

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, December 4, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Andrea Clark, Grass Lake	
Jim Conway, Mt. Pleasant	Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake (MIAAA)
Rob Dilday, Utica	Ann Lowney, Clarkston
Hugh Felt, Milford	Erik Thompson, Adrian
Bob Filter, East Lansing (Finals Manager)	Justin Thorington, Saginaw
Steve Graetz, Benzonia	Randy White, Grand Haven (Finals Manager)
Todd Hursey, Suttons Bay (Finals Manager)	Debbie Williams-Hoak, Saline
Mick Kildea, (MHSAA rules advisor)	Jon Zajac, Tecumseh
Jeff Kozinski, Edwardsburg	Brian Zdanowski, Greenville

MHSAA Staff:
Cody Inglis, MHSAA

The MHSAA Golf Committee met to review policies and procedures for boys and girls golf. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association. Committee members were briefed on the committee selection process, the responsibilities of the Golf Committee and the process for recommendations and potential policy change to occur.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

A review of the 2018-19 golf committee topics and meeting minutes was completed. These changes included the ability of players to use cell phones on the course in four specific instances which include: calling a coach or tournament administration for a health and safety issue, inputting scores for live scoring or other scoring applications, contacting a rules official with questions and use as a distance measuring device. Other proposals that were approved by the Representative Council included a maximum score of 12 strokes in MHSAA tournaments and allowing Regional host schools a larger window of days to host the Regional event. Finally, a review of data and feedback from a "pilot program" for schools and leagues to use iWanamaker both in the spring and this past fall was completed by the committee in order to make future decisions in this area.

iWanamaker has been successfully used by state associations in Arizona and Colorado with new states such as Florida, New York, Minnesota and North Dakota coming into the fold. iWanamaker allows tournament organizers to use either the phone app or desktop version to set up tournaments throughout the state using the iWanamaker system of scoring, golf rankings and course inventory. These tournaments are set up in iWanamaker where coaches enter their own lineups and the tournament is scored by the players on the course with their cell phones. The committee felt that the use of technology now allowed should be used by players and coaches to enhance the MHSAA tournament. There are still questions as to the "pace" that the high school golf world would embrace technology and live scoring at regular season and post season events when players are the ones that would be scoring their rounds. The committee recommended to MHSAA staff that live scoring programs and apps, like iWanamaker and its scoring software should be used at the Finals and Regionals if available by

players as a secondary scoring method given that MHSAA rules now allow players to use a scoring app on the course. This recommendation will be investigated by staff to ensure that it can be implemented this spring for the boys season and if not, in the fall of 2020 with the girls golf season. The MHSAA will continue to encourage member schools and leagues to use scoring apps that both increase accuracy of scores and enhance the tournament experience for players, coaches and spectators.

The committee discussed at length scoring integrity and continues to believe strongly that coach involvement with players during their rounds was a key factor in helping address this issue. Several changes to protocols and strengthening of policy was completed for the MHSAA tournament but an emphasis on the regular season must be done by coaches to ensure that these protocols are not “new” for players in the postseason. The committee felt the use of iWanamaker and other live scoring apps will help with scoring integrity issues.

Discussion occurred with MIGCA leaders in considering some JH/MS golf events following the lead of other sports in a regional level in order to grow the game. These are preliminary discussions that will be done by the MIGCA board of directors and this discussion will be ongoing to see how an event could be planned for in the future.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The committee reviewed the MHSAA golf calendar and key dates along with upcoming Finals locations. MHSAA tournament policies and procedures including a review of documents such as the Participating School Tournament Information, Golf Managers Manual and the Finals Qualifiers information was completed.

Preliminary Regional alignments for boys’ golf were discussed and staff will now look to find spring golf hosts for Regionals. In addition the committee looked at how Regional assignments and site selections are made by MHSAA staff.

The role of the golf rules official was reviewed by MHSAA rules advisor Mick Kildea and some suggestions were given to help involve the rules officials into playing a more helpful role for coaches and tournament administrators, specifically at Regional tournaments. A review of the 2019 Rules of Golf changes and enhancements were discussed including education for coaches, players and others. Additionally a review of the 12 stroke maximum score on each hole was completed after use in the girls’ golf season. The committee felt this change has been and will continue to be a good one for high school golf.

The MIGCA provided the golf committee updates on new programs that they are pursuing with their member coaches including a golf advisory board comprised of athletic directors, principals and superintendents. The MIGCA will also have liaisons for each conference around the state to help increase communication to coaches. Finally, the United States Olympic Committee’s Athlete Development Model (ADM) was advocated for as a way to “grow the game” and develop future golfers. Incorporating this model into MHSAA CAP programs was discussed as a way to build coaches education in golf.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

Investigate and use both the iWanamaker live scoring program and cell phones by players in MHSAA Golf regionals and MHSAA Golf Finals as a secondary scoring method to track scores and expedite scoring wrap up at these sites. Determine for future years if iWanamaker or other scoring programs will help enhance MHSAA golf tournament scoring, entries and the live scoring process.

NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL