

# 2026 Girls' State "A" Golf Tournament

## Two Rivers Golf Club, North Sioux City – June 1-2

### General Tournament Information

#### **TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS:**

Dan Swartos, Executive Director, SDHSAA  
Bill Clements, Athletic Director, Dakota Valley High School

#### **HOST COURSE:**

Two Rivers Golf Club  
150 S Oak Tree Lane  
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049  
605 232-3241

#### **Parking: Team and Overflow Spectator Parking: (All teams must use this lot)**

Riverside Park (Golf Club Parking)  
1301 Riverside Blvd  
Sioux City, IA 51109

#### **PRACTICE ROUNDS & RANGE:**

18 holes and Range \$35.00 per player. Carts \$25 per player

Please contact Two Rivers GC directly to arrange practice rounds.

No play will be allowed on the championship course by participants or coaches outside of SDHSAA Tournament Play beginning at 12:01 AM on the Monday of competition through the completion of the tournament.

Two Rivers is ready to set up tee times for practice rounds. Practice rounds will begin on Saturday, May 30 after 4:00 PM and continue all day Sunday, May 31, 2026. Groups of five are allowed. Championship play will be from the Red tees. Holes 3 and 9 may be played from Blue tees.

#### **DRIVING RANGE:**

Range balls are provided each day of the tournament. Please use the designated area and use a linear divot pattern.

#### **INFORMATION PACKETS:**

Information including starting times, pairings and marker assignments will be made available to participating teams for pick up during practice rounds.

Please note that pairings and tee times for Monday will be posted on the SDHSAA website following the conclusion of all Class 'A' Region Tournaments.

### **STARTING TIMES:**

Play will begin at 9:00 AM on both Monday and Tuesday morning. Any individual competitor who is late for their tee time will be disqualified from that day's competition.

### **TOURNAMENT FORMAT:**

The tournament will be a two-day, 36-hole event. Each contestant is scheduled to play 18 holes each Monday and Tuesday.

The Individual Championship places will be determined by individual, two-day combined scores.

The Team Championship places will be determined based on the four, low aggregate scores for each round of play that is completed. Only schools that have qualified a minimum of four athletes for the State Meet as a team will be eligible for Team Championship placing.

### **ENTRIES/SUBSTITUTIONS:**

**Class A** - A school may substitute only for a player that qualified as part of a "team" and not solely as an individual for the State Meet because of injury, illness or school disciplinary action only until the Tournament has begun. **Alternate Golfer at the State Meet (5<sup>th</sup> Golfer)** This proposed rule change would allow an alternate golfer at the state for teams that qualify as a team (can be subbed in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day for any reason). This is team only and the alternate must be declared before the region golf tournament.

**NOTE:** In order for the first, second and third place teams in Class "A" to bring their fifth golfer who were not among the qualifying individuals, the teams must have had a fifth player (Class "A") competing for their team at the Regional Tournament.

### **PAIRINGS:**

Scores from Region Meets will be used to determine pairings and starting times for the first round of Championship play. The second round of play's pairings will be determined based upon opening round scores. Pairings are to be completed without duplicate playing partners from the same school/team in either round.

**New 2024** - Class A –State Tournament 1<sup>st</sup> Day - Team Waves off the Back (when Applicable) Allow all teams who qualified a scorable team (4 or 5 players) to play in waves on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the State Tournament, even the teams that will tee off the back 9. We will continue to have the teams that qualify out of their regions as a team off the front and those teams that qualify with individuals teeing off in teams off the back 9 on the 1<sup>st</sup> day.

### **DRESS CODE:**

Uniforms Participating athletes and coaches must ensure that their dress abides by the policies of the local club in which they are playing. In addition to local rules/regulations, the following dress code rules shall apply for all meets for SDHSAA Member School Golf Competitions:

- a. All contestants must wear a shirt that is long enough to reach the top of the pants as to prevent bare midriffs. Shirts shall be either collared, turtleneck or Henley-style. Sweatshirts/jackets may be worn over such a shirt in case of inclement weather.
- b. Shirts do not need to be the same for each competitor from a school.
- c. Any headwear being worn must be a sun-billed cap/visor or a stocking cap/headband. Hats shall be worn facing forward.
- d. (Revised 2015) When shorts are worn, they should be long enough so that when a golfer is standing erect with arms to his/her side, the shorts reach the end of the fingertips. Additionally, shorts, if worn, should not be mesh/nylon jogging/basketball athletic-style shorts. Violations may result in disqualification.

### **GROUP MARKERS:**

Each playing pairing will be assigned a “Group Marker” by Tournament Management to keep score and monitor playing etiquette. Each school is responsible for providing one individual as a marker, with the additional being provided by the host school. Markers will not be assigned a group that includes players from their own school.

**Note:** The Marker does NOT have the official card but is only there to help facilitate score keeping among the playing partners in a group. Players are to exchange among athletes in each threesome/foursome so that no two athletes have one another’s card, but each individual is responsible for someone else’s score. This marker is not to make rulings, but simply ensure that verbal confirmation of scores is completed after each hole among the players and then facilitate discussions for recounting strokes on a hole if necessary and/or if a marker’s tally for a player does not match the agreed upon tally of the group.

