

2025-2026

Section IV

Boys Golf Handbook



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FOREWORD

This handbook is intended for the use by all Athletic Directors & Coaches. We have tried to include all of the necessary forms and information for the Sectional and State Tournaments.

Section IV Basketball will comply with the regulations set forth by National Federation of High School Sports, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section IV of the NYSPHSAA.

The current rulebook issued by the NCAA will be the standard unless noted otherwise within this handbook.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024-2025 SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS

CLASS A – MAINE - ENDWELL

CLASS B - NORWICH

CLASS C - LANSING

CLASS D – GROTON

SECTION IV OFFICERS

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Boys' State Chair:

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Section IV Coordinators:

Matt Loveless - Matt.Loveless@lcsd.k12.ny.us

IMPORTANT DATES

The rules governing boy's golf come from the NYSPHSAA Handbook, the Section IV Handbook and the USGA rules of play.

FALL:

Monday - August 18, 2025	Start Date for the Fall Season	
Monday – October 6, 2025	Class A & B Tournament @ Soaring Eagles	9:00 am

SPRING:

Monday – March 9, 2026	Start Date for the Spring Season	
Monday – May 18, 2026	Class C Tournament @ Maple Hill	9:00 am
Monday – May 18, 2026	Class D Tournament @ SUNY Delhi	9:00 am
Wednesday – May 20, 2026	Medalist Tournament (RD 1) @ Mark Twain	9:00 am
Friday – May 22, 2026	Medalist Tournament (RD 2) @ Mark Twain	9:00 am
Sunday – June 7, 2026	NYSPHSAA State Golf Championship (Rochester)	TBA
Monday – June 8, 2026	NYSPHSAA State Golf Championship (Rochester)	TBA

SECTION IV BOYS GOLF RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Coaches and Athletic Directors must certify that each golfer or team has met the qualifying standards. Failure to report correct data will result in disqualification from the event.
2. A maximum of six [6] golfers [one full team] from any one school may participate, with the five [5] best scores counting towards the team's total. (Unless otherwise agreed upon by league)
3. Ties occurring in the school team competition will be broken in this way. The first hole of all five golfers will be added up and the team with the lowest total strokes will be the winner. If a tie still exists, additional hole or holes shall be totaled.
4. Ties for all medalist positions will be broken by the USGA recommendation for deciding ties – Appendix 1, 10c.
5. Coaches or other spectators will not be allowed to caddie or aid in any way during the course of play. Spectators or parents may not walk with or be in close proximity of the competitors and shall not communicate with them during play. [Penalty – disqualification from the tournament].
6. No starting times will be adjusted for other activities on the day of the tournament. These issues should be taken care of prior to the tournament.
7. Any player using unsportsmanlike conduct [throwing of clubs, the use of foul language, or other types of inappropriate conduct] will be penalized. Penalties include a two-stroke penalty or disqualification.
8. All golf coaches are to make themselves readily available to either be a marker or spotter during the tournament. Anyone supervising another school's player should have written permission from that school, and notify the sectional/tournament coordinator at least 48 hours before the event.
9. At all Section IV golf events, participants will not be allowed to use their own vehicles without the permission of their school. Each school district is legally responsible for the safety and conduct of the golfers representing them.
10. The rules of the USGA will be in effect as modified by the local scorecard and as follows:
 - A. All out of bounds are stroke and distance penalties.
11. The golf coordinator and club professional will determine on the day of the tournament if preferred lies are needed. If so, the ball may be moved, [mark, lift, clean, place] in your own fairway only, a club length, no closer to the hole.
12. If there is a dispute about a rule within your group, play a second ball under rule 20.1c [doubt as to procedure], keep both scores and have the ruling decided by the tournament coordinator or the scoring/rules committee. Scorecards are not official until they are signed and attested.
13. There will be no coaching of the competitors either by coaches or other spectator during the course of play.

