



The Coach Approach

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association

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May 2004

From the Clubhouse:

WIAA Plans Changes

Hello Wisconsin Golf Coaches!

Once again Spring returns to Wisconsin. The greens are greening up. The fairways are becoming lush again. All of you are once again thinking of that great game- golf. As in years past the WISGCA has kicked off the season with the annual Spring Clinic at Western Lakes GC in Pewaukee. We were honored to have as our clinician Mr. Lee Kaczmarek- Kaz to all who are familiar with high school golf in Wisconsin. Kaz enlightened the coaches in attendance with his thirty seven years of experience on topics as diverse as practice philosophy, swing mechanics, and the mental aspect of golf. In the afternoon, the coaches in attendance were given a rules clinic by Tom Schmidt and members of the WSGA staff.

Speaking of rules, all of you are aware, I'm sure, of the Powerpoint presentations that were made utilizing distance learning sites around the state to provide rules interpretation. The presentations

about amateur status, pace-of-play, and changes to the USGA rules of golf are available on the WIAA website by going to the Boy's Golf page, then to Rules and Regulations. Each of the presentations can be found in the pop-up menu that appears when the cursor is placed on this section. The WIAA is considering making the distance learning programs standard procedure and required for all coaches.

Tom Shafranski also reminds us that all materials for the state tournament series will not be sent to the schools. To access forms and informational documents coaches should go to the SCHOOL CENTER of the home page of the WIAA website. Athletic Directors have the user name and passwords to obtain this information. All of the forms and information can be found under Boy's golf in the SCHOOL CENTER.

There have been a number of questions regarding the use of carts during the state tournament series. The plan from the WIAA allows coaches who are coaching during the regionals and sectionals to use carts, providing the coach is responsible for any expenses. Spectators who have a disability certificate or license from Wisconsin must complete a form which is included with the golf materials at the SCHOOL CENTER. That form will allow spectators to rent a cart during the

tournament series. In addition, ECV's will be allowed for use at all meets. If you have any questions concerning this, or any other WIAA policy please feel free to contact Tom Shafranski at (tshafranski@wiaawi.org) or at (715) 344-8580.

Finally, I'm sure you're all aware of the sad and untimely passing of Viroqua's individual state champion Jeff Doan this past winter. All of our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Jeff's family and community. In memory of Jeff and in the name of the membership of the WISGCA, we are having a tree planted on Jeff's home course. Please think of Jeff the next time you are playing the game he loved so much.

In closing, remember the words of Robert Lynd-
"It is almost impossible to remember how tragic a place the world is when one is playing golf."

Take care,

Bill Berkholtz

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Summer Clinic p 6 & 7

The Practice Tee

Teaching Through Verbal Concepts to Create Visual Imagery

Teaching golf requires the educator to develop a multi-disciplined approach in order to satisfy the various learning styles of his/her players. The following ten golf concepts can be explained verbally, but are designed to stimulate a visual image that your visual learners can understand. Included are concepts that will help your players through both short game and full swing problems. These are time proven ideas that will make your players better golfers.

The Short Game:

1) To enable your players to understand how long their swings should be for any particular shot that requires a less than full swing use the clock image. Teach your golfers to imagine that there is a large clock to their back. In an address position the club is set at 6 o'clock. If the shot requires a half swing, instruct the golfer to swing back to 9 o'clock, (the arms are in a horizontal position), and through to 3 o'clock, (the arms finish in a horizontal position). Using the clock image will allow the players to sense the true length of their swings and encourages them to coordinate the length of swing with the distance the shot requires.

2) On the putting green, teaching neophyte golfers to read greens can be accomplished by simply having them squat down behind a ball while holding a second ball in their throwing hand. Have the golfer visualize the reaction when the ball in their hand is rolled toward the hole. Then have them putt the ball on the green with the same visualization. They will soon begin to recognize the direction and amount of break in the greens and the

speed necessary to propel the ball to the hole.

