



VHSL State Golf Spectator Rules and Expectations

We hope all spectators at VHSL State Golf events have an enjoyable experience watching the youth of Virginia compete against the course, the elements and one another. Unfortunately, even for adults, exuberance sometimes overcomes rational thought. For that reason the following document is provided to help guide spectators through what we hope will be an enjoyable VHSL State Golf experience.

Spectators are responsible for adhering to all rules and regulations of the hosting golf course.

What is the defined on course spectating boundary for VHSL state golf events?

Unless otherwise determined, cart paths are the defined boundary for spectators of the event.

At no time is a spectator allowed on the green at any VHSL state golf event. For purposes of this document, the event includes all practice and event rounds as well as playoffs.

What is the protocol for acquiring a spectator golf cart?

Spectator carts are offered at the discretion of the host golf course with all associated costs and rules and regulations prevailing. Unless otherwise determined by the course, the following priorities will be followed:

Those associated with the actual competition i.e. VSGA staff, on course rules officials, event working staff and coaches will have highest priority.

Spectators with disabilities that produce a handicapped pass, in their name, will have next priority.

Other spectators may rent carts if allowed and available.

NOTE: Taking a cart without authorization of those involved with the golf course **IS** a criminal offense.

Can a spectator help players in any way on the golf course such as helping locate a wayward shot?

There are several instances in which spectators may be involved in the event. Here are some examples of the can's and cannot's for spectators.

A spectator can:

Help locate a wayward shot **AS LONG AS** their help does not affect play (i.e. running across the fairway to the spot of a wayward shot while other members of the group are waiting to play a shot).

Let a player know their shot is in-bounds.

Acknowledge exceptional play and encourage players when play is not so exceptional.

A spectator cannot during the round:

GIVE ON-COURSE RULINGS.

Help a player with club selection.

Offer advice about wind direction and/or strength.

Suggest how much slope there is for a particular shot or hole.

Discuss how wet or powdery the sand is in a bunker.

Offer any suggestions on slope or speed of greens.

NOTE: These are examples of what does and does not constitute advice. This section is NOT intended to be a catch-all for what is and is not allowed. If you question whether you should or should not say or do something it is best NOT to say or do it.

What are other specific situations/locations which spectators need to be aware of?

Scoring Area

The scoring area will be defined at all VHSL state tournaments. Parents are not allowed in this area. There will be no exceptions.

Approaching a Rules Official about On-Course and Post Round Tournament Rulings

These rulings will be made by the appropriate officials designated for the event. No rules official is to be approached by a spectator during or after the event questioning or arguing about a ruling. THIS IS A VHSL SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATION which will be dealt with in the strongest possible way by VHSL League staff. Spectators who violate this policy will be asked to leave the facility immediately. In instances where spectators refuse to leave or persist in violating the policy, law enforcement will be requested to deal with the issue.

Approaching Players from Another School during or after play about concerns you have

Spectators at no time or for any reason are to approach players from a competing team for the purpose of chastising their play or on course rules decisions. Team coaches, rules officials and school administration are to deal with these issues.

No Alcohol or Tobacco Products Permitted

Spectators are reminded that all VHSL events are alcohol-free and smoke-free. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are prohibited. This prohibition extends to electronic smoking devices as well.

Violation of any of the enclosed rules and expectations of this section will be grounds for removal from the facility, denial of attendance from future VHSL events and requirement of the violating school to report the incident as a VHSL Sportsmanship Violation.