



The New Coach Approach

Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association Board:

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President Lonergan's Message

Isn't spring a great time of the year? The snow is gone, less clothes to wear, grass is beginning to grow, and golf season is here.

I got into the golfing mood this year by watching Mark Wilson win the Honda Classic. The former Wisconsin Lutheran standout not only performed well on the course but showed us that he is a person of high integrity. If you did not hear, he called a 2 stroke penalty on himself after his caddy gave information to a competitor. This is a great example for our young golfers on playing by the rules.

For those of you that were able to brave the elements by attending the Spring Clinic, I hope you came away with some good information. For those of you that did not make it, you missed Brendan Locke from Golf Tec demonstrate what high tech golf swing analysis really looks like. I made a trip to see him last week and found out my swing really stinks. I might break down and take a few lessons (there are first for everything). Mike Crowley from Marquette University discussed golf practice structure and several drills that they incorporate into their program. To recap, they work on short game, short game, and for a change of pace, they work on the short game.

After lunch, the WSGA put on a rules presentation. For those coaches in attendance, your names were given to the WIAA. You have satisfied your

rules requirement for this year.

The Golf Show was available for the coaches after the clinic. I saw several coaches still roaming the booths several hours after the clinic ended. I hope you did not spend too much on all the new golf equipment. We feel the new format was a success and will plan on having it at the State Fair Park again next year. We hope the weather will cooperate next year so more coaches can attend.

We still have more room for the summer clinic at Erin Hills on June 19. You can find the application within the Coach Approach or go to the web site for more information.

As I am sure you all know, the U.S. Senior Open is at Whistling Straights this July. We have about 30 coaches that have signed up to help with the practice facility but they just contacted me about what another 15 - 20 coaches. Yes, I know we all have plans this summer and you have to pay \$150.00 to volunteer but you are giving back to the game. You will see some great players from the front row. I will put more information inside this issue on how to sign up. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

Swing well,
John

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Spring Board Meeting Minutes

Wisconsin Golf Coach Association

Spring Board Meeting – Friday March 10th Thunder Bay Grille – Pewaukee

Present

John Lonergan, Brian Scrobel, Roger Prickette, Dave Blake, Jerry Allen, Bob Lehninger, Mark Johnson, Tony Pritchard, Dick Vruwink, Garth Gerstenberger, Jeremy Schlitz

Not Present

TJ Dieck, Dick McKichan, Don Marx, Mark Rechlicz, Dave Blake, Anna Curtis, Mary Beth Nienhaus, Chuck Menzel,

7:25 Call to order

Approval of the Fall minutes

Brian Motion...Jerry 2nd...11 Y-0 N

Board of Directors: There are 4 new members to the board.

Jeremy Schlitz – Madison Memorial, Garth Gerstenberger - Tomahawk, Andrea Wieland – Milton, Dick Keyes – Onalaska. In an attempt to share more of the duties, all new board members will be asked to take leaderships roles in some of the committees.

Berk motion...Jerry 2nd...11 Y – 0 N

Membership Report (Mark) – We are still down a bit...261. We would like it to be around 350. Coaches should step up and talk to the other coaches in your areas. Mark sent an email to all non-members and many of them were returned as SPAM...Tony and our IT guy are going to work on that issue. The membership list was emailed to Tony and it is now posted on the WEB SITE. There is still some confusion on when the membership years starts and ends. The membership starts every fall (August 1st to July 31st) and concludes at the summer clinic.

Brian motion – Roger 2nd...11 Y – 0 N

Web Site Report (Tony Pritchard) – The WEB Site has made some MAJOR improvements...There are a number of new tools to use. Tony and John (and the IT Tech) have put in hours and hours of work to make the site user friendly and really start to get our hits up (web traffic). Tony is also working on getting all forms to be web based and sent (emailed) right to the chair with tools (error message) in place to make sure all forms are *complete*.

When we start to get more hits, we are going to look at sponsors for the web site and the coach approach. Jeremy and Bob will look into the WBCA web site and Timeout newsletter and see what kind of sponsorship they get.

There was also a thought to make the Coach Approach web / email only. There are tools out there to make it easy to do and maybe reach more coaches.

