

CHIP SHOTS MARCH 2016

Wow, don't know about you but the school year is flying by us way to fast! As you read this publication our season is soon to begin, March 21st is first official practice day. Hope your having a great school year and are as excited as I am to begin another High School golf season. Winter has been really nice as far as I can see from sunny Arizona. Read earlier that first course opening was February 27! Wow, history was made, a new record. Will we have an early start to our golf season? Understand only 14" of ice on some lakes, should be an early ice out, early golf?

Always JOIN the golf coaches association early in the school year, we use registered coaches email for correspondence during the entire school year, plus the insurance covers you from July 1 - June 30 yearly, and the other benefits can be used the entire school year. So never just join for the golf season, take advantage of being a member the entire school year.

State rankings will again be run by Barry Wallin Rosemount High School for girls, and Brian Johnson Eagen High School for boys. PLEASE enter weekly scores on line for you team and players, so all golfers can be recognized if deserving during our 2016 season. It is an easy on line weekly procedure to enter scores for the rankings. If every team enters their players and team scores we would have a very accurate weekly ranking, and players who deserve to get the all state award at end of season would do so for each class, boys and girls.

Academic awards, again Steve Heslop from Pequot Lakes will handle this. This info will be on line on our coaches website, with the due date May 27. These awards are presented at the banquets on June 13 during the state tournaments, if player isn't in attendance they will be mailed to the coaches. COACHES remember to honor your players if deserving by filling out these forms for Steve on line and on time.

State tournament banquets will be chaired by Rich Aulie Crosby for class A, Mike Frankenfield Shattuck for class AA, and Tim Kallevig Park Center for class AAA. When you have a team or player qualify for the State tournament, make sure you attend the banquet, very nice for them to be honored at these events. This information is also on our Coaches Association web site.

The Birdie Marketing Golf Card is the only golf card the Coaches Association endorses. This golf card give back to the coaches and your association. Each year we draw 8 teams who have sold at least 25 cards and they get a check for \$500 for their program. The info for selling these cards is on our coaches website. Also, Jeff Tollette who handles this card, will sell you team bags, balls, etc at his cost if your selling cards, just contact Jeff at 763-753-6988.

New for the 2016 golf season, all sections must use 36 hole scores to determine teams and individuals to qualify to the State tournament. I know there has been lot's of different opinions on this topic, and the State High School league has discussed for some years and now thought this would be a very fair way for all sections qualifying using 36 hole totals starting in 2016, which mirrors our State tournament. This year section 8AA for example is doing a 18 hole North-South Sub-section qualifier, narrowing down to 3 teams and 6 individuals from each Sub-section, then those qualifiers play a 36 hole two day section tournament to find qualifiers for the State tournament. So there are lot's of ways to determine your section champion and section individual qualifiers to the state tournament.

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2016 Dates:

Practice start up date is Monday March 21

Season moved back a week, which I like because we can play invites the entire month of May, use the nicest month of our season to get in our 16 matches.

First contest date is March 31, and last day to hold a section qualifier is June 7

Coaches on line rules begins March 14 and due completed April 5

State tournament banquets Monday June 13, tournament play June 14-15

So as you start another golf season, have fun teaching this great game to your players and good luck, or should I say play well. Your players will be able to enjoy this great game for a lifetime, so have fun teaching them and remind them golf is suppose to be fun, and have a great 2016 High School season and hope to see you on a course somewhere.

Arnold Palmer said it best, "Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated. It satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening, it is without a doubt the greatest game man kind has ever invented"

THINK GREEN, Bob Gorden President Golf Coaches Association