



The New Coach Approach

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President Lonergan's Message

Recently I have been reading all the past issues of the Coach Approach (I have a real exciting life). The purpose for my leisure reading was to gather some of our past history. As I was doing my research, I found it interesting that some of our past concerns are some of our present concerns. For example, we were and still are attempting to get more coaches involved in our association. There was and still concerns of coaches not getting forms turned in on time or filled out correctly. We wanted to improve our relationship with the WIAA and we were also trying to get more coaches to our spring and summer clinics.

A few things that are presently being done to help increase our membership is that we have sent a letter to all of the Athletic Directors in the state. We listed the benefits of being a member and encouraged them to have their entire coaching staffs join the association, hopefully with school funds. We will also have a coaches hospitality tent at the Girls and Boys State Tournaments. We hope to make contact with coaches that may not be members and encourage them to join. We also hope to touch base with all of you (present members) to see if we can do anything to better serve you. If you have an assistant coach or a new coach in your area, please encourage them to join (see the membership form on page 8).

As far as forms being filled out correctly, we are making the job easier by the use of the web site and sending the completed form to the appropriate person via

e-mail. With this in mind, I have included the Hall-of-Fame nomination form in this issue. Please nominate a former coach that has made a difference for high school golf. Lets get several nominees. We also would like your student athletes to be recognized in our Academic All-State teams. These forms can be found on our web site. The girls forms are due by March 16 and the boys forms are due by May 15.

We think our relationship with the WIAA has improved greatly the past few years. Tom Shafranski has attended many of our board meetings and clinics to listen to our concerns. Tom has written several articles for the Coach Approach to help keep us informed of WIAA business. He has been receptive to several of our recommendations. We hope it will continue.

One final area that we have addressed is our clinics. Our spring clinic will be in conjunction with the Journal/Sentinel Golf Show (more details will be in the next Coach Approach). It should be an attractive clinic. Our summer clinics have been at some very attractive courses with excellent clinicians the past few years. We are excited about our summer clinic at Erin Hills Golf Course. Please make plans to attend both.

Although we have some similar concerns as in the past, I hope we are working to improve these and other concerns.

Yours in Golf,
John

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PREVENTING GOLF SCORING PROBLEMS

In an effort to prevent nasty scoring problems during golf matches, simple steps can be taken prior to, during, and after tournaments that can truly make a difference:

1. Starter Meeting with each group--In this meeting, review the following issues:

Introduction of players

Local Rules

Special Conditions or Situations for that day's play

- Reminder to players: 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 cannot be "saved" and reported after scorecards have been signed.

- If a "drop" is done incorrectly, inform competitor immediately and have them "redrop" from that same location.

- Play two balls if a coach or official is not immediately available. Record both scores and check with meet officials as soon as possible.

- Inform players of "scoring area" where they need to turn in their scorecard.

- Good sportsmanship-competitors should help prevent rule violations (i.e., replacing ball mark when moved out of the line of a putt, fix ball marks on the green, etc.) and applaud good shots by competitors. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the companionship of your playing partners and competing in this tournament.

2. 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.

3. RETURNING SCORE CARDS

Returning score cards at the end of a meet is an emotional experience with plenty of high anxiety for golfers, coaches and members of the "committee." Provided below is a process to help reduce this anxiety and allow your tournament to conclude with little or no controversy:

- Designate a "scoring area" (tent, room in the clubhouse, area of the clubhouse, garage, etc.) for golfers to review, complete and sign their scorecards. Inform players and coaches of this "scoring area" that they will report to following the competition. Have a member of the committee meet with golfers to discuss any concerns or rulings they may have experienced during the round and to help golfers resolve any differences that may still remain.

- In this designated scoring area, have a box or location where golfers place their scorecards once they are certain everything is correct and all signatures are in place. Golfers can then place their scorecard in this box or location when they are certain their scorecard is correct.

- Post golfer's hole-by-hole scores and overall score so that everyone can see these scores.

- Give golfers and coaches approximately 15-20 minutes to review all scores.

- Post the final results, team places and individual places.

- Once the final results, team places and individual places have been posted, the golf meet is closed, all committee decisions stand and no changes can be made to the final results.

If any questions still remain following the posting of the results, please call Tom Shafranski, WIAA Assistant Director at (715) 3444-8580. If you are unable to reach Mr. Shafranski, please call the WSGA Hotline Number (414) 718-3796 and leave your telephone number. A WSGA Official will return your call as soon as one is available.

SCORING SITUATIONS

QUESTION: A golfer handed in her scorecard and left the scoring area. There was no scoreboard for posting scores and no box or specified location to place scorecards. When the committee reviewed the scorecard there was no score for the 18th hole. Is the golfer disqualified?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, USGA Decision 6-6d/1 indicates that when the committee discovers that no score is entered for a hole, a player should be disqualified for a breach of Rule 6-6d.

Tournament management and committees are encouraged to have a scoreboard for public viewing of all scores, a box or a specified location for placing scorecards and a designated scoring area (tent, room, area in the clubhouse or restaurant, etc.). Defining these locations and areas truly helps to prevent nasty scoring situations from developing as players hand in their scorecards.

QUESTION: If we implement a spot for players to put their cards or if I keep them, can they still come back and question a score, even if they have signed their scorecard?

INTERPRETATION: USGA Rule Decision 6-6c/1--If a player has remained in the "designated scoring area," USGA Rule 6-6c should be interpreted in such a way that a competitor within the "scoring area" is considered to be in the process of returning his/her score card. Alternations may be made on the scorecard even if the competitor has handed the scorecard to a member of the Committee. He/she is considered to have returned his/her scorecard when he/she has left the scoring area.

Alternatively, the Committee may require a competitor to return his/her scorecard by placing it in a box and thus consider it returned when it is dropped into the box, even if he has not left the scoring area.

QUESTION: Can I assume that a score can still be changed up until I print the scores for all the coaches?

INTERPRETATION: If a player has placed their scorecard in a box and left the designated scoring area, their scorecard is now handed in and cannot be changed. If the Committee finds a scoring error on such a scorecard and a hole score is higher than the actual score, then the higher score must be recorded. If a hole score is lower than the one recorded, then the Committee needs to get that player back and investigate/discuss the error with her/him as this may lead to disqualification.

QUESTION: Can opponents or their coach question hole-by-hole scores?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, until the announcement of the final results, opposing coaches and/or players can question a hole score of a competitor. This is the reason for posting these scores-so that everyone can see the hole-by-hole scores of the meet. If questions arise, the committee will need to investigate.

QUESTION: When are final scores considered to be "announced?"

INTERPRETATION: Final scores are considered to be announced, the meet is closed and all committee decisions will stand when final team and individual places are posted on a scoreboard, announced via a presentation or a printout is distributed to coaches. When only a computer printout is distributed, it is reasonable to provide a 15 to 20-minute period so that coaches and players have an opportunity to review hole-by-hole and total scores of the meet.