Brian motion – Dick 2nd...11 Y – 0 N

Treasurers Report (TJ) – Letter from TJ – We are in good shape. The last two years at Blackwolf Run hurt a little but we should be OK this year.

Roger motion...Tony 2nd...11 Y – 0 N

Awards (Jerry) – Hall of fame needs to be address. The wall is out of space and it is very out dated. Jerry will work with U-Ridge and John to find some options and look to the future with all of our awards. Healy awards has approached the WHSGCA about a partnership...Jerry has a great shop in Stanly – Boyd and will continue to use them but we will always look to see what is out there.

Tony Motion...Brian 2nd...11Y – 0 N

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Spring Board Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 2)

Spring Clinic (Dave and Mary Beth & Bob) – Everything is set...State Fair Park 8:30...All of the speakers are set...lunch is set. The WSGA / WIAA rules will be after lunch. We will get feedback and see if the new changes are well liked.

Berk motion...Roger 2nd ...11 Y – 0 N

Summer Clinic (Dave and Brian) – Everything is set for Erin Hills. We are @ 95 golfers and we have room for 120. It is going to be a great clinic. John is going to talk with the PRO to set up the clinic. Dave Blake is setting up the tee gift. The 2008 clinic site is up in the air due to the fact the USGA will be hosting the Pub Links @ Erin Hills during the same week as our clinic.

Berk motion...Jeremy 2nd...11Y 0 N

WIAA Report (John) –

Recommend **nonvarsity** players, while playing in a nonvarsity competition, be allowed to accept verbal and hand signal advice from their school's designated coach only. Notes, tees, and other items left behind by team mates and/or coaches and aligning by coaches are all prohibited. The designated coach is not allowed on the greens or in the bunkers. Recommendation approved. **This is for non-varsity only!**

Recommendations not approved included:

Recommend there be a \$25/round rate cap at all regional and sectional sites for practice rounds.

School administrators expressed concern about this matter as they feel the dollar amount should be an amount determined by the golf course, not by school administration. Overall, they are not certain schools could actually identify a set dollar amount. Previously, coaches had expressed desire to utilize top quality courses. Approval of this recommendation may prevent quality courses from being used during the WIAA tournament series and may also create difficult relationships between golf courses and schools.

Recommend a practice round be allowed at the regional tournament site provided there is no loss of school time. The practice would not count towards the season maximums.

Defeated by school administrators due to other options of: Practice on their own, coaches can schedule regular season meet(s) at Regional site, scheduling less than 14 meets and using these meets to practice at regional site and additional home course(s) use. Amount of time golfers are gone from school at key times of the year was also identified as a concern. Sectional practice is seen as necessary due to geographical distances for numerous school programs to travel.

Hall of Fame (Dick) – Awards will be announced @ the summer clinic...

More information will be given @ that time.

Berk motion...Tony 2nd 11 Y – 0 N

Bylaws (John) – We need to look at our current bylaws and look to update them. The most current ones were from Kaz and Mary Beth and appear to be dated and behind the times. We need to spend some time during the next year and make sure every thing is in place.

Berk motion...Roger 2nd 11Y – 0 N

New Business (John) – Donations...There has been a growing number of requests for donations from the WSGCA. As a Board, it was felt that we should not be making donations on behalf of the WSGCA. There are a lot of great causes out there...and we encourage players and teams to get involved.

Dick motion...Jerry 2nd 11Y – 0 N

Meeting adjourned 9:55



GOLF INTERPRETATIONS

QUESTION: I would like to take my girl golfers to a clinic that is being held during the school year, but outside of the WIAA Girls golf season. Can I drive them to this clinic?

INTERPRETATION: No, WIAA Rules at a Glance are the best place to find language that addresses this matter. Under I. it indicates that "Coaches may not have coaching contact with any athletes they will be coaching the following school season during restricted times (except their own children).

Interpretations regarding the transportation of students have always indicated this to be coaching contact that is not allowed unless it is a coach's child.

QUESTION: Can I go and watch a video on the boy's golf rules? I didn't make it to Milwaukee because of the weather last week.