3) Golfers often have trouble feeling the force necessary to hit chip or pitch shots the correct distances. Have the golfers take two practice swings prior to playing their shots while looking at their target. Using this visual technique allows the player to feel the length of swing necessary to hit the ball certain distances. The trick is to duplicate the two practice swings when hitting the ball. Some practice will be necessary to develop the proper touch because green speed and slope varies, but with continued practice, your players should make rapid progress developing a good short game touch.

The Back-swing:

4) Many players sway onto their right side (for right-handed golfers) during the back-swing. This move makes getting back into the proper position prior to impact almost impossible. It also minimizes the distance the ball can be hit. In order to prevent sway, have the player take their address position with their toes pointed out at 15-20 degrees. When they slightly flex their knees, they should feel that the right knee is inside the right foot. Instruct them to maintain their right knee in its flexed position inside the right foot during their back-swing. Maintaining this position will prevent them from swaying and will increase the distance of their shots as well.

5) Changing letters. Teaching the proper back-swing arm motion is as simple as Y=L. At address, your arms and the club form the letter Y. Begin the turn back and by setting the wrists at a 90 degree angle, the arms move into a horizontal position while the shaft of the club gets into a vertical position. It assumes the shape of an L. Moving from a Y to an L helps teach the concept of using the third swing lever, (wrists), during the first half of the back-swing. It also helps teach youngsters how to get width in their swing by not breaking down the right elbow too early in the swing. If you can get your players to keep both arms straight until the 9 o'clock position their

power and accuracy will be greatly enhanced.

6) Developing a proper swing plane is a major problem with younger golfers and poorer players. The usual fault is a swing plane that is too flat. Taking the club back to far inside is the culprit and results in the player having his/her club behind their back instead of over their shoulder when they complete the back-swing. The solution involves the use of a segmented swing so the golfer can be made aware of this fault. First, have the player turn the club back to the 9 o'clock position. Then they should focus on moving the shaft of the club in a vertical motion up to the finish of their back-swing. Done properly, the swing plane will become more upright. If the club does not move from the 9 o'clock position to the top in a perfectly vertical position but seems quite close to it that is all right. Normally, the swing plane with the metal woods will be flatter than with the shorter irons, but only slightly more so. With a more vertical swing plane, the club stays on the target line for a longer period of time resulting in more accurate shot making.

7) One of the most common faults of high school golfers, especially in colder weather, is a lack of turn during the swing. Players all bundled up to ward off Wisconsin's frigid early springs or late falls will tend to pick up the club with their arms instead of turning their upper body to make a back-swing. There are several verbal commands that you can use to insure a complete turn by your golfers. Tell them to turn their left shoulder back under their chin. They will be able to visualize and feel that move. Or, tell them to turn their back to their target by the finish of their back-swing. That command also establishes a visual picture in the players mind. Finally you might encourage them to turn their left shoulder over their right knee. That verbal command will do double duty. First it necessitates that the player not sway on the back-swing, or he/she will never be able to have their left shoulder catch up to the right knee. Second, it means that the player really has to turn to his/her right side to get the left

shoulder positioned over the right knee. Having three different commands at your disposal allows you to be a more effective teacher, since if one verbal clue does not create the proper visual picture, another verbal clue probably will.

The Forward swing:

8) Do you ever have players that slice their shots? Two verbal commands that will effectively relay a visual image should help reduce or eliminate the problem. First, teach the player to keep his/her head behind the ball until impact. In order to swing "over the top and cut across the target line, most golfers will have to move their head forward toward the target before the club impacts the ball. If that isn't as effective as you would wish then there is a second drill that will be more effective, but it is more difficult for the golfer to learn. This second drill will initially require the player to swing in slow motion without hitting golf balls. On the forward swing, have your player point the butt end of the grip towards right field or away from his/her stomach. This will force the youngster to bring the club into the hitting area more from the inside than from the outside. Repeating the drill over and over in slow motion gives the student the feeling of bringing the club from the proper angle and as he/she feels more comfortable with the move they can progress to faster practice swings and then finally to hitting an ball. But, start them hitting just half swing wedges at first so their focus remains on the motion of the club and not on where the ball might be going.

