the State Individual Boys Champion.
- e. **Girls Individuals (Red Tees)** – the Top 18 golfers plus ties by Individual (iWR) ranking will qualify to play for the Individual Girls State Championship.
 - i. Upon completion of eighteen (18) holes of play, the low six (6) scores and ties and all individuals within 10 strokes of the lowest Individual Girls State Championship score will qualify for round 2.
 - ii. The individual with the lowest total score for two rounds (36 holes) will be declared the State Individual Girls Champion.
 - iii. In the event of a tie at the end of 36 holes, a sudden-death playoff will be conducted by the Director of Golf or his/her designee to determine the State Individual Girls Champion.
- B. Once a course of play has been selected and announced by the Director of Golf for the State Tournament and the course superintendent or manager has stated the course is closed and ready for playing the Tournament, no person or team competing may practice on that course.
- C. **PENALTY:** Any team or individual player who violates this rule will be disqualified by the Director of Golf from participating in the State tournament.

Section 8: RIIL Rules & Regulations Specific to Golf

- A. **Rosters** shall be completed via the RIIL website and made available to the public no later than 10 days after the start of practice. Rosters must be updated when students are added/removed from the team. Rosters must include: full name, grade, and jersey number.
- B. **Uniforms:**
 - a. Schools shall consult the NFHS Rulebook for specific regulations pertaining to uniforms
- C. **RI Interscholastic Injury Fund:**
 - a. The Injury Fund is a non-profit organization separate from the RIIL.
 - i. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.injuryfund.org/>
 - b. The purpose of the nonprofit Injury Fund is to establish, raise, maintain and distribute funds to the athletic departments of high schools participating in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Distributions will be made to assist athletes, coaches or officials injured in sanctioned interscholastic competitions and practices with their medical expenses that

exceed the amount paid by the injured party's primary, required medical insurance. Any and all financial assistance rendered by the RI Injury Fund to RIIIL Member Schools shall be given purely on a voluntary basis and in such amounts and in such manner as the Board of Directors in its sole discretion shall determine.

- c. Non-League competitions scheduled to spread awareness of and benefit the Injury Fund are allowed by RIIIL Rules in addition to any stated game caps contained herein.
- d. Students, Coaches, and Officials whose teams participate in an Injury Fund event in a given sport are covered by the Injury Fund
- e. **Injury Fund Format:** TBD

- K. In the event a "playoff game" must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue to play, the game will be rescheduled and restarted from the exact point of the suspension of play.
 - L. **Playoff Warmup:** Teams must be allowed no less than 20 minutes to warm up on the field prior to the start of any playoff game unless specific warmup procedures are contained elsewhere in this handbook.
- D. Sub-Varsity**
- a. JV schedules will be scheduled at the discretion of each Athletic Director/Head Coach.
 - b. Sub-varsity games will not be allowed after the final day of the varsity regular season.
- E. No players, parents, or spectators will be allowed to coach or give advice to any players while they are competing during regular season matches or the state tournament. Players, parents and spectators must maintain a distance of at least 25 yards from all players.
 - F. Only one (1) certified coach per school will be allowed to coach during a match. At the State Championship tournament, a badge/credential will be distributed to the designated coach from each school. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification.
 - G. Coaches will be responsible for maintaining the constant play of their respective teams, which will not cause a slowdown in overall play.
 - H. Caddies, caddie carts, or other vehicles for riding by the contestants may not be used in RIIIL golf matches. Exceptions due to physical handicaps will be allowed. **Requests for exceptions, accompanied by supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Director of Golf.**
 - I. Contestants are permitted to use pull/push carts in any match, including the state championships, provided they are allowed for use by the host golf course.
 - J. All participants must abide by the dress code as established by the golf course on which the match is being held.
 - K. Betting by participants is strictly prohibited. Participants who violate this rule will be disqualified.
 - L. Misconduct and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, and violators will be disqualified. This specifically refers to improper language, improper behavior and unnecessary damage to the golf course, golf course equipment, property, etc.

- M. Boys will play from the middle or white tees. Girls will play from forward or red tees. The player must play from the designated tee marker submitted for the entire season.
- N. Electronic devices: Players may use a device to measure distance only. Use of a device to gauge or measure other conditions is not permitted. Cell Phones will be used to enter and track Live Scoring through the RILL Golf App at all matches. Ear buds/headphones or playing music are not permitted during play. Penalty is disqualification.
- O. Any golfer who fails to finish a round and voluntarily walks off will be assessed a penalty for each hole that they do not complete. The individual will be assessed double par for each hole not completed and will be suspended from the next league match.

Section 9: Officials

- A. RILL assigned official's authority extends to pre- and post- game oversight. Fighting and unsportsmanlike penalties will be within the authority of the officials at all times at the contest site.
- B. Police protection, when necessary, must be provided by the home school. The home school is responsible for all crowd control measures. There is an urgent need for increasing vigilance in this matter. Schools must make every effort to ensure that players, officials, and spectators are protected. Duties of the police will be determined and outlined by the home school.