INTERPRETATION: Yes, it is found on the WIAA School Center on our WIAA website <wiaawi.org>. You will need to obtain a User Name and Password from your Athletic Director. Many times A.D.s will only provide this User Name and Password to the Head Coach or will not provide it to any coaches so you need to check with your Athletic Director as to how this is handled at your school.

Once on the WIAA School Center, go to Boys Golf in the Spring Season column and click on Sport Meeting Presentation. A video presentation of WIAA rules and regulations will be provided.

After viewing the presentation, you're A.D. needs to complete the Sport Meeting form found right below the video in the WIAA School Center.

QUESTION: Is the Golf Rules Powerpoint presentation still up-to-date if used with the current Rules Interpretations/Q&A section? If so I would like to use some of the format and information for my team.

INTERPRETATION: Yes, the video and Powerpoint presentation found on the WIAA School Center is up-to-date with current rule interpretations. You are welcome to use them for presentations to your golf team.

QUESTION: Are school golf teams allowed to have a practice at the regional site this year without having it count towards one of their meet maximums?

INTERPRETATION: No, the request by the WIAA Golf Coaches Advisory Committee to allow a practice by each school team at a regional site has been denied. The numerous opportunities that student-athletes have to go to this course on their own, with a parent, relative or friends, with their coach (so long as it is counted as one meet), the potential loss of school time and competitive opportunities in scheduled meets during the regular season have been cited as rational for not allowing this practice session.

QUESTION: PGA Professional Mark Wilson, would like to play golf this summer with the top 4 players from my Invitational. I know that the golf course will give Mark the tee time for gratis. Is that ok?

INTERPRETATION: There are a couple things regarding your question that I am hopeful can be worked out. Bottom Line is that you could accomplish much of your broad plan within the rules and without peril by making a few adjustments.

Keep in mind, a student-athlete may not receive opportunity or benefit which is not available to all other students and/or because of performance, ability, and potential as an athlete. This does prevent the top players from a tournament from earning the opportunity to play with a professional or as a special opportunity. Keep in mind that student-athletes can only accept items that



U. S. Senior Open Information

We are pleased to be hosting the 28th United States Senior Open Championship at Whistling Straits, July 2-8, 2007. As Practice Facility Committee Chairs for of this major championship, we are responsible for recruiting a prestigious team of 30 volunteers. These individuals will help monitor the practice facility for authorized personnel and players. They will also assist Security to escort players from No. 1 or No. 10 Tee. In order to accomplish this task, we are contacting golf coaches in the area with the hopes of identifying some that may be interesting in participating in our U.S. Senior Open Practice Facility Committee.

Each volunteer will be required to work approximately 20 hours during the week of the event and will be responsible for paying the \$150.00 U.S. Senior Open Championship/Uniform Fee. For this fee, the volunteer will receive a complete volunteer uniform, which includes two (2) golf shirts, one (1) piece of outerwear, and a hat. As a U.S. Senior Open Volunteer, you will also be given a volunteer badge, good for admission all sevens days of the event including access to the Independence Club (Monday, July 2 through Sunday, July 8, 2007), an assigned parking pass at Whistling Straits, a voucher for a copy of the official U.S. Senior Open Championship Journal, and food and beverage vouchers while on shift. The Independence Club is a large air-conditioned pavilion, featuring a variety of food court options (available at an additional charge), televisions, scoring monitors and a spirited atmosphere.

You will need to fill out an application for the U.S. Senior Open. It only takes a few minutes. Please fill it out ASAP. You will be asked to list days and shifts you want to work. List your preferences. A few comments on filling out the application:

- go to www.kohlerchampionships.com
- click on volunteer information
- click on volunteer application
- click on begin application
- when it asks what group affiliation – type in High School Golf Coaches
- when it asked for a committee code – type in PF678 (this will automatically assign us to the practice facility)

Hopefully all goes well. If you have problems or questions, please contact me.
John



Web Site Information

As reported to you in the last Coach Approach, Tony Pritchard is in charge of the Coaches Association Web site (www.whsgca.com). Things are moving along but are still far from being complete. A few major changes that will be coming soon:

All of our forms will be electronically filled out and sent to the appropriate person from the web site forms page. If a form is missing information, you will be instructed as to what information is required before you can submit the form. You will then be notified that we have received the form. We expect this will make things easier from your perspective and we will have complete forms that we can read which will make our job much easier. We hope the Boys All-State Form will be up and running by May 1.