14. Once a competitor begins play, they may not be replaced by a substitute for that round for any reason. Any golfer leaving the course and not finishing their round for reasons other than an emergency or injury can disqualify himself and/or his school from future Section IV golf tournaments.
15. Distance measuring devices – range finders – are allowed. However, devices that indicate elevation/slope are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
16. Competitors and coaches are required to abide by the following dress code:
- Proper dress: a collared shirt, dress slacks or trousers, golf shoes or sneakers, dress shorts or waking shorts [no longer than knee level].
- Not allowed: gym shorts, jean shorts or cut-offs, tee shirts, muscle shirts, tank tops, jeans, pants which are ripped, torn or patched, any clothing deemed obscene or offensive.
17. Non-motorized push/pull carts are permitted.

**** Violation of one or more of these rules could mean “individual” or “team” disqualification.**

2025-2026 Section IV Class A & B Team Championships

Just a reminder that the Section IV, Class A & B Team Championships are set for Monday, October 6th at Soaring Eagles Golf Course in Horseheads. The tournament is an open tournament to Class A & B schools that play golf in Section IV during the Fall season.

The coaches meeting will begin at 8:30 am, with a shot gun start beginning promptly at 9:00 am. The fee will be \$20 per player. **Coaches, please submit your number of golfers via email to Matt Loveless by September 26th.** *Payment will be submitted for each golfer by the Section IV Office. Janet McWeeney will invoice each school based on their number of golfers.*

In addition, coaches please email your team members along with the information required for entry into the sectional tournament to Nick Barney (nsbarney@outlook.com) by September 29th.

A supervised practice round may be available if scheduled in advance. Please call the golf course at 607-739-0551 for tee times. The fee for the practice round will be determined by the golf course.

Please review the Section IV golf rules and regulations with your team. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 315-480-1117 or by email at mloveless@lcsd.k12.ny.us.

Thank you for your cooperation!

2025-2026 Section IV Class C & D Team Championships

We will have team champions for Class C and Class D in the spring of 2026. Please take note of the qualifying standards for 2026. The 40% [overall winning record] or 50% [winning record in your own class] will be in effect.

Class C - Monday, May 18, 2026
Maple Hills Golf Course
Marathon, NY
Jensen Pilkington – 607-849-3285
8:00 am – Coaches Meeting
9:00 am – Tee-Off

Tournament Chairman
Chip Stewart

607-745-8453 [cell]
Cstewartaug2022@gmail.com

Class D - Monday, May 18, 2026
The College GC @ Delhi
Dave Arehart – 607-746-4653
8:00 am – Coaches Meeting
9:00 am - Tee-Off

Tournament Chairman
Greg Bonczkowski
Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD
607-783-2250 ext. 318
Gbonczkowski@gmucsd.org

There will be a \$20 fee charged per golfer at each course. Coaches, please submit your number of golfers via email to **Matt Loveless by May 8th**. Payment will be submitted for each golfer by the Section IV Office. Janet McWeeney will invoice each school based on their number of golfers.

In addition, coaches please email your team members along with the information required for entry into the sectional tournament to **Chip Stewart (Class C) or Greg Bonczkowski (Class D) by May 13th**

A supervised practice round may be available if scheduled in advance. Please call the golf course for tee times. The fee for the practice round will be determined by the golf course.

Please review the Section IV golf rules and regulations with your team. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 315-480-1117 or by email at mloveless@lcsd.k12.ny.us.

Thank you for your cooperation!

2025 – 2026 Section IV Medalist Tournament

Mark Twain Golf Course
Pro Shop – 607-737-5770
May 20, 2026 & May 22, 2026

ALL ENTRIES FOR THE MEDALIST TOURNAMENT SHOULD BE EMAILED TO:

Matt Loveless
Lansing CSD
Section IV Golf Coordinator
Mloveless@lcsd.k12.ny.us

Athletic Directors need to sign and validate all entry forms. **No entries will be accepted after the designated deadline of May 15, 2026.**

The coaches meeting will be at 8:00 am. Shot-gun start will begin promptly at 9:00 am.

