



Panhandle Christian Conference

Official Golf Rule Book
Adopted from USGA & FHSAA Modifications
2025-2026 Season

Table of Contents

1. 4.8.1.1.1 Competition Rules
2. 4.8.1.1.2 Coaching & Advice During Competition
3. 4.8.1.1.3 Unsporting Conduct Reports
4. 4.8.2.3.4 Faculty Supervision
5. 4.8.2.3.5 Jury of Appeals
6. 4.8.3 Local Rules and Terms of Competition

Panhandle Christian Conference Golf Rule Book

4.8.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.8.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.8.1.1.1 Competition Rules

The Panhandle Christian Conference (PCC) adopts the United States Golf Association (USGA) Rules of Golf as the foundation for all competition. Modifications adopted by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) have been incorporated into this Rule Book for clarity, fairness, and consistency at the high school level. These rules are now the official rules of the PCC and apply to all PCC competitions. This handbook excludes Florida state-level tournament structures (district, regional, and state series), which are not applicable to the PCC.

(a) Team Composition

FHSAA Rule: A team shall be comprised of four, five or six players... four lowest individual scores combined shall determine the team score.

PCC Guidance: Teams must bring a minimum of 4 players and a maximum of 6 players. Only the best (lowest) 4 scores count.

(b) Match Format

FHSAA Rule: A match shall be conducted on a stroke play basis or a match play basis... tie-break procedure must be set prior.

PCC Guidance: Stroke play is default. Match play may be used if agreed. Tie-breaks must be established before play.

(c) Maximum Score

FHSAA Rule: Maximum score of nine (9) strokes per hole is in effect.

PCC Guidance: Once a player reaches 9 strokes, they must pick up and record a 9.

(d) Exhibition or practice play

FHSAA Rule: Exhibition or practice play during a match is strictly prohibited. Only those students who are properly entered shall participate in a match. This does not prohibit the playing of junior varsity matches in conjunction with a varsity match.

PCC Guidance: Not Applicable at this time until JV teams are added.

(e) Dress Code

FHSAA Rule: All participants must abide by the dress code as established by the golf course on which the match is being played.

PCC Guidance: All participants must abide by the dress code as established by the golf course on which the match is being played.

(f) Caddies

FHSAA Rule: The use of caddies, including teammates, is prohibited.

PCC Guidance: Each player must carry or use a non-motorized pull cart.

(g) Carts

FHSAA Rule: Players may use pull-carts. Motorized carts only with disability exception.

PCC Guidance: Non-motorized pull carts only. Motorized carts require PCC-approved disability accommodation.

(h) Distance Measuring Devices

FHSAA Rule: Distance measuring devices may be used under USGA guidelines.

PCC Guidance: Rangefinders allowed for distance only. Features like slope and wind must be disabled.

(i) Stroke Play

FHSAA Rule: In stroke play, USGA Rule 20.1c(3) may be used when uncertain what to do (playing a second ball), and the tournament/ match director or tournament committee must be consulted before a player involved signs, returns his/her scorecard and exits the scoring area.

PCC Guidance: When a player is uncertain of the correct procedure in stroke play, they may play a second ball under USGA Rule 20.1c(3). The player must announce their intention before playing the second ball, state which ball they wish to count if allowed, and complete the hole with both balls. The situation must be reported to the tournament or match director before the player signs and returns their scorecard. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

(j) Equipment Misconduct

FHSAA Rule: A player who deliberately throws any piece of equipment during competition shall be disqualified (ejected) immediately for misconduct. The disqualification (ejection) shall be reported to the FHSAA Office by the host school or tournament director using the "Unsporting Conduct Incident Report" (Form AT6).

PCC Guidance: Throwing any equipment is automatic disqualification (ejection) for misconduct. The disqualification (ejection) shall be reported to PCC by the host school or tournament director.