We have subscribed to an E-Mail service. We will be able to communicate with you without SPAM filters getting in the way. We hope to also have this up and running this spring. With this service, we are considering having the Coach Approach electronically sent out. We are still in the discussion stage of this concept.

For all coaches that host tournament, we encourage you to send the results to Tony (mfhsgolfguy@hotmail.com) so that they can be posted on the web site. We hope that our golfers, parents, and coaches state wide will be able to see how our golfers are doing. Please do not send results to coaches in that event - just have them posted on the web-site. Any results in work or excel will work. Please list results and the course played, yardage, slope, and weather condition.

Visit us on the web @ www.whsgca.com

Find the forms for All-State, Hall of Fame, Friend of Golf, etc.

You also will find our past Hall of Fame Coaches, All-State Teams and several other important items.



WHSGCA Upcoming Important Dates:

2007 Clinic Date:

Summer Clinic June 19 Erin Hills - Hartford

2007 Board Meeting Date:

Summer Meeting June 18 Erin Hills

Other Important Dates:

Boys Academic All-State Nominations Due May 15

Boys All-State Nominations Due June 6

U. S. Senior Open @ Whistling Straights..... July 5-8



Where are they now?

Former very accomplished player and all state player and #1 for Madison Memorial **Derek Schnarr** has been the J.V. coach for Memorial the past 2 years. Derek's dad Mike Schnarr the former Head Pro at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison is volunteer assistant.

Memorial has got some great leadership with **Jeremy Schlitz** as the new head coach and a coaching staff like they have.

E-mails to: john.lonergan@huhs.org

WHSGCA Competition Hole in One Award

Name: _____ School: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Course: _____ Hole # _____ Club: _____

Date: _____ Event: _____ Score: _____

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.

Mail to: Jerry Allen, 413 Dodge St., Stanley, WI 54768

WHSGCA 25 Years of Coaching

Name: _____ Total years of coaching golf: _____

Home phone: _____

School: _____ Years: _____

School: _____ Years: _____

School: _____ Years: _____

Present school address:

School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____ Principal: _____

Return by April 27, 2007

The Wisconsin High School Coaches Association is presenting plaques to all high school golf coaches 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 to:

Mail to: Jerry Allen, 413 Dodge St., Stanley, WI 54768



are intrinsic in value—trophies, plaques, certificates, etc., as specifically identified in the WIAA Senior High School Handbook.

I suggest you could select/identify your 4 students from their respective schools and teams either by a random draw from the school teams (every student in school had opportunity to go out for golf) and/or some other non-athletic based performance such as an essay competition... Selection through either of these (sorts) of processes would not be based on athletic performance and thus, acceptable.

Also, it is OK for Mark to have greens fees and other expenses paid for by others—he is a professional who is no longer responsible to WIAA/NFHS regulations. The high school students involved will risk their remaining eligibility should they receive free/special prices because of performance, ability, and potential as an athlete. Again, if a random draw and/or some other non-athletic based performance competition is used, then the student-athletes will not have to risk their eligibility.

QUESTION:

Hypothetically speaking, is it possible for a middle schooler (6-8th grade student) to practice with our frosh team?

INTERPRETATION:

At the 2004 Annual Meeting, the WIAA membership strongly approved of a By-Law change separating competition between 8th graders and 9th graders in WIAA school programs. This WIAA By-Law change began with a request from the WIAA Middle Level/Jr. High School Council and was fully supported at all WIAA committee levels.

As we went through the first year of this waiver, we found there were concerns pertaining to red-shirting, recruitment, use of non-school programs for team selection, selection of players for high school programs as early as seventh grade and other concerning situations that were not appropriate for school programs. Please do not take this to in any way indicate that your school was involved in these situations, it is simply that there were numerous school football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis and volleyball programs involved. Many of these programs contacted our office well in advance of the school season. This raised numerous questions about allowing this waiver to be used.

