

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

East Lansing, December 10, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Troy Averill, Auburn

Jim Bennett, Grosse Ile

Kurt Hofmeister, Saginaw

Todd Hursey, Suttons Bay

Dave Hutton, Grandville (Finals
Manager)

Tom Koert, Grand Rapids

Ann Lowney, Clarkston

Nathan Oake, Hartland

Mark Olsen, White Pigeon

Steve Rodriguez, Ann Arbor

Jim Sander, Highland (MIGCA)

Debbie Williams-Hoak, Saline

Mick Kildea, Terry Kildea (USGA

Rules advisors)

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.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

In reviewing MHSAA Tournament policies and procedures, discussion centered on 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. The committee supported the additional specific language for the player scoring policies to be followed at all MHSAA tournament levels as a way to standardize the end of round procedures.

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. 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. The committee supported a specific change to coach cart policies for the MHSAA Tournament with some accommodation for player hydration supplements and food being allowed on carts at Districts, Regionals and Finals venues.

The committee was updated on the new MHSAA policies on Unmanned Aerial Devices (drones), the strengthening of the Alcohol and Tobacco policy at MHSAA events to include e-cigarettes and other forms of smokeless tobacco products as well as reminders about the MHSAA concussion protocols that are in place at all MHSAA tournaments.

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 first 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.

The spring boys season will see its use at GVSU once again in D4 boys with ideas for increasing the number of volunteers needed to run the system being discussed.

The distance finder allowance was reviewed with no major issues reported. The MHSAA will continue its restriction on player use of Smartphones during the tournament. Discussion about what is allowed and what is not allowed continues to be the most asked question among high school golfers and coaches. A reminder that devices that measure distance only are allowed in high school golf and the product can have no other features with it (even those that can be turned off).

The use of MHSAA rules officials in District and Regional events was discussed and the committee suggested that emphasizing the benefit of the use of MHSAA rules officials will help with tournament organization, facilitation and rules guidance. Tournament materials and meetings will now emphasize this fact and ask managers to pursue this option as a way to help with their tournament.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

Regular season policies and procedures were reviewed, with emphasis on pace of play discussion and communication. A strengthening of language on the pace of play during MHSAA regular season and tournament play will be added to MHSAA documents as well as rules meetings. This new strengthened language would allow a “maximum average of 15 minutes per hole or a maximum of 40 seconds for a player to hit a shot.” Continued emphasis on communication with the player and coach involved with pace of play issues will be reiterated.

The Upper Peninsula boys and girls golf divisions and potential plans were reviewed with the committee on four proposals that will go to the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee and the Classification Committee for further discussion.

The committee reviewed JH/MS issues as it pertains to use of 6th graders, as well as 7th and 8th graders practicing with high school teams. By rule, 6th, 7th and 8th graders may not practice or compete with or against high school students. With no JH/MS schools sponsoring boys or girls golf programs there was discussion, but no action recommended. A review of the MHSAA policy on advancing non-qualifiers was conducted with further staff review needing to be done prior to further discussion and recommendation for change.

The MHSAA tournament scorecard was reviewed prior to ordering a supply for the next several years. Suggested wording changes for the cards were forwarded on by the committee for staff approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

No committee recommendations were made to the Representative Council