



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Al Stumpf, Assistant Director

Date: October 16, 2023

RE: Boys Golf State Tournament Qualification – Pilot Program

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**Background:**

The current qualification criteria for the boys golf tournament requires teams to play at least 6 matches and having a minimum .600 record by the cut-off date. There is increasing concern that the criteria limits the number of teams that qualify for the state tournament, but it is also not a good indicator of the strength of the team. There are many factors that impact a team's record – such as strength of their schedule or the difficulty of the golf course. Therefore, the boys golf committee has been reviewing data and assessing options to address these concerns.

**Proposal:**

NJSIAA staff and the boys golf committee recommends that the IWanamaker Golf Scoring System be used as a one-year pilot program. This system uses the PGA course and slope ratings for courses which has been adopted by the USGA to allow amateur handicaps to comparably travel from course-to-course. The IWanamaker Golf Scoring System will adjust scores posted on different courses played by member schools across the state.

Team State Tournament

Based on the IWanamaker Golf Scoring System rankings, the top 8 ranked teams in each section using their best 6 matches, will qualify – a total of 160 teams will qualify for the team state tournament. The two lowest scoring teams in each section will advance to the state championships. There will still be a minimum requirement of 6 matches prior to the cut-off date for qualification.

Individual State Tournament

The IWanamaker Golf Scoring System will also rank individual golfers with a minimum of 6 matches to determine who qualifies for the individual state tournament. The golfer with the lowest score in each sectional tournament will advance to the individual state tournament. In addition, the next 24 high ranked golfers will advance to the individual state tournament – a total of 64 individuals will qualify for the individual state tournament.

**Summary:**

Other state associations that have moved their tournaments to the IWanamaker Golf Scoring System report positive feedback. The system objectively adjusts scores based on USGA approved parameters, provides online transparency for all results, and allows coaches/players to view rankings throughout the season. The boys golf committee feels this system is the best available to ensure that the best teams and individuals qualify for the state tournament.