

**MINUTES OF THE IHSA BOYS'/GIRLS' GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**December 12, 2019**

The IHSA Boys'/Girls/ Golf Advisory Committee met at the Den at Fox Creek in Bloomington, Illinois, on Thursday, December 12, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Laurie Glass, Girls' Coach at Metropolis (Massac County); Brian Hoffman, Girls' Coach at Chicago (Lane Tech); Mark Johnson, Boys' Coach at Palatine (H.S.); George Knight, Girls' Coach at Auburn; Amy Jo Mascal, Principal at Streator (H.S.); and Missy Mason, Girls' Coach at Palos Hills (Stagg). IHSA Associate Executive Director Kurt Gibson and IHSA Assistant Executive Director Stacey Lambert were also in attendance. Invited guests in attendance were Jack Halpin, Boys' Coach at Arlington Heights (St. Viator) and Doyle Heisler, iWannamaker. Committee member Gary Bruner, athletic director at Pontiac (H.S.) was unable to attend.

**Terms and Conditions Recommendations**

**1. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section II. Dates and Sites**

**Recommendation:**

**A. Regional and Sectionals:** Boys' Class 1A, 2A and 3A regional tournaments will be held on **Wednesday of Week 13 in the IHSA Calendar**, at various locations around the state. Girls' Class 1A and 2A regional tournaments will be held on **Thursday of Week 13 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar** at various locations around the state. Boys' and girls' sectional tournaments will be held on **Monday of Week 14 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar**. The host schools will be announced on the IHSA boys' and girls' golf website ([www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org)).

**B. Boys' State Final Date:** The State Final Tournaments will be held on **Friday and Saturday of Week 14 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar**. The boys' Class 1A tournament will be held at Prairie Vista Golf Course, Bloomington. The boys' Class 2A Tournament will be held at Weibring Golf Club at Illinois State University, Normal. The boys' Class 3A Tournament will be held at The Den, Bloomington. An optional practice round will be available for competing schools on **Thursday of Week 14 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar**.

**C. Girls' State Final Date:** The State Final Tournament will be held on **Friday and Saturday of Week 14 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar**. The girls' Class 1A tournament will be held at Red Tail Run Golf Course in Decatur. The girls' Class 2A will be held at Hickory Point Golf Course in Decatur. An optional practice round will be available for competing schools on **Thursday of Week 14 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar**.

**D. Tournament Date Changes:** No Local Manager shall be permitted to change the date on which the tournaments are played unless given permission by the IHSA Office.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes reducing the number of players entered by each team to five and playing in threesomes will also help with the pace of play at all rounds

of the state series. The adjustment of these dates reflects the committee's desire to move the entire state series up one week, hoping that better weather will be available.

**Approved by Board of Directors Vote to be Implemented in 2021-22**

**2. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section III. On-line Entries, Withdrawal Procedures, Eligibility, Affirmative Action and On-line *List of Participants*, F**

**Recommendation:**

**F. *List of Participants/Substitutions*:** Each school must enter the names of their **five (5)** eligible starting players on the *List of Participants* form found in the Schools Center on the IHSA web site. No more than **five (5)** participants from a school may play in the regional, sectional or state final. No alternate names are required. Team substitutions are allowed with any eligible golfer up to the start of each regional, sectional or state final tournament. In addition, team substitutions may be made on Saturday's final round of the state tournament. Substitutions are not allowed for individuals who are not a part of a team and who advance in the state series. Coaches with teams or individuals must complete the *List of Participants* prior to **Wednesday of Week 12 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar**. The regional manager will be able to view the rosters of the teams competing in their tournament on-line after October 1<sup>st</sup> to set up tee times for the regional tournament. Sectional managers will be able to view their respective qualifiers through the online winner reports.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes reducing the number of players entered by each team to five and playing in threesomes will also help with the pace of play at all rounds of the state series. The movement of the due date for the List of Participants up one week earlier from previous years reflects the committee's desire to move the entire state series up one week, hoping that better weather will be available.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**3. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section V. Tournament Assignments, A**

**Recommendation:**

**A. Team and Individual Honors:** In order for a school to compete for team honors, a school must have no less than 4 players, and the school must have participated in six (6) varsity contests prior to the state series. Individuals competing for individual honors only are not required to have competed in six contests. A school can enter no more than **five (5)** individuals for team or individual honors.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes reducing the number of players entered by each team to five and playing in threesomes will also help with the pace of play at all rounds of the state series.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**4. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section VI. C. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules (new) C. Pairing Procedures:**

**Recommendation:**

1. During the entire state series, 'wave' groupings that pair competitors from teams into team groups and individual qualifiers into individual groups will be used. **Threesomes will be used whenever possible, although foursomes can be used as necessary.** No group shall have two or more players from the same school.

a) In regionals, tournament managers will determine the team pairings based on the top 4 scores for each team reported on the *List of Participants Form*. Individual competitors will also be paired with other individuals based on scores reported on the *List of Participants Form*.

