

Golf Advisory Committee Minutes
June 19, 2019

Meeting called to order by chair Mike Linde. Members present: Jeff Trost, Val Sitzmann, Joe Kruzich, Steve Smith, Julie Buerman, Janice Shanno and Chad Pitts. Representing the State Office: Lisa Brinkmeyer.

Members were introduced and a review of advisory committee purpose was given.

Motion by Kruzich, second by Trost to approve the June 22, 2018 meeting minutes. Passed unanimously.

Committee gave positive feedback regarding the Iowa Golf Association rules seminars in the spring. Pitts stated most seminars were at capacity, with a total of over 2000 people attending. Several Committee members attended a seminar and felt the players were more aware of the extensive rule changes by attending a seminar. The Committee also felt the rules pamphlet the IGHSAU/IHSAA created and distributed was a beneficial learning and reference tool for golfers and coaches.

Linde purchased rules cards for his golfers and stated how much his team benefited from them. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU/IHSAA discussed partnering on something similar, but opted for the pamphlet due to cost. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU/IHSAA discussed the possibility of obtaining a sponsor to help with the cost of the rules cards. Buerman suggested using a larger bag tag and place golf situations on the front and options on the back.

The Committee reviewed QuikStats/Varsity Bound. Committee members liked the option to select “not a complete team” when a school did not have enough to compete as a team. Linde preferred having each school enter their complete schedule rather than only their own home schedule. He said he encountered several problems with the new format: meet entries were doubled, incorrect dates/courses entered with no way of correcting without contacting host school. Most Committee members agreed there were some issues with the new procedure but said they were able to get them corrected fairly quickly by contacting the host school/coach to get it corrected on their end. The Committee agreed to keep the same scheduling system for next year to see if some of the issues correct themselves.

The Committee asked to have a data entry categories in QuikStats for town name and course name. Many towns have multiple courses and some courses have similar names across the state. Having separate sections will help with clarification. Brinkmeyer will work with QuikStats to implement the change.

Sitzmann suggested allowing a section for par and slope rating/course rating to be added by the host school when entering their course information in QuikStats. This will eliminate a step for coaches when entering their scores after each meet. It will also help with score reporting accuracy as the specific course information will already be entered in the system by the course host so coaches will not have to look it up each time.

Buerman asked if state qualifying schools were able to add State golf scores to QuikStats. Brinkmeyer stated qualifying teams/individuals needed to add the state tournament as one of their meets on their schedule as they did for the regular season in order to add scores. Buerman asked if it was possible to import the State results directly from Golf Genius to Varsity Bound. Pitts will work with the IGHSAU to see if the importing process is possible.

Next the Committee discussed live scoring. Currently the State Tournament utilizes live scorers to record the scores of golfers every 4 - 5 holes. Smith shared his scoring program with the Committee (coaches get scores from their own golfers throughout the meet and enter score updates into the program, results page has all golfers' scores, each coach hand-checks scorecards as they come in). Discussion continued about golfers entering their own scores throughout the meet in a cellphone program. Trost shared that Varsity Bound had contacted him about their work on a scoring program and seemed eager to get input for their new program. Brinkmeyer confirmed that Varsity Bound is working significantly on their golf program and scoring was going to be their focal point. Brinkmeyer asked Smith to keep the IGHSAU informed of the advancements of the program Johnston High School uses.

Committee discussed smartwatch usage. Currently the IGHSAU does not allow smartwatches to be worn due to the communication capabilities. GPS watches are allowed provided they are used for distance measurements only. Trost suggested changing the verbiage to "communication device" rather than smartwatches to include other devices (Fitbits, etc.) that have communication capabilities. Committee agreed for the communication device rule to stay the same for the 2020 season.

Brinkmeyer asked for feedback on the maximum stroke rule. All Committee members experienced the rule at some point during their regular season. Linde said the rule was used for their conference meet and the cap did not have an impact on the top finishing teams. Most Committee members said they used a 10 and 12 stroke limits or double par throughout the season. All members like the maximum stroke option and felt it was a good addition to the game. Committee would like to continue with the IGHSAU policy to not allow maximum score limits to be used in the postseason.

Smith spoke of his concerns with pace of play. He suggested using a video to educate coaches and players about pace of play practices (bag placement, ready golf, club preparation, putting strategies, etc.). Smith thinks the video could also help coaches understand the importance of teaching basic etiquette on the golf course. Pitts stated the Iowa Golf Association has considered making a brief golf etiquette video. Pitts will work the IGHSAU about possible video ideas. Buerman said it would be beneficial to incorporate ethical practices into the video as well. She said it is a good topic to educate coaches as well as players. The Committee concurred. Brinkmeyer said these topics will also continue to be included in the coaches' rules meeting and season memos.

Brinkmeyer asked for feedback about 3rd place team advancement. The Committee likes the policy of advancing a 3rd place team from the first round of Regionals if the host team finishes first or second. It was discussed of taking a third team to State from the Regional Final round. Brinkmeyer shared that several host sites of strong teams need to be used for Regional Final meets. She explained that classes 3A and 4A only play one round and have 12 and 10 schools per course, which requires 18-hole courses to be used. Courses with 18 holes are a premium and finding a "neutral" site cannot be a guarantee. Brinkmeyer said the IGHSAU has worked to reduce the number of strong teams hosting their Regional Final, however completely eliminating it will be extremely difficult especially if the goal is to play on the best possible courses. The Committee felt the process worked and no recommendations were made to change it.

