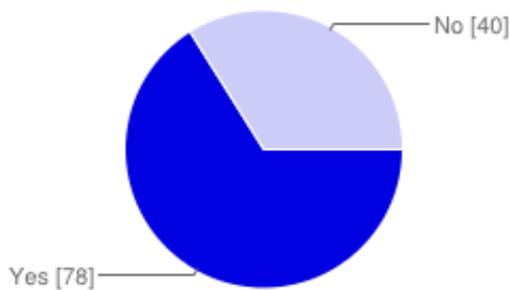


118 responses

Did your league allow the use of rangefinders and coaching on the course during the 2014 season?



Yes	78	66%
No	40	34%

If no, please give the reason(s) your league did not institute the change.

WE did not do it because not everyone had the range finders. We did not coach on the course because we did not want to slow matches down! We also wanted to wait to see what the results were of those who did do it , before we allowed it

Girls golf team: Coaches decision. Some believe some coaches would get to involved. I believe with some restrictions and coaches monitoring coaches it can speed up play, help with rules and help new players feel more comfortable.

Several courses that teams in the league used for play did not allow coaches to walk the course. I'm not sure why rangefinders were not allowed.

The Coaches were divided over the rules changes; although most especially did not support coaching on the course. The league decided to postpone a decision. The arrival of the new CIAC rules, without discussion or survey and only a few weeks before the start of the season also contributed to the objections and some confusion.

Yes to range finders No to coaching- Coaches felt it would slow pace of play and we have trouble with courses and tee times. Thy were also worried about distractions of the other players and the players themselves.

Fairness, pace of play concerns

We allowed rangefinders, but not coaching on the course. Too many of our courses did not want the coaches walking the course.

rangefinders yes....coaching no Coaches were not allowed largely due to the insurance

issues on the course

Slow down the pace of play using range finders with the girl's team. The distance isn't usually an issue at all.

I use one in my state tournament play. However, in high School golf there would be a distinct difference from a player who had a yardage device and one who did not. with my returning 10 players I believe only two players could afford a device of this nature. So if your family is not able to then you loose out and for that reason alone I would viote to not allow these devices. It is a tough call but I tend to think of the disadvantaged player vs the wealthy ones.

Voted on not to have them.

Many of our PGA professionals did not want coaches on the course because it would slow down play.

There was not a unanimous decision made by the coaches and there was also no coaching on the course.

It's not equitable, not all teams have access to technology due to cost. It slows down play, adds to players pre-shot routine that are already to long. 50% of the kids playing in the league can't hit greens in regulation in the first place what do they need an exact yardage.

Not all would have one; sharing was problematic for most coaches. Has been instituted for 2015 on a trial basis. After a year, I expect the rule to continue.

The CCC league put the decision to the coaches before the start of the season via email and the votes for each were about 60-40 in favor. So the chairs of the league decided it wasn't a consensus to go ahead without a thorough debate. We did debate the changes at our year end meeting and the results were slightly more in favor. The chairs felt it still was not enough for a consensus to adopt the rules. Yet the results were submitted to the AD's. However, the AD's and principals decided to adopt the use of rangefinders for next year.

We allowed range finders but we agreed not to coach during a match.

We allowed rangefinders but not coaching on the course. Many of our courses were worried about liability as well as slower play, especially on the private courses we play on and having our coaching slow up play for members.

Slows down pace of play. Takes away from the game which has always been individual.

Not all teams have players who could afford rangefinders.

For financial reasons, rangefinders wouldn't be available to all competitors. Sharing would slow play. Courses have yardage markings and though not all courses have extensive markings, all competitors would have the same info available. As for coaching, it is hard to insure coaches would be available and render impartial decisions.

League wanted to see how it worked out in other leagues and state competition before making a final decision.

Through a league vote it was decided that we wouldn't use them.

We allowed Range Finders but did not provide coaching due to the fact we felt the athletes would be nervous enough with out the coaches watching.

There was a fear that it would slow down play. There was also a concern that allowing rangefinders would create an unfair advantage for those who have the device and those that don't. I also think many of the coaches in the CCC don't like change. I think there is a fear they will be exposed as not being able to coach.

1. cost factor for those schools that could not afford them 2. possibility it could slow play down

Rangefinders allowed, coaching. Multiple issues with coaching. Change was not thought out and coaches questioned whether multiple coaches were allowed on the course, could coaches station themselves at a green and read putts, could teammates coach each other, what if coaches distract members of the other team, should coaches call rules infractions on opposing players, should rules advice be given to your team or opponents team, should coaches line up their players for shots and could a coach play a course before the match. If a major change such as this is made, several clinics for coaches should be held before the season. A survey such as this needs to be done before a change is made. Also pace of play can only be made worse through this change. This change also violates the nature and intent of our sport, which is to play the game on your own, without assistance.

Many of the courses in the SCC would not allow coaches on the course because of insurance issues (non players). Not all of our schools can afford to purchase range finders for their teams. Also, many of our schools have athletes that come from families that can not afford to purchase their own.

I think that the pros at courses did not want coaches on the course and felt it would only slow things down.

Our league did not allow coaching on the course. Said some pros did not want the coaches out on the course.

Could not come to a common ground that was equitable for schools whose players could not get a range finder. Coaching would have been permitted but specifics were not very clear.

We agreed to allow rangefinders. We all felt strongly that coaching on the course would only slow down play.

Don't know. It was going to be adopted then retracted just before the start of the season.

Not sure. They were allowed during the SCC, State tournament and the New England championship.