9) During the forward swing the players weight must shift left toward the target. This is done properly by driving the right knee forward towards the left just prior to impact with the ball. Golfers who do not transfer their weight forward in this manner will usually slide their head forward in order to achieve a weight shift. This head slide will invariably cause the ball to go right of target. So play tag with your knees on the forward swing. The right knee is it! It must try to tag the left knee during the forward motion of the

club. Timing is important here. If the game of tag takes place after the club impacts the ball, there is no benefit. The knee must move forward with the club to be effective.

10) Many players have a problem coming up and out of their posture prior to impact. The easy remedy is to stand directly behind the golfer while they are hitting easy wedge shots and put your hand on the center of there upper back. They can feel the pressure from your hand and will get the feeling of staying down after just a few shots. Try this technique, it really works!

There you have ten tried and true verbal commands that will send visual signals to your players so they may more effectively learn good swing fundamentals.



With the approval of pace of play regulations for the 2004 boy's golf season, additional awareness of strategies that can improve participants play are available. Coaches are encouraged to instruct participants in various strategies to develop good skills and habits when it comes to pace of play for their game.

Please remember, during the 2004 spring golf season there are no penalties for slow play. However, next year a one-stroke penalty will be implemented for groups/individuals who play overtime and out of position.

The following may assist your players in being "ready" for play:

1. Incorporate WIAA Pace of Play regulations as found in the March 26 WIAA Bulletin and on the WIAA website (wiaawi.org).
2. Plan your shot while walking to your ball or while others are playing.
3. Be ready to play when it is your turn.
4. Walk briskly between shots.
5. Walk directly to your golf ball; don't follow others unless assisting in a search.
6. Don't step off yardage for every single golf shot; develop an "eye" for distance.
7. Take only one practice swing.
8. Play a provisional ball every time you think your original ball may be out-of-bounds, lost in the trees, lost in the tall grass might be lost, lost in a water hazard or any other situation where you may have difficulty finding it. When in doubt, play a provisional.
9. DOUBT AS TO RIGHT OF PROCEDURE: When a competitor is doubtful of their right of procedure, he/she may play, without penalty play a second ball. Check with an official when one is encountered. Don't wait for an official to come to you.

If play becomes slow:

1. Have groups that have gotten behind play "ready golf."
2. Enforce a Monitoring/Timing regulation that expects each player to play any stroke within 40 seconds.
3. Encourage players to continuous putt and not mark their ball on the putting green unless it interferes with another players line and is more than a putter's length away from the hole.

Keep in mind that competitors need to remain on time and in position with the group in front of them. Help groups to keep up with the time par that your course establishes. Then, monitor groups as they complete their round, making certain competitors stay with the group in front of them.

PREVENTING GOLF SCORING PROBLEMS

In an effort to prevent nasty scoring problems at the conclusion of golf matches, simple steps can be taken prior to, during and after matches that can truly make a difference.

It really begins with a meeting with each group prior to starting on the first tee. In this meeting, one of the issues that needs to be stressed is the importance of reporting any identified or questionable rule violation. If a competitor sees or believes they see a violation of the rules, they must report the allegation to the competitor at once. Rules violation can not be "saved" and reported after scorecards have been signed.

During competition, coaches and meet officials should make periodic checks of each group. Ask if they have had any rule situations that may require interpretation. Also repeatedly ask competitors if they have any concerns about rule violations or potential rule violations they may have been involved in or witnessed during play.

At the conclusion of a meet, meet officials need to have an individual who meets with each group to discuss how the round has gone. Included in this discussion needs to be questions asking about any allegations or rule violations that may have taken place. This is the last opportunity competitors should be given to resolve any controversial matters. This will be especially true once pace of play issues become a one-stroke penalty.

By working with competitors before, during and after a match, coaches are fulfilling their responsibilities to their players. These simple steps can truly payoff with big dividends to help your meet run successfully and competitors to enjoy their round of golf.

