



Pick up the Pace!

Letter from Commissioner Bobby Cox

One of the more interesting initiatives the IHSAA is currently engaged with is a collaboration between the Indiana High School Golf Coaches Association, the Indiana Golf Association and the Indiana PGA regarding the pace of play in junior golf.

Slow play in the sport of golf has beleaguered virtually every level of golf for decades. From the casual Friday afternoon choose-up to a high school state championship, painful pre-shot routines and paralysis by analysis has gripped our game. In a recent PGA event, one player took over four minutes on the par 5, 18th hole to decide what shot to hit. After an extended mental battle, the player determined to lay up short of the green. This episode, coupled with a strong field of the best players in the world making similar determinations throughout the day, extended a final round played in threesomes to nearly six hours.

Unfortunately, junior golfers around the country witnessed this as an acceptable example of how the game should be played. The game truly does not have to be played this slow.

Recently, the IHSAA has hosted meetings with leaders of the sport in our state to formulate plans to educate junior golfers with respect to pace of play. Our collective labors rest in the

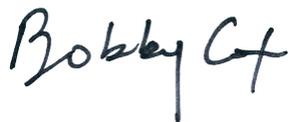
hope that we can illustrate and emphasize points that will increase the pace of play and improve the quality of the event.

Our plans include the production of an instructional video featuring top professional and amateur golfers from Indiana, identifying and demonstrating ideas to improve pace of play. This video will become mandatory viewing for all high school golfers and coaches in our state. Additionally, the IHSAA and the Indiana PGA will pilot a program during regular season play requiring players to complete nine holes of golf in two hours and 15 minutes. Procedures and guidelines will be in place to assist players and ensure their successful completion of the stipulated round.

These measures and more are being implemented to improve the player and spectator experience in one of America's most treasured sporting endeavors. Players at all levels will benefit from the cultural change our efforts will produce. Cynics may chime in and state, "just penalize the slow players." While that approach has been applied throughout the years, it has not appreciably improved pace of play. More importantly, the IHSAA continues to adhere to the notions of education-based athletics in our state and a more instructional-based, scholarly approach is now necessary to combat this problem.

We are enthusiastic about our progress and extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated leaders of golf in our state for their contributions to this important enterprise. Play on!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bobby Cox

Commissioner

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

