

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, December 7, 2011

Members Present:

Oussama Baydoun, Dearborn
(MASSP)
Leon Braisted, Birmingham
Tim Genson, Mason County
Paul Goddard, Flint
Steve Crowley, Dewitt (MIGCA)
Nancy Johnson, Greenville

Cathy North, Linden (MIAAA)
Nathan Oake, Hartland
Zac Stephenson, Brownstown
Kris Isom, Adrian
Dave Swartout, Jackson
Dane Terrill, Marcellus
Randy White, Grand Haven

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

A discussion took place on a proposal from a committee member to expand the Finals field of qualifiers in all divisions of the boys and girls tournament. The suggested expansion was to increase the field from 90 players to 120 players by adding 4th qualifying team and individual from each Regional. It was pointed out that a larger Finals field would lengthen rounds significantly, and that the change to the current 15 team, 15 individual Finals field several years ago has worked well.

A suggestion was made to study an alternative plan that would add a 6th Regional in both the boys and girls tournament, advancing three more teams and three more individuals to the Finals in each division for a 108 player field. Rather than advance such a significant proposal for Council consideration without wider discussion, it was agreed that MHSAA staff would study and prepare a detailed plan for further committee consideration in the future.

The committee was informed that the Katke-Cousins course at Oakland University is no longer available as a Finals site. The MHSAA has made arrangements with Ferris State in Big Rapids and Bedford Valley to become host sites replacing Oakland University in the four course rotation.

In reviewing the changes made in observer policies, coaching and player scoring responsibilities, it was recommended and a proposal made that coaching contact be expanded to include all areas of the course except when players reach the green in the MHSAA Tournament. Such a change would better facilitate pace of play and other facets of competition with the proposal to restrict such privileges to one school designated coach.

The question of allowing the use of distance finders for the MHSAA Tournament was reviewed. With the USGA adding new language to better define such devices, it was agreed to propose that devices to measure distance be allowed for use by players at all levels of the MHSAA Tournament with the USGA language governing both use and penalty for non-conforming devices.

A review of season dates and length of the boys and girls LP tournament was discussed. A proposal to add Wednesday to the allowed dates for District and Regional LP tournaments was advanced. Other tournament policies regarding motorized carts, Finals practice rounds, spectators, time schedules and USGA rules officials and rules changes were reviewed with no changes or concerns expressed.

The interpretation and application to golf of MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3 regarding disqualification for subsequent days of competition for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct was reviewed and clarified. It was recommended that a form be developed for both regular season and MHSAA Tournament instances when the rule is applied for submission to the MHSAA.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

General information and timelines were shared with the committee about the process of assigning host schools and courses for the MHSAA District and Regional Tournaments. It was noted that interested coaches and courses should work through their school athletic director to use the MHSAA on-line hosting availability tools.

In discussing the MHSAA Limited Team Membership rule governing outside competition during the school season, the committee agreed that an exception for Michigan State Amateur qualifying in the spring would better serve students rather than the exception granted by the Council in 2010 for U.S. Open qualifying. A proposal was advanced to have the Council consider changing the exception from U.S. Open qualifying to the Michigan State Amateur qualifying.

An update was shared with the committee regarding the rules education curriculum under development with the use of video, exams, case plays and on-line tools. Committee members were encouraged to submit items for inclusion in MHSAA PSTI and Manager Manual publications and the regular season competition guidelines and protocols adopted by the Council in 2010. The MHSAA will make a presentation at the MIGCA May Clinic on all issues pertaining to the MHSAA Tournament and Council action.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Allow use of distance measuring devices in MHSAA Tournament competition as specified in USGA Rule 14-3 and Appendix IV. Use of non-conforming devices that have features measuring elements other than distance are not allowed and if used result in disqualification. Rationale: This recommendation was advanced two years ago but not approved due to lack of clarity in the definition of such devices and other features that may not be used. The USGA

has clarified the issue in an appendix to the rule and therefore the committee proposes allowing the devices for the MHSAA tournament. Distance measuring devices are used successfully in many non-school summer events and no longer are cost prohibitive (13-0)

2. Add Wednesday during the boys District week and the boys and girls Regional week to Thursday, Friday and Saturday as dates that may be scheduled for MHSAA tournament competition. Rationale: Allowing Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday for the MHSAA District or Regional gives better access to courses and more flexibility for rain dates. (13-0)

3. Allow coaching contact for one designated school coach during MHSAA tournament competition on all areas of the course, except when players reach the green. Penalty for violation of coaching privileges will be a warning followed by a two stroke penalty. The school designated coach must be identified and approved by the school prior to the MHSAA tournament. Coaching privileges may not be transferred to persons not approved and designated by the school. Rationale: Changing the coaching privileges to include all areas of the course and exclude coaching on the green will improve pace of play, assist in players following rules and help facilitate accurate scoring. (13-0)

4. Exempt the one qualifying round of the Michigan Amateur Tournament from the Limited Team Membership Rule, replacing the exemption approved for U.S. Open qualifying stages. Rationale: Changing the exemption from the two stages of U.S. Open qualifying to the Michigan Amateur qualifying event benefits more students. Qualifying takes place from May 8 through June 2, 2012. (13-0)