If you have any additional questions about preventing golf scoring problems, feel free to contact Tom Shafanski, WIAA Golf Liaison by calling (715) 344-8580 or via email at tshafanski@wiaawi.org.

The Scoreboard	
LAKE COUNTRY INVITATIONAL	
1. Homestead	309
2. Kettle Moraine	310
3. Arrowhead	312
4. Marquette	313
5. Oconomowoc	323
6. Kenosha Tremper	325
7. Mukwonago	327
8. Waukesha West	327
9. Beaver Dam	330
10. New Berlin West	332
11. Wauwatosa	332
12. Brookfield Central	337
13. University School	337
14. Janesville Craig	338
IS. Catholic Memorial	341
16. Brookfield East	345
17. Wisconsin Lutheran	346
18. Thomas More	350
19. Menomonee Falls	353
20. Pius XI	354

21. Waukesha North 356
 22. St. Catherine 357
 23. Racine Case 359
 24. Watertown 361
 25. Waukesha South 370
 26. West Allis Hale 374
 27. Mayville 376
 28. Sussex Hamilton 382
 29. Wayland Academy 385
1. Brian Kopinski, KM 68
 2. Andy Hansen, Homestead 71
 3. Matt Sluzinski, Homestead 74
 4. Pete Rombca, Mukwonago 74
 5. Garrett Thompson, Muk 75
 6. Drew Urban, Arrowhead 75
 7. Darren Punko, Arrowhead 76
 8. Andrew Grow, Homestead 76
 9. Jay Humbert, New Berlin W. 76
 10. Kevin Gams, Waukesha West 76
 11. Shawn Arndt, Wayland A. 76

Visit the WHSGCA Website:

Forms, Results, Hall of Fame, Awards and more...

<http://www.whsgca.com>

25 Years of Coaching

Name _____ Total years coaching golf _____
 Home phone: _____
 School _____ Years _____
 School _____ Years _____
 School _____ Years _____

Present school address:
 School _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Zip _____
 Principal _____

Return by May 15, 2004
 The Wisconsin High School Coaches Association is presenting plaques to all WHSGCA members that have coached for 25 or more years. If you have coached for 25 or more years please fill out the following form and mail it to:
**T.J.Dieck; Milton High School;
 114 W. High Street; Milton, WI
 53563**

WHSGCA Competition Hole in One Award

Name: _____ School: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
 Course: _____ Hole# _____ Club: _____
 Date: _____ Event: _____ Score: _____

Please enclose a photo for the *Coach Approach*.
 Requirements: Any player on a high school boys or girls team making a hole-in-one during competition. Coach **must** be a member of the WHSGCA at the time of the hole-in-one. Please use this form to report the hole-in-one. Send to T.J.Dieck, Milton High School; 114 W. High Street; Milton, WI 53563

BEAVER DAM INVITATIONAL

- Old Hickory (par 72)
 Team results -
 1, Onalaska 315;
 2, Madison Memorial 319;
 3, Arrowhead 327;
 4, Homestead 330;
 5, Waukesha West 337;
 6, Oconomowoc 339;
 7, Watertown 340;
 8, (tie), Beaver Dam,
 Hartford,
 Mukwonago,
 Sun Prairie,
 Waupun,
 West Bend East 343;
 14, Brookfield East 354;
 15, Appleton East 357;
 16 (tie), Wisconsin Lutheran,
 Brookfield Central 358;
 18, Nicolet 359;
 19, Waukesha North 361;
 20, Whitefish Bay 364;
 21, DeForest 370;
 22, West Bend West 374;
 23, Janesville Parker 376;
 24, Beaver Dam Wayland 377,
 Top 10 individuals
 1 (tie), Jeff Kaiser, ONA (won playoff),
 Johnson, MADM,
 Low, ONA, 75;
 4 (tie), Kramer, WTN,
 Price, ONA, 77;
 6, Gosh, ARR, 78;
 7 (tie) Younger, MADM,
 Stanley, ARR,
 Elstad, OCON, 79;
 10, Hanson, HOM, SO.

