Fall Golf Option

**THE PROPOSAL:** The proposal is to allow schools, through their leagues, to choose to play golf in the fall or the spring.

**RATIONAL:** The CIAC has considered a proposal for moving boys’ golf to the fall which was not passed by the CIAC Board of Control. The reason for the original proposal was that a number of schools are having difficulty accessing their course in the spring. The reason the proposal didn’t pass is because a number of other schools had concerns with playing in the fall. With the defeat of the proposal, many schools are still left with the problem of poor access to their courses. In this proposal, schools have the option to play in the spring or the fall, and can make that decision based on what is best for their own situation to the benefit of the most students possible.

**BY-LAW DETAILS:**

1. CIAC schools, through their Leagues, have the option of playing golf in the fall or in the spring for boys or girls.
2. Prior to January 1, 2021 leagues must submit a report in writing to the CIAC Associate Executive Director (Gregg Simon) and CIAC Liaison for golf (Joe Velardi). That submission must include the names of the schools for each league who will play golf in the fall of 2021 and the spring of 2022. In effect, leagues must report which season schools will play golf for the 21-22 school year by January 1, 2021. The league commissioner, as recognized by the CIAC, is the person responsible for making this report to the CIAC.
3. Each league can determine the process they use and the number of teams that will play in each season. (Leagues also may decide that any number of schools can play in one season or the other. However, the definition of league requires a minimum of 5 schools.) Therefore, a league can create a separate golf schedule within their current league to accommodate a move for some of its schools. Note: This decision lies with leagues because leagues determine the golf schedules.
4. The commitment to play in the chosen season must be reported to the CIAC for the following year by January 1st. Therefore:

 For the 21-22 school year, leagues must report by January 1, 2021.

 For the 22-23 school year, leagues must report by January 1, 2022.

 For the 23-24 school year, leagues must report by January 1, 2023.

 For the 24-25 school year, leagues must report by January 1, 2024.

Note: This allows schools and leagues the flexibility to move to the fall at a time beneficial their own situation.

1. The CIAC Golf Committee will organize the number of tournaments for each season relevant to the number of schools who are playing golf in that season. For the purpose of organizing state championship tournaments there must be the following minimums for either spring or fall:
	1. Under 20 schools = no state tournament
	2. 20 to 37 schools = 1 state tournament
	3. 37 to 71 schools = 2 state tournaments
	4. 72 to 111 schools = 3 state tournaments
	5. Over 111 schools = 4 state tournaments
* If there are fewer than 20 schools that opt for a season, thereby negating a state tournament for that season, those schools would be given the option to change seasons as long as they notify the CIAC by February 1st.
1. Divisions will be decided on the basis enrollment for each season.
2. Students can only compete in the state tournament during the season in which they compete. Qualifying standards for the state tournaments would be determined by the CIAC Golf Committee.
3. If a school has a boys’ team then boys can only play on that school’s team. (A boy whose school plays in one season can not play golf in the other season for another school such as for a team of one, or on a coop.)
4. Only those competing in the fall season will be considered for the New England Tournament. (The New England Tournament will be played in the fall beginning in 2021)
5. Girls can play on the boys’ team in the fall, or the girls’ team in the spring but not both. Girls can only play golf in one season during the academic school year. Per CIAC Rules Appendix B, H - An individual girl is permitted to golf with the boys’ golf program from their school which is in a different season than the girls program offered by their school but they cannot compete with both.
6. If there are three or more divisions in either season then there will be an Open tournament during that season.
7. The rules for qualifying procedures, season limitations, out of season coaching rules, outside matches, shall remain the same for each season in accordance with CIAC Rules.
8. The fall season dates for the 2021 season would be:
9. First Practice Date       Monday, August 16, 2021
10. First Match Date       Monday, August  30, 2021
11. Last Match Date                        Wednesday, October 13, 2021
12. Tournament Forms Due                Wednesday, October 13, 2021
13. Pairings Meeting   Thursday, October 14, 2021
14. Division Tournaments               Monday, October 18, 2021
15. Division Tournaments               Tuesday, October 19, 2021
16. State Open                                         Saturday, October 23, 2021

14. The CIAC Golf Committee will review and reevaluate the success of this proposal four years after implementation.

**QUESTIONS:**

WHY ARE GIRLS INCLUDED IN THIS PROPOSAL?

