

## MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

### GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES

East Lansing, December 3, 2008

#### Members Present:

Troy Averill, Bay City  
John Danaher, Niles  
Jack Foster, Cadillac  
Nancy Johnson, Greenville  
George Jones, East Lansing  
Randy Johnson, Auburn Hills  
Vicki Kowalski, Farmington Hills  
Gregg Kirchen, Holland (MIGCA)

Charles Palmer, Inland Lakes  
Kirk Petee, Mason  
Steve Rodriguez, Ann Arbor  
Mark Turnbull, Onsted  
Deb Van Kuiken, Holly (MIAAA)

#### 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 coaching privileges and use of observers. Expansion of coaching privileges was discussed as well as discontinuing use of observers. The committee was unanimous in its support for continued use of observers at all MHSAA Tournament events, and keeping the current policy for coaching on the course when a substitute observer is supplied by the school. It was suggested that the MHSAA pursue a plan to organize a volunteer group at each Finals location that can serve as observers so that participating schools and coaches would be free of bringing their own observer.

Use of distance finders was discussed by the committee. USGA rules allow local committees to approve use of such artificial measuring devices. A motion was approved to allow distance finders in the MHSAA tournament and to consult with GAM and the Michigan PGA to develop administrative procedures for their use relating to pace of play, sharing of devices among players, etc.

The committee reviewed the long time policy of "shotgun" starts at all levels of the MHSAA Tournament. Although there is some benefit to using staggered tee times, the additional time consumed for completing play was estimated at over two hours each round and caused the committee to endorse continued use of "shotgun" starts for the MHSAA Tournament. It was recommended that start times for the spring Boys Districts and Regionals be no earlier than 8 a.m. and no later than 10 a.m. with adjustments for local weather conditions.

An update was given on the MHSAA direct coordination of rules officials for the MHSAA Finals, increasing the number of officials at events. Continued efforts will be made to expand the pool of rules officials and expand their assistance at the District and Regional level. It was suggested that the MHSAA stay abreast of new USGA equipment specifications and how it affects amateur competition and MHSAA Tournament competition.

With the likely addition of a 4<sup>th</sup> Division in the MHSAA Girls Golf Tournament in the fall of 2009, if the courses are available and satisfactory arrangements are secured, the committee preference for course rotation is as follows:

#### 2009 Girls Golf Finals Division Assignments:

Division 1, Forest Akers West  
Division 2, Forest Akers East  
Division 3, GVSU The Meadows  
Division 4, EMU Eagle Crest

The committee was updated on MHSAA plans for on-line golf coaches rules meetings that will be available in the spring of 2009. Attendance at either face to face meetings or taking the on-line meeting will now become mandatory. Content will be a combination of USGA rules and MHSAA tournament policies and regulations.

Other tournament policies reviewed were use of carts by coaches, observers, players and spectators, weather suspension procedures, tournament withdrawals, tournament financial reports, Finals course locations, course set-up guidelines and tournament advancements policies. No changes were recommended in existing policies.

Practice round policies for Finals qualifiers were discussed. Since the blackout policy was lifted Finals courses have had some difficulty with too many schools trying to schedule practice rounds for the Thursday prior to the Finals. Schools traveling longer distances will be given Thursday preference and coordination with Finals courses will be increased to better handle practice rounds.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

A discussion took place regarding the MHSAA Amateur Status rule covering students under MHSAA jurisdiction and the USGA rule which is more liberal and governs amateur events in which school age golfers sometimes participate. It was agreed that the MHSAA regulation and compliance will continue to be emphasized in future coaches rules meetings. It was also recommended and a motion passed to restrict cash and merchandise prizes given for special events in scramble golf tournaments such as longest drive and closest to the pin prizes.

During MHSAA Finals Tournaments, it is sometimes difficult for Finals qualifying teams to secure hotel accommodations when there are home football games the same weekend at Michigan State and Michigan. The committee suggested the MHSAA work with local hotels to secure courtesy blocks to assist schools at no financial risk to the MHSAA. The committee suggested that the MHSAA develop general guidelines for regular season golf meets that can help standardize policies and procedures for more successful competition and better meet administration. The guidelines will be brought to the committee in the future for review and may involve some required as well as suggested policies.

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

1. Pursuant to USGA Rule 14-3, allow the use of artificial devices that measure or gauge distance only during the MHSAA Tournament. Develop best practices for their use in consultation with the Michigan PGA and Golf Association of Michigan. Review the use of such devices after both a boys and girls MHSAA Tournament experience. (13-0)
2. Move the MHSAA Boys Golf Tournament one week later beginning in 2010. Schedule the district round for the week after Memorial Day on May 27, 28 or 29, the Regional round June 3, 4 or 5 and the MHSAA Boys Finals June 11-12. **Rationale:** Moving the start of the boys tournament a week later gives schools more dates for regular season matches to take place, provides better access to courses, and rain dates for the MHSAA Tournament are more available when Memorial Day weekend is not part of the schedule. (13-0)
3. In MHSAA Regulation I, Section 12 Amateur Status add to Interpretation #130 the following sentence: "Merchandise or cash awards given for special "flag" events during a round of scramble golf such as longest drive, closest to the pin and holes in one are not allowed as they are not considered carnival events. Acceptance if such awards or benefits are a violation of amateur status." (13-0)