

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**2022-23 GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**November 30, 2022**

**Members Present:**

John Bertich, Utica  
Leon Braisted, Birmingham  
Rob Dilday, Utica  
Bob Filter, East Lansing  
Kevin Guzzo, St. Joseph  
Jim Holton, Kalamazoo  
Todd Hursey, Suttons Bay  
Phil Kerr, Montague  
Mick Kildea, East Lansing  
Tom Koert, Sparta  
Karen Leinaar, Frankfort (MIAAA)  
Nathan Oake, Hartland

Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs  
Taylor Shriber, Grand Haven  
Ann Serra-Lowney, Clarkston  
Jessica Stang, Mt. Clemens  
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City  
Debbie Williams-Hoak, Saline (MIGCA)

**MHSAA Staff:**

Andi Osters (Recorder)  
Cole Malatinsky

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2022-23 MHSAA Golf Committee met in East Lansing at the MHSAA’s John E. “Jack” Roberts building on Nov. 30, 2022. The meeting began with a review of the MHSAA decision making process and charge of the Golf Committee. Agenda items were compiled from correspondence, staff, committee members and the coaches’ association. The committee was reminded that the scope of their work was to focus on growing the game of golf, protecting the health & safety of participants, and maintaining the proper philosophy of educational, school-based athletics.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**RULE MODIFICATIONS**

The committee discussed three changes implemented during the 2022 Girls Golf season: (1) reduction of maximum hole score from 12 to 10, (2) return to course protocols and (3) the allowance of two school-approved coaches during the MHSAA tournament. Consensus was positive for both (1) and (2). Lengthy discussion took place surrounding the verification of ‘school-approved’ coaches during MHSAA regional and final competitions. Finals Managers in attendance recommended that both listed coaches be required to complete the MHSAA Golf Rules Meeting and be designated on the school’s roster form for regional entry.

**RULES EDUCATION**

Citing the high turnover rate among high-school coaching staff and administrators, members of the committee provided several opportunities for MHSAA staff to improve and increase the level of rules education provided to coaches during the regular season. There was general support for the inclusion of several Rules of Golf quiz questions within the MHSAA Golf Coaches Rules Meeting content. Additionally, the committee recommended promotion of the new (free) USGA Rules 101 online course and the IHSAA-GAM video collaboration on Pace of Play. These resources will be housed on the Boys and Girls Golf pages of MHSAA.com

**MHSAA REGIONAL HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

Requirements and specifications for MHSAA Boys and Girls Golf regional courses were reviewed, with most committee members agreeing that hosts must agree to several minimum requirements before accepting assignment: namely, course length, range availability and rain dates. Additionally, regional hosts should connect with their assigned GAM official prior to course set-up, to avoid day-of confusion about course markings, drop zones and pin placements.

### **iWANAMAKER, RANKINGS DISCUSSION**

Data received from a recent MIGCA member survey of nearly 200 golf coaches yielded somewhat conflicting results regarding MHSAA regional tournament format. While almost 60% of coaches favor the current MHSAA regional tournament assignment process, 63% indicated a desire to see other options presented (i.e. rankings from iWanamaker). Concerns about the lack of players electronically signing their scorecards within the app persist, with some MHSAA regionals only submitting 18% of scores as completed and attested. Again, MIGCA members present were interested in forming a task force to explore other regional format options, and to prepare a data-driven formal proposal for the 2023 Golf Committee to review.

### **GOLF COURSE AVAILABILITY**

The COVID-19 pandemic spurred unprecedented interest in the game of golf, and golf courses are busier than ever with paying customers and leagues. In some areas of Michigan, this has created conflict for schools wishing to schedule practice time and regular season matches. The Michigan Golf Course Owners Association (MGCOA) is aware of the challenge this presents for schools when trying to secure course time that doesn't impede upon daily school commitments for high school golfers. The committee agreed that emphasis should be made to both MHSAA golf coaches and Athletic Directors that schedules at non-school venues and locations need to happen well in advance of season dates. Junior golf plays a critical role in establishing a pipeline of future participants, employees, and stakeholders in the game.

### **OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS (NO ACTION)**

1. Upper Peninsula Finals Courses
2. Limited Team Membership Rule
3. L.P. Finals Site Rotation
4. 2022 MIGCA Survey Data

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MHSAA STAFF**

1. During the MHSAA Golf Tournament, teams will be permitted two school-approved coaches, both of whom have completed the MHSAA Rules Meeting requirement. Individual qualifiers will be permitted one school-approved coach.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MHSAA REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

1. Require student-athletes to participate in at least four (4) varsity competitions (9- or 18-hole events) prior to representing their school in the MHSAA Golf Tournament.