



Montana High School Association

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September 28, 2005

TO: GOLF COACHES

FROM: BRIAN MICHELOTTI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

RE: GOLF – AWARDS RULE IN MONTANA

This memo is to remind all high school golf coaches about the MHSA award rule. The MHSA office receives many questions each year regarding this rule as it pertains to golfers. Many other states have different award rules for golf. In Montana, the award rule for golf is exactly the same as it is with all other activities. The award rule in the MHSA Handbook reads:

“No award exceeding twenty dollars (\$20.00) in value shall be given per event in any MHSA sanctioned sport or in any MHSA sanctioned interscholastic activity by a member school, by any person or by an organization to a student in recognition of that student’s achievement or participation in any interscholastic activity. An event is defined as a sports camp, an invitational tournament/meet, a post season recognition function (i.e. sports banquet), or a fund raiser or similar function. Cash can not be awarded.”

Here are a few examples of prizes that are illegal if the value is over \$20.00: gift certificates for merchandise in a club house, merchandise won in a long drive or longest putt contest, and any other prize given that has a value of over \$20. It is a violation if any amount of cash is received. This applies in all golf tournaments, including best ball, stroke play and match play tournaments. Also, a high school golfer is not permitted to accept a prize or have a family member accept the prize on his/her behalf after the season for competition that actually occurred during the season. In other words, postponing the acceptance of the illegal award would still constitute a violation.

If a player accepts any award for a golf tournament, any time during the year, the penalty would be that the golfer could be declared ineligible. The MHSA Handbook, Section 16 item F reads: Violation of the award rule will render the student ineligible in the MHSA sponsored sport or activity for which the student received the award.

Hopefully this will provide clarification to all golfers. Thanks for your attention to this matter, and have great season.