

MIAA Golf Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Minutes

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes

- [March 10, 2026](#) approved unanimously

3. New Business

a. 2026 Spring Tournament Recap

- Tournament Director's Report
 - Reports provided by Dave, Mary and Phil (on behalf of Jared)
- **Discussion of Pre-Tournament USGA Rules Violations**
 - **Incident Overview:** A student-athlete was playing on the course prior to a round, violating USGA rules (which carry a general penalty or disqualification). Committee members and tournament directors debated whether to enforce an immediate disqualification or allow participation due to process and communication gaps.
 - **Enforcement Concerns:** Concerns were raised regarding the precedent set by overruling site officials and failing to strictly uphold USGA rules, which are designed to protect field integrity. Members emphasized that rule compliance must remain consistent.
 - **Rules of Golf Education Gaps:** The discussion highlighted widespread lack of rule understanding among student-athletes and coaches, as well as the need for clearer pre-tournament communication.
 - **Next Steps:**
 - **TD Disqualification Process:** Formalize a clear protocol for Tournament Directors when handling disqualifications, ensuring adult leadership is present for final decisions.
 - **Educational Initiatives:** Develop proactive educational resources (e.g., rule cheat sheets or required instruction) for coaches and players ahead of future seasons.
- **MIAA/Golf Genius Results**
 - [South](#)
 - [North/Central/West](#)
 - [States](#)
- **Questions, comments, suggestions for improvement**
 - Universally positive feedback on Golf Genius.

b. Golf statewide tournament

- Fall tournament proposals (attached)
 - Steve Burndrett – Thanked both the subcommittee and full committee for their efforts on working to continue to grow the sport. We will have three separate votes today (regular season scoring format, divisional format and all-state format).

○ **Proposal #1 – Fall Golf- State Tournament Eligibility Requirements**

- **Requiring all schools to play a stroke play format.**
- Top 4, 12 best scores (or whatever the committee decides is the minimum). Max of 8 scores.
- Teams may elect to opt out prior to the season
 - Option A – entire team
 - Option B – opt out of postseason tournament, but individuals can qualify.
 - **Tom – Why before the season? We should have opt out prior to postseason, like we do in all other sports.**
- Use platform (iWanamaker or Golf Genius) but platform does not need to be involved.
 - Brian – Minimum of 12 matches could be tricky if they only have 14 matches.
 - Phil- across the board, 50% of seasonal max is the qualifying limitation.
 - Mary – I don't always play my top 3.
 - Phil – Could be a good opportunity to lower the max number of matches. Currently 20, may considered 18 or 16, so 50% is 9 or 8.
- Jay – If rating system is implemented, who is putting in the data? Who has oversight?
 - Steve- Up to AD and coach to input immediately.
 - System has capability to enter scoring live.
 - Tom- pressure of rankings will hold ADs and coaches accountable for accurate and updated rankings.
- Chris - Concerned about honesty of players who are used to match play.
 - Kids need to be accountable. If cheating, will be DQ'd
 - Tom – Power rankings will inherently have the kids holding each other accountable.
 - Dave- it is a coaching issue. Must teach kids to know what your score is and score of person you are scoring for.

Motion by Tom O'Brien (2nd by Brian Phillips) – Approve the proposed state tournament eligibility requirements but change minimum number of matches to 10 (not 12) and opt out to end of season (not the start).

• 15-0-0 Approved

○ **Proposal #2- Divisional Tournament Format**

- 5 divisions of 52-53 school per divisional alignment
- No more sectionals
- TMC would provide proposed alignments for 2027 in the fall
- Option # 2 received most support in May meeting
 - Top 14 rated schools qualify per division
 - Each school sends top 6 players (84)
 - Top 8 non-team qualifying individuals fill remaining spots.

Motino by Brian P, (2nd by Bruce Hastings) to approve Option #2 Divisional Format

Discussion

- Matt- limiting to top 8 individuals may have a negative impact.
- Chris – field is changed, more competitive, so pace of place isn't a major issue. Thinking 12.
- Dave K- End of October, we deal with frost delays and darkness. 92 is going to be difficult as it is. If we start getting into the 100s, we are going to the edge. If concerned about individuals, should consider Option #1.
- Tom O- The number of qualifiers can be revisited each season.
- iWanamaker not part of the vote

❖ **Amendment by Tom M (2nd by Brian Phillips) to include 14 teams and 12 individuals (96 total) – Approved 15-0**

❖ **Back to original Proposal with amendment – Approved 15-0**

○ **Proposal #3- All-State Tournament Format**

- Option #1
 - Each Divisional Champion team qualifies for All-States (5)
 - 6 highest remaining ranked regular season teams (based on ranking)
 - Top 6 players from each qualifying team
 - Each divisional individual champion qualifies for All-States, if their team did not advance (5)
 - Top 10 ranked individual players based on regular season rankings who are not on qualifying teams or an individual divisional champion.
- Brian- Concerns on needing 5 divisional courses having similar rating.
- Tom- for individuals, would divisional score count?
 - Steve- It could, if the committee chooses.
- Option #3 –
 - Bill- Gives smaller schools a chance. If you finish as runner-up out of field of 14, you should qualify.
 - Chris- If you are runner-up and get nothing, its hard for me to process.
 - Tom- Goal is to get best golfers and teams in the state, is runner-up in D5 the best teams?
- Tom- Option #1 is most competitive
- Option #3 rewards more in each division, but limits field to 5 players per team.

Motion for option #1 with adjustment to 8 highest remaining teams (brings total from 81 to 93). Motion by Tom O, 2nd by Peter D.

11-4-0 Approved

• **Spring tournament sub-committee report**

- Steve gave an update. Considering a team tournament (match play) and an individual tournament (all-state) that includes fall qualifiers.

c. **2026 Fall Tournament**

- Site updates
- Important dates
 - Practice start date – Monday, August 24, 2026
 - Cut-off date reminder: Thursday, October 15, 2026
 - Sectionals – October 19 or 20
 - States – October 26, 2026
 - New England's – October 25 (girls), October 26 (boys)
 - Process for selecting New England qualifiers
 - Tom – consider top 4, from each division, who did not qualify.
 - Phil – that would be difficult as we have 12 sectional tournaments.
 - Will revisit at September meeting

4. TMC Update

- 2027-2029 alignments to be released in Fall 2026. However, there may be a delay if the Golf statewide proposal is approved and the alignments shift from three to five divisions.

5. Coaches Input

- Sean – Course set-ups are going to be more impactful and important. Access to golf courses for practice rounds (should be a requirement for course to host). Course set-up is critical. Maybe a more central location. Especially as we move to an All-State format.

6. Other

- Best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement to **Bruce Hastings!**
- Article involving Joel Jenkins - [New England PGA Foundation Team Honored with Prestigious "Journey Award" at 2026 PGA HOPE Secretary's Cup](#)

Next Meeting: 2026-27 Meeting dates are TBD