



TEXAS CHRISTIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Official GOLF Athletic Plan

Rev. 2/2012

*The following are the T★CAL policies and guidelines for member school participation in the **GOLF** platform. General athletic purposes and codes as stated in the football plan section A, also apply to Golf. All Golf contest rules shall be governed by the [United States Golf Association, USGA](#) any exceptions to those rules shall be listed herein. Amendments are marked “**NEW**” and date is included.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <u>Subject</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Class, Region & District Alignment | 2 |
| Qualifications for District, Region and State Tournament | 4 |
| Championship Structure | 4 |
| Practice Regulations Outside of the School Year | 5 |

Class, Region & District Alignment

1. **Enrollment Figures.** Each December, the T★CAL office shall obtain enrollment data from participant T★CAL member schools and home school programs (grades 9-12). The enrollment figures shall be used to determine the appropriate classifications.
 - a. **Average combined boys and girls enrollment figures** shall be used in determining the classifications as appropriate for the sports of Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field, Soccer, Baseball & Softball. Golf & Tennis are not currently aligned according to enrollment (see Golf and Tennis plans specifically).
 - b. **“Blended” Teams of Member Schools**
 - i. “Blended Teams” are allowed ONLY in the event a local Home school organization and/or Private/Charter school does not have an active GOLF program and students from that organization desire to join an existing T★CAL member school for the purpose of playing GOLF.
 - ii. If a member school (A) allows for players from a local Home school organization and/or Private/Charter school (B) to play on their team (A), the Home school organization and/or Private/Charter school (B) enrollment numbers shall be included of the Home school organization and/or Private/Charter school (B) in addition to their (A) typical enrollment numbers for the purpose of determining appropriate classification.
 - iii. Students enrolled in a UIL School are not allowed to participate in T★CAL programs.
 - c. **Home school enrollment** is accepted on a case-by-case basis by the GOLF Commissioner, then reviewed and approved by the T★CAL Executive Board. Enrollment numbers shall include high school age siblings of the player as well as the total number of high school boys and girls participating in other sports teams and programs (e.g. football, baseball, etc.) and/or in co-ops. T★CAL teams receiving students from the same co-op will be reviewed and assessed at the regional level or committee.
 - d. **Multiple Disabilities** Students who are officially designated as having multiple disabilities may be excluded from the enrollment figures submitted for reclassification purposes. The GOLF Commissioner must approve and submit this request to the Executive Board.
 - e. **Hardship Recourse.**
 - i. In the event a school’s enrollment numbers change significantly after January but prior to August, the school may petition the T★CAL GOLF Commissioner and the Executive Board for hard ship recourse.
 - ii. If enrollment decreases – Schools may request to be moved from their existing classification to a lower classification
 - iii. If enrollment increases – Schools that have experienced a significant increase in enrollment MUST declare this to the T★CAL GOLF Commissioner so that appropriate adjustments can be considered. A significant increase is defined as one where the resulting Average Boys

and Girls enrollment is at or greater than the number defined for separating the classifications.

2. **Class A, 2A, and 3A.** In general, the entire school membership for T★CAL is divided into three classes by enrollment. These divisions are Class A, Class 2A and Class 3A. The primary determining factor for assigning a class for each school or home school organization shall be the Average Boys and Girls total enrollment figures for grades 9-12.
 - a. T★CAL reserves the right to consider other factors in determining the appropriate class assignment for each school or home school organization. Non-enrollment factors that may be considered, as appropriate, are “preparatory” status of a private school or geographical & population coverage of a home school organization.
 - b. Ultimately, T★CAL’s desire is to have approximately the same number of schools among the 3 classes, with reasonable geographic representation. This may be accomplished over the next few years.
 - c. Any school may petition to play up or down a class, but petition must be received by ***February 1st*** of each year.
 - d. Any school may request to be moved one class level due to extreme travel concerns provided notification is submitted to the league office simultaneously with enrollment figures.
 - e. New alignments are released ***March 1st*** of each year.
3. **Regions.**
 - a. There will be **four** Regions in each class, with each region representing a geographical area within the state of Texas.
 - b. Within each class, the various regions represent somewhat the same area so that teams moving up or down a class will “comfortably” adjust to their new class.
4. **Districts**
 - a. Districts will be formed for the purposes of fellowship, community outreach, and strengthening relationships through healthy competition between member schools.
 - b. District schools shall be determined, based on the bi-annual alignments, and the number of “NEW” schools entering on a year-by-year basis.
 - c. Districts shall consist of a minimum of 1 school and not more than 5.
 - d. Each Region will have at least one District.
 - e. Each District shall have a district representative. This person shall be in charge of all voting issues, organizing all district meetings, and assisting the Executive Board with all regional playoff decisions. This person will be determined by T★CAL Athletic Director, with the help of the DARC Committees. This person shall serve until replaced, using the same criteria as above.