Pace of play concerns.

there was not a large enough of a consensus in favor or against for the league to make a decision

Equality. Towns with more money than others can buy each kid a range finder where other towns can't. Range finders slow down play because if on kid has it then they have to share with the other players. Kids should learn the art of calculating the distances. Most courses are well marked off.

I believe because some teams would not have range finders (i.e. inner city schools, non golf powers) fear that coaching would slow down play. And not knowing what coaches might do

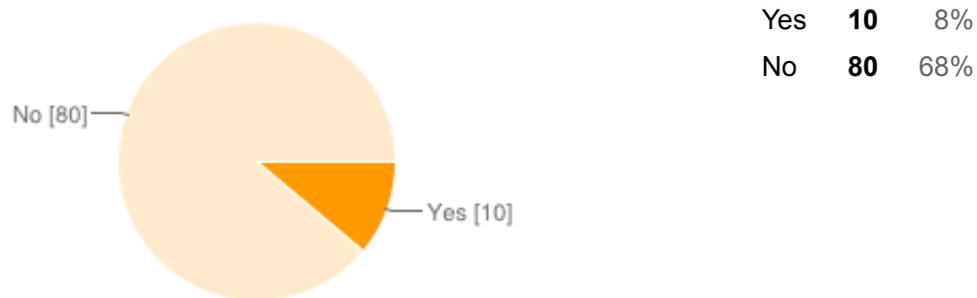
and how to control coaches from over coaching and delaying play.

We allowed rangefinders but not coaching. These questions should be separately addressed. We felt coaching on the course would slow up play and there was a lot of confusion as to what was allowed and what was not. A lot of players get nervous when coaches are watching and play better with just their opponents present. It could also be a safety issue for coaches, or at least a big distraction to have a coach pop out of nowhere to watch a hole. I think all coaching should be done before and after matches. The use of rangefinders provides more information for players. It is equitable because information must be shared if opponents ask if they do not have a rangefinder. I believe, if used properly and quickly, it actually speeds up play.

Rangefinders yes, coaching no.

The coaches felt that the girls should know the rules and be independent on the course. I might add the girls also felt they would be able to handle any problem. They felt that they should be on their own. The cost of range finders was a big concern of the girls also.

Did the use of rangefinders cause any issues with either the pace of play or the providing of information to players without a measuring device?



If yes please comment.

only a few players had them

Caused play to be faster than having to walk off distances. Players did not mind sharing distance readings

N/A

Was not allowed

Our league did not allow range finders.

Yes, it sped up play.

DNA

The less affluent towns seldom have them available while th more wealthy all have them. Asking for distance is like sking for crumbs from the table.

To my knowledge rangefinders were not used in any of my matches last year.

It improved both. Not having to spend time walking around looking for sprinkler heads with distances was a big help. Those sprinkler yardages were to middle of greens. Now players get the exact yardage to pins -even if they are twenty yards off the fairway in the rough or in parallel fairways where there are no markers. Players can also laser carry yardages over hazards so they no longer have to try and compute/guess that distance thereby allowing them play faster. Players were great about sharing yardages with players who did not have the devices. Players were very happy to finally be allowed to use them during the high school golf season since it has become a part of how they play golf everywhere else during the year in both competitive and social situations. We had no negative incidents in our league using them. Homerun.

On the tee box of a par three, Player A (no range finder) asked Player B from a different team, and Player C from a third team during a match what B & C had each player's respective range finders. Player B said 175 and Player C said 200. This created controversy that carried through the entire match. I have also observed players taking too much time w/ range finders and slowing pace of play,

The use of rangefinders provides more information for players. It is equitable because information must be shared if opponents ask if they do not have a rangefinder. I believe, if used properly and quickly, it actually speeds up play. I support the use of laser rangefinders as long as they do not have slope functionality. I also think gps devices should not be allowed. I think the decision to allow rangefinders was a great one. I see it as keeping up with the times.

Fortunately, as a league we were already trying to address the pace of play, so the new rangefinder/coaching rules were introduced in that context. Truth be told I was one of those who expressed some skepticism, but as far as I know, no significant issues arose.

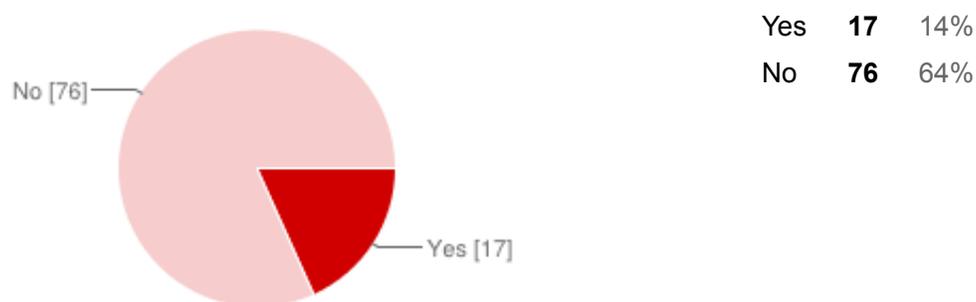
Made play faster

Didn't use

The use of rangefinders allows players to comic ate with one another and estimate the distances. This is particularly helpful on courses that are poorly marked for distances.

Giving false yardages to players who did not have them

Did coaching on the course cause any issues with the pace of play?



If yes please comment.

Slowed things down on the course.

It slows down play

Actually it sped up play- constant reminders about the x rule and helping with rules and what to do when the ball goes out of bounds kept the groups moving

Quite possibly it helped the pace of play, as a number of coaches were quite active marshaling on the course, and acting as spotters on holes we knew to be troublesome.