(k) Unsporting Conduct

FHSAA Rule: Any player that displays unsporting behavior, profanity, inappropriate gestures or taunts an opponent at any time during the match, shall be disqualified and ejected from the match.

PCC Guidance: Players must maintain Christian sportsmanship. Use of profane language, inappropriate gestures or taunts of an opponent at any time during play will result in immediate disqualification (ejection). If a player is disqualified (ejected) the host team or tournament director will notify PCC in writing.

(m) Scoring Procedure

FHSAA Rule: At the end of play, each player must check-in, verify scores, sign, and submit the scorecard.

PCC Guidance: Players go directly to scoring table after play. Any issues or concerns must be finalized prior to signing their scorecard. Scores are final once signed and submitted.

(n) Competition Conclusion

FHSAA Rule: A competition is considered to have closed when all players have submitted their scorecards to the tournament/match director and the results are officially announced.

PCC Guidance: A competition is considered to have closed when all players have submitted their scorecards to the tournament/match director and the results are officially announced.

4.8.1.1.2 Coaching & Advice During Competition

(a) Coaches only will be allowed to give advice under the following provisions:

(1) FHSAA Rule: Only two (2) designated team coaches may give advice. Advice may be given anywhere except putting greens.

PCC Guidance: Two (2) designated coaches per team. Parents and spectators may not advise players. Coaches may not step on greens.

(2) USGA Rule 10.2 “Advice and Other Help” must be used.

(3) Advice may be provided anywhere on the course except on the putting greens. Only players are permitted to step onto the putting greens.

(b) Coaches who elect to give advice to their players during matches must not make rulings on matters of play that are the responsibility of the event director or tournament committee. A player in violation of USGA Rule 5.6, “Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play, will be assessed a one-stroke penalty for the first offense, a two-stroke penalty for the second offense, and a disqualification for the third offense.

(c) No players, parents or spectators shall be allowed to coach or give advice to any player who is competing during regular season matches or in the PCC Championship Match.

(d) Parents and spectators of participating golfers must maintain in the rough or on golf paths and 50 feet away from the golfers. Use of golf carts by spectators during matches is under the jurisdiction of the event director.

4.8.1.1.3 Unsporting Conduct Reports

FHSAA Rule: Event hosts must report acts of unsporting conduct to the FHSAA Office.

PCC Guidance: PCC requires host schools to report acts of unsporting conduct to the Conference President for review.

4.8.2.3.4 Faculty Supervision

FHSAA Rule: A member of the faculty shall accompany a school’s team or individual contestant to all competition.

PCC Guidance: Each school must provide a faculty member or approved coach to supervise its team or individual competitors. No team or individual may compete without proper school supervision.

4.8.2.3.5 Jury of Appeals

FHSAA Rule: A Jury of Appeals consisting of five coaches and/or athletic directors from five different participating schools shall be appointed. Decisions are final.

PCC Guidance: The Jury of Appeals will consist of neutral coaches or administrators appointed by the PCC. Decisions are final and may not override written PCC or USGA rules.

4.8.3 Local Rules and Terms of Competition

The current Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. Complete text of Rules and Committee Procedures may be found in the current "Rules of Golf." Disregard Local Rules printed on club scorecards or posted at the course.

4.8.3.1.1 Out of Bounds

FHSAA Rule: Defined by white stakes, lines, roads, perimeter fence posts. Also homeowner's side of penalty area, and paved roads.

PCC Guidance: Out of Bounds includes beyond fences, roads, and marked boundaries. This may include other parts of the golf course but separated by the obstacle.

4.8.3.1.2 Penalty Areas

FHSAA Rule: Penalty area edges extend with Out of Bounds. Additional relief may be used opposite side of red penalty area.

PCC Guidance: Standard USGA penalty relief applies.

4.8.3.1.3 Ground Under Repair

FHSAA Rule: White-lined areas, French drains, and large ant hills are GUR.

