

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
**GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
East Lansing, December 7, 2016

**Committee Members Present:**

Leon Braisted, Birmingham (MIGCA Executive Director)  
Tony Evans, Battle Creek, (MIGCA President)  
Todd Hursey, Suttons Bay  
Dave Hutton, Grandville (MHSAA Golf Finals Manager, advisor)  
Tim Genson, Scottville  
Mick Kildea, (GAM and USGA rules advisor)  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake

Chad Loe, Petoskey  
Keith Martin, Tawas  
Doug McKay, Warren  
Sean Mulligan, Brighton  
Kristen Nolan, Traverse City  
Kirk Petee, Mason  
Sean Zaborowski, St. Clair Shores

**Recorder:**

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 change to occur.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

A review of the 2015-16 golf committee topics and meeting minutes focused primarily on the golf committee's recommendation from last year that added one additional regional in both boys and girls golf as well as three more teams and 3 more individuals to the state finals in both genders. Additionally, this proposal eliminated boys golf districts starting in 2017. The golf committee proposal was approved by the MHSAA Representative Council in May of 2016 and the MHSAA girls golf tournament saw the increased amount of participants at the MHSAA golf finals. The impact of this new change was debated and feedback was given by the golf committee. Positives included allowing more student-athletes the opportunity to experience the state finals and alleviating some congestion of regionals. All agreed that pace of play and crowded regionals might be issues to work on in the golf regionals and finals, but given the fact that the boys season has not been played, any tweaks or adjustments would be premature. The committee will continue to monitor this change and its impact upon both boys and girls golf.

Regular season policies and procedures were reviewed, with an extended discussion on player scoring policies including the use of observers. MIGCA survey results were reviewed with special consideration being given to observers which indicated a general but not overwhelming support to bring back observers to MHSAA golf competition. Correspondence was reviewed on the issue

including several emails about scoring integrity and lack of clarity in player scoring. Discussion was lengthy and included the challenges using observers as it related to schools, finances and geography. Additionally, the discussion centered on how the relatively new coaching rule has impacted the golf coach's role in coaching on the course and how if a team was required to have an observer then ultimately that would fall upon the coach, which committee members were not in favor of without a waiver of some kind. While the general consensus to change from the current player scoring policy exists, there is disagreement among committee members regarding how it should be done. Eventually, a proposal was forwarded which did garner support among committee members which would bring observers back to the MHSAA tournament at both the regional and final level which gives the coach the option to coach or provide an approved substitute volunteer. If that coach could not secure a volunteer observer, then that coach's school could pay an additional fee to the host school and MHSAA to offset the costs of securing an observer in their place.

The Upper Peninsula boys and girls golf divisions plan and new division alignment was shared with committee members. This new UP golf division list was approved by the MHSAA Representative Council at their December 2016 meeting and will now go into effect during the spring of 2017.

Other general topics of interest that the golf committee discussed included cell phone usage by players on the course during play and live scoring and the use of BirdieFire, an online live scoring system currently used at some golf finals venues.

### **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 in golf. Clarifications were sought and language will be strengthened in key areas including range finders, coaches responsibilities, undue delay penalty in injury situations and pace of play.

Finals course locations and future rotations were discussed, including the inclusion of Ferris State-Katke as a Finals venue for the Boys in Division 3 in 2017. Additional involvement of golf courses, especially on east side of the state was mentioned, and future sites will continue to be discussed. There was unanimous approval of the current Finals venues of Bedford Valley, Ferris State – Katke, GVSU-The Meadows and MSU – Forest Akers courses.

Rules officials and their positive impact upon sportsmanship, rules compliance and education for players and coaches was a topic that the golf committee unanimously agreed on. With this agreement, the committee urged that regional hosts should be required to have a rules official at each boys and girls MHSAA regional golf tournament to alleviate rules issues and help with

issues and challenges that commonly occur in these events. A fee would be set by the MHSAA commensurate with their duties and responsibilities that would need to be determined by the finance committee of the MHSAA.

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

1. Require observers in each group at all MHSAA boys and girls golf Regionals and Finals. Each school assigned to the MHSAA Regional and that qualifies for the MHSAA Finals would be required to have an adult act as an observer in a group. This adult could be the coach, a prearranged volunteer from their program or school or the school could pay a predetermined amount to the host school and course in order for them to secure an observer. (8-4)
2. Require MHSAA Regional hosts to have a rules official at each boys and girls MHSAA regional golf tournament to help with rules issues and challenges that commonly occur in these events. A fee would be set by the MHSAA finance committee commensurate with duties and responsibilities. (12-0)