

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES
East Lansing, December 5, 2012

Members Present:

Oussama Baydoun, Dearborn
(MASSP)
Lindsey Boyle, Kentwood
Leon Braisted, Birmingham (MIGCA)
Deb Culver, Swartz Creek
Bob Filter, East Lansing
Tim Genson, Scottville
Kris Isom, Adrian
Gregg Kirchen (MIGCA)

Greg Lattig, Mason
Mark Mattson, Maple City
Cathy North, Linden (MIAAA)
Mike Roy, Vicksburg
Jim Sander, Highland
Dave Swarthout, Jackson

Staff Member Present:

Randy Allen

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

All aspects of the MHSAA boys and girls tournaments were reviewed. The expanded coaching privileges that were in effect for the first time in the fall 2012 girls tournament were well received. Some clarification on the limits of on-course coaching will be emphasized in tournament information preparation for the MHSAA boys tournament in the spring of 2013. Use of carts by coaches and spectators at the MHSAA Finals was discussed with no changes in current policy.

The committee again discussed a specific proposal to expand the Finals field by advancing an additional team and three individuals from each Regional which would increase the number of players from 90 to 120 at Finals events in each Division. This was originally proposed in the 2011 meeting and was discussed along with other expansion options. The basis for the proposal was to give quality teams a chance to advance to the Finals from Regionals with strong fields. Although there was no support for such a proposal at present, the MICGA will explore other options such as seeding and present to a future committee for consideration.

The issue of player scoring integrity was discussed at length. Concern was expressed about scoring integrity at some District and Regional events. It was understood that leadership by coaches and tournament managers is the main solution to player scoring integrity, along with MHSAA Tournament policies and procedures and education and that the issue will be closely monitored as we go forward.

The question of allowing the use of distance finders for the MHSAA Tournament was reviewed. Given their successful use at junior events and other

state associations without incident and support from rules officials, a proposal was made that devices to measure distance be allowed for use by players at all levels of the MHSAA Tournament with the USGA language governing both use and penalty for non-conforming devices.

With the approval by the Representative Council of the use of Wednesday for MHSAA District and Regional tournaments, the committee reviewed the current calendar dates and recommended the boys spring tournament move one week earlier beginning in 2014. The earlier dates would begin Districts the week prior to Memorial Day, Regionals the week after and the boys Finals the second Friday and Saturday in June. Such a change would reduce conflicts with other MHSAA Finals and summer junior events and returns the MHSAA Tournament to its previous calendar dates. The proposal was made effective with 2014 or 2015 pending availability of Finals courses.

Also reviewed were tournament policies on course set-up, how courses and host schools are determined, spectator policies, rules education for players and Manager Manual updates. Finals course rotations and plans were also shared with the committee.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

A lengthy discussion took place on the issue of following USGA rules for regular season competition. Several instances where USGA rules are modified or ignored have taken place in regular season meets. It was pointed out the MHSAA Handbook states that USGA rules are followed for golf competition. Unless specifically stated by the USGA, rules are not to be modified or discarded. The MHSAA and MIGCA will both emphasize to coaches and schools that USGA rules are to be followed as written and not changed or ignored.

The committee was given updates on out of season coaching regulations and proposals for updated interpretations regarding golf coaches, and youth protection and athlete safety policies. Input on content for MHSAA on-line rules was offered. It was pointed out that MHSAA policies not allowing protests also apply to golf. All competition during regular season is final once a meet is concluded, scores are posted and accepted and players and coaches have left the event and are not subject to appeal or protest.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Allow use of distance measuring devices in MHSAA Tournament competition as allowed by USGA Rule 14-3 and Appendix IV. (14-0) Rationale: Such devices are allowed by USGA by local adoption. They are successfully used by many state associations, Michigan PGA Junior events, GAM junior events and the AJGA (American Junior Golf Association). There are trends towards fewer course distance markings, and use of devices provides missing distance information and improves pace of play.

2. Move the MHSAA Boys Tournament dates one week earlier with Districts beginning the week prior to Memorial Day weekend, Regionals the week after Memorial Day and the Boys Finals the second full weekend of June, effective in 2014 or 2015 pending availability of Finals courses. (14-0) Rationale: With the approval of Wednesday as an allowed date for boys District and Regional tournaments, starting the spring boys tournament a week earlier is better for schools and has fewer calendar conflicts.