

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES

East Lansing, December 2, 2009

Members Present:

Jason Allen, Manistee
Troy Averill, Bay City
Steve Crowley, Dewitt
John Danaher, Niles
Vicky Groat, Battle Creek
Dave Hutton, Grandville (Finals Manager)
Nancy Johnson, Greenville
Randy Johnson, Auburn Hills
Vicki Kowalski, Farmington Hills

Gregg Kirchen, Holland (MIGCA)
Pat Nowak, Ithaca
Charles Palmer, Inland Lakes
Steve Rodriguez, Ann Arbor
Deb Van Kuiken, Holly (MIAAA)

Members Absent

Kirk Petee, Mason

Staff Member Present:

Randy Allen

The MHSAA Golf Committee met at the MHSAA 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.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

Tournament procedures and policies were reviewed with particular emphasis on existing policies regarding coaches as observers and scoring procedures. The committee agreed that the requirement that coaches must act as group observers during the MHSAA Tournament should be discontinued as well as the role of observer with player groups. All members supported giving coaches the freedom to exercise existing coaching privileges from green to tee without having to provide a substitute observer. It was agreed that golfers are responsible for their own scoring integrity under USGA rules with the severe penalty of disqualification for a breach of scoring rules the appropriate control. With the increase in golf rules officials on site and by instituting a master scorekeeping system with player groups, the committee believes scoring accuracy and integrity will be satisfactory. The MHSAA would work with the MIGCA to develop protocols for coaches at tournaments to better define their role and limitations. A motion was approved to reflect the changes.

Use of range finders in MHSAA tournaments was reviewed. Although the committee had supported use in its 2008 meeting, Representative Council had not approved the proposal at the request of staff due to problems in implementation. After additional discussion the committee approved a motion to continue the prohibition on use of range finders in the MHSAA Tournament but allow local leagues and conferences to adopt use for regular season meets under the USGA procedures.

Course rotation for the MHSAA Boys and Girls Finals was shared with the committee. With the expansion to four Divisions in girls' golf, all four university courses are used each season. Satisfaction was expressed with the Finals courses. With the financial pressures facing school sports, the committee discussed possible changes to the MHSAA Tournament Finals format to reduce costs of participation. It was agreed to make the preservation of a 36 hole Finals format a priority and look to other components of the tournament to reduce costs such as revisiting the District round in the boys tournament and regular season limitations if necessary.

Tournament policies on use of carts, practice rounds, pace of play, course setup, qualifier advancement ratios and rules authority were also reviewed with no changes to existing procedures suggested. The committee was updated on MHSAA procedures for submission of hosting requests with online tools and the process used to identify host courses and schools for District and Regional tournaments.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

The committee discussed the existing policy recommending a minimum standard for individual entry into MHSAA Tournament play and the problem of extremely high scores adversely affecting playing partners. It was agreed that the existing guideline whereby coaches are asked to enter only players who can score 65 for 9 holes be emphasized more in roster entry materials and to continue as a guideline and not a fixed requirement.

Season dates and tournament dates were discussed including the later start for the MHSAA LP Boys District Tournament after Memorial Day in 2011. The later start for the LP girls season in the fall of 2009 was reviewed, with the committee adopting a proposal to allow the first contest to take place two days earlier on the Monday after the first day of practice to gain more time for 18 holes meets during August weather with no loss of school time while still preserving the requirement for three tryout days over five days of practice.

The committee was given a list of regular season protocols regarding pace of play, spectator and gallery conduct, weather suspensions, format guidelines, start times, practice rounds, coach responsibilities and other topics to review for future committee consideration as might be required for league & conference competition. An update on out of season coaching restrictions and MHSAA proposals for changes in Amateur Status rules as they relate to scramble golf was shared with the committee

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Prohibit the use of range finders for use in MHSAA Tournament competition. Allow use by conference or league adoption during regular season meets. (13-0)
2. Allow the first contest for the fall LP girls' season to take place on the Monday following the start of practice in August with a requirement of three separate days of practice over five calendar days. (13-0) Rationale: Schools will be able to have two additional good weather days to play full 18 hole matches without loss of instructional time and still conduct three days of required tryouts and practice over five days instead of seven days.
3. Eliminate the requirement that coaches act as observers and eliminate the procedure of having observers with each group in the MHSAA District, Regional and Finals Tournament. Maintain existing coaching privileges between green and tee, and work with the MIGCA to develop additional protocols for coaches' responsibilities and limits during the MHSAA tournaments. Institute use of a 3-player or 4-player scorecard for tournament groups with each participant keeping the score of each member of the group and each player announcing his/her score to the group at the end of each hole. (13-0)