Looking Ahead to Tournament Play

A few important rule reminders as we look ahead to tournament play:

1. The 2019 Rules of Golf include a new optional Local Rule that allows players to drop a ball with 2 penalty strokes in an area near where the ball was lost or estimated to go out of bounds. The Local Rule is not one of the 24 Rules of Golf; it’s an optional Local Rule. **This 2-stroke optional Local Rule will NOT be used at the OHSAA Sectional, District or State Championships.**

2. The coaching rule remains in effect for all tournament play. The regulation permits one school board approved coach/designee assigned to that event to speak with his/her players without delay of play at any time. During the player’s stipulated round, coaches are not permitted to physically stand on any green or in any sand bunker. The player must walk off the green or stand outside the bunker should he/she wish to converse with his/her coach at these particular times.

3. Spectator carts are now permitted at the discretion of each District Athletic Board. They will make this determination and should communicate their decision to you. Previously, no spectator carts were permitted.

Live Scoring-BirdieFire

For the first time, we are going to add live scoring to our state tournaments. BirdieFire will be utilized at each state tournament course and scores will be recorded after every three holes. This will require all state qualifying coaches to enter their team members into BirdieFire the week of the tournament. More information will be sent out to those coaches at that time. We think this will be a great addition to the tournament and allow many people who are unable to attend to follow the progress of the tournament.

Live Scoring-Volunteers Needed

We will be utilizing volunteers on the course to enter the scores. If you have previously worked with BirdieFire and would be interested in serving as a volunteer, please complete the survey questions here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/livescoring](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/livescoring)

USGA Digital Learning Tool

The USGA has released their digital learning tool. You can read more and register yourself and your team here: [https://www.nfhs.org/articles/usga-releases-digital-learning-tool/](https://www.nfhs.org/articles/usga-releases-digital-learning-tool/)