

MIAA Golf Committee Meeting

September 18, 2023

MINUTES

1. Attendance

2. Election of Officers

- Chair- Dr. Fitzpatrick- Unanimously approved (Bruce..2nd Kevin)
- Vice Chair- Peter Jones- Unanimously approved (Dr. Fitz, 2nd Pete)
- Secretary- Tom O'Brien- Unanimously approved (Tom M...2nd Pete)

3. Minutes from June 13, 2023 - Approved (Unanimously)

4. Regular Season

a. Use of motorized golf carts

- Phil reminded the committee MIAA only has language that prevents usage during postseason. Leagues can adopt language to not allow it.
- Golf carts during regular season-
 - Kevin R- Our league does not allow it. For good reason as we have students who do not have a license and cannot use the carts. Plus, golf courses would charge for carts. Lastly, who is responsible for any damage done.
- Phil- was this a one off? Is this a common request to use carts during regular season play.
- Since USGA outlines through 'state adoption'- **Golf Committee can propose a rule change to adopt language to prohibit use of motorized golf carts during regular season (be sure to add language that allows it for medical disability). Will be discussed at next meeting.**

b. Other

- Mary- PGA National High School tournament, which occurs in July. Out of season coaching concern. How do we go about allowing this for these schools to participate.
- Matt- we are glad they can go but it's so far after the season. It is a larger issue that impacts all sports. Kids can still go, but coaches can't coach.

5. 2023 Fall Tournaments

- Kevin- Nightmare to secure courses. It is extremely difficult to find a course that will even communicate back. No one is even returning calls in my experience.
- Phil reminded the group that we are not prohibited from using home courses. We want to try to avoid it but if it's all we have, we need to secure the course.
- Peter Jones- if it's a course that allows practice rounds, we should not avoid using home courses of schools.
- Sean- Should we lock in 3 or 4 sites per section to then rotate who plays there each year?
- Phil- falls in line with statewide selection of 2 sites per section.
- Tom M- What is incentive to have private courses host these events? Does MIAA pay?

- Phil- Yes, we pay per golfer.
- **Consideration to put together a meeting with Tournament Directors to figure out a way to implement a rotation.**
- **New England's- Announced conflict for October 30th.**

6. Live scoring- iWanamaker

- Kevin- found it positive.
- Eric- Significant pushback as not everyone is prepared to use it.
- Kevin- Dual Valley- WiFi issues...app crashing...Would this be more useful for a postseason event than regular season?
- Sean- Would be valuable for postseason.
- Matt- Discussion to use this was to align ourselves with statewide rankings. My question is all about process and does BOD have ultimate decision on if leagues can have different formats?
- Dave K- it helps us to identify individuals who qualify without the team. Right now, it's the honor system.
- Mike F- One of benefits of the system is avoid the pressure to insert a golfer that does not meet the criteria.
- Jay- Challenge with non-league match where opponent isn't in the pilot. Using scorecard and app to track. Major question about who policies the players as they use their device.
- Dave- On CNESSPA meeting I learned that CT requires all schools to use iWanamaker and the phones are allowed for distances. No issues reported.
- Question on the fee for families to follow live
- The \$5 fee is optional. They are not required to purchase the event to follow live.
- Tom M- how do we get feedback from kids. Adults are sometimes resistant to change. As a parent, we never got to watch them. Now they can. For the last 3 years, for a sport that is based on an honor system, coaches are putting golfers in bad spots by not being honest about if they qualify or not. The good golfers have a handicap, no question about it.
- Brian- Patriot league kids love it.

9. Coaches input

- Kevin- Arbiter still says, 'Boys and Girls golf'. Should say fall.
- Tom M- kids coming back this year felt normal for the first time since 2019.