

## 2019-20 Golf Manual Use of Measuring Devices

The IHSA has adopted a local rule to allow the use of distance-measuring devices (DMD's) during the state series. The only restriction to this local rule concerns cell phones. During all state series competitions, however, the use of cell phones is prohibited, unless the local committee determines that the player's use of the cell phone was an emergency. Member schools are free to also utilize this local rule during regular season events. However, during regular season and state series events, the DMD must not be used for any purposes that are restricted by USGA Rule 4.3a, including but not limited to:

- Displays of effective playing distances (e.g., slope-based and other plays-like distance information)
- Gauged or measured variable environmental conditions, such as wind speed or altitude; or
- Recommendations that might assist the player in making a stroke or in his play (e.g., club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading, or any other advice-related matter)

Should a player be found using a device in breach of the local rule adopted by the IHSA, the penalty is a loss of hole in match play or a two-stroke penalty in stroke play for the first time a player breaches the local rule. Subsequent breaches of the local rule will result in the disqualification of the player in either format.

The IHSA continues to recommend that individuals wishing to use DMS's use only those that measure point to point distances and don't contain any additional features that can assist a player in making a stroke. In applying this local rule, players are reminded of their responsibility to protect the field, so if a player has concerns about an opponent's DMD, he/she should immediately raise those concerns with the player in question, his/her coach, and the rules committee for the event. It will then be the rules committee's responsibility to determine the facts of the matter and take any necessary action.

As a final reminder, players can share distance information with fellow competitors and not be in breach of any USGA or IHSA tournament rules. Sharing distance information is NOT considered giving advice. School administrators or coaches with additional questions should contact Kurt Gibson ([kgibson@ihsa.org](mailto:kgibson@ihsa.org)) or Stacey Lambert ([slambert@ihsa.org](mailto:slambert@ihsa.org)).