

IHSA Golf Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The IHSA Golf Advisory Committee met in person on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at the IHSA office. Committee members present were David Gilmer, Boys Coach from Chicago (Jones); Adam Placko, Boys Coach from Wauconda; James Grzetich, Girls Coach from Joliet (Central); Neil Alexander, Athletic Director from Lincoln; Monica Burkholder, Principal from Lanark (Eastland), and Courtney Poole, Girls Coach from Benton. Also present were IHSA Assistant Executive Directors, Chris Schwarz and Stacey Lambert.

Terms and Conditions Recommendations:

1) Recommendation: VI Tournament Structure and Time Schedule B. Tournament Format and C. Pairing Procedures 2)

B. Tournament Format: Traditional tee times will be used for the state series. It is preferred that the regional and/or sectional tournament manager start competitors from the first and the tenth hole. However, if it is necessary due to darkness or weather, play may begin on the 1st hole only or as a shotgun start. All tee times should be nine (9) minutes apart. However, if it is necessary, due to weather, darkness, or an oversized field, the tournament manager may begin on the 1st hole only or utilize a shotgun start. Pairing Procedures 2) If a shotgun start is used, 'wave' groupings shall still be used. Managers should keep the groupings together as originally planned, using the following guidelines:

- a. For speed of play, par 3's should have the fewest groups on a tee
- b. For speed of play, par 5's should have the most groups on a tee

Rationale: The Committee feels allowing managers to set up the regional or sectional as a shotgun start in situations where darkness could become an issue would be very helpful to ensure the event gets done and there is time for a potential playoff with daylight available. The manager will be responsible for setting up warm up blocks to ensure all participants have time on the range.

2) Recommendation: XI. Officials A) Rules Committee 1)

1) At least three (3) coaches who are familiar with the Rules of Golf should be selected to serve on the committee for a tournament and should be identified to the competitors. At least one (1) committee member must be a neutral person with no vested interest in the outcome of the event. Preferably this is the course PGA professional if they're available to advise on rules. The committee members must be available at all times during the tournament.

Rationale: The Committee feels this will help with the integrity of rulings and ensure that the committee isn't just full of friends who could rule in favor or against one school.

3) Recommendation: VII. Advancement of Winners D) Day 1 to Day 2 of the State Finals

1) Any individual golfer who shoots over 99 on Day 1 is automatically removed from the field for Day 2

2) Any member of a team who shoots over 99 on Day 1 will automatically be removed from Day 2. However, teams will be guaranteed to maintain their team status by automatically keeping 4 spots. Team coaches will be allowed to set their lineup of 4.

3) All players who play on both days of the State Finals are eligible for individual honors.

Rationale: The Committee feels this adjustment to the reduction of the field from day 1 to day 2 would still accomplish the pace of play issue while allowing more players to advance from day 1 to day 2. This also gives players a specific cut number so there is no after the round race to see what the cut number was.

4) Recommendation: III. Online entries, withdrawal, procedures, eligibility, affirmative action, and on-line list of participants F) – H)

F) List of Participants/Substitutions: Each school must enter the names of their 6 eligible starting players on the List of Participants form found in the Schools Center on the IHSA web site. No more than six (6) 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 September 24, 2025. The regional manager will be able to view the rosters of the teams competing in their tournament on-line after September 24th to set up tee times for the regional tournament. Sectional managers will be able to view their respective qualifiers through the online winner reports.

G) List of Participants Penalty: In order for a school to complete the entry process for boys' and girls' state golf series, they must enter their team or individual(s), have six (6) iWR rounds completed in iWanamaker, and complete the List of Participants by the established deadline date. Schools who fail to complete any part of the entry process will not be entered into the state series unless a late entry fee is paid and the proper information is submitted. Players without an iWR will be seeded last.

Remove H)

Rationale: This recommendation will require schools to use the iWanamaker system during the school year which will ensure teams are prepared for the post season and that their information is in the iWanamaker system. This year we had so many golfers not listed in iWanamaker that hosts had to chase down delaying hosts ability to finish the entries in iWanamaker.

5) Recommendation: VI. Tournament Structure and Time Schedules C) Pairing Procedures 1) d.

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 40 individuals (and ties) not on the top 8 teams. For the final day of the state finals, pairings will be made based on scores shot during the first day of the state finals, with the better teams scheduled to begin play on each nine going off in the last wave. Coaches of advancing teams, who need to make any adjustments to their 1-6 lineups, outside of injury, illness, or ineligibility as certified by the High School Principal or AD; need to notify the IHSA immediately following the round if they plan to have substitutions and have the names to the IHSA administrator by 8pm Friday evening.