Discussion ensued about the number of qualifying individuals. Brinkmeyer explained with last year's change in classification, the IGHSAU wanted to have the least amount of impact on the number of golfers advancing

to the State Tournament. Last year, eight individuals qualified for State instead of the previous number of five (whether on teams or not) along with 40 teams (same as the previous 5-class system). After last year's postseason series, the IGHSAU reexamined the number of individual qualifiers, due to the number of high-scoring individual qualifiers (several over 100 averages). The number was adjusted to the top six at our advisory committee meeting last June (it was top 5 under the 5-class system). With our current 4-class system we are still qualifying 40 teams (as it was in the 5-class system) and bringing top 6 individuals (one more than under the 5-class system). No recommendations were made to change the process for the 2020 season. Sitzmann asked about the possibility of avoiding courses the IHSAA uses for postseason. Brinkmeyer stated that would be challenging due to the limited number of courses willing and able to host around the state. The largest classes are comprised of small towns, which is where the majority of the course overlap occurs. The IGHSAU will work to avoid an overlap if possible.

The release date of regional assignments was discussed. Brinkmeyer said the release date is typically the second to last week in April, which was an Advisory Committee suggestion several years ago (this allowed two full weeks and three weekends to play the Regional sites). Committee discussed the pros and cons of releasing the assignments earlier. Kruzich spoke in support of the later release date to allow extra practice and to ensure enough scores are submitted to gain an accurate read of team strength. Brinkmeyer said an earlier release date is possible provided the weather allows early-season meets to be played. Committee members suggested the IGHSAU continue with the same release process, however if weather permits to release the assignments earlier in the same week as previously released.

The Committee briefly discussed Regional qualifying rounds. Brinkmeyer stated Classes 1A and 2A have two qualifying rounds and classes 3A and 4A have one qualifying round. Brinkmeyer said this is due to the number of schools in each class and the number of teams at each qualifying site (class 3A -12 teams/site; class 4A -10 teams/site). Committee proposed no changes to the current system.

Brinkmeyer reported on the inaugural year of State Golf admission being charged. Approximately \$14,000 was generated from spectator admission. There were very few complaints about the addition of admission to this year's tournament, with some spectators inquiring why it had not been implemented sooner. Brinkmeyer shared the IGHSAU will use the state admission to enhance the state golf experience for participants and for tournament expenses.

Committee discussed the new rainout rollover policy, which is: To ensure teams play a complete 18-hole tournament, Day 1 scores will be carried over to Day 2 of the State Tournament if the entire field has completed at least 12 holes. Every effort must be 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 of the hole where play was suspended on Day 1. Tee assignments for Day 1 will be carried over to Day 2 if teams are completing Day 1's round on Day 2.

Brinkmeyer said one change to the rule will be the verbiage, which will now reflect the USGA rule for when play resumes. Golfers will play from the place where their ball was when play was suspended rather than re-teeing at the hole they were on.

Buerman inquired about rolling over nine holes from Day 1 to Day 2 to ensure a complete 18 holes are played during the two-day span. Buerman felt the IGHSAU should keep the scores from Day 1 no matter how many

holes were played and if weather becomes an issue then the remaining holes could be played on Day 2 to get a complete round. Committee discussed the reason behind the 12-hole limit set last year to prevent golfers from having to play an excessive amount of holes in one day. Several Committee members felt playing 27 holes plus would take away from the State experience for many of the participants. Buerman suggested if 18 holes can be played on Day 2 of the tournament then the unfinished scores from Day 1 (less than 12 holes) could be eliminated and the tournament could be an 18-hole tournament as the policy states for a rainout. The Committee felt this is something that could be considered but should be in the hands of the IGHSAU to determine in an individual basis. Committee concluded to add a sentence to the current policy that states “Unless otherwise determined by the IGHSAU.”

Committee discussed tee times vs. shotgun start. Again, the weather did not cooperate for the tee time format for Day 2. The Committee would like to keep the same format for the 2020 tournament in hopes of utilizing tee times on Day 2. It was also suggested to keep start times at 9:00 a.m. for Day 1 shotgun start and 8:30 a.m. for Day 2 tee time start.

Brinkmeyer reviewed the State Co-ed Tournament. Both classes experienced high turnouts this year. Class 2A had 60 teams registered and class 1A had 69 teams. Cedar Pointe in Boone was a new course for the 2019 season and hosted the class 2A tournament. Brinkmeyer stated the class sites will switch next year, with class 1A competing at Cedar Pointe in Boone and class 2A competing at American Legion Course in Marshalltown. The tournament fee was discussed. Currently the cost is \$35/twosome, which includes green fees and lunch for each golfer. Brinkmeyer stated the current fee structure does not cover the cost of golf and lunch. Committee said an increase in the fee would not deter schools from competing as the tournament is well-received. Committee suggests increasing the fee as determined by the IGHSAU and IHSAA.

Brinkmeyer thanked Linde and Smith for their service on the Advisory Committee.

The date of the 2020 meeting was set for Wednesday, June 17 at the State Office

No further business, **motion to adjourn by Smith second by Linde. Motion unanimously approved.**

Macy Johnson
Recorder