

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

East Lansing, December 1, 2021

Virtual meeting

Committee Members Present:

John Bertich, Utica	Nate Maury, Houghton Lake
Chris Cronin, Northville	Nathan Oake, Hartland
Bob Filter, East Lansing (Finals Manager)	Ann Serra-Lowney, Clarkston
Kevin Guzzo, St. Joseph	Shad Spilski, Lapeer
Todd Hursey, Suttons Bay (Finals Manager)	Debbie Williams-Hoak, Saline (MIGCA)
Phil Kerr, Montague	Brian Zdanowski, Greenville
Mick Kildea, (MHSAA rules advisor)	
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake (MIAAA)	MHSAA Staff: Cody Inglis, MHSAA

The MHSAA Golf Committee met virtually 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 2020-21 golf committee topics and meeting minutes was completed. These changes included the recommendation to use the iWanamaker app and scoring program for the MHSAA Golf regular season as the scoring program and app. This follows previous committee recommendations to use iWanamaker for scoring at MHSAA Regionals and Finals as the primary scoring method. The iWanamaker scoring platform was met with positive reviews from coaches, players and parents as a scoring and tracking tool. iWanamaker has been a willing partner in enhancing the product and receiving feedback from schools, coaches and the MHSAA to improve the different user group experiences. iWanamaker's use involves a paperless way to score events while easing the administrative burden of closing out a round, allowing the ability for others to monitor scoring while being on site, coaches being able to track their golfers and an enhanced score focus on scores by managers, administrators and others.

The committee's desire to continue to use iWanamaker and its' features in other ways continued in discussion. Scoring integrity, continued education, rankings, results and MIGCA use for all-state selection were all reasons brought up to committee members as reasons to continue to work with iWanamaker. The committee's desire was to form a working subcommittee to work with iWanamaker, MIGCA board members and the MHSAA to determine how iWanamaker can be used to help with "seeding" MHSAA tournament play and team and individual qualifying. MHSAA Regional site selection and a review of the process was also completed with committee and there is a belief that iWanamaker can be used to help with this process and the subcommittee will also consider this aspect.

Working with iWanamaker on how to incorporate 9-hole scores, multiple teams from one school and equity issues across the entire state will be among the challenges. The iWanamaker subcommittee will meet with iWanamaker leadership to discuss these next steps and report back to the Golf committee next December.

The committee discussed at length scoring integrity and continues to believe strongly that coach involvement is the key to solving this dilemma. The committee recommended that each MHSAA golf program be allowed to have two "school approved" coaches at the MHSAA tournament. This increase from one allowed school coach was met with some trepidation among committee members who feel it may be abused but the committee sentiment is that involving more coaches' eyes on scores will help with scoring integrity and violations of having non-approved coaches will result in loss of all coaching privileges. The extra coaches' primary responsibility will be checking in with players regarding scores, iWanamaker usage and with players on the protocols associated with scoring a round. Additional coaches will need to be school approved, and names placed upon the official MHSAA roster upon tournament entry. A lanyard or wristband will identify all coaches to ensure compliance. Coaches' carts will be provided with the entry fee into Finals to ensure coaches get on the course and "check in" with players. These additional steps for coaches were approved by committee for MHSAA tournament play.

Other potential solutions to helping with scoring integrity, including observers were discussed by committee. The committee discussion on observers continues each year despite severe limitations with this helping or being a tenable solution. There was no appetite among the committee for the use of observers in MHSAA golf competition. The MHSAA and the MIGCA will also continue to work together to make scoring integrity an emphasis for coaches who work with young players each day.

The MHSAA golf committee continues to believe that coaches need education on the rules of golf and the MIGCA continues to reinforce this with its' membership through coaches education, coaches' clinics and rules seminars with GAM involvement. The USGA and GAM continue to provide opportunities to learn rules, receive training and education. This continued emphasis will be provided by the MHSAA to coaches who will work with GAM and the USGA to develop better rules meetings requirements beyond the current ones provided. The MHSAA will continue to partner with GAM to work development of this video requirement.

Pace of play discussion was emphasized, and the MHSAA will work with GAM and USGA on the use of a Pace of Play video for high school golfers that will be provided to schools, coaches and golf programs. The IHSAA has produced a video that can be used by other state associations and the MHSAA will work to produce this video for Michigan golf schools for the 2021-22 school year.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The committee reviewed several aspects of the MHSAA golf tournament including the MHSAA Hard Card. Language regarding the maximum strokes allowed on a hole in MHSAA tournament play was discussed to go from 12 to 10 strokes. The committee felt strongly that changing this stroke maximum will not impact team or individual leaderboards, yet it will help with pace of play during tournament play. The committee

unanimously approved this change, and a proposal will be submitted to the Representative Council.

The returning to the course rule was discussed in length and the committee felt strongly that the reasons behind the rule were sound though needed to be reconsidered. The committee felt having a player go to the course after they have completed their round resulting in a disqualification for that player was a rule that was not necessary given the use of live scoring and all knowing the scores. The committee recommended removing this language from MHSAA Golf tournament materials.

An overall discussion regarding advancing teams or moving teams up in standings if a team or individual ahead of them was disqualified was brought up by the golf committee given that recently this has occurred in MHSAA play. Clear and consistent MHSAA policy has been to not advance teams or individuals either in tournament advancement or results in any MHSAA sport even after a disqualification. Discussion outside of the Golf committee will need to occur to potentially change this process and protocol when DQ's occur in MHSAA play and MHSAA staff will discuss.

2022 Boys Golf Regionals preliminary Regional selections and future Finals course selection was reviewed for the LP and UP MHSAA Boys and Girls Golf tournaments, with Finals courses announced for play in the next year. Boys' Regional selections will be posted in February as sites are confirmed with schools and courses.

2022 LP Boys Golf Finals

D1 – Katke – FSU, Big Rapids
D2 – The Meadows – GVSU, Allendale
D3 – The Fortress – Frankenmuth
D4 – Forest Akers West – MSU, East Lansing
June 10-11, 2022 2022

2022 UP Boys and Girls Golf Finals

D1 – Escanaba HS hosts at Sweetgrass/Sage Run Golf courses
D2 – West Iron County HS hosts at George Young Golf course
D3 – Rock-Mid Peninsula HS hosts at Escanaba/Gladstone area course - TBA

2022 LP Girls Golf Finals

D1 – Bedford Valley – Battle Creek
D2 – Forest Akers West – MSU, East Lansing
D3 – Forest Akers East - MSU, East Lansing
D4 – The Meadows, GVSU, Allendale
October 14-15, 2022

Recommendations to MHSAA Staff

- Coordinate an MHSAA iWanamaker subcommittee of MIGCA members and MHSAA staff to determine how iWanamaker may be able to work to determine MHSAA golf tournament selection, process and potential seeding.
- Work with MHSAA Finals courses to include cart rental for coaches in the Finals fees schools pay to courses.
- Work with GAM and USGA on a pace of play video and distributing that to MHSAA member golf schools.
- Update language in MHSAA Managers Manuals, Hard Card and Participating School Tournament Information packets to reflect committee discussions on iWanamaker, coaches, scoring integrity, returning to the course restrictions.
- Coordinate MHSAA staff discussion about advancing teams or individuals when a disqualification occurs.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

- **Allow two “school approved” coaches to be present and actively coaching during MHSAA golf tournament competition. (12-0)**
- **Reduce the maximum strokes allowed per hole in MHSAA tournament play from 12 to 10. (12-0)**