b) In sectionals, pairings for the wave will be made based on the place the team finishes in their respective regional tournament.

c) For the first day of the state finals, pairings for the wave will be made based on the place the team finishes in their respective sectional tournament.

d) At all levels of the state series, groupings comprised of individual competitors shall be inserted between different sets of team groupings.

e) Players on qualifying teams disqualified from the first round of the State Final competition for a non-player Code of Conduct violation will be allowed to play in the final round if his/her team advances to the final round and paired in the **final** player spot for his/her team. Individual qualifiers disqualified from the first round of the State Final competition for a non-player Code of Conduct violation will not be allowed to play in the final round.

f) For Wave pairings at the regional level and the second day of the state finals, if two or more teams with the same scores are tied, the following criteria will be used by managers to put those tied schools into the correct Wave grouping:

- i) **5<sup>th</sup> person score**
- ii) **Random computer selection**

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes reducing the number of players entered by each team to five and playing in threesomes will also help with the pace of play at all rounds of the state series.

**Approved by Board of Directors Vote**

**5. Remove: Boys' and Girls' Section VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules, H. State Final Competition - Eliminate highlighted sentence**

**Recommendation:** 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:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes reducing the number of players entered by each team to five and playing in threesomes will also help with the pace of play at all rounds of the state series, which, therefore, should allow state finals qualifiers to play on both days of the state finals.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**6. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section VII. Advancement of Winners, A. Team Scoring**

**Recommendation:**

**A. Team Scoring:** Any school, which enters **four or five players** in the Regional tournament and has competed in six (6) varsity contests, will be considered for team honors and team advancement to the regional, sectional or state final tournament. The four lowest scores of individuals on teams that compete for team honors at the regional, sectional, or state finals will be counted as a team score for any round during the state series.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**7. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section VII. Advancement of Winners, B. Regional to Sectional Advancement – Class 1A/2A/3A Boys and Class 1A/2A Girls**

**Recommendation:**

**B. Regional to Sectional Advancement - Class 1A/2A/3A Boys and Class 1A/2A Girls:** Members of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams shall advance. In addition, the **nine (9)** best scoring individuals that are not members of a qualifying team shall advance from the regional to the sectional tournament. Ties for the last individual qualifying spot will be broken with an on-course play-off.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes reducing the number of qualifiers and playing in threesomes will also help with the pace of play at sectional tournaments.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**8. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section VII. Advancement of Winners, C. Sectional to State Final Advancement – Class 1A/2A/3A Boys and Class 1A/2A Girls**

**Recommendation:** Members of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams shall advance. In addition, the **nine (9)** best scoring individuals that are not members of a qualifying team shall advance from the sectional to the state final tournament. Ties for the last individual qualifying spot will be broken with an on-course play-off.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes reducing the number of qualifiers and playing in threesomes will also help with the pace of play at the state finals.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**9. Remove: Boys' and Girls' Section VII. Advancement of Winners, D. Day 1 to Day 2 of the State Finals:**

**Recommendation:** Delete the entire section and adjust lettering for rest of the section accordingly

**Day 1 to Day 2 of the State Finals –**

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.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes that these recommendations that advance fewer players to each round of the state series will create a playing environment/atmosphere that will allow players to play at both days of the state finals without the pace of play concerns generated by the size of previous fields.

**Approved Athletic Administrators Recommendation**

**10. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section VII. Advancement of Winners, E. Regional and Sectional Team Tie Breakers:**

**Recommendation:**

1. In the case of a team tie for the last qualifying spot, the 5th best scoring competitor's score shall be used to break the tie.
2. A team which has not entered a 5th competitor shall lose to a team which has entered a 5th competitor.
3. If a tie still exists after using the scores of the 5th best best competitors, the tied teams shall advance.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. This proposal is intended to edit tie-breaker language that was used in years when schools would have entered six (6) players for the team entry.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**11. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section VII. Advancement of Winners, F. Regional and Sectional Individual Ties:**

**Recommendation:**

1. The sudden death playoff for the medalist position shall be started on a hole determined by the host school manager which may include the first available hole.
  - a. For awards purposes, ties for first (1st) place shall be broken by a sudden death playoff. All players tied for 1st place will compete in the sudden death until all but one player is eliminated.
  - b. Players in the sudden death who do not win will be awarded second place medallions.
  - c. Following a playoff, medals will be awarded to the next actual place. Therefore, following a 4 player playoff for 1st place, medals would be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, and then 5th place.
2. Ties for the last qualifying individual spot will be broken with an on-course play-off so that only **nine (9)** individuals advance to the next level tournament.
  - a. The sudden death playoff for the final advancing position shall be started on a hole determined by the host school manager which may include the first available hole.
  - b. In the event of darkness or weather that prevents completion of play-off on the day of competition, managers will contact the IHSA office.
3. Ties shall not be broken for any other individual places.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. This proposal is intended to edit tie-breaker language that was used in years when 10 individual qualifiers had advanced from one round of the state series to the next.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**12. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section VIII. Tournament Rules, E. Substitutions:**