Even in our smallest member schools we have found that numerous school programs are actually “discouraging” student participation rather than “encouraging” more students to participate in programs like basketball and volleyball where large numbers are not needed to field a team that is two-deep at all positions. This is contrary to what we see in other sports. In addition, if a school program cannot gather enough student-athletes from a particular class to form a team, then, perhaps, that program should not be offered.

Regarding practice situations, whenever an 8th grader is allowed to practice with a high school program, a message, whether perceived or real is being received by parents of students with interest in that program. Almost always, these perceptions and/or messages lead to parental concerns that often turn into allegations of recruitment, special treatment, nepotism or undue influence of some sort.

With these thoughts in mind, the WIAA membership decided to suspend waivers allowing 8th graders to compete on 9th grade programs last year. It seems that there are plenty of other alternatives such as recruiting 9th graders from your school who may have played in years past or allowing 10th or 11th graders who may not be quite as skilled and getting much playing time on a JV program to play on the 9th grade team.

Due to the concerns identified and the options listed above, there does not appear to be a need to approve of WIAA 8th graders competing on WIAA 9th grade programs during the coming years. This matter will again be brought to the attention of the WIAA membership at the annual meeting on April 25.

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As this relates to the allowance of “practice” by 8th graders on high school teams, WIAA regulations remain silent on this matter. Consequently, this remains a local school district’s philosophical position. Obviously, similar concerns to those listed above can easily develop. This is especially true when one 8th grader is allowed to “practice” with a high school program while other 8th grade students are not provided this privilege. The effect of allowing an eighth grader to even “practice” with a school team has a tendency to lead to a dramatic impact on school sponsored programs.

In considering the allowance of 8th graders to “practice” on high school teams, the WIAA encourages school districts to discuss this matter carefully with their coaching staffs, school administration and school board in hopes of developing a policy that will work for that school district.

QUESTION:

Please explain the process we go through to list two golf courses as our home course.

INTERPRETATION:

Each WIAA golf school program is now allowed to designate up to three course(s) at their “home course(s)” for each golf season. These course(s) should be approved by the school administration, within approximately 25 miles of the school and be courses that will be used for practice and competition.

This regulation began last year as the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association asked to have more than one course due to requests they were receiving from courses within their communities.

QUESTION:

Our Country Club did some remodeling of the course and they will not have a putting green. The golf rules state that you can’t play on any part of the course before meets. I was wondering if we can use a hole (#10 for 9 hole competitions) or 2 (#4 and #16 for the JV Invite) as practice greens on the day of competitions this season only?

INTERPRETATION:

You are correct, USGA Rule 7-1 b. indicates before a round or play-off on any day of a stroke-play competition, a competitor must not practice on the competition course or test the surface of any putting green on the course by rolling a ball or roughening or scraping the surface.

However, USGA Rule 33-2 c., also reads—Where there is no practice ground available outside the area of the competition course, the Committee should establish the area on which players may practice on any day of a competition, it is practicable to do so. On any day of a stroke play competition, the Committee should not normally permit practice on or to a putting green or from a hazard of the competition course.

Your Head Coach will want to address this matter with coaches and/or a selected committee for each home meet. If there are some practice greens, a driving range or other golf facilities near by, they are the best options if no other practice areas are available at this course.

QUESTION:

We have one girl’s golf player whose parent would like her to be able to participate in the state golf tournament series. I told him that yes an individual could participate, was I correct in saying that? Also, I remember an email that said if you are new to a fall sport, you must let the WIAA know that you will be participating in that sport by Feb. 1, so I’m assuming whether we have one individual player or a team for girls golf 2007, we need to let your office know? Do I need any special form, or signature from some one on my end for that to happen?

INTERPRETATION:

First of all, the deadline for new girl’s golf programs to apply for tournament participation is February 1 (The Boy’s Application period ends April 2). The forms can be found on the WIAA website <<wiaawi.org>> in the FORMS FOR DOWNLOAD file. These forms do require the signature of an Authorized Administrator.

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There have been some school golf teams that have been able to operate a team with just one player. Although it can be difficult to schedule meets, some coaches and Athletic Directors will allow individuals to compete in their tournaments. WIAA Season Regulations do require a school team to compete in at least four (4) meets during the regular season in order to be eligible for the WIAA tournament series. So long as the application is sent to the WIAA office on time and this regulation is met, school golf teams with less than five players are allowed to compete in the WIAA tournament series.