N/A

Because we didn't do this, but I feel it would disrupt pace of play.

I thought the pace of play slowed when coaches were coaching on the course.

SCC did not allow coaching on the course. Blamed it on a few courses that would not let non players on the course. Said it was due to insurance issues. There are a few coaches that are intimidated by the thought of allowing coaches on the course. Every other sport has active coaching during play. They players still need to execute the shots/plays on their own.

Our league voted against coaching.

Our league did not allow.

Was not allowed

I thought it slowed down play. It also provided the players scores to the coach and allowed strategy. We found you could tell players they could get a 5 or 6 on the last hole and not to use clubs that would get them in trouble. You can take a lot of the thinking part of the game out of the players hands. I don't know if it really helps cause we are not on the course for States.

We as the Shoreline Conference decided that we would not coach on the course. We felt that it would simply be a distraction for the players.

Didn't coach on course. Too many variables. When can you coach a player? If it's only between the green and the next tee then maybe it would work. If it's on course during play that would be a major distraction and slow down in play. Will the coach line up putts?

We did not allow it in our league. We felt coaching on the course would slow up play and there was a lot of confusion as to what was allowed and what was not. A lot of players get nervous when coaches are watching and play better with just their opponents present. It could also be a safety issue for coaches, or at least a big distraction to have a coach pop out to watch a hole. I think all coaching should be done before and after matches. During the state tournament when coaching on the course was allowed, there were many questions as to what was OK to tell players and what was not. I believe it may have held up play and should not be allowed in the future. I believe, when allowed, the cons of coaching on the course outweigh the pros a great deal.

We voted as a league to not coach on the course.

Made the pace faster. Reduced the number of lost balls because I could show them the best

direction to play shots. avoid trouble

I was allowed to coach one match at Norwich Free Academy because their league did allow coaches to coach on the course. I thought it was a good rule overall and it did not slow down play. In fact, it probably helped to speed up play.

It helped move along players especially those that were not as good as some others

Too much interaction with coaches and players in between holes. On course rulings should be allowed but coaching/instruction in between shots effected the pace of play.

To my knowledge coaching did not occur. Only twice did coaches see players to speed up play.

Not allowed

Not that I am aware of in any of the matches I coached. But I heard there was some intimidation or uncomfortable situations. Most of the players preferred us not out there. But for JV it does help move the players along, so that is one thing we should continue to do to have the option.

one coach in particular walked the whole course during matches

In a match with 2 SCC schools and 2 FCIAC schools, one FCIAC coach was on the course coaching, and the #1 players, with no one ahead of them on a wide open private course, took over three hours to play 9 holes.

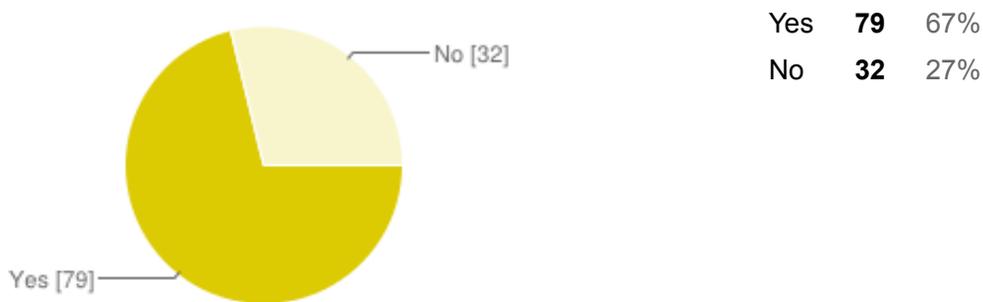
If used correctly, allowing coaching on the course is a benefit to speed of play. If there are issues they are probably caused by not doing it correctly. Education - not elimination - is the solution.

Not allowed in CCC and when used during State play only minor problems arose. I expect to bring them up at next week's meeting.

In one of our first matches I felt like the opposing coach was "over- coaching". I was with my younger players so I did not witness his inappropriate behavior but both of my golfers complained about him. It told my AD about the situation and he did call the AD from that school and our concerns were addressed. Later on in the season, he chose not to walk with his team in the second match and that was much better for all the girls. Not all coaches walked with their team.

When we played out of league matches, those matches took longer to complete because of the interaction with the coaches.

Should the golf committee continue to allow rangefinders and coaching on the course in 2015?



If no please comment.

Coaching on the golf course got better as the season progressed - once we all figured out what was appropriate and when to help out - it worked out - it was a learning process - I am hopefully it will get better each year we implement this new approach.

I do not think they are necessary. Playing on the course and figuring things out on your own is a part of golf- pro golfers do not have swing coaches on course. Also, I do think that the range finders can be an unfair advantage to players/ teams that can afford them.

Golf is an individual sport. Players are learning to deal with situations on the course which will help them as they mature. It is an excellent way of them to discover their strengths and weaknesses. This includes their golf game and their personalities.

Part of the beauty of high school golf and golf in general is it is you against the course. Also, unlike other sports we MUST abide by the facilities requirements. How is fair that some schools are allowed to have coaches walk the courses and others can not. This is unfair and also has state tournament implications. How can you have a tournament and everyone is playing by the same rules during the season and during the post season?

Both of these issues will help speed up play if done correctly and benefit the players in other ways as well.

Even if there were some issues, it deserves a more extensive trial before being dropped.