PCC Guidance: Defined by white lines. Free relief for GUR. Examples are – French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like) and large or hard ant hills on the course.

4.8.3.1.4 Relief from Seams of Cut Turf

FHSAA Rule: Model Local Rule F-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing:

(a) Ball in General Area: The player may drop a ball under Rule 16.1b.

(b) Ball on Putting Green: The player may place a ball under Rule 16.1d.

Interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.

PCC Guidance: Relief is allowed if swing or ball is on seam. Not for stance only. In the General area, the player may drop a ball under Rule 16.1b. On the Putting Green, the player may place a ball under Rule 16.1d.

4.8.3.1.5 Integral Objects

FHSAA Rule: Artificial walls/pilings in penalty areas; wrappings/wires attached to trees.

PCC Guidance: No relief from these objects unless specifically stated.

4.8.3.1.6 Edging Grooves Near Putting Greens

FHSAA Rule: Model Local Rule F-19 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. The edging grooves around the aprons or fringes of putting greens are ground under repair. If a player's ball lies in or touches a groove or a groove interferes with the area of intended swing:

(a) Ball in General Area: The player may drop a ball under Rule 16.1b.

(b) Ball on Putting Green: The player may place a ball under Rule 16.1d.

PCC Guidance: Relief if ball or swing interferes with grooves. Not for stance only. In the General area, the player may drop a ball under Rule 16.1b. On the Putting Green, the player may place a ball under Rule 16.1d.

4.8.3.1.7 Immovable Obstructions Near Greens

FHSAA Rule: Model Local Rule F-5.2 in effect.

PCC Guidance: Relief available only when both ball and obstruction are within 2 club lengths of the green. (Drop ball within one club-length of complete relief).

4.8.3.1.8 Loose Impediments

FHSAA Rule: Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.

PCC Guidance: Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments. These may be removed without penalty.

4.8.3.1.9 Distance Measuring Devices

FHSAA Rule: Allowed under USGA guidelines.

PCC Guidance: Devices must measure distance only. Slope, weather and any other feature must be turned off.

4.8.3.1.10 Maximum Score

FHSAA Rule: Maximum score of 9 strokes per hole is in effect.

PCC Guidance: Maximum score of 9 strokes per hole is in effect. Pick up and record 9 once limit reached.

4.8.3.1.11 Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds

FHSAA Rule: Model Local Rule E-5 in effect.

PCC Guidance: Relief allowed for lost ball/Out of Bounds with two-stroke penalty.

4.8.3.1.12 List of Conforming Equipment (Driver Head and Golf Balls)

FHSAA Rule: Model Local Rules G-1 and G-3 in effect.

PCC Guidance: Only USGA-approved driver heads and balls permitted.

4.8.3.1.13 Missing Player or Marker Certification

FHSAA Rule: Model Local Rule L-1 in effect.

PCC Guidance: If marker is missing, certification requirements apply per USGA.

4.8.3.1.14 Transportation

FHSAA Rule: When players are required to walk, a player who has played under stroke and distance may ride on motorized transport.

PCC Guidance: Transportation may be used only under stroke-and-distance replay.

4.8.3.1.15 Animal Near Ball

FHSAA Rule: Model Local Rule E-13 in effect.

PCC Guidance: Relief granted if animal interferes.

4.8.3.1.16 Pace of Play

FHSAA Rule: Players must follow pace guidelines.

PCC Guidance: There must be no unreasonable delay, with penalties escalating from strokes to disqualification. Beyond enforcement, there are clear recommendations to encourage faster play, including a 40-second guideline per stroke and adopting “ready golf” where appropriate.

4.8.3.1.17 Suspension of Play

FHSAA Rule: Model Local Rule.

PCC Guidance: Model Local Rule.

4.8.3.2.3 When Competition is Final

FHSAA Rule: The competition is final when the winner has been announced, or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.

PCC Guidance: The competition is final when the winner has been announced, or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.