

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, December 9, 2015

Committee Members Present:

Troy Averill, Auburn
Chuck Baughman, Dearborn
Jim Bennett, Grosse Ile
Leon Braisted, Birmingham (MIGCA
Executive Director)
Tony Evans, Battle Creek
Tim Genson, Scottville
Nancy Johnson, Greenville
Mick Kildea, (GAM and USGA rules
advisor)
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake

Chad Loe, Petoskey
Sean Mulligan, Brighton
Nathan Oake, Hartland
Mark Olsen, White Pigeon
Jim Sander, Highland (MIGCA
President)
Debbie Williams-Hoak, Saline
Sean Zaborowski, St. Clair Shores

Recorder:
Cody Inglis, MHSAA

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. Committee members were briefed on the responsibilities of the Golf Committee and the process for recommendations and change to occur.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

Regular season policies and procedures were reviewed, with a heavy emphasis on player scoring policies including the use of observers. Correspondence was reviewed on the issue including a review of previous MHSAA Golf Committee meeting minutes that give an historical perspective to the use of observers. While discussion was lengthy, there was not a general consensus to change from the current player scoring policy, which does not have observers in the MHSAA tournament. The MIGCA will gather opinion from its membership in an upcoming survey about the observer issue so that we have real data, and continued discussion will occur. Additionally, Mick and Terry Kildea who are registered GAM rules officials and the coordinators of golf rules officials for MHSAA tournaments, will work with the MIGCA and the MHSAA to develop a clearly written scoring policies card for coaches and players to alleviate some of these issues that occur regarding scoring and high school golf matches.

The Upper Peninsula boys and girls golf divisions and potential plans including the three equal UP division model was reviewed with the committee. The three equal division model was approved by the UP Athletic Committee at their September 2015 meeting and will also be reviewed by the Classification Committee in January of 2016.

The committee reviewed MIGCA survey data that was presented by Nathan Oake, MIGCA board member. Nathan reviewed survey questions related to several topics including the size of the Finals field. Two proposals were presented by the MIGCA for discussion including adding a 6th Regional for both boys and girls across all divisions. Committee support for this idea was strong, but not without the elimination of the district round of play. The committee reviewed data and numbers relating to districts and how at various districts regardless of division, teams were being automatically advanced to Regionals based upon the amount of incomplete teams and the amount of golfers in the field. Additionally, the committee reviewed Regional scores and noted the occurrence of some very high team and individual scores advancing to the Regional round of play from Districts. Committee approval was given to eliminating the Boys District round of play while adding a 6th Regional (currently 5 Regionals per Division) to the MHSAA tournament in both boys and girls golf. There would be an increase of 18 players to each state finals field but this could be handled by each course that hosts a finals event. Additional discussion on the cost savings, course and school hosts and the use of rules officials at each Regional was considered in this proposal.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The committee reviewed MHSAA Tournament policies and procedures including a review of the coaching policies, the cart policy for spectators, coaches and medically injured players. The committee agreed that current policies in all areas were working well and should be continued. There will be some strengthening of language as it relates to the coaching rule that will be put into managers' manuals and tournament information. MIGCA will again survey members on the coaching rule and coaching up to the green. Committee members agreed that coaching on the course has been a good thing that has worked well.

Finals course locations and future rotations were discussed, including the inclusion of Ferris State-Katke as a Finals venue for the Boys in Division 1 in 2015. FSU correspondence was reviewed including their desire to be considered for future tournaments in the both the boys and girls seasons. Radrick Farms at the University of Michigan was named as potential site and will be reached out to see if there is a desire to host on their part. Additional involvement and future sites will be an ongoing discussion with unanimous approval of the current Finals venues of Bedford Valley, GVSU-The Meadows and MSU – Forest Akers courses.

Details were presented on the use of live scoring in the MHSAA Girls Golf Finals this fall at GVSU, with the use of BirdieFire (an online system) being used for the third time at an MHSAA finals venue. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from spectators, coaches and players, and with some tweaks we will continue to work on its use at all MHSAA finals venues for both boys and girls. Ideas for increasing the number of volunteers needed to run the system were discussed including using local college students, Professional Golf Management students from FSU or golf coaches.

The MHSAA will continue its restriction on player use of Smartphones during the tournament. Discussion did take place about the use of cell phones to notify rules officials on the course when there is an issue. While there is not consensus to change the current no cell phone policy, there was a desire to get the rules officials number out to all coaches so that they have a way to connect. This will be an emphasis at districts, regionals and finals as well as continued education including a 3x5 card that has been worked on by the MIGCA and GAM/MHSAA rules officials to get to players about their options during the round. MIGCA will also conduct a survey on coaches desire to have players use a cell phone during the round with specific protocols on contacting rules officials.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Add a 6th MHSAA regional tournament to the current 5 held in each division and in each gender. This additional regional would advance three more individual players and three more teams to the state finals for a 108 player field. Additionally, the committee recommends that elimination of boys' districts from the current MHSAA boys' golf tournament. (15-0 – one abstention)