A reminder to coaches to adhere to rules #8, #9 and #15.

There will be a \$24 fee per participant per day for this tournament. *This fee will be given to the tournament chairman each day of the tournament by the Section IV office – May 20th and May 22nd. Janet McWeeney will invoice each school based on their number of golfers.*

Any golfer from Section IV who meets the qualifying standards is eligible to participate. The first round of this 36 hole qualifier will be played on Wednesday, May 20th. The low 20 plus ties will return on Friday, May 22nd to determine the nine medalists. In the event of a playoff for the final spot(s) on the State Team, a playoff will begin directly after all scores have been finalized.

NYSPHSAA BOYS GOLF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
Mill Creek Golf Course (Rochester, NY)

June 6 th -	Practice Round
June 7 th -	State Tournament Round #1
June 8 th -	State Tournament Round #2



WIND CHILL PROCEDURES

Administration of Wind Chill Procedures:

- Feels Like Temperature (Wind Chill) will be checked 1 hour before the contest/practice by a certified athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee when the air temperature is 39 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower.
- Download WeatherBug app to your phone or log into www.weatherbug.com.
- Enter zip code or city and state in the location section of the app or on-line.
- If the Feels Like temperature (wind chill) is 10 degrees or below, the athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee must re-check the Feels Like (wind chill) at halftime or midway point of the contest. If the Feels Like (wind chill) temperature is -11 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower, the contest will be suspended.

Please refer to the following chart to take the appropriate actions:

	Feels Like Temp (wind chill) above 40 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
R E C O M M E N D E D	Wind Chill Caution: Feels Like Temp (wind chill) 39 degrees to 20 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing.
	Wind Chill Watch: Feels Like Temp (wind chill) 19 degrees to 10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss.
	Wind Chill Warning: Feels Like Temp (wind chill) 9 degrees to -10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss. Consider postponing practice to a time when the Feels Like temp is much higher. Consider reducing the amount of time for an outdoor practice session.
REQUIRED	Wind Chill Alert: Feels Like Temp (wind chill) -11 degrees or lower	No outside activity, practice or contest, should be held.

Approved May 1, 2010

Updated July 27, 2016



Heat Index Procedures

Administration of Heat Index Procedures:

- Feels Like Temperature (Heat index) or THI using a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator (see chart below) on the field will be checked 1 hour before the contest/practice by a certified athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee when the air temperature is 80 degrees (Fahrenheit) or higher.
- Download WeatherBug app to your phone or log into www.weatherbug.com. Schools may also use a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator (see chart below) on the field that will be used.
- Enter zip code or city and state in the location section of the app or on-line or determine the THI by using a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator.
- If the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator is in the recommended range (yellow – WeatherBug or green, yellow, orange, red – WBGT), the athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee must re-check the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or Wet Bulb Temperature Indicator at halftime or midway point of the contest. If the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or Wet Bulb Temperature Indicator is in the required range (red – WeatherBug or black – WBGT), the contest will be suspended.

Please refer to the following chart when using **Weather Bug app**, to take the appropriate actions:

	Feels Like Temp(Heat Index) under 79 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
R E C O M M E N D E D	Heat Index Caution: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) 80 degrees to 85 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session.
	Heat Index Watch: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) 86 degrees to 90 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider postponing practice to a time when Feels Like temp is lower. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session. 1 hour of recovery time for every hour of practice (ex. 2hr practice = 2hr recovery time).
	Heat Index Warning: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) 91 degrees to 95 degrees	Provide ample water and water breaks every 15 minutes. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider postponing practice to a time when Feels Like temp is much lower. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session. 1 hour of recovery time for every hour of practice (ex. 2hr practice = 2hr recovery time). Light weight and loose fitting clothes should be worn. For Practices only Football Helmets should be worn. No other protective equipment should be worn.
REQUIRED	Heat Index Alert: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) 96 degrees or greater	No outside activity, practice or contest, should be held. Inside activity should only be held if air conditioned.

