

GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 20, 2018

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mike Linde. Members present: Joe Kruzich, Jeff Trost, Valerie Sitzman, Julie Buerman, Mike Lawler, Chad Pitts and Steve Smith (via phone conference). Representing the State Office: Lisa Brinkmeyer and Sherry Tegtmeier.

Members were introduced and a review of Committee purpose was given.

Motion by Trost, second by Lawler to approve the June 22, 2017 minutes. Passed unanimously. Pitts discussed the Iowa PGA/IGA rules webinar. The Committee felt the webinar seemed long. It was suggested that shorter segments may be more effective and useful as references during the season. The Committee also suggested including segments for beginning golfers. Pitts shared that the USGA is producing 2-3 minute video segments for the 2019 rule changes, which will be convenient for coaches/players to view and discuss individually. Pitts suggested the IGA/Iowa PGA do something similar to this, possibly in place of the webinar. Pitts recommended schools utilize the USGA videos for the 2019 new rules. Pitts also mentioned the USGA is developing apps for assisting with rules. The Committee felt discussions may need to occur about phone usage on the course if the apps are used by golfers in the future.

Brinkmeyer asked the Committee of the usefulness of bag tags with the basic rules printed on them. Buerman shared the success their program has had with the rules bag tags. The Committee felt it would be beneficial for golfers to have easy access to the basic rules. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU and IHSAA have discussed producing the bag tags to distribute to girls' and boys' golf teams with the new 2019 USGA rules. Production and content discussions will continue with the IHSAA.

The Committee feels there needs to consistency established for lightning protocol for all courses to follow. Brinkmeyer concurred and said lightning protocol consistency is being discussed for all outdoor IGHSAU sports. The variance of facilities and access to weather devices were the main issues for local courses managing weather conditions. Brinkmeyer said historically weather decisions have been made by each local course management. This is due to the fact they are familiar with their course layout, storm paths in their area and have experience monitoring the weather. Linde said most course managers use or have access to lightning apps. The Committee recommended the IGHSAU use the lightning protocol for golf that is consistent with the other outdoor sports. It was also suggested the IGHSAU include lightning guidelines for course managers to reference during meets. (Example: air horns for weather warnings, courses share weather protocol with golfers at the start of each meet, access to the standard lightning protocol established by the IGHSAU/NFHS.) Brinkmeyer said all suggestions would be put into effect for the 2019 season.

Next the Committee discussed scoring areas for meets. Buerman suggested Regional tournaments follow the same procedures that the State Tournament sites use for designated scoring areas. She feels there should be a clearly marked official scoring area so golfers know when their score card becomes official. Several Committee members said there is inconsistency for scoring areas at all levels of meets. It was recommended the IGHSAU require Regional hosts (and encourage regular season

meet hosts) to have a clearly defined scoring area at all Regional sites. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU will include the designated scoring area suggestion in season memos and Regional host information.

Perimeters for coaching golfers on the tee box was discussed. Brinkmeyer stated the current policy is that coaches must cease coaching their players on the tee box once the first golfer has teed off until the last golfer in the group has teed off. This policy was recommended by the 2014 Advisory Committee because of the lack of golf etiquette shown by coaches at the tee box. Brinkmeyer asked the Committee for input on the current policy. Smith feels the tee box is an opportune time to coach golfers. Several Committee members concurred and believed the rule was not known and/or being followed by a lot of coaches. Several Committee members felt it is the coaches' responsibility to know and use golf etiquette when coaching, however they feel coaches should be allowed to coach on the tee box. Committee recommends that coaching be allowed on the tee box, however golf etiquette must be followed when doing so. Brinkmeyer said she would communicate the change to the membership through memos and the golf coaches' rules meeting.

Brinkmeyer stated the IGHSAU and IHSA have had discussions about smartwatch usage on the course. Both organizations do not allow smartwatches to be worn during competition due to their communication capabilities. GPS watches are allowed because they do not have the communication component that is available on smartwatches. The Committee supported not allowing smartwatches to be worn on the course, however it was understood this topic would need to be revisited in the near future with the ever-changing technological advancements of golf equipment.

The Committee discussed allowing a maximum stroke rule to be used during regular season meets if desired by meet management. Pitts stated under the new 2019 USGA rules, there will be a maximum stroke rule that can be used. The Committee feels a maximum stroke rule would not hamper the integrity of the game. They also felt it would speed up play and make the game more enjoyable for beginning golfers. Several Committee members said scoring caps are already being used throughout the state. One example given was players golfed a hole until they had 8 strokes, then they picked up their ball and placed it on the green to "putt out". This allowed golfers to still have a chance to practice putting even though they had to pick up their ball prior to reaching the green. When this occurred they circled their score on their scorecard to make the meet management aware for scoring purposes. Another example is players would pick up their ball once they reached the scoring cap for each hole. Again, they would circle the hole score to make meet management aware of the improvised score. The Committee suggested the IGHSAU allow the option of scoring caps to be used during the regular season and that meet managers be allowed to use a maximum stroke rule that best fits their circumstances. Brinkmeyer agreed with the suggestion and said the IGHSAU will emphasize the importance of communicating the rule's perimeters to coaches and golfers if a maximum score option is used at a meet. Brinkmeyer said the maximum stroke policy option will go into effect for the 2019 season.

Brinkmeyer asked for feedback with the change from five classes to four classes. Brinkmeyer shared that the IGHSAU had not received complaints about the change to the golf classification. Committee members agreed that the transition went smoothly.

