

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
**GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
East Lansing, December 5, 2018

**Committee Members Present:**

Leon Braisted, Bloomfield Hills (MIGCA)

Jim Conway, Mt. Pleasant

Rob Dilday, Utica

David Feldman, Bloomfield Hills

Bob Filter, East Lansing (Finals Manager)

Julie Gloor, Grosse Ile

Steve Graetz, Benzonia

Ray Hill, East Jackson

Todd Hursey, Suttons Bay (Finals Manager)

Mick Kildea, (MHSAA rules advisor)

Terry Kildea, (MHSAA rules advisor)

Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake (MIAAA)

Ann Lowney, Clarkston

Nathan Oake, Hartland

Darci Stocker, Davison

Paul Teneyck, Grand Rapids (MIGCA)

Erik Thompson, Adrian

Debbie Williams-Hoak, Saline

Kevin Wolma, Hudsonville

MHSAA Staff:

Cody Inglis, MHSAA

The MHSAA Golf Committee met 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 committee selection process, the responsibilities of the Golf Committee and the process for recommendations and potential policy change to occur.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

A review of the 2017-18 golf committee topics and meeting minutes focused primarily on scoring integrity in high school golf and how to improve this issue that continually gets raised by coaches and others. A review of a scoring incident at the 2018 boys golf regionals was done to update all in attendance of this scoring integrity issue. This incident continued to make scoring accuracy and integrity a hot button topic in the high school golf world. A review of the improvements to scoring integrity was completed and added emphasis has been placed upon the honor and accuracy of the sport, though the incident from last spring shows there is still a need to improve.

Doyle Heisler, the president of a golf live scoring company, iWanamaker was invited to give a presentation on his company and product. iWanamaker has been successfully used by state athletic associations in Arizona and Colorado with new states such as Florida, New York and North Dakota coming into the fold in the next year. iWanamaker allows tournament organizers to use either the phone app or desktop version of the software to set up tournaments throughout the state using the iWanamaker system of scoring, golf rankings and course inventory. These tournaments are set up in iWanamaker where coaches enter their own lineups and the tournament is scored by the players on the course with their own cell phones. The iWanamaker presentation opened up a number of

questions, chief among them is the MHSAA's local rule that currently does not allow the use of cell phones even though the rules of golf allow for the use of them. The committee made a recommendation to allow the use of cell phones in certain circumstances. These four specific circumstances include: calling a coach or tournament administration for a health and safety issue, inputting scores for live scoring or other scoring applications, contacting a rules official with questions and use as a distance measuring device.

The use of cell phones in the spring of 2019 to pilot the iWanamaker scoring program was requested of MHSAA staff in order to see if iWanamaker could work within leagues, conferences, tournaments and invitationals as advertised. In order to comply with existing MHSAA local rules on golf, schools, leagues or others who administer tournaments would need to contact the MHSAA in order to request a waiver of the local rule to use cell phones. Those schools would be considered a "pilot" school and then the MHSAA would request information and feedback as to how iWanamaker worked for the tournament from coaching, administration and spectators.

While the use of iWanamaker and other live scoring apps will work to help with scoring integrity issues, the committee felt strongly that coach involvement with their players was the key factor in helping solve this issue. The MHSAA will determine if mandatory rules education with the new rules of golf could be done for this spring season. An emphasis and strengthening of language within the tournament managers manual and PSTI will be done to highlight the coaches role and responsibility in scoring. Tournament managers will place an emphasis on coach's roles at the MHSAA Regionals and Final tournaments in the pre-event coaches and players meetings. MHSAA assigned rules officials will continue to be used at all Regionals and Finals venues along with the new scorecard where every player must "mark" every other player in their group.

The MHSAA boys and girls golf seasons were discussed. The MHSAA golf seasons are placed by Federal court order and this fact makes any change extremely difficult. The history of the MHSAA season change lawsuit was given to the golf committee and there was agreement that changing the boys golf season from the spring to the fall would be problematic in several areas from course availability to the money and litigation required to make a change in the current format. The MHSAA has made JH/MS as part of each committee meeting as they are the future of each sport. Discussion occurred with the MIGCA agreeing to have their own planning about potentially starting their own JH/MS golf area or statewide event. These are preliminary discussions that will be done by the MIGCA board of directors.

### **TOURNAMENT REVIEW**

The committee reviewed MHSAA tournament policies and procedures including a review of MHSAA documents such as the Participating School Tournament Information, Golf Managers Manual and the Finals Qualifiers information.

Preliminary Regional alignments for boys golf were discussed and presented and MHSAA staff will now look to find spring golf hosts for MHSAA

Regionals. In addition the committee was given a look at how Regional assignments are made by the MHSAA.

The new 2019 Rules of Golf changes and enhancements were discussed at length including education for coaches, players and others. The 2019 Rules of Golf changes will be used starting with the 2019 MHSAA Boys Golf Regional tournament. The committee looked at all rules that would potentially impact high school golf and competition. One new local rule that can be adopted is the use of a maximum score on each hole. After much discussion, a proposal to use a 12 stroke maximum score on each hole was approved. This proposal, if approved, would be implemented in the 2019-20 school year.

MHSAA Boys and Girls Golf Regional tournament scheduling issues were raised by the committee as an issue in both seasons. The challenge of finding courses, rain dates, conflicts with private club usage, rules officials, PSAT testing dates and practice rounds were all reasons to open up the current window of Wednesday-Saturday to a Monday-Saturday window as days when Regionals could be held. A proposal was made by the committee to recommend these two additional days in the window to host boys and girls golf in the fall and spring.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF**

**Approve pilot programs (schools or leagues) starting in the spring of 2019 to use both the iWanamaker live scoring program and cell phones by players in those tournaments. The pilot programs would need to request a rule deviation to allow the use of cell phones.**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

- 1. Allow the use of cell phones by players in MHSAA golf as a local rule in four specific circumstances which include: calling a coach or tournament administration for a health and safety issue, inputting scores for live scoring or other scoring applications, contacting a rules official with questions and use as a distance measuring device. (15-0)**
- 2. Set the maximum allowable score for a hole at a 12 stroke maximum to follow the new 2019 local rule of golf to be implemented in the 2019-20 school year. (15-0)**
- 3. Allow boys and girls Regional tournament hosts to set the date of the one day Regional tournament on any of the days between the Monday-Saturday week of the Regional tournament. (15-0)**