

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

East Lansing, December 4, 2013

**Committee Members Present:**

Lindsey Boyle, East Kentwood  
Bob Filter, East Lansing  
Kurt Hofmeister, Saginaw  
Todd Hursey, Suttons Bay  
Tim Kluka, Allen Park  
Tom Koert, Grand Rapids  
Ann Lowney, Clarkston  
Mark Mattson, Maple City

Charlie Saines, Jackson - MIGCA  
Peggy Stefan, Beverly Hills  
Randy White, Grand Haven  
Paul Sternburgh (Finals Manager)  
Mick Kildea, Terry Kildea (USGA  
Rules advisors)

**Recorder:**

Randy Allen, 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.

**TOURNAMENT REVIEW**

In reviewing MHSAA Tournament policies and procedures, it was agreed to keep the course set-up at a shorter distance for the girls Finals. Finals course locations and future rotations were discussed, including interest from Ferris State-Katke as a Finals venue. It was agreed they would be considered for an MHSAA Boys Division Final in the spring of 2015. Spectator cart policies will be changed to allow rental carts only for those spectators with handicapped parking privileges with course and Finals Manager approval. Coach cart policies for the MHSAA Tournament and the current MHSAA medical cart policy for players will remain the same with some accommodation for player hydration supplements.

The committee supported an update in the MHSAA Tournament Sportsmanship policy to include a warning and player stroke penalty prior to disqualification at the tournament manager's discretion. Coaches will be instructed to report sportsmanship issues to the tournament manager and/or rules officials immediately.

It was suggested that start times for Districts and Regionals be no earlier than 9:30 a.m. A review of the expanded coaching privileges took place with positive feedback from committee members and few issues. The MHSAA Manager Manual will emphasize that on-course coaching privileges shall not slow play and that coaches will not be allowed to give demonstrations with clubs.

The new distance finder allowance was reviewed with no major issues reported. The MHSAA will continue its restriction on player use of Smartphones during the tournament and it will be clarified that coaches may also use distance measuring devices during MHSAA tournament play. Procedures for player score reporting at the MHSAA Finals were reviewed with minor adjustments planned.

Consensus of the committee was that many positive changes have been made in recent years to the MHSAA Tournament structure, coaching privileges, player scoring policies, rules education and on-site rules personnel, and that the goal is now to make all such changes work better and more to player and coach benefit in the future.

The possibility of assigning MHSAA rules officials to District and Regional events with a fee was discussed but no recommendation made as further staff study and research is needed. The committee was reminded that the 2014 Boys Golf tournament dates will be a week earlier which will help reduce conflicts with outside events and other MHSAA Finals events as well.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Regular season policies and procedures were reviewed, including approval of an MHSAA hard card that will standardize how USGA rules and adaptations will be applied to meets. Weather suspension policies were discussed and referred to the MIGCA for possible future proposals regarding weather interruptions of regular season meets and how it affect MHSAA contest maximums. Correspondence regarding start times of regular season meets was shared with the committee. It was agreed that such decisions regarding start time for meets are those of local schools and meet managers.

The committee reviewed JH/MS issues as it pertains to use of 6<sup>th</sup> graders on grade 7-8 teams as well as length of season and contest limits. With no JH/MS schools sponsoring boys or girls golf programs there was no position from the committee on the issue. The question of whether the current four scrimmage allowance should be changed to allow them to be used anytime during the season was discussed with no position taken.

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

No committee recommendations were made to the Representative Council