Qualifications for District, Region and State Tournament(s)

1. A golf team shall consist of up to (5) players, minimum of (4), plus up to (2) individual players of each gender for a total of (7) boys' and (7) girls' competitors. The best 4 scores on each team shall be considered for the team score and determine advancing.
2. In **District competition** a school may enter (1) team of boys and (1) team of girls, plus up to (2) individual players of each gender. If a school has a total of (3) players or less he/she shall compete as "individual" competitors.
3. The top (3) teams and top (5) individual scorers, in each gender, shall advance from district to **Regional competition**. The top (4) teams and top (5) individual scorers from the regional tournament will advance to the **State Tournament**.
4. Girls are permitted to play on the boys' teams; however they are required to play from the same tee as the boys.

Championship Structure: State Tournament

1. The State Tournament format will be a minimum one-day, 18 hole event (as voted by committee annually), or a maximum two-day, 36-hole event.
2. A **mandatory coaches meeting** will take place at noon at the host course on the 1st day of the tournament. The tournament will begin shortly thereafter.
3. The **team champion** will be determined by adding the (4) best scores each day by each team for a 36-hole total. Team awards will be presented to the top (3) teams of each gender. Team ties will be broken by comparing the fifth team members' scores. If only one team involved has a fifth player, that team wins the tiebreaker. If still tied, (4) members of each team will play a sudden-death playoff using the team total for each hole.
4. The **individual champion** will be determined by the best 36-hole score. Team members play for the individual championship as well as individual medalists. Awards will be presented to the top (5) players of each gender. Individual ties will be broken with a sudden-death playoff.
5. **"NEW" ALL-DISTRICT, REGION, STATE:** As of January 2012, until such time as an official All-District, Region and State selection meeting(s) can take place, athletes who compete and place in the top 6 for 1st team and the next top 6 for 2nd team at the State Tournament shall be considered as the "All-State" Teams. Boys and girls lists are separate. Girls who compete from the boys' tee will be considered for the All-State Boy's team. **[Amended 1/2012]**
6. The tournament may be shortened due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances at the discretion of the tournament director with approval from the athletic director.
7. There is a 9-stroke limit on every hole of the tournament.
8. Players may not use caddies; they must either carry their bag or use an un-motorized pull cart.
9. The tournament director shall appoint a committee of three coaches who will consult with the local pro to decide all rules interpretations.

10. No substitution will be allowed to a team once a tournament has begun. Exception: Injury or illness certified by a doctor prior to the beginning of a day's play.

11. All participants are required to dress appropriately. The following dress standard must be adhered to or may result in disqualification. Specifically prohibited are warm-ups, shorts without pockets, "hot-pants", tee-shirts, tank tops, and football, baseball or soccer cleats. The tournament director has the authority to determine what is appropriate. **BOYS:** Standard collared golf shirts, shorts, and slacks are to be worn at all times. **GIRLS:** Modest tops are to be worn with lengthy shorts, skorts, skirts or slacks.

12. Coaches may interact with their players **ONLY** between holes as long as they **do not delay the pace of play**. At all other times, coaches must abide by the rules for spectators.

13. Spectators must stay on or behind the cart path. If a cart path doesn't exist, spectators must stay at least 10 yards from the players. All spectators must be quiet when a player is hitting and try their best to stay clear of the player's field of vision as it relates to the direction of the course.

Practice Regulations Outside of the School Year

Any GOLF practice conducted by a school outside of the school year must be in accordance with the following regulations:

- a. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than 3 hours of practice activities on those days during which 1 practice is conducted.
- b. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than 5 hours of practice activities on those days during which more than 1 practice is conducted.
- c. The maximum length of any single practice session shall be 3 hours.
- d. On days when more than 1 practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, 1 hour of rest/recovery time between the end of 1 practice and the beginning of the next practice.
- e. **"NEW" School Coaches** can work with team at "Off-Season" open practices, and coach team in Summer Tournaments. This summer participation has to be termed "optional." [Amended 5/12]
- f. **"NEW" Off-Season** is defined as, after the T★CAL State Championships; from last approved tournament/matches until end of school including summer through start of School. [Amended 5/12]