**Recommendation:** Not more than **five (5)** competitors per school may participate on each day of the tournament series. Substitutions may be made under the following circumstances:

1. All substitutions must be made no later than one hour prior to the scheduled start of competition for that day.
2. Team substitutions shall be made on a player for player basis, and no adjustments in pairings shall be made to accommodate such team substitutions.
3. If an individual tournament competitor is replaced for team competition, the individual competitor shall be withdrawn from the Individual Tournament.
4. Substitutions may only be made after completion of an 18 hole round.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. The committee believes reducing the number of players entered by each team to five and playing in threesomes will also help with the pace of play at all rounds of the state series.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

### 13. Revise: Boys' and Girls' Section VIII. Tournament Rules, L. Artificial Devices

**Recommendation: L. Artificial Devices:** Players are prohibited from playing music with/without headphones, cell phones, artificial devices, or any unusual equipment that might assist a player in making a stroke. Players found using any of the afore-mentioned devices or equipment will be penalized in accordance with USGA rules. The use of cell phones is allowed only in the case of an emergency, or if an event or tournament is using some kind of electronic scoring system that requires the use of a cell phone to enter scoring data.

**Rationale:** The committee recognizes that new scoring programs are being developed that can assist schools and managers running events or tournaments and allowing for a limited use of cell phones in this capacity would provide an opportunity to use these developing technologies. The committee does not believe allowing the use of cell phones in this manner would not unduly slow play.

#### Approved by Consent

### 14. Recommendation: Boys' and Girls' Section X. Awards, F. State Final Team Awards

**Recommendation:** Trophies shall be awarded to the first, second and third placing teams at the State Final tournament. In the event schools tie for a team award at the state finals, the tie shall be broken in the following manner:

- a. The fifth best score from the tied teams for both Friday and Saturday will be added together to create a total score.
- b. These total 'fifth person' scores will be compared, and the school with the lowest score will beat the other tied school(s).
- c. A school that can't produce a two-day 'fifth person' score will lose to a school that can.
- d. If the tied schools are still tied after comparing the 'fifth person' scores, the tied schools will remain tied, and each shall receive the appropriate award.

**Rationale:** This is one in a series of recommendations made by the committee with the hopes of creating a state series/state finals experience that allows the best players to advance and have the opportunity to participate on both days of the state finals. This proposal is intended to edit tie-breaker language that was used in years when schools would have entered six (6) players for the team entry.

#### Died for Lack of Motion

#### Administrative Recommendations

1. **Recommendation:** adjust the Player Code of Conduct to indicate that the players are responsible for their conduct from the time they step on a golf course property until the time they leave the property. As a result, players could be penalized for behavioral issues before or after their round.

**Rationale:** The committee believes that players need to be responsible for their conduct and actions throughout the day at a golf event and not just during the actual playing of their round.

## Discussion Items

1. The committee discussed the recently-completed state series. The committee reviewed the impact the teacher's strike in Chicago had on qualifiers. The committee also discussed concerns from coaches regarding cooperation from hotels in both Bloomington-Normal and Decatur over the state finals weekend. The committee also shared comments from coaches regarding thoughts relative to the cut that was employed at both the boys' and girls' state finals this year.
2. The committee shared general thoughts regarding last year's advisory committee meeting, and the confusion among coaches when it was ultimately determined by the IHSA Board of Directors to not eliminate the field reduction that was recommended by the committee. IHSA staff reviewed the process that all advisory committee recommendations follow from their origin at the committee level through the Board's final decision.
3. The committee discussed pace of play, and the impact good, appropriate pace has on events any time during the season. The committee recognized that the more coaches can do during the regular season to encourage proper pace and, if necessary, penalize players who play slow, the more likely players will be to learn to play at a more appropriate pace. The committee also suggested that the IHSA should place the Pace of Play Policy in another, more visible site on the IHSA website, and IHSA agreed to look into that for next season. Currently, the Pace of Play is found in the School and Manager's Manual so adding another spot where the policy can be found could be helpful. During the discussion the committee also offered insight into the benefits of playing in groups of three rather than groups of four. The committee suggested IHSA staff either create or look for any videos or presentations that address pace of play with the hopes having such content would help players learn tips to use when playing that can improve their pace of play.
4. The committee heard a proposal about iWannamaker, an online scoring app used by a number of other state associations. The scoring program allows for players to enter scores for a group immediately following the completion of a hole. Once the round is complete, players can then attest and 'sign for' scores at the end of the day.
5. The committee discussed possible seeding of the state series and expressed their hope that results from iWannamaker could generate data that could be used for seeding purposes in the future.
6. The committee discussed establishing multi-year sectional sites so schools can better help their players prepare for the event.
7. The committee discussed the use of on-course observers but took no action on the topic.
8. The committee discussed the make-up of games committees in response to correspondence received by IHSA staff. The committee took no action on the topic.
9. The committee thanked out-going members Glass and Mason for their service to the group.