

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
**GOLF COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
East Lansing, December 6, 2017

**Committee Members Present:**

Tony Evans, Battle Creek, (MIGCA  
President)

David Feldman, Bloomfield Hills

Bob Filter, East Lansing (Finals  
Manager)

Ray Hill, East Jackson

Todd Hursey, Suttons Bay

Dave Hutton, Grandville (Finals  
Manager)

Mick Kildea, (MHSAA rules advisor)

Terry Kildea, (MHSAA rules advisor)

Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake

Keith Martin, Tawas

Doug McKay, Warren

Carol Melcher, Saline (Finals  
Manager)

Nathan Oake, Hartland

Kirk Petee, Mason

Darci Stocker, Davison

**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 2016-17 golf committee topics and meeting minutes focused primarily on scoring integrity in high school golf and how to improve this issue that continually gets raised by coaches and others. While improvements to scoring integrity have been felt and added emphasis has been placed upon the honor and accuracy of the sport, there is still a need to improve. Committee discussion focused on observers and while there are some passionate defenders of this option for helping scoring accuracy, the committee felt that several factors hurt this as an option. Chief among them is the fact that it is extremely difficult to find and maintain the volunteers needed to accomplish this task in both genders for MHSAA regionals and finals. In addition, the challenge of making sure that observers understand and follow their duties has been an issue and the potential side effects of "rulings" being given out by observers; is not something that committee wants to revisit. Finally, the change from when observers were last used in MHSAA golf competition to the current climate allows golf coaches to be on the course working with kids. Coaches need to be helpful on the course and work with kids on the rules but also help check scoring throughout the round for all players, not just their own. Changes to the current culture are needed and scoring integrity will be emphasized. The committee suggested that requiring kids in threesomes or foursomes to "mark" the scores of all member of their group was important. Changes to the golf scorecard and protocols used in

MHSAA competition will be made to make this happen. This would include the redesign of the golf scorecard. Finally, an emphasis on the coaches' impact upon scoring integrity will continue to be a point in the rules meeting for boys and girls golf coaches. This will include using video to point out scoring responsibilities for coaches and players and their impact on this key aspect of golf.

The use of cell phones by players and coaches was discussed as a scoring option for help with live scoring and scoring integrity. MHSAA staff will investigate how other states use cell phones and live scoring in their states to get an idea of where to go on this issue. In addition, BirdieFire, the MHSAA live scoring vendor, will be contacted to see how their product might help enhance the MHSAA tournament set up and how live scoring is used among other states and collegiate golf.

A review of the MHSAA coaching regulation was done including what the coach can and can't do on the course. In addition, a review of how many coaches can be on the course coaching during MHSAA competition was done and at this time the committee felt that keeping the number at one coach per team was the appropriate thing to do.

The MHSAA golf seasons were discussed, as well as the tournament format of MHSAA golf. The MHSAA golf seasons are placed by court order and because of this would be extremely difficult to change. Very preliminary discussions focused on how we could enhance the MHSAA tournament including using the NCAA team golf model or a Ryder Cup type tournament to determine MHSAA champions in golf. These discussions generated lots of discussion and excitement and is simply an avenue to start the ideas and feedback.

### **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 coaches responsibilities as well as scoring protocols.

Finals course locations and future rotations were discussed, including the inclusion of Ferris State-Katke as a Finals venue. Committee members discussed potential new finals sites such as The Fortress in Frankenmuth as well as Katke in Big Rapids at Ferris State University. The Fortress fits a need for the MHSAA having an eastside of the state course while Ferris State has exceeded expectations as a finals site for boys and feedback to continue with this site has been key. Preliminary regional alignments for boys golf were discussed and presented and MHSAA staff will now look to find spring golf hosts for MHSAA regionals.

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. Last year, the golf committee worked to propose the rules officials be used at all MHSAA regional sites and this worked very well this fall with girls. Additional communication from the MHSAA to

tournament managers, AD's and coaches to help them understand the roles and responsibilities of the rules officials in needed and will be done this spring with the boy's tournaments. Finally, MHSAA staff will work with Regional host schools and courses to spread out the dates of the Boys Regionals across the 4 days of Regional week instead of having all regionals on the same date.

The new 2019 Rules of Golf changes and enhancements were discussed. These potential changes could also be implemented into the MHSAA tournament and the committee and the MHSAA will continue to stay on top of these potential changes.

Discussion on the addition of an extra Regional being placed in each gender last year for the first time was done. There is agreement that this addition and the addition of an extra 3 teams and 3 individuals in the state finals has been a good thing. The question still remains as to whether or not eliminating districts has been good for all golf programs. The excitement of advancing to the next round – (Districts to Regionals and Regionals to Finals) has been lost for some schools with this change. Reasons for the change were expressed including enhancing the quality of the field at the finals along with allowing more kids to experience the state finals. Continued discussion, data and observations about this change will be monitored as this change is now entering its second year.

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

No recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council from this year's MHSAA golf committee.