

MINUTES OF THE IHSA GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 9, 2021

The IHSA Golf Advisory Committee met electronically on Thursday, December 9, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members participating were: Gary Brunner, Pontiac; Chris Eddy, O'Fallon (H.S.); Brad Kerkman, DeKalb; George Knight, Auburn; Amy Jo Mascal, Streator (Twp.); Kara Salmieri-Parks, Plano; and Tim Vaughan, Chicago (Brother Rice). Also participating was Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director, Stacey Lambert, IHSA Assistant Executive Director, and Doyle Heisler from iWanamaker.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Eliminate: Boys' and Girls' Section VII. D.
~~D. 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 40 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: The committee doesn't believe any player should be eliminated from the field at the state finals. The committee believes players who qualify for the state finals should be allowed to play on both days.

Died for Lack of Motion

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. In review of the 2021 season, committee members offered the following observations:
 - a. With the changing of state series dates, the golf calendar was more compressed, creating challenges for schools to schedule a full allotment of events.
 - b. Playing in 3-somes seemed to move the pace of play along in the state series. One committee member indicated that there wasn't undue back up between 9's at the sectional hosted by his/her/their school even though three-somes were utilized.
 - c. One committee member shared a concern with the iWanamaker scoring app that players can see the scores of all players in an event because it could make a player change the way he/she/they may play. During a presentation to the committee, Doyle Heisler indicated that in version 3 of the software (likely not available until after the 2022 season) will allow for a player to turn off the over-all leaderboards while playing.
 - d. One committee member shared difficulty with phones not working during the year and some failure by the iWanamaker app to correctly work. Additionally, challenges exist to make changes through the app.
 - e. One committee member shared a concern about the consistency of the use of the app throughout the year.

2. The committee discussed the need for observers to be used during the state series. The committee discussed the challenges schools encountered over the years to find observers who had an understanding of the rules of golf. One committee member shared a belief that one of the goals of coaching is to work with players and teach players the rules of golf and how to monitor fellow competitors. The committee recognized the challenges associated with finding/using observers, which could leave coaches serving in this capacity, thereby preventing them from coaching at state series events. No further action was taken by the committee on this topic.
3. The committee discussed measuring devices and reviewed the current allowance of those in high school golf in Illinois. The committee understood that measuring devices can be used in the state series, but those devices can only be used to measure point to point distances. If a device has features that can factor in other gradients, like slope or wind, those need to be turned off and not used. If players believe a competitor is improperly using a measuring device, he/she/they need to protect the field in an event and let tournament managers and coaches know of their concern.
4. The committee heard a report from iWanamaker concerning the use of app by schools this past season. Up-coming features in the app for the 2022 season include:
 - a. Allowing multiple teams from a single school in one event.
 - b. Allowing for formats other than stroke play to be selected for events (eg., scramble, match play, best ball, Ryder Cup-like).
 - c. Displaying projected advancers during a state series event.
 - d. Additionally, iWanamaker reported the following to the committee related to users of the app in Illinois:
 - i. # of events created: 3,737
 - ii. # of registered coaches: 1,016 (boys' coaches) and 800 (girls' coaches)
 - iii. # of registered golfers: 5,754 (boys) and 3,485 (girls)
 - iv. # of ranked teams: 469 (boys' teams) and 316 (girls' teams)
 - v. # of ranked golfers: 4,087 (boys) and 2,663 (girls)
5. The committee discussed the use of golf carts during the state series. Some committee members recognized that carts can be misused by those (i.e., fans) who aren't familiar with golf etiquette. Others recognize that cart fees can be a source of revenue for state series sites, venues that many times provide a facility for a lower green fee rate than normal play. One committee member suggested providing state series hosts with guidance to have carts remain on paths (on courses that have such), or patrons could be asked to leave the event. No further action was taken by the committee on this topic.
6. The committee discussed the idea of a Team State Championship. With the additional week at the end of the season following the state finals, the committee discussed whether an additional golf championship was warranted. At this time, the committee isn't interested in pursuing the idea.
7. The committee asked about the discrepancy in the number of teams assigned to girls' regional tournaments. IHSA staff discussed the challenges in the number of team and individual entries and their locations to one another. The lack of team entries makes it challenging to always have a consistent number of team entries assigned to each regional tournament. There are also several instances where team numbers in a given regional were balanced when assignments were released but team entries changed to individuals prior to regional play adjusting that balance. The IHSA sends out repeat messages to schools prior to the release of assignments to have the most accurate numbers as possible, but numbers still change prior to regional play.
8. The committee discussed the number of schools it would take the move girls golf into a 3 class system. By the time of the 2021 post season there were 410 schools entered in girls golf, the cut off for 3 classes is 450.

9. The committee discussed putting private schools in a separate class. IHSA staff shared with the committee that this is something that would require a philosophical change by the membership through the by-law change process. The committee was reminded that any school could make such a proposal for the Legislative Commission to review.
10. The committee discussed the by-law proposals related to golf that were not advanced out of the Legislative Commission.
11. The committee thanked out-going members Brunner, Knight, and Mascall for their service to the committee.