QUESTION:

I have a question for you regarding boy's high school golf. My question is, our coach is interested in enrolling the team in the Taylor Made purchase program, to purchase clothing, bags....ect..ect....at reduced rates. My question is this, I know, being a former varsity golf coach myself that there used to be issues with these purchasing programs in regard to amateur status...ect..ect...so I guess my question is this, are we okay to proceed with this purchase program, or will this affect our athletes eligibility and amateur status?

INTERPRETATION:

The fundamental issue regarding the use of any purchase program is that student-athletes, golfers in this case, cannot receive discounts when they purchase apparel and/or equipment because they are members of a team. Article IV—Amateur Status, Section 1—Loss of Eligibility, A., in the WIAA Senior High School Handbook indicates . . . he/she shall become ineligible for all further participation in the school's interscholastic program if he/she: 1) Accepts reimbursement, in any form (a) salary, (b) cash, (c) merchandise of any kind or amount or (d) share of game or season proceeds, for achievement in athletics.

If schools feel it is in their best interest to purchase attire or equipment through a purchase program, they may do so. Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are allowed to purchase these items as school representatives utilizing school funds and then provide them to their golf teams.

Typically we similarly address shoe discounts issues and inform that they must be available to any/every student interested in having the benefit of a reduced price on shoes. "A benefit may not be based on performance/achievement/potential - as an athlete." Any student who wishes to "go out" for a program should have access to a discount. These purchase programs are similar to shoe purchases where as long as the offer to purchase is made to the entire student body and/or all students have the opportunity to go out for the golf team, it is OK for golfers to purchase merchandise from them.

If the purchase program allows only school golf teams or only the "varsity golfers" to purchase equipment, attire, supplies, etc. at a discounted rate then there is a problem.

If the A.D./coach wishes to use the school golf budget, donated funds, funds from a booster club, etc., to purchase merchandise through a purchasing program (and the program will allow you to do so) that is OK to do as well.

QUESTION:

Two local golf teaching instructors are offering a clinic for coaches and athletes. They have indicated that the athletes and the coaches can get a special price. I assume special price isn't allowable for athletes unless they provide/open this price to all interested attendees.

INTERPRETATION:

So long as 'every kid in school can go out for your golf team...and so long as every kid who goes out for golf can get this discount – in a manner of speaking/interpreting – the 'benefit' IS available to any/every kid in school. They just need to go out for golf to get it. (same interp as for 'shoe discounts' and the like) If the discount were only available to 'varsity players' e.g., - a problem. Now it's a '**performance based benefit**', only available if I make varsity...and as such, an amateur status problem. Be mindful of coaching contact restrictions. If this affair takes place once the school season is underway, no problem at all. If held prior to the start of the season, would recommend different time slots for students and adults.



WHSGCA Summer Clinic Information

The Wisconsin High School Golf Coach Association's 21st Annual Summer Golf Meeting, Clinic and Tournament are going to be held on Tuesday June 19th, 2007. This year's clinic will be held at the beautiful Erin Hills Golf Course near Hartford WI.

Erin Hills GC. is under strong consideration for a future U.S. Open. The U.S.G.A. has already awarded Erin Hills the 2008 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. For more information, check out the web site www.erinhills.com.

Entries to this event are limited to the first 120 members of the WHSGCA who complete and return this form. The last two years were sold out so get your registration form turned in early.

Registration Form

Name _____ School _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Handicap or Average 18 Score _____

Cost: \$125.00 18 holes riding

- Make checks payable to: **Wisconsin High School Golf Coach Association**

- ***You must have your association dues paid to Mark Johnson (membership chair) prior to registration***

Send Registration to: **Summer Golf Clinic** player 1 _____

C/O Brian Scrobel player 2 _____

N74 W16260 Stonewood Dr. player 3 _____

Menomonee Falls, WI. 53051 player 4 _____

Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association
 c/o John Loneran
 Hartford Union High School
 805 Cedar Street
 Hartford, WI 53027

(Please forward to Golf Coach if not at school address)