



ISCO INDUSTRIES, INC.  
100 Witherspoon Street 2West  
Louisville, KY 40202

June 3, 2019

Donna Bumps  
President  
KHSAA Board of Control

Dear Ms. Bumps,

I am writing to express my concern and disappointment over the decision to change the KHSAA Golf State Tournament.

My father played high school golf, as did I. My wife and son also played in high school. I have spent years now working with organizations that support youth golf programs, including serving on the board for First Tee of Louisville, Kentucky Golf Foundation/Youth on Course, and Sticks for Kids. I strongly believe that the recent decision to reduce the number of players in the state tournament flies in the face of that work.

Many people criticize golf by saying that it is an individual game. The high school season is the only time that these young people get to compete together as a team. All season long, they play as a five person team. Under your new plan, they would play together all the way through regionals after which, they would be forced to make the decision to drop one player in order to compete for the championship.

I have been to the past four state championships and have not witnessed pace-of-play becoming an issue.

Messaging is important in how we, as the golf community, are perceived. The latest ruling sends a clear and disturbing message to young golfers that individual success is more valuable than their team experience.

There is a reason that this decision is unprecedented. No other state, or sport for that matter, would require a team to drop a player between the post-season regional competition and the state championship. Please consider the conflict this could potentially fuel as coaches are forced to make the gut-wrenching decision as to which player will see their time with the team unceremoniously end.

I find it difficult to believe that this is the best option for the state tournament when so many people in the golf community who care about the future of high school golf have voiced their opposition to this plan.

It is with great hope that I write this letter. I hope you will reconsider this decision, if, for no other reason, the negativity and divisiveness it has spread through the community at large. I encourage you to rethink the necessity or methodology of reformatting the tournament. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James J. Kirchdorfer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James J. Kirchdorfer  
CEO, ISCO Industries