Coaching on the course should be allowed, but regulated. It should only be permitted between holes and on tee boxes. Rangefinders do not help pace of play, quite the opposite, and provide an unfair advantage for those players who can afford the devices as opposed to those who cannot.

We teach our athletes to during practice to play smart and keep pace. The coaching on the course is not allowed in any other golf format.

I'm not sure why you did not separate the questions in this survey. I am in favor of rangefinders on the course with the provision that the information available be shared. I am not in favor of coaching on the course. I'm not sure how to answer yes or no to a combined question..

why are both of these issues grouped together? Is it not possible to be for rangefinders yet against coaching on the course? Rangefinders on the course are a natural technological advancement in the game. Coaching on the course is a different matter entirely and it is

nonsensical that they are grouped together. Coaching on the course is a bad idea. Though infrequent, coaching on the course affects the other players in the group and takes away from true spirit of the game.

I like the use of range finders but coaching puts too much pressure for both teams.

Too much technology. I believe high school golf is a good time to develop a feel for the game. High school students have lost a feel already for solving math problems because of reliance of using calculators for almost every calculation. I admit I have an "old school" viewpoint.

All kids can't afford these. Lets make it equal. I think it will slow down the game. What happens when they play golf in college, on a league, or in tournaments that don't allow that. I don't think they need to rely on that technology. As far as coaching, kids do get nervous when coaches are out there. All my players have said that numerous times to me this past year. I believe all the coaching should be done before a match. Kids, especially in golf, need to make their own decisions and be independent thinkers rather than relying on a coach.

Push it through the SCC.

For all of my reasons above as well as: I think it makes the kids smarter and use their brains more to try to figure the distance and look for the 100, 150 200 markers or the sprinkler heads and walk off a few yards (or be lazy and not walk if off). Less technology and thus distractions, too. I think at the Varsity level let these teenagers learn how to interact and deal with each other, rather than have the coach as a helicopter coach or counting an opponent's strokes for them. We teach them enough in practice and hey need to learn to apply it alone on the course.

Not all kids have range finders. If coaches are on the course they should be together. The coaches sometimes intimidate the other players in the group.

coaching on the course is not allowed at all facilities which provides an unfair advantage to teams who play at courses that allow it. The same applies to rangefinders and financial inequity between districts. If all-state and tournament entry is based on the differential then the leagues that allow coaching and rangefinders may have a distinct advantage. We all need to be on a level playing field regarding this.

Not needed. Courses are marked for yardage. It would be fine to observe play during a match but save the comments and coaching to after the match. Many player will feel inhibited with their coach hanging over their every shot.

I agree on range finders totally. I am against coaching on the course. Truthfully, most of the players in our league do not want us offering advice whether it is club selection, wind, chip shot selection etc...Where we could help the most is on the greens but that was not allowed in the coaching rules.

Rangefinders....yes Coaching on the course....no....I think we are giving ourselves too much credit, thinking that we are coaching them.....we have 5 players at different places on the course....we can't be with all of them.....Our players can play and perform on their own.

I think rangefinders are fine, but I'm not sure about the coaching on the course.

I feel they both can potentially slow down the pace of play.

Rangefinders are good. I don't think there should be coaching on the course.

On course coaching would delay play, increase scores and cause conflicts on the course with rulings between teams and coaches. I would have a problem with other coaches watching or interfering in matches. My athletes don't need that added anxiety on being watched. On course coaching has really not been defined or the reason behind it.

Why aren't these questions separated. They are two separate issues!

I don't support either change, although the use of rangefinders would cause less disruption. Both rules however, cannot help but slow the game down. Coaching on the course would fundamentally alter the nature and conduct of the high game as it exists. What follows is a statement I sent to the CCC leadership last spring when we first notified of the CIAC proposal. After much discussion with other coaches, I see no reason to alter my position outlined below.

To: CCC Golfing Leadership From: Richard Bruneau, Rocky Hill HS Golf Coach Re: CIAC & CIAC Rules Changes

First let me thank the CCC Golfing leadership for providing an opportunity for comment on the proposed rules changes before the season commences. Regrettably, the CIAC Golfing Committee did not follow this path before issuing its proposals. Combined, the CIAC proposals would dramatically change the nature, flow and integrity of the competition, as well as introduce unnecessary and potentially harmful technological, competitive equity and "coaching" elements into matches. While I have tremendous respect for many of the members of the CIAC Golfing Committee, I strongly object to both CIAC proposals, as well as the process for developing and the timing for issuing these pilot proposals. Equally important, the CIAC provided no rationale or justification for introducing a major overhaul of the player/coach relationship and responsibilities during a match or evidentiary explanation for radically transforming player competition. Clearly the CIAC Golfing Committee should pay closer attention to an old but well tested adage- "If it ain't broke don't fix it."

Distance Measuring Devices: CIAC Proposal- No; CCC Proposal S- No I do not support the proposals on the use of distance measuring devices by the CIAC or the suggested CCC modifications. The use of electronic range devices represents an unwarranted technological intrusion that hinders player development. Young players especially need to acquire a keen eye in judging distance and assessing hazards without resorting to technology. These skills are fundamental to the game. The real hazard here is creating another technological dependency. Use of range devices cannot avert slowing play and present insurmountable inequities between players and teams. There should be no range finders on the course during a match. These devices should be restricted to training during practices.

