

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BOYS/GIRLS GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
December 7, 2015

The IHSA Boys/Girls Golf Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois, on Monday, December 7, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Ann Christiansen, Girls Coach at Huntley; Bridget Matkovich, Girls Coach at Tinley Park (Andrew); Bradley Nichols, Boys Coach at Henry (H.-Senachwine); James Bunting, Principal at Watseka; Charles Scholz, Boys Coach at Quincy (Notre Dame); and Doug Spear, Athletic Director at Mt. Carmel. IHSA Associate Executive Director Kurt Gibson and Assistant Executive Director Stacey Lambert; Laura Provost state final manager were also in attendance.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES -- B. COACHING:

Recommendation: For the entire state series, the head coach and one assistant coach will be allowed to coach anywhere on the course until his/her player's golf ball lies on the putting green. Coaches must, however, wait until the last player on the green putts out before communication takes place on the next hole. Coaches must not delay teeing off on the next hole. Both the head coach and the assistant coach must meet the IHSA coaching by-laws and be listed on the school's List of Participants.

Rationale: The committee believes this modest change keeps in line with the intent of the original coaching recommendation of a few years ago. The committee believes coaches have not slowed down play by being able to coach on the course, and making this change will not impact that. This change will also allow coaches of the last player to reach a green on given hole the same opportunity to coach his/her player as the coach of the first player to reach a green.

Approved by Consent

2. NEW. VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES -- L. ON-COURSE SCORE REPORTER

Recommendation: At all regional and sectional tournaments, a score reporter will be stationed every third hole to facilitate the on-course scoring process. Tournament hosts will be required to find individuals to serve in this capacity.

Rationale: The committee is concerned about the integrity of state series, specifically as it relates to score reporting. In particular, the committee shared stories of players who are believed to have shot considerably improved scores in regional or sectional tournaments as compared to their listed pre-tournament averages. After thoughtful discussion about how to best address this concern, the committee made a recommendation to employ on-course scorer recorders similar to the approach used at the state finals. The committee believes having this kind of system in place throughout the entire state series will develop familiarity for the players and increase their accountability/honesty in reporting scores.

Approved by Consent

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

1. **Recommendation:** IHSA staff will create a template for a badge/pass that regional/sectional managers can use to distribute to coaches to wear during tournaments to properly identify themselves.

Rationale: The committee believes that by having coaches wear some kind of identifying mark or badge will eliminate any confusion that currently exists in regards to people speaking with competitors during regional and sectional tournaments. Since current Terms and Conditions language allows coaches to coach players during state series rounds, having a consistent item that coaches can wear will ease the administration of a tournament.

Approved by Consent

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes from their December 2014 meeting.
2. The committee heard reports from IHSA staff and tournament managers on the recently-completed 2015 boys' and girls' state finals. The committee extended their thanks to the Bloomington Park District, Illinois State University, and the Decatur Park District for helping organize and put on first class events for student-athletes in Illinois.
3. Advisory Committee member Nichols initiated a discussion with the committee concerning the advancement of disqualified players as a part of qualifying teams during the state series. The committee expressed a concern that players disqualified for egregious behavior/code of conduct issues should not be allowed to continue in the state series, even if the player's team advances. The committee asked that tournament managers report all future disqualifications to IHSA staff for staff review.
4. Advisory Committee member Nichols initiated a discussion regarding moving the start of the golf season up two days to Monday of Week 6 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar. In general, the committee was in favor of such an idea. Making this change, though, would require a change to the association's by-laws. As a result, the committee took no action on this matter.
5. The committee reviewed correspondence from a state series manager and discussed the possibility of having alternate qualifiers during the state series in the event a player is unable to compete in subsequent rounds of the tournament after he/she has qualified. The committee took no action on this matter.
6. IHSA staff initiated a discussion on whether or not a qualifying score should be implemented for regional entries. Of concern are the high averages some players entered into tournaments are carrying, and generally this type of score can lead to slow play for the field and player frustration within the round. No action was taken at this time by the committee.
7. IHSA staff initiated a discussion regarding the importance of coaches wearing some kind of identifier - like a badge - during the state series so tournament managers would have a better idea of who should be coaching players during the various regional and sectional tournaments. Ultimately, the committee made an administrative recommendation to implement this idea for the 2016 season.

8. number of topics, including:
 - a. how to best disseminate information, would you be willing to serve as an observer,
 - b. are observers necessary at the regional level,
 - c. should a qualifying score be required in order to be entered into the state series (team or individual),
 - d. should a DQ'ed player be allowed to advance with his/her team to the next level for violation of code of conduct (egregious behavior)?

The committee agreed to send IHSA staff any additional survey questions by December 18, at which point IHSA staff will develop a survey and put it out to coaches in early 2016. Results from the survey will then be shared with the committee at their 2016 meeting.

9. The committee asked IHSA staff to investigate the USGA's anchored putting restrictions and what implications this will have for student-athletes beginning in 2016. IHSA staff will develop a resource statement/document on this and share with member schools in early 2016.
10. The committee discussed expressed concern about lack of observers during the regional tournaments. In particular, the committee shared stories of players who are believed to have shot considerably improved scores in regional tournaments as compared to their listed pre-tournament averages. After thoughtful discussion about how to best address this concern, the committee made a recommendation to employ on-course scorer recorders similar to the approach used at the state finals. (see above)
11. The committee noted the use of IHSA Weather (IHSA's weather update twitter handle) was well-received by participants, particularly for announcing the delay of the second round of the state finals.
12. In discussing the potential need for observers, keeping score, having enough volunteers, having coaches on the course, and reporting scores after each hole were all ideas mentioned as reasons for the necessity of observers. The committee also discussed the importance of the role of the high school coach in encouraging honest score reporting. Schools are reminded they can use observers for each group, if they desire.
13. Advisory Committee member Nichols discussed a Tournament of Champions idea that had been proposed by a fellow coach. No action was taken by the committee on this matter.
14. The committee thanked outgoing members Nichols and Spear for their service to the committee and contributions to students-athletes in their respective communities.