

**Golf Committee**  
**September 17, 2025**  
**minutes**

**1. Call to order- Introductions**

- Members - Bruce Hastings, Stephen Burndrett, Matt Friedman, Eric Dawley, Thomas Murphy, Thomas O'Brien, Chris Warren, Tara Sartori, Derek Phinney, Kevin Karo, Brian Phillips, Carolyn O'Donnell, Ken Bateman, Linda Healey, Artis Street, Cami Molinare
- Tournament Directors – Eric Driscoll, Ryan Riley, Sean Noonan, David Keir, Nate Greene, Justin Kratz, Mary O'Brien, Kevin Riordan.

**2. Election of officers**

- Chair – Thomas Murphy – (Carolyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve B) – **Approved 16-0**
- Vice Chair – Brian Phillips – (Carolyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve B) – **Approved 16-0**
- **Secretary – Tom O'Brien – (Tom M, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric D) – Approved 15-1**

**3. Minutes from June 11, 2025**

- Edit to page two from Tom M.
- Motion by Steve B, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian P - - **Approved 16-0**

**4. New Business**

A. 2025 Fall Tournaments

- Reminder of entry deadline of October 3, 2025
- Phil will send communication with entry details by the end of the week
- Maximum score policy reminder – outlined on page 3 of the format
- Sites – Attachment included that highlights the courses for the upcoming golf tournaments
  - Justin – Is it possible to get a list of home courses used by our schools?
    - Can send a survey to gather that information for future use.
  - Course Challenges
    - Mary- It is very difficult to find courses, each year gets harder.
    - Sean – Our tournament the day after Columbus day will always be a challenge as courses are closed that Monday and don't want to block it off again on Tuesday.
  - New England Tournament
    - Reminded committee of the selection process

- Sean- We really need to look at value of New England's when it impacts our regular season and postseason for 12 boys and 12 girls. The field isn't really as strong as you would think.
  - Ryan- I don't think college coaches care about New England results.
  - Justin and Sean agree
- Sean- Can we send 12 golfers that are not playing in States? This will allow us to back up our regular season cut-off date and our tournament by one week, opening things up.
- Ken- Before we do that, can we reach out to courses to see if we did move it back a week, if we would be able to use their course. We need to know if we are having trouble because of our schedule or the growth of golf since the pandemic.
- Thomas- I believe growth of golf is more of a challenge.
- Sean- We need to look in courses 2-3 years out. Cannot wait until the summer to book for the fall.
  - Phil will communicate with Tournament Directors in to begin planning for next Fall.
- Scoring and Golf Genius
  - Ryan, concerns raised to him over inaccuracies until scorer's table.
    - Coaches responsibility to enter accurate scores each hole for the group.
    - Score is not official until they turn in their card at the end of tournament anyways.
    - Sean- two or three scoring areas is important. One is too slow and difficult.
    -
  - Tom O – Can golf genius allow schools to use it for their regular season?
    - Phil – I can reach out to them to find out as I know they are course based.
  - Mary- Coaches must be present for coaches meeting. Last year had 3 coaches who were not there.

## B. Spring Tournament update: Sites

- Jared (South)- Foxboro
- Dave N/C/W)- Ellenwood in Athol
- Mary (State)- Bayberry Hills in discussion

## C. Association Business

### 1. Standardized Athletic Calendar

- Fall start on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday preceding Labor Day – No issue with golf
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday
- Winter on Tuesday –
  - Eric – winter athletes are ready to go Monday, they should be allowed to start. Tuesday doesn't change anything. It will simply cause confusion.
  - Tom M – I don't see an issue with starting on Tuesday as the winter season is longer
  - Chris W – only talking about football players
  - Cami – start all seasons on a Monday to avoid confusion. Fall, Winter, Spring.
    - Tennis cut-off date was a week earlier than everything else but didn't start until all other sports.
- Bracket Release – Brian, earlier the better, doesn't matter if its weekends
  - Cami- no issue with weekends.

### 2. D1A Component

- Ryan- Any discussion about a separate tournament for public school kids and private school students.
- Ken- completely agrees. We have kids winning from Maine or Rhode Island on MIAA Private School teams.

## D. Other

- Tournament Formats for 2026 Fall and 2027 Spring Golf
  - **Motion to approve by Cami 2<sup>nd</sup> Stephen B – Approved Unanimous**
  - Ken: Why do we have a cell-phone rule? It seems outdated.
  - Justin: I'd be concerned about pace of play, especially in the regular season— texting Mom or Dad "I just made birdie," etc.
  - Ryan: It could lead to actual cheating.
  - Brian: Allowing cell phones would just be another distraction, including social media elements.

- Bruce: Phones are going to be banned in schools next year.
  - Artis: While I am generally in favor of technology, allowing phones sets them up for disqualification if misused—if there is only one thing we allow, it should be clearly defined.
  - Ryan: Can we create a document delineating when phone use is permitted? Question raised: emergency situations?
    - Dave: Add phone-use policy to the rules sheet.
    - Very clear format needed—phone can be used in emergency situations.
  - Tom O'Brien: In our conference, players are allowed to log scores between holes using a phone.
  - Linda: Our kids must declare their intent before pulling out a cell phone.
  - Tom Murphy: Great discussion—put this on a future meeting agenda for deeper discussion.
- **Statewide subcommittee**
    - Steve Burndett heading the subcommittee. Meeting this afternoon
    - If statewide were possible, all leagues must use stroke play format.
- **Golf competitions in a season discussion (20)**
    - Ryan- coaching for 20 years, never achieved 20 matches in a season.
    - Sean – I have had 20 a few seasons but now down to 17 as a result of course availability. Plus teams have dropped us because they are trying to qualify through .500 winning percentage. I like 17-18 range
    - Ken- We have 20 matches every year. Baystate requires 13 league matches, so it allows me flexibility to schedule the likes of St. John's.
    - Sean- Any discussion on raising minimum number of matches to qualify?
      - Brian hard to raise it due to course availability and weather
      - Steve- I think part of this is achieving power rankings so it's the best teams qualifying and not being afraid to play strong schools to St. John's HS.