

## **Golf Committee Meeting**

*September 18, 2024*

### *Minutes*

1. **Attendance/Introductions** – Michael Fitzpatrick, Pete Jones, Bruce Hastings, Steve Brundrett, Eric Dawley, Chris Warren, Jay McGilvray, Tara Sartori, Matt Gillis, Kevin, Karo, Brendan Case, Brian Phillips, Carolyn O'Donnell, Linda Healey, Cami Molinare

**Tournament Director's** - Ryan Riley, Sean Noonan, Nate Greene, Justin Kratz, Dave Keir

- Dr. Fitzpatrick announced his retirement at the end of this year.

2. **Election of Officers**

- **Chair:** Dr. Fitzpatrick (Nomination by Pete Jones, 2nd by Brendan) - Unanimous
- **Vice Chair:** Peter Jones (Nomination by Matt, 2nd by Brendan) - Unanimous
- **Secretary:** Tom O'Brien (Nomination by Chris, 2nd by Kevin) - Unanimous

3. **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved (Motion by Matt, 2nd by Cami).

4. **Fall Tournament**

- The 2024 Fall tournament format was reviewed.
- **Sean:** Pleasant Valley may shift to a 9 a.m. start.
- **Justin:** Taconic's start time is 10 a.m., and will be using gold tees.
- **Sean:** Discussion on implementing a rotation system for state tournament hosting every four years. Anchor sites are proposed, with one site per section (North, West, South, Central) in each division.
- **New England's:** Top 12 male and top 12 female athletes will qualify.
  - The top four individuals from each of the three Divisional State Championships will qualified to represent Massachusetts at the New England Golf Championships,
    - The tiebreaker for the fourth qualifier was the golfer's sectional score from last week.
    - In the event of a continued tie, preference was given to the upperclassman.
- Concerns raised about how the New England tournament date impacts the regular season.

5. **Spring Golf Format**

- Motion to approve the Spring golf format (Motion by Brendan, 2nd by Cami) - Approved unanimously.

6. **Alignments**

- Proposed Fall 2025-2027 Alignments were shared and reviewed.

## 7. **Maximum Score Discussion**

- a. **Phil:** Feedback from NFHS summer meeting; many states have a max score rule.
- b. **Linda Healy:** Advocated for a max score for girls to avoid demoralizing situations (e.g., shooting 20 on a hole). The transition from match play to stroke play is difficult for many girls and can be emotionally challenging. In 2022, two girls on her team shot 146 and were devastated.
- c. **Mary:** Argued for a standardized stroke play format statewide to allow better postseason preparation. No other sport has a different format for regular and postseason.
- d. **Matt:** Expressed concern about standardizing stroke play, as golf is unique with different formats. He believes it may not be realistic to expect players to only compete in golf for six weeks, and the different formats help with pacing.
- e. **Linda:** Agreed with Matt's point but suggested transitioning from match play to Stableford to introduce other formats.
- f. **Pete:** Emphasized that for golf to be aligned with other sports in the state, a standard format is necessary to implement a power ranking system.
- g. **Jay:** Defended the use of match play in leagues for decades, suggesting that golf's uniqueness warrants flexibility in formats.
- h. **Sean:** Noted that some leagues switch to stroke play halfway through the season.
- i. **Ryan:** Mentioned that coaches and ADs are often prioritizing what's best for their individual teams rather than a broader approach.
- j. **Phil:** Clarified that the max score discussion is primarily about pace of play and mental wellness, and that any proposed changes to requiring stroke play for regular season would need further discussion and a formal rule change.
- k. **Justin:** Suggested that double par, plus one, could work without making scores ineligible for team scoring, as this could create conflicts between players.
- l. **Linda:** Agreed with Justin, emphasizing that players should not be penalized for using max score if it eliminates them from team scoring.
- m. **Justin:** Supported Linda's viewpoint, agreeing that it could cause tension on the course.
- n. **Bruce:** Agreed that if max score is adopted, no stipulation regarding team scoring should apply.
- o. **Matt:** Proposed that handicaps or GHINs should be considered, possibly required.
- p. **Carolyn:** Pointed out that GHINs are based on max scores and suggested that max score could be adopted for the regular season, as well as a statewide format to allow for power rankings.
- q. **Justin:** As a Tournament Director, supported having max score at sectionals only, as it helps struggling players while maintaining the integrity of the state tournament.
- r. **Kevin:** Asked about the potential disadvantages of requiring GHINs.
- s. **Sean:** Suggested that we review the Fall data after this year before making any decisions.
- t. **Ryan:** Argued that once a rule is adopted, it should be enforced, and didn't foresee it having a significant impact.

- No action taken on the max score discussion.

## 8. **Discussion on GHIN**

- a. **Carolyn:** Asked if anyone opposed recommending that all golfers have a GHIN, as it's free and helps assess the level of play.

b. **Jay:** Supported the recommendation but expressed hesitancy about how it would impact postseason qualifications, as it includes rounds outside of league play.

c. **Dave:** Believed GHIN would help set qualifying criteria more easily.

d. **Matt:** Questioned when GHIN should be required.

- No action taken. The committee recommends the use of GHIN, but not requiring it at this time.

#### **9. Review of Rule Change Proposals**

- The 2025-27 Rule Change packet was reviewed and advisory votes were taken.

#### **10. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned.