



MIAA Golf Committee Meeting

MINUTES
March 15, 2022

Meeting called to order – 10:02 AM

Attendance and introductions

Members present: Matthew Gillis, Thomas Murphy, Carolyn O'Donnell, Ben Kelly, Peter Jones, Jay McGilvray, Michael Fitzpatrick, Kevin Anderson, Kevin Karo, Tara Sartori, Erik Sudnik

Tournament Directors present: Joseph Rocha, Kevin Riordan, David Keir, Mary O'Brien

MIAA Liaison: Ann Trytko

Motion by T. Murphy to approve minutes from September 20, 2021 meeting. Second by M. Gillis. (with one edit, change J. Gillis to M. Gillis) - **APPROVED 15-0**

Sectional and State Championship reports

Weather postponement at one site caused some interference with New England but made it work.

M. O'Brien shared one issue with a parent complaining about lack of practice facility.

D. Keir distributed correspondence from a student-athlete Max Digrigoli with concerns about course conditions at CC of Greenfield. D. Keir explained that this was an irrigation project that was being completed at the course.

Some issues with teams showing up at wrong locations, registering late or not at all. Many tournament directors dealt with late or incorrect entries by schools.

Arbiter

Discussion regarding utilizing Arbiter as other sports and the benefits. Hesitant to implement this past year due to different scoring methods across the state. A. Trytko will research further the feasibility of utilizing Arbiter for golf.

Regular Season Scoring

There are a variety of scoring methods for golf during the regular season (stroke, stableford, match etc). Some suggested exploring the possibility implementing one scoring system state-wide. Consensus was leagues needed the autonomy to implement the scoring system that works best for them. Golf Committee primary responsibility is to oversee post-season and not regular season.

Coaches Report

Overall coaches were happy that the pandemic did not impact the game of golf near as much as many other sports.

Course availability continues to be the biggest concern state-wide

Coaches would like continued education opportunities on rules, particularly with recent changes to the USGA rules. Suggested partnerships with Mass Golf & other organizations that could possibly provide webinars or other ways to reach coaches across the state. Also interested in continued education on pace of play.

Mass Golf provides free GHIN for all student-athletes under the age of 18. Need to research ways to promote these and other opportunities for student-athletes.

Coach of the Year

Ben Kelly, coaches representative on the committee, was named MIAA Golf Coach of the Year

Tournament Format

M. Gillis suggested adjusting language in section D. Dress Code to “proper golf attire” instead of “collared team shirt”. M. Gillis and M. O’Brien presented revised language and was agreed upon by the committee.

Discussion regarding how to handle tournament sites that do not permit practice rounds, particularly private courses. Concern that some schools have access to practice rounds and others do not, presenting an equity issue.

Motion by T. O’Brien to add to the format: In cases where practice rounds at Sectional and State tournaments are not allowed for all schools, teams participating in the tournament will NOT be permitted to set up school sanctioned practice rounds at that course. Second by J. McGilvray. **Defeated 5-9-1**

Consensus is to move tournament entry date due date up to Friday, October 7, 2022.

Motion by E. Sudnik to approve the Fall Tournament Format as amended. Second by M. Gillis. **APPROVED 14-0**

Live Scoring

C. O’Donnell presented on the benefits of live scoring. Speeds up pace of play and scoring at end of round. Suggested testing at certain sites in the fall. Tournament Directors agreed to look into the possibility of adding live scoring.

Brief discussion on boys participating in spring golf or girls having the ability to choose to play fall golf even if the school has a spring team. A. Trytko will discuss with MIAA staff.

The next scheduled meeting is June 14, 2022.