

**SOSSA INC. BOYS AND GIRLS GOLF  
PLAYING REGULATIONS – revised June 2011**

1. Date:

The SOSSA Inc. Convenor should contact zones (zone representatives, co-ordinators and/or schools) prior to the tournament regarding starting times of competitors. The team should play one to eight rounds prior to the zone tournament (N.B. – a round is 18 holes).

2. Location:

The convenor of the championship shall be decided by the Annual General meeting prior to the championship. The tournament, where possible, should be held at a course which is closed for the tournament.

3. Eligibility:

As per Article VII and Article VIII of SOSSA Inc. Constitution.

4. Entry:

(a) That the Boys and the Girls shall be separate tournaments.

(b) That the SOSSA convenor distribute the rules and etiquette package to coaches whose team and/or individuals are participating at the SOSSA Golf Tournament(s).

The coaches will distribute the rules and etiquette procedure to their players to study. Coaches will ascertain that the athletes understand the rules and etiquette procedures.

(c) For the SOSSA Inc. Playoffs, each zone shall be allowed three (3) teams and top three (3) individuals, NOT members of a winning team (eg. may be 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> players overall, etc.) for the Boys' Competition.

For the SOSSA Inc. playoffs, each zone shall be allowed the top one (1) team and top seven (7) individuals, NOT members of a winning team (eg. May be 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> players overall, etc.) for the Girls' Competition. NOTE: at present, there are no girl's team championship at OFSAA. All qualifying is done on an individual basis.

(d) No Zone qualifying score for the SOSSA Inc. final tournament shall exceed in the case of a male golfer – 100 strokes and in the case of a female golfer – 120 strokes.

(e) Each Zone convenor/co-ordinator will send the results, individual scores and eligibility sheets to SOSSA Inc. Convenor. These must be received by the SOSSA Inc convenor one week prior to the SOSSA Inc. championship tournament.

5. Expenses:

Expenses for SOSSA Inc championships – see Article IV, Section 5-6. An ENTRY FEE shall be charged with shall be sufficient to cover operating costs of the tournament. Costs to be borne by schools involved.

A SOSSA Inc. Championship Report Form (financial report) shall be submitted to the Administrative Secretary/Treasurer following the championship.

6. Rules:

A Boys' team shall consist of five (5) players with the "BEST" four (4) scores constituting a team score. A Girls' team shall consist of five (5) players with the "BEST" three (3) scores constituting a team score. In the event of schools ending in a tie for first place in the SOSSA Inc championship, the TIE shall be broken in the following manner.

(i) Using the score of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) player for boys and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) for girls.

(ii) If the tie still exists from (i) the scores of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) boy and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) girl player will break the tie, then the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) boy and second (2<sup>nd</sup>) girl, then the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) boy and first (1<sup>st</sup>) girl, until the tie is broken.

All local rules of the host golf course will be in effect. The Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) rules shall be used to cover all technicalities. All rules interpretations must be placed before the convenor as soon as possible. The convenor is to act as the jury of appeal. Should there be a perceived conflict of interest, the convenor shall seek the advice of the local Canadian Professional Golf Association professional to make the ruling(s).

All competitors will use the regular designated tee markers.

That there shall **NOT** be caddies used at the boys and/or girls SOSSA Inc tournament.

#### 7. Scoring:

Coaches and players shall receive the proper procedure for marking the score for fellow competitors. Information shall be enclosed in rules and etiquette package.

Every player keeps a scorecard with every other player in the group on the scorecard. Scores will be verified after each hole with each member of the group. All cards will be signed by the scorer and player at the end of the round and handed in to Convenor. You as a player are responsible for accuracy and legibility of all 18 holes, not the addition of those 18 holes. If you sign for a score lower than you made, you will be disqualified. If you sign for a score higher than you made, that score will stand..

Ties for low gross or to qualify for OFSAA as an individual are to be broken by retrogression as per the Golf Association of Ontario (G.A.O.). First tiebreaker is low back nine, then low last 6 holes, then low last 3 holes, then low last hole. A coin flip will determine winner at that point. If the tournament was contested using a shotgun tournament format, the Convenor will be in charge to determine the back nine, last 6, last 3 last hole based on when the golfer starts and finishes.

#### 8. Deportment:

See Article X and XI

It is expected that team members will be properly attired for the golf course. Spectators will be allowed on the golf course as long as it is allowed by host golf club (spectators are not allowed on some golf courses for insurance reasons). They will not be allowed to have any communication with the competitors during the round of golf. Failure to abide by this will result in the spectator(s) being asked to leave and/or disqualification of the student athlete.