Coaching on the Course: CIAC Proposal- No; CCC Proposal T- No I do not support the CIAC proposal "Coaching on the Course" and while I'm pleased that the CCC is taking a strong stand opposing "coaching" during matches, I do not believe there is any reason to alter the rules regarding coaches on the course that have successfully and historically guided matches. Hence, I also do not support the modifications proposed by the CCC leadership. The current process for resolving rules interpretations support impartial decisions and anonymity for both the player and team prior to the ruling. In addition, the need for a rule interpretation during a match is an exception. If timely play is an issue, it can be easily handled by giving it greater

emphasis in the pre-match review and during practice sessions. The speed of play is the responsibility of the players. Current rules cultivate responsible play where player independence, honor and integrity during matches are expected and nurtured. The presence of coaches undermines player responsibility and creates a watchdog mentality. Hence, I do not support either proposal. Additional Comments Regarding Coaching on the Course: I'm offering these additional points of discussion regarding coaching during play in the hope that they will contribute to blocking this CIAC pilot proposal. I have copied below the relevant statements from the CIAC 2014 Tournament Packet; my comments are italicized. Coaching on the Course – The following provisions for the CIAC Golf Championships are intended for coaches to provide as much support as possible while remembering that players compete themselves during competitions and to help improve the pace of play. The intent of coaching on the course is to allow coaches to support the players in competition. Golf is a game of honesty, integrity and honor. As a general rule, over-coaching has never been a good practice. Commentary: This introduction for the Coaching on the Course pilot is notable only for its general incoherence exemplified by contradictory directives. For example, how can a coach “provide as much support as possible” while remaining mindful that “players compete themselves during competitions” or that “over-coaching has never been a good practice?” Indeed, how much coaching is enough? Where is the line between coaching and “over-coaching” drawn and who monitors the coach? With coaches encroaching and interjecting themselves into the round of golf, the players will no longer “compete themselves.” Platitudes like “improving the pace of play” do not require coaching on the course and the reminder that “Golf is a game of honesty, integrity and honor” unwittingly reveals that actively coaching on the course will raise issues of honesty, integrity and honor. Indeed, “coaching on the course” robs players of their independence, integrity and sense of honor, while placing the coach in the role of overseer. Fundamentally, this alters the nature of golfing competition as it has effectively existed without any expressed rationale or justification. The provisions are designed for one certified coach from each school entered in the state championship. The USGA definition of “advice” will be adhered to in the state championship competition. “Advice is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining his/her play, the choice of club or method of making a stroke. Information on the rules or on matters of public information, such as position of hazards or the position of the flag stick on the putting surface is not advice.” Coaching may begin once all players have completed teeing off. Coaches may continue to provide advice and support until play has reached the putting surface at which time coaching shall cease. Players must proceed immediately to the next hole without delay – the pace of play in the state championship is of paramount importance to all the competitors. Any violation of USGA Rule 6-7 “Undue Delay” may be subject to a two stroke penalty for the first offense and disqualification for the second offense. Coaches should assist in monitoring not only their own player(s), but all players in the competition. Commentary: Taken as a whole, the three preceding paragraphs only add to obfuscation of the proposal. For example, the USGA definition of “advice”, (which according to the CIAC Proposal “will be adhered to”) prohibits coaching/instruction during a match, yet the CIAC proposal encourages instruction

between the tee and green. Similarly, the proposal states that “Coaches may continue to provide advice and support” prior to green play. Not only does this statement contradict the USGA definition of advice, but introduces an undefined term, “support”. What does “support” permit? Well, according to the Proposal’s introductory paragraph, coaches are allowed “to provide as much support as possible.” Again, one searches in vain for clarity. The CIAC Coaching “May” and “May Not” examples, (listed below my commentary) Commentary: These examples aim at clarification but do little more than illustrate why this proposal for Coaching on the Course will dramatically alter the nature and flow of competition and should be withdrawn for the aforementioned reasons as well as the following considerations:

- The proposal violates the spirit and letter of the USGA rules on “advice” during a match. Coaching on the course is detrimental to the game and player development.
- The CIAC recommendation that during the match, coaches “give advice on matters such as club selection, wind direction, stance, grip, hole strategy, swing adjustments and mental adjustments”, strikes at the heart of what is expected of an independent, resourceful competitive golfer. This support is necessary but not during a match. It reflects a dependency mentality where the coach becomes a crutch or an unwarranted, distracting intruder.
- Cultivating matches where players have the independent opportunity to demonstrate the “honesty, integrity and honesty” that the CIAC hopes to promote will not be served by interjecting Coaching on the Course and indeed will create issues that will challenge the maintenance and sustenance of these vital values.
- Coaching on the Course can only slow play and has the potential of breaking the concentration and flow of play for the other golfers. When a coach discovers a “teachable moment” what are the other players supposed to do? Stop and watch? What happens when a well-intentioned, but overzealous coach, crosses the ill-defined line offered by the committee as “over-coaching? Who reels him in? Who does an opposing player complain to? What impact does this frustration have on a player’s game? What if a conflict erupts between a coach and one of his players during the match or two coaches? The negative permutations are endless and, of course, completely unnecessary, providing coaches remain where they belong during a match: off the field of play.
- NO rationale or explanation has been provided for these changes, but let’s imagine that the CIAC Committee hopes to replicate the coaching-player game-time interaction found in other sports like basketball, baseball, football, etc. This is simply impossible in a golf match due to the dispersal of the players. A golf team is never completely under the management of the coach except at the beginning and end of the match.
- Currently, coaching, strategy sessions, course play, particular challenges relevant to a course, etc. along with preparations and debriefings for each golfer are all open to discussion before and after the match. Interjecting coaching into the match raises immediate equity issues both within a team and between teams. It also raises equity issues relevant to matches within a conference. For example, in comparing a dual match vs. a tri-match, a coach in a dual team match could influence play on each hole for two of his golfers while other conference coaches playing a tri-match could only support one player at each hole. In addition, coaching decisions as to which player to coach during a match will undoubtedly be scrutinized by players and parent, leaving the coach open

to additional charges of favoritism and/or complaints that a player has been given an unfair advantage. Once again, the CIAC proposals create potential problems without corresponding profit for the player, team, coach or golfing competition. Richard Bruneau Rocky Hill HS, Golf Coach

I am OK with range finders but coaching on the course is not equitable. Some teams have multiple coaches and some have only 1. If we limit it to only one designated coach that would be better but some teams gain an advantage by having more coaches.