Rationale: The previous wording allowed for changes to be made with no notification up to 9pm on Friday evening. This ended up in multiple changes to tee times after the IHSA administrator had them complete, therefore delaying their release to the public. Coaches who plan to make subs outside of injury, illness, or ineligibility know earlier than 9pm, it only makes sense to notify the IHSA so appropriate steps can be taken.

NOTE: If recommendation 3 gets approved, the wording for recommendation 5 will be updated accordingly.

6) Recommendation: Starting in 2026 II. Dates and Sites B) Boys' State Final Date and C) Girls' State Final Date

B) Boys' State Final Date: The State Final Tournaments will be held October 9-10, 2026. The boys' Class 1A tournament will be held at Weibring Golf Club at Illinois State University, Normal. The boys' Class 2A Tournament will be held at The Den, Bloomington. The boys' Class 3A Tournament will be held at Prairie Vista Golf Course, Bloomington. An optional practice round will be available for competing schools on Thursday, October 8, 2026.

C) Girls' State Final Date: The State Final Tournament will be held October 9-10, 2026. The girls' Class 1A tournament will be held at Hickory Point Golf Course in Decatur. The girls' Class 2A will be held at Red Tail Run Golf Course in Decatur. An optional practice round will be available for competing schools on Thursday, October 8, 2026.

Rationale: This recommendation won't go into effect until 2026. Starting in 2026 the classes will rotate courses yearly. This will give golfers the opportunity to experience multiple courses over their high school career.

General Items of Discussion:

- 1) The Committee reviewed the 2023 Advisory Committee minutes.
- 2) The Committee reviewed the Advisory Committee process. After a recommendation is made at the Advisory Committee level it goes to the Athletic Administrator Advisory Committee, then is reviewed by the IHSA administrative staff, and finally goes to the IHSA Board of Directors for final approval. The Advisory Committee is only able to make changes to the Golf Terms and Conditions and the Golf Manual, they are not able to adjust IHSA by-laws or IHSA Board Policy.
- 3) The Committee discussed Policy 18- Grouping and Seeding. The Committee was shown how the IHSA maps out the post season groupings, this could be done differently depending on the person drawing out the map. The Policy calls for the map to be redrawn every 3 years to allow for change in the groupings. Groupings are done geographically, as called for in the policy, with no consideration given to strength of area, past success of a team, etc. The Committee asked that the IHSA put this information in the online pre-season rules video to help share the information.
- 4) The Committee discussed pace of play. Coaches need to be teaching pace of play all season to help with the back log that occurs during the post season. The Committee asked for information to be put in the rules video and possibly to share again at the mid-way point of the season. No further action was taken.

- 5) The Committee discussed the need to balance out both tees during a split tee start. managers have the authority to utilize 3 and 4-somes in order to reach a balance. Everyone was in agreeance about the best teams/golfers teeing off last in order to add to the drama at the end of a tournament.
- 6) The Committee discussed seeding sectional groupings like a sectional complex in team bracketed sports. This would have distributed participating schools out to regional sites based on their seed. This idea would go in against the geographic principal policy. No further action was taken.
- 7) The Committee discussed if all state final courses were being run the same in terms of CDGA officials. It was reported back that all boys state final courses use their CDGA officials in the same capacity and all girls state final courses use their CDGA officials in the same capacity. No further action was taken.
- 8) The Committee discussed if boys' and girls' sectionals should be held on different days. It was determined that neither the boys or the girls would want to have any fewer days between sectionals and the state final practice day. There were also concerns about a rain date pushing the sectional to the day before practice days. Coaches also liked playing on Monday so they could travel to the site over the weekend and practice before the Monday sectional. No further action was taken.
- 9) The Committee discussed only awarding medals to 1-7 at sectionals but 10 golfers advance. The Committee determined that the current set up was appropriate and no further action was taken.
- 10) The Committee discussed the fall entry deadline and wondered where that date came from. Many schools would appreciate an earlier deadline so that post season assignments can come out earlier which would allow more time for teams to practice at state series sites.
- 11) The Committee discussed if iWanamaker could turn off the live leaderboard for participants. Too many participants spend time watching the leader board during the round which slows the pace, leads to cheating, and increases stress on the golfers. The Committee also feels they need help to make iWanamaker easier for new managers to set up their regionals/sectionals. Stacey and Chris will check with iWanamaker to see if it is possible.
- 12) The Committee discussed if the fescue grass at Red Tail Run Golf Course could be played as a lateral in order to help with pace of play. Stacey will check with the course to see if that is even possible as a local rule.
- 13) The Committee thanked outgoing members, Greg Dennis and Neil Alexander for their years of service.