#### 9. Awards

SOSSA Inc medallions will be given to the winning team(s) plus the individual gross winner. (Six (6) boys/six (6) girls)

#### 10. Medical

Qualified first aid personnel and equipment shall be available at the championship site.

11. Appeals and Protests - See Article IX Appendix –  
Golf Etiquette Package next page

## **GOLF RULES & ETIQUETTE**

Golf is a game unlike any other. It is the only game where the true test of a person's character is revealed during a round of golf and especially during competition. You are expected not only to know and observe the rules of golf, but to "self police" yourself and if circumstances warrant it, to call a penalty on yourself if you have violated a rule either intentionally or unintentionally.

One of the greatest golfers of all time, Bobby Jones illustrated what makes this game unique in a tournament in the 1920's when he was the best player in the world. While addressing his ball (this means taking your stance and grounding your club behind the ball) for a shot from the middle of the woods, his ball rolled over from where it was lying. The rules dictate that after a player takes his/her stance that they are deemed to move the ball even if there is no intention to do so. Mr. Jones hit his shot and emerged from the woods and told his marker (scorekeeper) that he had incurred a stroke penalty for his ball moving. No one else had seen the infraction and Mr. Jones was congratulated for his honesty and integrity. His reply was, "you might as well congratulate a thief for not stealing". His point was that this is the expected behaviour that golfers should exhibit and he should not have been congratulated for doing what is right. This is different than many other sports where for example, a hockey player is not expected to come out of a corner and tell the referee that he should be assessed a penalty for elbowing.

You as a competitor in tournament golf have a responsibility to not only self police and call rules infractions on yourself if the need arises (knowing the rules of golf well eliminates the need for this in many cases). You also have the responsibility to "protect the field". This means you are responsible for keeping an eye on fellow players and make sure they are following the rules of golf. Cheating (lying about ones' score, improving one's lie of their ball, etc.) has long been a problem in junior golf and we would like to see our competitions as an opportunity to learn about the rules and what the game of golf is all about and eliminate cheating entirely. An occurrence of cheating will result in disqualification in any tournament.

### **Etiquette**

- Dress appropriately for the weather conditions and follow the dress code of the host club. Hat must be worn appropriately.
- Play ready golf! Be ready to play your shot without delay. Despite there being a provision in the rules of golf that states player farthest from the hole has the "honour", players can play out of turn if another player is not ready and the result of such will speed up play. Your group should always stay up to the pace set by the group in front of you. You should never have more than one full open hole in front of you.
- Refrain from talking and moving when other players are ready to play.
- Mark your ball with a small round object when your ball is on the green.
- Continue to putt out after you hit your approach putt if you are confident of success and you will not be standing on another player's line.

## GAO — Golf Association of Ontario Code of Conduct

The Golf Association of Ontario has a goal of having all of its tournaments recognized as the best Amateur Golf Tournaments in Ontario. To ensure that this is achieved, it is essential that the groundwork is developed at the Junior Golf level in order that the players who move on to the Amateur level demonstrate respect for the game, for the host clubs who provide their facilities for events, and for the communities in which the events are conducted.

In order to continue to make Golf Association of Ontario Junior Tournaments an enjoyable experience for all who participate and all volunteers who assist in organizing the events, the Association requires that all of the participants in its events adhere to a Code of Conduct. The purpose of the Code is to assist those participants in Golf Association of Ontario Junior events, to learn, grow and mature, through understanding and accepting accountability for their actions.

1. The Code of Conduct requires that, while **on** the Golf Course, all players:

- a) will strictly adhere to the Rules of Golf
- b) will adhere to the dress code during practice and competitive rounds
- c) will complete all competitive rounds of golf, unless otherwise approved by the GAO Tournament Committee
- d) will demonstrate respect for volunteers, spectators, tournament officials, the host course, and the host community
- e) will not throw clubs
- f) will not use tobacco products, drugs, or alcohol
- g) will not use abusive language
- h) will not demonstrate any other conduct not becoming of a GAO member

2. The Code of Conduct requires that, while **off** the Golf Course, all players:

- a) will avoid any association with drugs, tobacco, and alcohol
- b) will not be associated with vandalism at the host or accommodation facilities
- c) will not demonstrate abusive behaviour to any fellow competitors, tournament officials, host club members, or community officials
- d) will avoid any other conduct not becoming of a GAO member

3. Proper attire is required at all times while at the golf facility. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. The Golf Association of Ontario Dress Code prohibits tank tops, t-shirts, and blue jeans. In addition, all headgear must be worn properly, all shirts must be tucked in, and all players must wear collared shirts or turtlenecks.

