

## MINUTES OF THE IHSA BOYS/GIRLS GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 6, 2018

The IHSA Boys/girls Advisory Committee met at the IHSA Office, Bloomington, Illinois on Thursday, December 6, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Brian Glorioso, Athletic Director of Chicago (St. Patrick); Mark Johnson, Boys Coach at Palatine (H.S.); Melissa Mason, Girls Coach at Palos Hills (Stagg); Brad Sweet, Girls Coach at Machesney Park (Harlam); Brent Rademacher, Principal at Bismarck (B. Henning); Jeff Eickhoff, Boys Coach at Hillsboro; and Laurie Glass, Girls Coach at Metropolis (Massac County) IHSA Assistant Executive Director Stacey Lambert, and IHSA Assistant Executive Director Kurt Gibson, were also in attendance.

### Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

#### **1. Section VIII. Tournament Rules M. Circle 10 Scoring**

**Recommendation:** add 'any state series competition' to the current rule (remove 'regional' from current)

**Rationale:** The committee believes it makes sense to add the sectional round to tournaments where the Circle 10 can be utilized. Using the Circle 10 may also help with tournament management and keep players from acting in an unsportsmanlike manner during the remainder of their round. Additionally, the committee would encourage schools to develop some kind of local rule that they could use during regular season play to help keep matches or tournaments moving along.

Approved by Consent

#### **2. VIII. Tournament Rules N. Measuring Devices**

**Recommendation:** Players or coaches may use USGA-approved measuring devices during state series competitions to obtain distance information. If, during a state series competition, a player or coach uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.) the player or coach is in violation of Rule USGA 14-3 and subject to the appropriate penalties. Distance-measuring devices include range finders (such as Bushnell units), laser devices (such as Laser Link), and GPS-based systems (such as SkyCaddie, Callaway, or Garmin). Any stand-alone device (like a smartwatch) of any of these types is permitted under this Local Rule adopted by the IHSA, as long as the device meets the other, previously-mentioned criteria.

During IHSA state series competitions, the use of cell phones is prohibited, unless the local committee (rules or games) determines that the player's use of the cell phone was an emergency. Players found using cell phones for any other reason will be considered to have violated USGA Rule 8-1 (Advice) and be penalized according to the rule.

**Rationale:** Cell phone use during play continues to be a struggle to address. As the variety and cost of distance-measuring devices has dropped, and coupled with the fact that players can share information with competitors without penalty during a golf match, prohibiting the use of cell phones during (except in emergency situations) will make for easier administration by event managers. The committee even suggests that players keep their phones out of view when in playing.

Approved by Consent

### 3. VII. Advancement of Winners D. Day 1 to Day 2 of the State Finals

**Recommendation:** eliminate this section

- ~~1. Members of the top eight (8) teams (and ties) after Day 1 of the State Finals will advance to Day 2 of the State Finals.~~
- ~~2. The top 24 individual scores (and ties) of all remaining players not on one of the top eight teams will advance to Day 2 of the State Finals.~~
- ~~3. All players who play on Day 2 of the State Finals are eligible for individual honors.~~

Failed by vote of Board of Directors

### 4. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules C. Pairing Procedures 1d)

**Recommendation:** eliminate this section

~~d) After the first day of competition at the state finals, the field will be reduced to the top 8 teams (and ties) and the top 24 individuals (and ties) not on the top 8 teams. For the final day of the state finals, pairings will be made on scores shot during the first day of the state finals.~~

Failed by vote of Board of Directors

### 5. VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules H. State Final Competition

**Recommendation:** eliminate highlighted sentence

If State Final play begins on Friday, but the opening round is cancelled (not suspended) that day because of weather, scores made on Friday will not be counted and Saturday's round will be the first and final round of the state tournament. ~~When the first day is cancelled or suspended due to weather or some other reason, no reduction in field will be made.~~ If, on the other hand, the opening round is completed on Friday and play cannot occur or is cancelled on Saturday, the State Championship will be determined on the basis of the scores posted on Friday.

**Rationale** (for 3, 4, and 5): The community is continuing to look at ways to create a state finals tournament that allows for optimum playing conditions for competitors. In considering a number of other methods to structure the tournament, the committee believes it is important to let the state finals qualifiers play on both days of the state finals. A post-season questionnaire sent to coaches after the 2018 series showed overwhelming support to return to this 'old' format that allows all qualifiers to play on both days of the state finals.

Failed by vote of Board of Directors

### 6. XI. OFFICIALS

**Recommendation:**

~~**A. Tournament Rules Committee:** Each regional and sectional manager shall appoint (in addition to him/herself) a tournament committee of at least three (3) participating coaches. The decision(s) of the tournament committee shall be final in matters pertaining to the USGA Rules of Golf. Neither the IHSA Office nor the Board of Directors will review tournament committee decisions whether alleged errors are due to faulty judgment or misinterpretation of the rules.~~

#### **BA. Rules Committee:**

1. Each regional and sectional manager shall appoint (in addition to him/herself) a tournament committee of at least three (3) participating coaches. The committee members must be available at all times during the tournament.

2. The decision(s) of the tournament committee shall be final in matters pertaining to the USGA Rules of Golf. Neither the IHSA Office nor the Board of Directors will review tournament committee decisions whether alleged errors are due to faulty judgment or misinterpretation of the rules.
3. Rulings may only be made by a majority of committee members. However, in complex cases, the committee as a whole should be consulted.
4. It is often advisable for members of the committee to be on the golf course during the tournament in order to be more available to the contestants.
5. At least one member of the committee should be stationed at the scorer table.
6. The State Final rules committee shall be comprised of PGA/LPGA/USGA bona fide rules officials.