There currently is no interest in having the girls play in the fall. However, it could be a Title IX issue if boys were afforded that opportunity and girls were not.

WHAT IS THE REASONING FOR THE TIMELINES FOR SUBMITTING SCHOOLS’ SEASON CHOICE?

Leagues must submit the names of the schools which will play in the fall and spring the following school year by January 1. That gives the golf committee time to organize divisions, fall tournaments and spring tournaments, and sites for the next school year.

CAN A LEAGUE RUN A BOYS’ SEASON IN THE FALL AND THE SPRING?

Yes. In some leagues there may be enough teams who want to play in each season to run a fall golf schedule and a spring golf schedule.

DO ALL SCHOOLS HAVE TO DETERMINE IF THEY WILL PLAY IN THE FALL BY JANUARY 1, 2021 AND REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE FALL FOREVER?

No. The by-laws are written so that schools can move to the fall (if that is their choice) any year as long as their league reports that by January 1 of the previous year.

WHAT IS THE RATIONALE FOR ALLOWING SCHOOLS TO MOVE TO THE FALL IN LATER YEARS?

What we learned from the original fall golf proposal is that each school has a different situation. There may be some schools that would have to adjust their budgets. Some schools have kids who are freshmen and sophomores who are good golfers that also play a fall sport. Those schools may want to allow those kids to complete their high school career playing golf. Some schools may lose their course in the future and may need to change season because their new course prefers to play in the fall. There are a variety of circumstances and this proposal allows for the greatest flexibility for the benefit of the most students.

CAN A SCHOOL MOVE TO THE FALL ONE SCHOOL YEAR AND THEN THE NEXT YEAR MOVE BACK TO THE SPRING?

Yes. However they cannot play in the fall and spring in the same school year.

CAN LEAGUES DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS WHICH WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN EACH SEASON? CAN LEAGUES SET LIMITS?

Yes. As long as there are at least 5 teams a league can set a limit for each season. For example a league may want to have at least 7 or 8 teams in each season in order to be able to run a full schedule. There must be a minimum of 5 teams to meet the CIAC definition of a “league”. This is up to each league to determine through their own league by-laws.

CAN LEAGUES “PARTNER” WITH OTHER LEAGUES FOR SCHEDULING PURPOSES?

Yes. For example, if two leagues only have 5 teams each to participate in a season, they can coordinate schedules in order to fill their season.

DO LEAGUES HAVE TO HAVE A LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT IN EACH SEASON?

That is up to the league to decide.

HOW MANY STATE TOURNAMENTS WILL OCCUR IN EACH SEASON?

That depends on the number of teams that play in the season. The by-law details (#5) above sets the range of number of teams that will be required to conduct tournaments and the number of tournaments that would occur.

DOESN’T THIS “WATER DOWN” THE TOURNAMENTS?

There are people who feel that by dividing up golf into two seasons the state tournaments will be “weakened”. As such, there may be some Division 1 schools who would never get to compete against other Division 1 schools in a state tournament.

There is no getting around this situation. But, the positive side is that more kids will get more access to their course for the previous 9 weeks of the season. In addition, the flexibility of allowing schools to choose the season best for their situation may lead to an increase in boys and girls participation.

Also, this would be a great benefit to girls teams that remain in the spring because if their boys’ team moves to the fall, the girls would have better access to their course.

WHY ARE ONLY THE FALL GOLFERS ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THE NEW ENGLAND TOURNAMENT?

Because the New England tournament will be held in the fall beginning in 2021. If  a kid plays in the spring of 2020 they may have graduated, or may be playing another sport during the fall of 2021. Also, CIAC rules do not allow a kid to play in the same sport in two different seasons.