Please refer to the following chart when using **Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator**, to take the appropriate actions:

Cat 3	Cat 2	Cat 1	Activity Guidelines
< 82.0°F <27.8°C	< 79.7°F <26.5°C	< 76.1°F <24.5°C	Normal Activities – Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 3 min each during the workout.
82.2 - 86.9°F 27.9-30.5°C	79.9 - 84.6°F 26.6-29.2°C	76.3 - 81.0°F 24.6-27.2°C	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 min each.
87.1 - 90.0°F 30.6-32.2°C	84.7 - 87.6°F 29.3-30.9°C	81.1 - 84.0°F 27.3-28.9°C	Maximum practice time is 2 h. <u>For Football</u> : players are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice. If the WBGT rises to this level during practice, players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing to shorts. <u>For All Sports</u> : Provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 min each.
90.1 - 91.9°F 32.2-33.3°C	87.8 - 89.6°F 31.0-32.0°C	84.2 - 86.0°F 29.0-30.0°C	Maximum practice time is 1 h. <u>For Football</u> : No protective equipment may be worn during practice, and there may be no conditioning activities. <u>For All Sports</u> : There must be 20 min of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice.
≥ 92.1°F ≥ 33.4°C	≥ 89.8°F ≥32.1°C	≥ 86.2°F ≥30.1°C	No outdoor workouts. Delay practice until a cooler WBGT is reached.

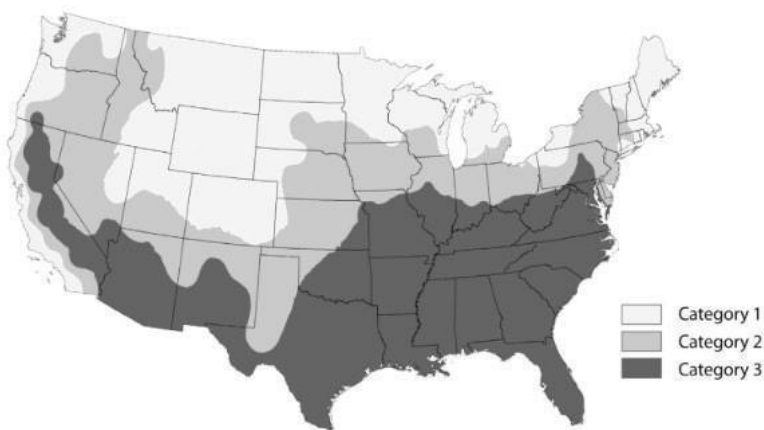


Fig. 2. Heat safety regions.

THUNDER & LIGHTNING POLICY:

Applied to regular season through NYSPHSAA Finals:

1. Thunder and lightning necessitate that the contest be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion- thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning.

a. With your site administrator, set up a plan for shelter prior to the start of any contest.

2. When thunder is heard and /or lightning is seen or if lightning is detected within 15 miles of the event location by using the My Lightning Tracker App (Jan. 2024), the following procedures should be adhered to:

a. Suspend play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car).

b. Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.

c. ***After the last boom is heard, strike is seen or lightning has not been detected within 15 miles of the event by using the My Lightning Tracker App (Jan. 2024), wait 30 minutes before resuming play or competition.***



Tornado Policy

- Tornado Watch-indicates tornados are possible. Event staff must continue to monitor the situation.
- Tornado Warning-Tornado siren sounds signaling tornado sighted or tornado indicated by radar

GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

- If a tornado warning is initiated, immediate event delay shall be implemented, and all participants, spectators and athletic staff shall seek shelter immediately. Once inside a secure location, tune to local weather alert radio to be informed of the storm location, path and duration of tornado warning.
- Warning may be extended, or a new warning issued at any time, so continue to monitor.
- Safe shelter from tornado inside lowest building level, away from exterior walls/windows, with windows closed.

All Clear-tornado warning will expire after duration specified by the National Weather Service and the site director will notify all involved that the warning has ended, and the event may resume.

July 2022