KHSAA BOARD OF CONTROL

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE GOLF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ADVANCEMENT GUIDELINES

REGIONS

Currently, 2 TEAMS advance from "Regions to State-First Round"
This proposal would change that number to 3 TEAMS

STATE-FIRST ROUND

Currently, 3 TEAMS advance from "State-First Round to the State Championship"
This proposal would change that number to 4 TEAMS

STATE

Currently, 9 TEAMS and 45 INDIVIDUALS play at the State Championship
This proposal would change those numbers to 12 TEAMS and 30 INDIVIDUALS
The total number of players at the State Championship would not change – 90.

BACKGROUND

Kentucky High School Golf is healthy and thriving for the boys and the girls. The state turns out numerous junior golfers who go on to play at the collegiate level every year and Kentucky remains ranked in the top third of the 50 states with regard to junior golf rankings.

High School Golf occupies these junior golfers for 80 days from late July to early October every year. The other 285 days are spent with junior golfers playing individual tournaments against most of the same players they compete against in high school.

Four years ago, the KHSAA moved to a three-stage tournament process to reach the State Championship when they added the State-First Round events with the goal of having more teams and individuals experience the "State Championship atmosphere." For the past four years, a total of 240 golfers competed in the three State-First Round tournaments (80 each).

CURRENT GUIDELINES

RATIO NUMBERS ARE TEAM PLAYERS VS. INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS

REGIONS (12) — BOYS RATIO 90/10 — GIRLS RATIO 80/20

There are 12 Regions across the State for both the Boys and the Girls. An average of 16 teams play in each Boys Region and an average of 10 teams play in each Girls Region. 90% of the Boys and 80% of the Girls competing at Regions are on teams. Region Tournaments are 18 holes in one day and under the current system 2 TEAMS advance to the next stage – State-First Round. At the same time, the lowest 10 scores for players who are not on one of two advancing teams also advance to the State-First Round.

STATE-FIRST ROUND (3) — RATIO 50/50

There are 3 State-First Round sites for both the Boys and the Girls. Four Regions feed into each of the three State-First Round sites and the field consists of 8 TEAMS and 40 INDIVIDUALS – 80 total players. "State-First Round" Tournaments are 18 holes in one day and under the current system 3 TEAMS advance to the State Championship in Bowling Green. At the same time, the lowest 15 scores for players who are not on one of three advancing teams also advance to the State Championship. Three State-First Round sites feed into the State Championship, and this results in 9 TEAMS and 45 INDIVIDUALS – 90 total players – competing at State.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP — RATIO 50/50

The State Championship at Bowling Green CC currently has 90 total players with 9 TEAMS AND 45 INDIVIDUALS competing. These 90 players tee off on #1 and #10 between 8:00 am and 10:06 am – one wave of golfers in threesomes.

PROPOSED GUIDELINES

REGIONS

Everything stays the same except:
3 TEAMS advance from each Region instead of 2 TEAMS
7 INDIVIDUALS advance from each Region instead of 10 INDIVIDUALS

STATE-FIRST ROUND

Everything stays the same except:
12 TEAMS compete instead of 8 TEAMS
28 INDIVIDUALS compete instead of 40 INDIVIDUALS
88 PLAYERS compete instead of 80 PLAYERS

4 TEAMS advance from each State-First Round site instead of 3 TEAMS
10 INDIVIDUALS advance from each State-First Round site instead of 15 INDIVIDUALS
PROPOSED RATIO 68/32

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Everything stays the same except:
12 TEAMS compete at the State Championship instead of 9 TEAMS
30 INDIVIDUALS compete at the State Championship instead of 45 INDIVIDUALS
Total Players competing stays the same – 90
PROPOSED RATIO 67/33

SUMMARY

TEAMS

CURRENT ADVANCEMENT
2-3-9
PROPOSED ADVANCEMENT
3-4-12

INDIVIDUALS

CURRENT ADVANCEMENT
10-15-45
PROPOSED ADVANCEMENT
7-10-30

BENEFITS

GEOGRAPHY

One of the stated goals of the KHSAA in conducting a state championship in any sport is to have the Championship be well represented geographically across the state. The current system falls short on this issue since there are currently only 9 teams at the State Championship but there are 12 Regions – by definition, at least 3 Regions would not be represented at Bowling Green Country Club. If the proposal above is approved, there is a chance that all 12 Regions could be represented at the State Championship.

REGION ADVANCEMENT

The proposed changes would advance 3 TEAMS from each Region to the State-First Round. Golf is one of the sports where you can fit 15, 18, or 24 teams on the field at once – rather than 2 - like in basketball, football, baseball, and volleyball. Finishing third or fourth in a competitive Region is not poor play – it is excellent play – and advancing a third team from each Region would be a wise and fair decision. Not only will this advance a competitive team from the deeper regions, but it will also provide a State-First Round experience to 12 more teams state-wide.

TEAM / INDIVIDUAL RATIO

The current system is set up to be a 50/50 ratio between team players and individual players at both the State-First Round (40 team / 40 individual) and the State Championship (45 team / 45 individual).

For many years in Kentucky, the ratio at the State Championship was 77/23 - team players to individuals. A total of 24 teams went to Bowling Green (120 players) and 36 individuals – 156 total players. Pace of play worries, as well as weather delay worries ushered in the State-First Round era and a total of 90 players at State. Moving the team/individual ratio from 77/23 to 50/50 has had massive long-term effects, especially considering that the Team Championship is the headline goal for high school golf participants. The individual golfers in the state know who the best individuals are – they play against each other in the other 10 months of the year. The Team Championship should take on a higher priority at the State Championship. The best players on weaker teams (or no team) will advance from Regions (top 7) and from State-First Round (top 10). Many of the additional teams advancing from Regions and State-First Round will include golfers who would have been individual qualifiers – this gives more teams the chance to have a State Championship experience. That's a win.

SURROUNDING STATES - TEAM / PLAYER RATIOS

Documenting the ratios between team players and individual players from surrounding states does not by itself demand change. But it is interesting how our State Championship - in its current form - does not line up with our neighbors. These are numbers for the State Championship only – and a very telling note about Region advancement in those states.

INDIANA	**83/17**
OHIO	**83/17**
TENNESSEE	**62/38**
KENTUCKY	**50/50 (PROPOSED 67/33)**

REGION ADVANCEMENT
INDIANA, OHIO, AND TENNESSEE ALL ADVANCE 3 TEAMS FROM THEIR REGION EVENT