

MIAA Golf Committee
June 13, 2023

Minutes

Attendance: Michael Fitzpatrick, Peter Jones, Bruce Hastings, Chris Warren, Jay McGilvray, Tara Sartori, Matt Gillis, Brian Phillips, Ben Kelly, Carolyn O'Donnell

Tournament Directors: David Kier, Mary O'Brien, Kevin Riordan,

Minutes approved unanimously (motion by Pete Jones, 2nd by Jay M).

Spring TD Reports:

- **Dave Keir-** Large tournament...9 teams, 35 individuals (87 total), largest field we have had but we managed. Boxed lunches were a big bonus for the golfer's experience.
- **Jay Durfee-** used Marshfield Country Club- Hanley Correia from Bishop Feehan shot even par 73...Bishop Feehan earned the sectional team champions.
- **Mary O'Brien-** Longmeadow CC provided an amazing experience (breakfast and lunch)

Suggestions

- Mary opened discussion on if there is consideration to only have five (5) players per team compete in the MIAA postseason, not six (6). NCAA only use five.
 - **Pete-** Open to explore that option to ensure a better experience, to help courses.
 - **Dave-** out in the west, we went to 8 participating in matches, counting 6 scores. Heard from coaches that you play 8 kids all year and then must reduce to 6 for the postseason. Makes it hard to tell a kid who starts all year to keep out.
 - **Mike-** start a subcommittee that will make a recommendation on this topic to full committee.
 - **Pete-** Discussed if we are sure the 6th player shooting a 170 wants to be playing in the event. Sometimes we think they want to be there more than they really do.
 - **Ben-** echo what Dave said, hard to bring down to 6. If we ever go down to 5, we can never go back to 6. Just to keep that in mind.
 - Need to make it clear that once a school starts a girls team, they are no longer eligible for the fall

Site Selection Sheet

- Discussion took place regarding an internal form created to capture the information of potential host golf courses.
 - It is always a challenge to secure courses. Do we really need to exclude home courses during this process?
 - Chris- It is an advantage to the home team.
 - Mary- We have been offered Weston each year and we only play there a few times per year but have not been able to use it since it is one of our home courses. I don't think it's too much of an advantage.
 - Dave- that selection form was born from a subcommittee. It was a long and extensive review of what should go into course selection. I don't disagree with Phil that TDs will make every effort to avoid home courses but if you get stuck, may use them.
 - Jay- I would advocate to put in Phil's language that you avoid home courses at all costs BUT if you get stuck, you can use it. I would not want to have an entire section of schools moved across the state to find a neutral course.
 - Mike F- verdict was that TD would strive to avoid home sites.

- **Local Rules-** Carolyn will gladly review local rules to review prior to the tournament. Tournament Directors need to secure the local rules and provide them to her well in advance of the tournaments.

5. Live scoring

- Discussion on the live scoring platforms that were presented to the Golf Committee throughout the past year.
- Pete- iWanamaker can handle multiple scoring systems. However, if we ever wanted to do state power rankings, we would want to go to one scoring system throughout the regular season. I have had some exciting conversations with ADs and live scoring is a good place to start for postseason, then explore options beyond that.
- Jay- On the research of the different formats of play, was there a sense of where the league supported continuing with their format or open to change?
- Pete- Did not go that deep but is something we can.
- Dave- first step is to use live scoring for the postseason. Talked to some CT people and they felt iWanamaker went well.
- Jay- Catholic Conference uses medal play, so happy to run a pilot during the regular season. Based on two presentations, I would suggest iWanamaker.
- Brian- Patriot League would also want to be part of a pilot for regular season.

Pete- motion to pilot iWanamaker with some leagues during the Fall regular season (2nd Brian) unanimously approved 10-0

- Matt- if we do this, we need an accurate scoring so leagues doing this pilot should not set limit per hole. Golfers need to play until the ball is in the hole.
- Ben- once we get to discussion let's invite one coach per league to these meetings.

Next Steps:

- Pete will gather the name and email address of the Athletic Director in each league responsible for golf. Additionally, each league will recommend one coach to serve in these discussions (must be sure we include spring golf coaches).
- Set meeting with these folks to discuss.
 - live scoring review, asking for leagues to pilot. Currently have the Catholic Conference (Jay McGilvray) and Patriot League (Brian Phillips)
 - if we should have 5 players per team over 6?
 - Max score per hole discussion?
- Have Doyle of iWanamaker host virtual trainings to educate schools on product and how to use.

6. TMC update

- 2025-2027 Tournament Alignment will need to be looked at. There may need to be some shifting to make the numbers a little more balanced.
- Statewide tournament- Pete Jones and Dave Keir
 - Started a conversation with TMC on if a state wide tournament was this even possible. Different scoring systems in each league is a hurdle that needs to be addressed.

7. Coaches input

- Ben- would be nice to have 1 coach rep from each league to help learn Iwanamaker. Is the structure of this committee working, can we have another coach's rep? Can we have another coach's rep for the girls?
- Phil- I do believe that we could have a rep for the spring, thank you for bringing this up.

Meeting adjourned