Yes on rangefinders....no on coaching on the course

I just believe that golfers should be able to accurately judge the distance by sight without assistance from a GPS device. Its taking away from a skill level.

I felel at this level, students should get used to judging distance by eye. I feel it takes away from the "purity" of the game. In addition, the pros don't use them.

The golf committee should allow rangefinders but not coaching on the course.

- As a general philosophy, high school golfers need to learn to think for themselves when managing the golf course.Coaches can provide guidance during practice. That's what practice is for. -Coaches may tend to overdo it. Matches are not the time for lessons on swing mechanics. continued below

I'm on the committee

Coaching yes. Rangefinders no. The rangefinder stance is heavily based on economic issue for families of lesser means and hardly necessary at the high school level. We are in the era of "pay to play" and rangefinders both compound the investment and "tilt the course" competitively.

First, my course was very hesitant to allow a non golfer on the course....for insurance AND pace of play issues.. Second, why would a very "good" team need another voice on the course telling them what to do when you have a fellow teammate in your foursome to support you (obviously, within the rules of PGA)

Rangefinders YES Coaching NO

See above

I believe that the range finders help speed up play but coaching slows it down. We teach the athletes what to do during practice, they should be able to adjust and evaluate themselves to play better without a coach telling them what to do.

Please add any other comments or suggestion regarding rangefinders or coaching on the course for the golf committee.

I see no reason to not allow rangefinders or coaching on a golf course. The biggest reason that I've have been given for not allowing coaching on the course it that it will slow down play (I never saw that as an issue last year). I actually witnessed the opposite. I saw instances when coaches chose not to go on the course with their players (while I chose to go on the course) and what I observed from the other players is that they could have benefitted from a

coach encouraging them to speed up their play. If anything, rangefinders speed up play. The current policy should continue.

If a player has the skill to hit a ball a given yardage he should have an accurate yardage available to him or her. As long as information is shared, I fail to see how having a rangefinder does anything but make the better player better. I am not in favor of coaching on the course. If I were to coach, it would be to help read greens but this is not permitted. I like my players to have the responsibility to make their own decisions and act on them, for better or for worse. That is one of the great attributes of the game of golf-the golfer is responsible for his/her play.

To allow coaching on the tee to the green. This would help with just telling golfers what club they should hit on par 3 for an example or blind shots.

I think the new rules should continue even though our conference will probably not implement them. I enjoyed the ability to speak with/coach my girls during the State Championship. The girls liked being able to use their range finders.

Please share the results of this survey with all coaches and/or athletic departments My boys team would have liked to use range finders and were disappointed when our league did not allow use. Our girls may not have cared either way. As far as coaching is concerned I think I would only encourage players and not get too technical for fear of slowing playing and causing confusion.

it was allowed in the state tournament and I tried it for the first time and found it to speed play up and it was not a distraction to anyone else.

For those of us that have lots of beginners coaching during a match ensures a faster pace of play than left unattended and it gives the coaches opportunities to make sure players follow the correct action based on the rules of golf

We urge courses that aren't marked well enough to make the distances clearly marked. Simple lessons of walking off distances is so helpful in the art of finding a distance. Golf is a unique sport that you call your own fouls on yourself. It is truly an independent sport when you are out playing on the course. I love what and how it builds character in individuals. I truly believe the coaching and range finders take away from the game!

Like the issue of the range finders, the first year they did not allow it then they did. With both issues I believe it just takes time for coaches and players to get used to it.

Golf is a game of honor. If rangefinders (laser or skycaddy type) are allowed then athletes should be allowed to use their smartphones with the golf gps app's. I know the rules forbid using the slope and wind functions on the rangefinders but there is no real way to police this and so we rely on an athletes code of honor and ethics. With that in mind, You should let the athletes use their smartphone golf gps apps also relying on their code of honor and ethics. Why allow one and not the other? Welcome to the 21st century of golf.

I appreciate that the final decision is left to the league coaches to institute.

I believe coaching should extend to the tee box...reason... many times players are seeing the golf course for the first time and do not know where to go or what direction to hit. Hitting a tee shot is no different than hitting any other shot. Putting is different... we could be there all day.

No coaching on putting.

When nonleague teams that did not allow coaching played at my home course, they said they wished they could coach during play. They embraced the idea of COACHING during play. Play moved faster due to the coaches being there for a ruling rather than waiting for players to finish their match.

Clear guidelines need to be established regarding both.

Coaching should be allowed as slow play is a problem and some coaches are the worst at recognizing this. Coaches NEED to monitor pace of play of their players. At the risk of being heavily criticized, this is not play time for coaches! Pace of play is not dependent on ability. I have seen 30 handicappers play quicker than kids that I have had that thought they were on the PGA Tour. Golf course facilities give us their courses for a prescribed amount of time-not an unlimited amount of time and we should be thankful they give us their courses.

