

MIAA Golf Committee

June 11 2025

minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Bruce Hastings, Stephen Burndrett, Matt Friedman, Peter Jones, Eric Dawley, Thomas Murphy, Thomas O'Brien, Chris Warren, Jay McGilvray, Tara Sartori, Carolyn O'Donnell, Michael Fitzpatrick, Bill Melvin, Ben Kelly, Artis Street, Sean Noonan, Nate Greene, Mary O'Brien, Phil Napolitano.
2. **Minutes – Motion** by B. Melvin to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025 meeting. Second T. Murphy **APPROVED unanimously.**
3. **New Business**
 - a) P. Napolitano introduced and welcomed new Tournament Directors
 - b) 2025 Spring Tournament Recap
 - Course availability was easier holding the tournament on a Wednesday.
 - Tournament was a success.
 - Courses are raising their rates, could be a concern moving forward.
 - c) Committee was made aware of two initiatives being considered, which are being proposed by members of District 7:
 - Standardized Annual Calendar for Interscholastic Athletics
 - An objective process to adopt and/or remove a MIAA sponsored sport
 - d) Review of MIAA Rule 70.2 – change language to 'may choose to' then 'must'.
 - Support from committee as it should be optional, based on skill level.
 - Leagues may adopt a more stringent policy.
 - Matt- why are they required to play from same tees in the postseason.
 - **Motion** by Tom O'Brien to amend language of MIAA Rule 70.2 to 'female golfers "may" hit from the tee box in front of the tees the males are playing from instead of "must".
Second by B. Melvin. **Approved unanimously**
 - e) History of golf in two seasons
 - Likely changed in the 80s when they separate into two seasons.
 - Course availability would be tough if they were in the same season.
4. **2025 Fall Tournament Review**
 - a) Max score policy – Review March vote to adopt max score policy of double par plus 1
 - Ben- always in favor in max score of 10. Higher the number, less impact on outcome. Still protects the players who really struggle. Plus its simple, 10 is 10 across the board.

- Thomas – I still think we play this out. A lot of thought and data reviewed and should not react to an extreme outlier. I think we keep the double par plus one. There are flaws to both of them.
- Jay- lesser of two evils. Since it did happen, does it tie our hands to adopt the policy of 10 to avoid, even further, this possibility?
- Mary- more in favor of 10 than double par plus one.
- Chris – agrees that we have debated this at length and there will be no way to tell a 7 using max score, versus a natural 7 without using max score.
- **No action taken** and new rule will remain in place as previously voted on.
- To track the max score, we should ask player to circle the hole number they use it on.
 - Phil will look into the ability for golf genius to add a box under each hole that can be checked if max score is used.

b) Tournament Directors provided an update on sites for the 2025 Fall Tournament

- Sean- waiting to hear back from Pleasant Valley to see if they will host for a 3rd straight year.
- D1 States – Thorny Leahy is possibility
- Sean- need to meet with all TDs to establish a 4 year rotation.
- Nate- still searching
- Mary- (Bill Melvin with look at Essex CC for D3 North).

c) New England Tournament and its impact on our regular season

- Thomas M- What is value of NE golf tournament? Wrestling is incredibly valuable and I couldn't imagine a season without it. Does golf have the same value?
- Sean- No, it doesn't offer the same value and didn't open up college opportunities. His players winning States was more valuable than 2nd place at New England's.
- Ben- Can we alter the criteria on who we send to New England's, and we just avoid that date with our state tournament? We can schedule our State Championship on the Tuesday or Wednesday after New England's.
 - Not sure golf can extend that late into October/November.

d) Does our maximum match number of 20 put you in a bad spot as that's an impossible target?

- Pete- Yes, if the number was lower, it would be more beneficial to ADs.
- Bill – Not many teams playing 20 as it is.
- Sean- We play 18.
- Bill- so many variables with setting a golf schedule as many outside factors. We only play 16.
- Some discussion about possibly changing scheduling limit to 16 or 18 to have an achievable number of matches given the length of the season.
- Committee encouraged to check with leagues and get feedback on if teams are playing 20 matches.

5. TMC Update

- Discussed mandating stroke play during the regular season. A sub-committee was set up and will meet to further discuss.
 - Subcommittee: Steve Burndrett, Jay, Thomas, Bill Melvin, Chris, Bruce, Carolyn, Eric, David.
 - Steve – Coming from CT, they all do stroke play during the regular season and have a power ranking. That is how they qualify. Top 16 teams qualify. MA does have 120 more schools (CT has 142, MA 260).
 - MA biggest issue is league use 3 different formats.
 - TMC looking for golf recommendations
 - Sean- Other states have two-day tournaments.
 - Play first round with 12 teams on Sunday and Monday the field is 6. Just a thought I have.
 - Carolyn- Data shows teams that play stroke play in regular season make up 85% of those who have postseason success.
 - Pete Jones- Feedback we got was that some of the leagues with less talented golfers, pace of play, getting courses
 - Carolyn – not sure any other sport offers a different format in regular season to the post season. Id rather them play 5 holes of stroke play where they learn, over 9 holes of another format.
 - Thomas M- Agrees with everything Carolyn has said. It makes no sense that golf doesn't use stroke play across the board.
 - Tom O- Challenge is the lesser players really struggle.
 - Mary- Leagues can adopt our max score policy to help with pace of play.
 - Matt- If we have uniform regular season rules, like stroke play, then the rule 70. 2 would need to be reviewed as everyone should be playing from the same tees.
 - Jay – unique aspect of golf at this level is that schools and leagues can have different formats. This could upend years of tradition, where leagues like having a certain format. There is benefit to match play.
 - Peter Jones- What is the genesis behind this request? To be like baseball?
 - Phil – more like track. Whereas golf and wrestling are sectional based.
- e) Recognized committee chair Michael Fitzpatrick and committee member Matt Gillis who will be retiring. Also recognized Pete Jones who will be moving to another position.