**CB. Games Committee:** For each regional and sectional and the girls' state finals, the local manager or IHSA staff shall appoint a committee of at least three (3) coaches from participating schools in addition to him/herself. This group may be the same as the Rules Committee. This committee has the authority to resolve any situations that arise during the tournament, including, but not limited to, matters of golf rules, conduct, or pace of play. The decision of the committee is final, and once the awards are presented, the tournament results shall stand.

**C. Games Committee (Boys' State Finals only):** IHSA shall appoint a committee of at least three (3) coaches from participating schools, in addition to any other tournament manager or management staff. This group may be the same as the Rules Committee. This committee has the authority to resolve any situations that arise during the tournament, including, but not limited to, conduct, or pace of play. The decision of the committee is final, and once the awards are presented, the tournament results shall stand.

**Rationale:** general cleaning up of duplicate language and clarifying the role of the Games Committee at the Boys' Golf State Finals (as it relates to 'matters of golf rules', the CDGA will be responsible for those decisions at the boys' state finals tournaments).

Approved by Consent

## 7. VIII. D. Playing Conditions

### **Recommendation:**

1. During all state series tournaments, players shall play the ball as it lies unless otherwise provided in the USGA's Rules of Golf.
2. In case of bad weather or unsatisfactory playing conditions, the rules committee shall have the authority to determine if that tournament shall be played under provisions established by the USGA Rule 33-8.

**Rationale:** This change provides clearer language for uniform application across all tournament. If approved, additional materials will be developed and shared with schools in advance of the 2019 season to explain these procedures.

Approved by Consent

## 8. VIII. K. Pace of Play/Monitoring

**Recommendation:** During the IHSA state series, players' pace of play will be monitored by the Games Committee. Players who fail to meet the predetermined pace of play times for the regional, sectional, and state finals courses may be subject to penalty for slow play. Tournament managers will establish the pace of play times for each tournament and provide them in advance to competitors. The Games Committee will be responsible for player warnings and observing groups as needed to determine which player will be penalized. The IHSA Pace of Play Policy, located in the Schools' Manual, shall be used in implementing this initiative.

**Rationale:** This change better clarifies which committee is responsible for monitoring slow play. In many cases only one committee will be needed, but at the boys' state finals, a Games Committee which shall not consist of any CDGA officials, shall oversee slow play.

Approved by Consent

### Administrative Recommendations

1. The committee discussed a request from District 113 to consider adjusting the state series playing schedule to avoid the Jewish Holiday Yom Kippur. The committee would encourage the Board to consider the request made by District 113 to adjust state series playing dates for the 2019 season, and any other years, so the tournament dates don't conflict with the holiday and would support any Board action to make this adjustment.
2. The committee recommends the IHSA Participant Code of Conduct be amended to include language about etiquette. Specifically, the committee would like to see the 2019 rules presentation include slides on the importance of players being courteous to fellow competitors and not engaging in any actions that could be disconcerting, intimidating, or bothersome to other players.

### General Items of Discussion

1. The committee reviewed and discussed the 2018 state series.
2. The committee discussed the up-coming rules changes from the USGA/R&A that will go into effect on January 1, 2019. The committee expressed their desire to have IHSA staff to make a concerted effort to publicize these changes in the winter and spring of 2019 to give coaches plenty of time to learn about these prior to the start of the high school golf season. In particular, the committee suggested a separate rules video on specifically these changes be created for golf coaches. IHSA staff indicated they would look into this possibility.
3. The committee heard a report from IHSA Staff about a possible NFHS initiative that would allow students to earn scholarship money from non-school tournaments played outside the high school golf season. As more details become available, information will be shared with IHSA member schools. It is not expected that any program or initiative will be in place for the 2019 season.
4. The committee discussed the Player Code of Conduct in light of some situations that occurred during last year's state series. In particular, the committee would like IHSA Staff to develop additional language that can be added to the current Code that would emphasize the importance of players being more civil and less intimidating to fellow competitors. Coaches are responsible

for teaching their players proper etiquette and courtesy to fellow competitors, and the committee believes a strong reminder concerning this should be included in the 2019 pre-season rules video.

5. The committee shared their desire for IHSA Staff to have a discussion with state finals venues and those responsible for course set-up to reinforce the notion that each state finals course set-up should be manageable for players, both in terms of hole locations and the condition of the course (rough height, speed of greens, etc.).
6. The committee discussed various approaches to structuring the state finals, giving considerable attention to looking at those approaches that qualify fewer over-all participants, the hope being fewer players will be more likely to keep the event moving forward. The committee also expressed their desire to have future committees continuing the examination of the state finals structure, with a hope that a revision may occur someday.
7. The committee discussed a seeding formula shared by Mark Johnson that could be used in future years to seed entered teams within each sectional and assign them to regional tournaments based on those seeds. The formula would attempt to assign a 'handicap' of sorts to each school in the sectional based on scores shot by the school during regular season events. The committee suggested that a sub-committee be created to explore how feasible this idea might be and offer some feedback to the committee for their meeting next year. While discussing the idea, IHSA Staff offered a historical perspective on similar ideas presented previously, focusing on the challenges that those similar approaches have faced. Committee members will share with IHSA Staff the names of perspective committee members.
8. The committee thanked out-going members Rademacher, Glorioso, and Sweet for their service to the committee.