It was very difficult to do any real effective coaching when there were tri or quad matches. There were too many groups spread out over the course and my home course did not allow any use of carts on the course.

It boggles my mind that golf coaches prefer to be the only coaches that might not want to coach their players. Imagine asking a basketball coach not to coach his players. No play calling, no conferring, no change of strategy, etc... Furthermore, it is frowned upon even watching the players play. What would a basketball, football, soccer, volleyball, track, tennis coach say if you forbid him to watch the game or to talk to his players? (Because coaching slows down the game.) Really, it is amazing.

Let's move golf to fall so kids get extra yr for recruiters....it will be a plus for all!

Not everyone has one. The school's won't supply them. I don't want phones used because that leads to texting on the course. Players could communicate to each other that way. Sharing club choice on a par 3, etc.

These rules should stay the same because they helped immensely in our league because we have teams that have players playing golf for the first time ever. The instruction these players got will help in the future. It also allowed us to speed up play for everyone. I also believe in a competitive match it helped to be able to tell players some strategy down the stretch that might end up helping to win the match

How did it work out for those who did allow both range finders and coaching on the course? 1) Did everyone have a range finder, was it the same type? 2) Did coaching on the course slow play?

The use of rangefinders speeds up pace of play because individuals are not forced to walk off yardage or search for a yardage marker.

I feel the new rules did not speed up play yet did not slow the pace either.

I am not sold on rangefinders for high school golf. Many kids do not own them due to the expense.

Clarify how much interaction the coach may have with players during competition on the

course, in between strokes. I don't believe the coaches should walk with the players during competition. Maybe just after putting on the way to the next tee. After teeing off, just off the tee and then no interaction until the hole is finished.

We allowed rangefinders but not coaching. These questions should be separately addressed. We felt coaching on the course would slow up play and there was a lot of confusion as to what was allowed and what was not. A lot of players get nervous when coaches are watching and play better with just their opponents present. It could also be a safety issue for coaches, or at least a big distraction to have a coach pop out to watch a hole. I think all coaching should be done before and after matches. During the state tournament when coaching on the course was allowed, there were many questions as to what was OK to tell players and what was not. I believe it may have held up play and should not be allowed in the future. The use of rangefinders provides more information for players. It is equitable because information must be shared if opponents ask if they do not have a rangefinder. I believe, if used properly and quickly, it actually speeds up play. I support the use of laser rangefinders as long as they do not have slope functionality. I also think gps devices should not be allowed. I think the decision to allow rangefinders was a great one. I see it as keeping up with the times.

We made the kids with range finders share information with the group if asked to. And it speeded up play. Coaches on the course many times were looking for lost balls to prevent strokes rather than coaching which slowed down play c

I felt that rangefinders actually increased the pace of play because it made the players decisions faster and more decisive. The coaching aspect also was fine if done properly. I strongly urge the committee to continue with both rangefinders including all post season tournaments as well as coaching on the course.

There has been no rationale of justification provided by the CIAC for making these rules changes. The current system works well and has worked well for decades, it would be wise and prudent to present evidence that these changes are necessary and beneficial before promoting implementation. Thank you for requesting input from the coaches.

Overall, my course has made it very clear that they feel very uneasy allowing a non golfer on the course and I agree. We are also concerned about how this would undoubtedly increase the match time/pace of play when many courses have paying customers (if not leagues) waiting to tee off after high school matches.

Though I personally did not take advantage of the "coaching" on the course that much, it was helpful a few times when I was able to help "spot" balls for all players. Occasionally I shared info like, "make sure you take a extra club into the wind" or some benign comment like "hang in there other teammates are playing well." I also did not see any other coach abuse this privilege at all. I believe it improved sportsmanship immensely across the league as well.

I don't see any way that coaching on the course wouldn't slow down the pace of play. In my opinion there is no scenario where it would speed up play.

If the CIAC is going to provide range finders for each member school then I am in favor of it. To add costs does not make sense to me. Especially the fact that many school systems can

not take on this additional expense.

I think we should be as close to college golf as possible so I like the idea of coaching as an option. Also, I think we should allow ALL golfers the option to use pull carts. They use this equipment in many division one college tournaments. Lastly, I would like to see the venue of our State tournament changed - it is time to go somewhere else beside Orange Hills. I know this is off the subject but it is one way to get your attention to address some of these ideas. Thanks for the survey and allowing us to give you some input.

The implementation of both topics has absolutely been a positive experience for the sport. Please DO NOT even think about taking these away, it would be a big mistake. As a competitor golfer myself, I will attest that the pace of play is definitely more efficient with the use of a rangefinder. The kids have been very supportive of each other by providing info to competitors. The amount of time saved walking around looking for yardage markers is considerable, especially if a course is not well marked. There is absolutely no competitive advantage by using a DMD, if so the USGA, MGA, CSGA & others would not allow them in their competitions. I used a DMD this summer in every event I participated in including the USGA Public Links & USGA Mid-Am. Coaching has also been a great addition, to be honest it was long overdue. The players deserve a resource while competing on rule issues and the proper procedures. For my first 14 years coaching it was painful having to watch a player make a rules infraction because of lack of knowledge because he was not allowed to ask the coaches his options. I can say that I was very limited in my on course coaching and spent more time walking with players and watching them compete rather than play in the last group. More and more coaches are not playing anymore and actually walking the course with the players. This also allows a 6th player to play for each team and gain some experience even if score isn't counting. The changes that have been made have undoubtedly improved the sport, please keep them in place. In fact, as a coach who has many players play at the next level I would like to see college coaching rules be applied to get the players use to the next level.