### **ON-COURSE COACHING (NEW 2022):**

**New 2024: Two designated coaches per participating school will be able to coach their players anywhere, except on the greens. This would include the teeing area and those areas already allowable, along with being allowed to coach players until all players are physically on the putting green, provided they have completed their coaches’ education and are listed on the roster prior to Region they will be provided a badge by SDHSAA staff:**

*Golf is a game of honesty, integrity and honor. To this extent, the following guidelines have been established to allow one school coach from each school to coach/communicate with their golfers from the tee to the green. Coaching/Communicating with a golfer should in no way hinder the pace of play.*

### **COACHES MAY:**

- *Coach/Communicate with their golfer after all golfers in the group have teed off and until all golf balls have arrived on the green.*

- *Coaches may communicate with their golfers once all have holed out on a green. All coaching for all golfers in a group will cease when the first golfer in the group steps on the teeing ground of the next hole.*
- *Coach/Communicate with their golfers on such matters as club selection, wind direction, hole-strategy, swing adjustments, and mental adjustments.*
- *Assist all golfers in looking for golf balls that have not been located.*
- *Use a range finder during play.*
  - ***NOTE: Prior to any stroke, the coach must be at least five yards away from their golfer.***

### **COACHES MAY NOT:**

- *Coach/Communicate with their golfer once all golf balls from the group have arrived on the green. During this period of play, coaches will take on the same role as a spectator, maintaining a distance of 30 yards from all golfers.*
- *Make rulings on matters of play that are the responsibility of the golfers, meet director, tournament committee or rules officials.*
- *Be on the tee box or green at any time.*
- *Read putts for their golfers.*
- *Coach a golfer from another school.*
- *Caddy for their golfer.*
- *Keep the official scorecard for their golfer.*
- *Use electronic communication devices to coach during competitions.*
- *Use a teaching aid or technology on the course.*

Any attempt by a non-designated individual to coach/confer at any point of the round, or by the designated individual at any point other than “tee to green” will be considered a violation and enforced as follows:

- Scoring penalty, per instance, of two strokes per USGA Rule 8
- Revocation of the coaching badge and “green to tee” privilege for remainder of tournament
- Continued violations of this rule after the revocation of the coaching badge shall lead to immediate disqualification of the coach and athlete(s) in question.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

The use of electronic measuring devices is to be allowed for all regular-season and postseason play beginning with the Fall 2015 Season, to bring SDHSAA Golf in line with USGA Rule. Devices such as smartphones, PDAs or other communication devices remain banned on the course. **(New 2022)** Devices such as smartphones, PDAs, **Bluetooth headphones/earbuds** or other communication devices remain banned on the course, including for the purpose of use as a distance-measuring device.

Under the USGA Rules of Golf, ‘Distance Measuring Devices’ include range finders such as the Bushnell units, laser devices such as Laser Link and GPS-based systems such as Bushnell, SkyCaddie, Callaway or Garmin. Any stand-alone device of any of these types is permitted under the Local Rule adopted by the SDHSAA as long as it meets all other USGA criteria. Cell Phones, Smart Phones or other similar communication tools may not be utilized as a distance-measuring device in any stipulated round during the high school season.

The use of a distance-measuring device has been approved for use during the SDHSAA Golf Season, however, said devices DO NOT include a cell phone, smart phone or any other device that is also used for communication purposes. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his or her play (i.e.: slope, wind speed, temperature, etc.) or a communication tool, the player is in breach of USGA Rule, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function was actually used.

Furthermore, players may share either the distance-measuring device or its information and doing so is not a violation of USGA Decision on advice. Distance is a matter of public information and not advice.

### **GALLERIES:**

Spectators are permitted on the course and are to follow the direction of the Group Marker. Spectators are to remain behind the players and Group Marker at all times.

### **MOTORIZED VEHICLES – UPDATED POLICY, 2021:**

The use of motorized vehicles during SDHSAA Championship Play is strictly limited. **Due to significant abuse of previous policy, the practice of carts being given to spectators has been further revised. Individuals with a disability that would like to request the use of a cart may do so through their local administration prior to the tournament. Carts will only be provided, for a fee, to individuals who have both had a request submitted in advance and are in possession of either a current handicapped parking hang-tag or license plate in their own name.** Those individuals utilizing a cart will be required to sign a waiver before using the cart for the tournament.

### **DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

Participants may be disqualified from the event for reasons including signing an incorrect score card, missing their assigned tee time, or other USGA/SDHSAA rules violations. Golfers disqualified during opening-round play may be allowed to compete on the second day. For pairing information for disqualified golfers, please see the SDHSAA handbook.

### **TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE:**

In the event of a tie for first place in the individual championship, those golfers who are tied shall play a ‘sudden death’ playoff to determine final places. Holes are to be determined by meet management, including the on-site Golf Professional. All other individual ties will remain as ties.

In the event of a tie for first place in the team championship, all members of the teams involved in the tie shall participate in a ‘sudden death’ playoff, as described in the SDHSAA handbook. Team ties for all other places will be broken through a scorecard playoff as listed in the SDHSAA handbook.

### **PLAYOFF FORMAT:**

\*Individual or team playoff will begin on Hole #1 and continue to Hole #9 if needed. Additional holes, if needed, will be determined by the tournament directors.

**AWARDS:**

Awards will be presented to the top twenty-five individual places, as well as individuals from the top six teams. All awards will be presented at the conclusion of the tournament, unless a playoff for a team place is required. Any team who leaves before receiving its awards will be held responsible for the cost of delivery of medals not picked up at the tournament site.

**GROUND RULES:**

A copy of local ground rules, including special situations, will be included with each team's informational packet. Summer rules are to prevail during tournament play, however the tournament director or course pro reserve the right to alter those rules due to weather conditions.

**COACHES MEETING:**

There will be a Coaches' Advisory Committee Meeting on Monday following play.

**LIVE SCORING:**

All SDHSAA Golf Tournaments will feature Live Scoring through the Golf Genius online scoring service. A link to this scoring feature can be found at [sdbp.org/golf](http://sdbp.org/golf).