The Committee discussed this new policy of advancing third place teams from the first round of Regionals to the Regional Finals if the host school finished first or second at the site. The Committee

liked the concept of more teams getting Regional golf experience. Brinkmeyer agreed but added that the additional teams made for some full Regional Final courses. Many of the Regional Finals for classes 1A and 2A are played on 9-hole courses. With the change in policy there were several courses that ended up extremely full in Class 1A. Brinkmeyer provided the Committee with the Regional qualifying numbers. The Committee discussed the impact of advancing additional individuals as the score averages for some qualifying individuals was over 100 (top 6 individuals in 2017 and top 8 individuals in 2018 advanced). Trost also provided a summary showing how individual qualifiers finished at state. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee decided to study the advancement of teams from the first round of Regionals to the Regional Finals for another season. The Committee also decided to decrease the number of individual qualifiers advancing from each round of Regionals from the top eight individuals and ties to the top six individuals and ties. **Motion by Kruzich to decrease the number of individual qualifiers advancing from each round of Regionals from the top eight individuals (plus 8th place ties) to the top six individuals (plus 6th place ties). Second by Mike Linde and unanimously approved.**

The current rainout policy for the State Tournament was reviewed. Several Committee members that participated in this year's State Tournament expressed concern about the current policy, which is if 18 holes are not completed on Day 1 of the tournament, then no scores will be carried over to Day 2. The Tournament would turn into an 18-hole tournament rather than a 36-hole tournament. The Committee wanted to discuss carrying over the scores from Day 1 to Day 2 to ensure 18 holes would be played if the tournament faced inclement weather on Day 2 as well. Pitts said carrying over scores from one day to the next is common practice in tournaments the IGA manages. Brinkmeyer asked for the Committee's recommendation for tee assignments from Day 1 to Day 2 if play is carried over. The Committee felt it would be most fair to leave tee assignments as they were on Day 1 for play on Day 2 if play is carried over.

Motion by Buerman that scores carry over from Day 1 to Day 2 of the State Tournament to ensure teams play a complete 18-hole tournament. In order to carry scores over from Day 1 to Day 2, the entire field must have completed at least 12 holes, with every effort made to complete 18 holes on Day 1 of the tournament. Day 2 will commence with teams completing Day 1's round by re-starting on tee box of hole that play was suspended on Day 1. Second by Kruzich and unanimously approved.

This year the State Tournament was to utilize a shotgun start on Day 1 and tee times on Day 2. Due to the inclement weather on Day 1 and possible storms on Day 2, three of the four state tournament courses used a shotgun start on Day 2 as well. Linde experienced the tee time start as his team played in the Class 2A State Tournament, which was the site that tee times were used. Linde said his golfers were nervous to tee off in front of the crowd, but it appeared that the better golfers were not affected by the crowd. He also said most coaches he spoke with at the 2A site preferred the shotgun start, primarily for the purposes of time. Buerman inquired about the finish of the tee time round, which was one of the main reasons the Committee recommended tee times be used for Day 2. Linde said the tournament came down to the last few groups and it was a great experience to have fans gathered around to watch the finish. He felt using tee times created more of a tournament atmosphere and appreciated being able to watch all of his players tee off on the first hole. Linde suggested the tee times be utilized one more year to let all classes experience the tee time start on Day 2. The Committee

agreed and asked that feedback be gathered from participating coaches/teams after next year's tournament.

Due to the forecasted inclement weather on Day 2 of the State Tournament, most sites used an 8:30 a.m. start time rather than the scheduled 9:00 a.m. time. The Committee preferred the 8:30 a.m. start time and asked that the IGHSAU consider an 8:30 a.m. start time on Day 1 and an 8:30 a.m. (or 8:00 a.m.) start time for tee times on Day 2. Brinkmeyer agreed that coaches and golfers liked the 8:30 a.m. start on Day 2. Brinkmeyer will discuss start time possibilities with the state golf courses.

Brinkmeyer stated the state golf course contracts were up after the 2018 season. She is looking at four new courses to enter into a 3-year contract. Buerman asked about utilizing course around the state for the State Tournament. Brinkmeyer stated the Advisory Committee has been opposed to using courses around the state due to the possibility of excessive travel.

Brinkmeyer discussed the Ad Hoc Committee and their findings with the Committee. Brinkmeyer asked for feedback on moving golf to the fall. Linde said score-wise it makes some sense because the golfers have been playing all summer, however sport-wise it will negatively affect participation. Several Committee members said members of their teams are volleyball players and expressed concern about their golfers choosing volleyball over golf. Committee is against moving golf to the fall. If changes must be made to the golf season, they would entertain a shorter season rather than move to the fall (shortening their season by starting later but ending the same time or the week before Memorial Day). Brinkmeyer will share the Committee's feedback with management.

The Committee was informed that the IGHSAU and Iowa Golf Association are partnering to do rules meetings around the state for the new 2019 USGA rules. The two organizations are planning to do 1-2 meetings in the fall/winter and 2-3 meetings in the spring. This will be in addition to the Iowa PGA/IGA preseason webinar.

Committee extends its appreciation to Lawler for his years of service to the Golf Advisory Committee. Next year's meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

There being no further business, **motion to adjourn by Lawler, second by Sitzman and unanimously approved.**

Sherry Tegtmeier
Recorder