Being a traditionalist, I have always opposed rangefinders and coaching on the course. With a change of heart and having a rangefinder myself, I would now be in favor of the rangefinder but I am still opposed to the idea of coaching on the course.

We should be coaching in the Fall!!!

Absolutely beneficial for the athletes.

To ban coaching on the course does not make any sense to me. Why do we hire coaches? Last time I checked it was to coach, not sit back and watch.

Most student athletes have cell phones. There are free apps for golf course GPS systems. Everyone who doesn't have a range finder still has the capability of the GPS function. I would suggest allowing coaching up until the player is on the green.

Suggest you continue to allow range finders and require that those with them share information to those who do not. Suggest you do not allow coaches to coach on the course.

With the 2014 season under our belts all schools should be that more comfortable to adopt these new policies accordingly.

Rangefinders definitely help the players move faster on the course. The only disadvantage is when players don't have enough money to purchase one. Coaching on the course slowed down the pace of play as well as increased individual and team scores. The majority of players get tensed up when a coach has eyes on them. They second guess each decision they make on the course. There are only a select few players, the "A" players, that have no issue with being coached on the course. I understand that perhaps this rule is in effect to better prepare our players for college but remember that the players who play in college are your better players, not the average high school player. There are better ways to speed up the pace of play in high school matches. Certainly using coaches as rangers on the course should help move things along. Penalty strokes are barely ever assessed and should come into play more often.

These were two very good, well thought out, practical rules changes. Coaching on the course can especially help the girls keep a good pace on the course. Do not even consider changing these rules. They work and are good for the high school game. Colleges were already doing this.

Our league decided not to let coaches coach on the course during league matches. In the State Tournament, I found it helpful to keep one of my golfers calm and to generally just keep him relaxed. However, there are some coaches that have not read the rules correctly or the rules are a bit unclear about coaching on the course.

My first experience with the use of rangefinders and coaching on the course was at the state tournament. The use of rangefinders caused no problems or delays. Allowing coaching on the course was problematic. Coaches were unaware of the details of what is allowed and what is not allowed. One coach kept talking to the players while they were on the tee. Another coach fancies himself as a rules expert and gave a bad ruling that resulted in an advantage for a player that may have helped the team tie for first in the championship. I think clear education on coaching on the course and providing rules information to players is a must for this change to be successful. Please call to discuss. 860-529-4726 Thanks for doing this survey.

The presence of a coach for an opposing player can be distracting or intimidating for some golfers. Having coaches walk along with their players destroys the social atmosphere of high school golf. Range finders are not allowed by the rules of golf. CIAC and conferences should not take it upon themselves to adopt local rules.

I did experience coaching on course during the CIAC Div. II Tournament. I do believe there is some value in being able to provide options to the competitors in the midst of competition where a drop or other situation arises. I still like to see the competitors make the final decisions when one must be made. I think they learn from being able to reflect on the outcomes as they make them. As far as rangefinders go, I have seen public play relying on them too much, but as time goes on, more and more players will resort to the use of the devices. I suppose, if students can afford to supply their own clubs, a rangefinder is a minimal expense.

It was great to see the interaction of the coaches with the players on the course this year.

See above. It is believed here that Spring vs Fall Golf is a far more important issue for feedback to your committee. If CT State High School Golf is to be considered from the youngsters standpoint, as it should be, there is overwhelming argument favoring Fall. Wilton's host club strongly supports change - as does it's coach. Wilton would also ask the committee to consider permitting coaching out-of-season. Apologies for these negatives from this rookie coach

I prefer the coaching during matches not be allowed. But if it is, continue to keep them (us) off the greens - no reading putts.

Rangefinders should be allowed to speed up play. Players sometimes are walking around looking for yardage markers.

Thanks for moving forward on these issues and bringing high school golf in CT into the 21st century. these two changes should stay so the committee can move forward on other topics including The possibilities of liberalizing the restrictions on weekend tournament play for high school golfers, create an Open Tournament following the regular state championships, CSGA rules officials at tourney sites; realtime online scoring at state tournament so parents/media can follow event, and FALL Golf for the boys. The CT PGA has real concerns about the demand for tee times from varsity and JV teams for both the boys and girls teams at the very time (Spring) when the demand to play is greatest (after not playing all winter). Keep the issue to the real issue - balancing the number of sport offerings for boys in the fall (currently cross country, football, soccer) vs the Spring (golf, baseball, track, volleyball, lacrosse, tennis...). Both Mass and NY state have the boys in the fall and the girls in the Spring. The CIAC needs to do what is in the best interests of the student -athletes and the long term interests of High School Sports in CT and make this decision on it's own and grandfather it in to give coaches/schools and courses time to adjust. If you leave it to the coaches/ADs they will always vote their self - interest. I coach in the fall as well as the spring but I am willing to give that up for the betterment of the sport. If we don't take the initiative the CT PGA may do it for us. We can't afford to alienate them - we have not sport without their courses. Think of the courses who would consider hosting the State tournament in the Fall when play is slow as opposed to the first week of June. If the girls stay in the Spring they actually increase opportunities for girls because their squad size can possibly increase with the boys gone. CIAC moves the boys to balance sport offerings not to gain an advantage over the girls. I would support moving only the girls to the fall but it does not address the disparity of sport offerings on the boys side. Five years from now we will wonder why we didn't do this years ago. Thanks for your consideration.

Coaching guidelines need to be clarified to cover all areas of the golf cours while players are competing.