Rainbow Shootout:

- Team results:
 1. Waukesha West 316
 2. Kettle Moraine 317
 3. Mukwonago 325
 4. Racine Horlick 328
 5. Catholic Memorial 329
 6. Mukwonago Gold 331
 7. Kenosha Bradford 334
 8. Greendale 339
 9. Waukesha North 342
 10. Waukesha South 348
 11. South Milwaukee 354
 12. Milwaukee Pius XI 371

Medalist: Brian Kopinski -Kettle Moraine 77

Scramble Champions: Chad Winn/Eric Schreckenthaler- Waukesha West 73

Best Ball Champions: Ryan Andrews/ Kevin Gams- Waukesha West 76

House on the Rock Inviational

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Fond du Lac | 331 |
| 2. River Valley | 345 |
| 3. Lancaster | 348 |
| 4. Platteville | 351 |
| 5. Waukesha South | 353 |
| 6. Berlin | 357 |
| 7. Richland Center | 362 |
| 8. Dodeville | 363 |
| 9. Prairie du Chien | 367 |
| 10. Barneveld | 367 |
| 11. Iowa-Grant | 383 |
| 12. Fennimore | 400 |
| 13. Mineral Point | 403 |
| 14. Beloit Turner | 405 |
| 15. Darlington | 406 |
| 16. Southwestern | 406 |
| 17. Viroqua | 408 |
| 18. Wisconsin Heights | 465 |

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| D. Flesch, Fond du Lac | 79 |
| P. Wachter, Prairie | 79 |
| C. Knepel, Wauk So | 80 |

MILTON INVITATIONAL

- Bonnie Meade (par 72)
 Team results -
 1, Westosha Central 200;
 2, Milton (Red) 214;
 3, Burlington 215;
 4, Union Grove 216;
 5, East Troy 218;
 6, Elkhorn 219;
 7, Jefferson 229;
 8, Delavan. Darien 239;
 9, Milton (White) 243;
 10, Whitewater 244.
 Medalist - Jesse Schelfelbein and John Hogan, Mil, 64.

The 18th Annual Wisconsin High School Golf Coach Association

Meeting, Clinic and Tournament
 Tuesday, June 15th, 2004
 Hayward Golf and Tennis Club

Program

- 7:45 - 8:15 Registration - Rolls and Coffee
 8:15 - 10:10 Annual Meeting
 10:15 - 11:15 P.G.A. Clinic
 11:15 - 11:45 Lunch
 12:00 - 4:30 Golf Tournament

Entry Fee: \$80.00 Includes coffee and rolls, clinic, welcome gift, lunch, range balls, 18 holes of golf, cart and on course event prizes.

Reservations

Entries to this event are limited to the first 90 members of the WWSGCA who complete and Return the entry blank with payment on or before Saturday, May 31st.

CRUSADER INVITATIONAL

- Broadlands
 Team results -
 1. Milw. Marquette Blue 329;
 2, Catholic Memorial Gold 330;
 3, Milw. Plus 336;
 4, Catholic Memorial Blue 337;
 5, (tie) Racine Prairie,
 Thomas More 338;
 7, Milw. Marquette Gold 358;
 8, Whitefish Bay Dominican 371;
 9, Kenosha St. Joseph 377;
 10, Heritage Christian 392,
 Medalist - Tim Freres, RP 78.

CUDAHY SKINS AND SCRAMBLE

- Evergreen
 Team results (modified Stablelord system) -
 1, South Milwaukee 111 points;
 2, Greendale 110;
 3, New Berlin West 99;
 4, Franklin 88;
 5, St. Francis 65;
 6, Greenfield 56;
 7, Cudahy 45;
 8, Muskego 28.
 Top medal player - Jared Hett, SM.
 Top Scramble team - Mike Fujihara / Nate Fettig, GD.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

COACHES ASSOCIATION

On the Web

<http://www.whsgca.com/>