## **Common Rules of Golf**

You should be familiar with the following rules of golf in order to compete in tournament golf.

### **Procedure when you hit a ball that may be lost or out of bounds (Provisional Ball):**

- Tell your marker that you are playing a provisional ball in case it is lost or out of bounds. Failure to do so results in you abandoning your original ball and now playing this new ball under the stroke and distance rule (meaning you are now playing your third stroke and cannot play that original ball).
- You may play your provisional ball until you get to the area where the original ball lies (you could hit your second shot or third IF your provisional shot is much shorter than the original).
- You have five (5) minutes to search for your ball starting when you arrive at the area. After such time the ball must be declared lost and you must play your provisional ball.
- If you did not hit a provisional ball, but either determine the ball is out of bounds or lost when you arrive at the ball, you must then go back and play under the stroke & distance penalty (play your third shot from where you last hit including re-teeing).

### **Options when taking your penalty stroke drop for a water hazard include:**

- Playing from any drop area when available.
- Drop as close as possible from the spot where you last hit including re-teeing.
- Drop anywhere back along an imaginary line aligned with the flagstick and the last point your ball crossed into the hazard. This drop is always taken behind the hazard even if your ball landed over and rolled back in the hazard.
- You may play your ball as it lies within the hazard without penalty.  
If you do and fail to hit out of the hazard boundary, now you have 3 choices.
  1. You may hit the ball where it lies.
  2. Drop at the previous ball spot within the hazard
  3. Drop at the last spot which the ball was struck outside the hazard.

### **For red staked lateral water hazards you have an additional option.**

- You may drop your ball within 2 club lengths from the point last crossed by your ball where it entered, perpendicular to an imaginary line drawn to the flagstick no closer to the hole.
- You may drop across on the other side of the hazard laterally equal in distance to the hole.

### **Unplayable Lie**

- If your ball ends up in an unplayable lie “through the green” (any area of the golf course outside of hazards (water hazards & sand traps), you must inform your marker that you are proceeding under the unplayable lie rule. Your options are listed below and all include counting your original stroke and a penalty stroke.
  - Stroke and Distance Penalty (go back after you declare your ball unplayable and play your third shot (if your tee shot was the stroke that became unplayable) from where you last hit

including re-teeing.

- Drop anywhere back along an imaginary line aligned with the flag stick.
- You may drop your ball within 2 club lengths from where the ball lay no closer to the hole.

### **Doubt as to Procedure**

If you have a situation where you and your group are unclear of a rule and do not know how to proceed, play the original ball as it lies. Then play another ball according to the ruling that your group collectively thinks is correct. Both balls must be played into the hole. Both scores must be recorded for that hole and the group must inform the Convenor immediately after finishing play about the situation and a ruling will be made and the correct score for that hole will count.

### **Maximum Number of Clubs**

The maximum number of clubs is fourteen. All players should count the number of clubs before starting play. Penalty is 2 shots per hole for a maximum of 4 shot penalty for the first two holes. If error is not discovered before teeing off the third hole — disqualification.

### **Free Drops vs. Penalty Drops**

The general rule of thumb is that if you are entitled to a free drop (from a “staked” tree or a cart path for example), you get stance and one club length relief. This means that you are entitled to take a stance away from the obstruction and get another club length relief from there.

If you are taking a penalty drop (from a water hazard or from an unplayable lie), you get two clubs length relief. The easier way to remember is that if you “pay” for the “relief” (are charged a penalty shot), you get two club lengths relief.

### **Scoring and Score Cards**

All players in each group shall keep a score card for all players in the group. Scores will be checked carefully with each member of the group after each hole. All members of the group must agree on their totals on nine (9) holes and after eighteen (18) holes to identify any potential errors. Ultimately, the player is responsible for the individual scores on all eighteen holes, but not the addition of those holes (the Convenor will be responsible for the addition of the card). When the scorecards have been checked carefully upon the completion of play, the player must sign their official score card before handing it into the Convenor.

If a player signs for a score higher on a hole than that player took (eg. player made par on a hole, but signed for a bogey), the score for that hole will count. If a player signs for a score lower on a hole, the penalty is disqualification (eg. player made par on a hole, but signed for a birdie