KEY ITEMS.

- Determining 15th team/9th individual spots after three days of stroke play. The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Golf Committees are recommending that any ties for the final team and individual spots after three days of stroke play be decided by the non-sudden death tie-breaking procedures rather than a playoff.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.
   a. Automatic Qualification.
      (1) Recommendation. That the following 28 conferences sponsoring women's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2016 championships: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pacific-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.
      (2) Effective Date. 2015-16 academic year.
      (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
      (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
      (5) Student-Athlete Impact. The NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet has traditionally approved all of the conferences the committee has recommended for automatic qualification.
b. Sunday Noon Start Time Waiver.

(1) **Recommendation.** That the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve a permanent waiver of NCAA Division I Bylaw 31.1.4.4.1 for women's golf that will allow competition to start prior to noon on Sunday in order to accommodate the approved championships format for the finals and the future date formula adjustment for regional competition.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediately for the finals in 2016; regional sites beginning in 2017.

(3) **Rationale.** The committee believes that even though the exception (Bylaw 31.1.4.4.1) is available for request on an annual basis due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., weather), that the change in the format (finals) and the adjustment to the date formula (regionals) makes it necessary for planning purposes to request a permanent waiver of the bylaw. The committee noted that beginning in 2015 for the finals, Sunday became a day of stroke-play competition for all 24 teams and 12 individuals and required an early morning start similar to the previous two days in order to complete the competition rounds for all participants. For the regional competitions beginning in 2017, the practice round will be conducted on Sunday prior to the start of three days of 18 holes of stroke-play competition on Monday through Wednesday to determine the participants from each of the four regional sites that advance to the finals.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** A permanent waiver will allow the committee to conduct the third day of stroke-play competition at the finals, which now occurs on Sunday, in a fair and consistent manner just like the two previous days of competition. Further, the waiver will allow the committee to have the same flexibility for adjusting the playing schedule if needed that day due to inclement weather so competition can be completed and the tie-breaking process conducted, if needed. With respect to the regionals, although practice rounds are not required, they are standard practice to conduct prior to the start of all golf competitions. With the adjustment to the date formula for regional competition beginning in 2017, the practice round will occur on a Sunday rather than on a Wednesday.
c. **Team/Individual Tie-breaking Process After 54 Holes of Stroke Play.**

   (1) **Recommendation.** That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve the use of non-sudden death tie-breaking procedures at the finals site for determining the final teams (15th), and individuals (9th) after the conclusion of 54 holes of stroke-play competition rather than use of a playoff.

   (2). **Effective Date.** 2016 championships.

   (3). **Rationale.** From an administrative perspective, the time required to conduct a playoff may affect television windows and compromise any course maintenance that needs to be completed in advance of round four. The non-sudden death tie-breaking procedures for teams take into account each day's drop score, which means the team that advances using this procedure is a true team effort since team scores for each day take the top four of five scores. This procedure already is in place to break ties in pairings.

   (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Using this tie-breaking procedure specific to teams allows all five student-athlete scores to count toward helping their institution advance to the final day of stroke play over the three rounds (54 holes), rather than just the usual process in which team scores for each day consist of only the top four of five scores. Further, this adjustment should provide additional rest and recovery time for those teams and individuals advancing to the fourth round of stroke play.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review of Schedule and Agenda.** The committee reviewed agenda items and supplements, as well as discussion items for the joint meeting with the men's golf committee July 7.

2. **Annual Meeting Report.** The committee approved the report from its 2014 annual meeting as written.
3. **2015 Regional Tournament Sites.** The committee noted positive feedback from the surveys regarding how each of the host sites conducted the regional tournaments and met their hosting responsibilities. The committee asked NCAA staff to continue emphasizing the following areas during future host calls in order to build on the overall quality of the regional experience for the participating institutions: (1) making the practice range available each day as indicated in the participant manual; (2) maintaining a look and feel of a neutral NCAA competition site where possible; (3) securing radios capable of fully meeting the communication needs of all key stakeholders located throughout the golf course; and (4) maintaining the integrity of the competition venue when playoffs are necessary.

   a. **Schedule of Events.** The committee reviewed the schedule of events and was pleased with the first-year implementation of the following changes: (1) the addition of a fourth regional site; (2) a two-tee start for the practice round; (3) the switch to a single morning wave of tee times with leaders going off last, and (4) conducting a coaches-only rules/administrative meeting immediately following the practice round. The committee noted that there will be no substantive changes to the schedule for 2016.

   b. **Pace of Play.** The committee noted that pace of play was a little slower this year due to switching from two waves of tee times (morning/afternoon) each day to a single morning wave but members also felt coaches and participants reacted well to the adjustment and thus will make no changes for 2016.

   c. **Tee Times and Pairings – Individuals/Teams.** The committee reaffirmed its intent to continue using 7:30 a.m. start times where appropriate to maximize daylight hours but otherwise will make no changes for 2016. The committee noted with the addition of the fourth regional site, participants were able to tee off in one morning wave; leaders were able to go off last; concerns about completing rounds due to weather were minimized; and participants were able to complete their rounds earlier in the day, which provided more rest and recovery time between rounds.

4. **2015 Championships Finals.** The committee commended the University of South Florida and The Concession Golf Club for their outstanding efforts and hospitality extended to all participants, coaches and spectators throughout the week of the 2015 women's national championships. Additionally, the committee recognized the Golf Channel for its outstanding coverage leading up to and throughout the crowning of the individual and team national champions. The committee was pleased with the survey results from participants, given all the changes implemented around and during the first year of the new stroke-play/match-play format. However, in looking ahead to the 2016 championships, the
committee has noted the following areas for further review and adjustment: (1) tee times for the first three days of stroke play to provide more rest for competitors between rounds when possible; (2) course set-up; (3) tie-breaking procedures for determining the top 15 teams and nine individuals not on an advancing team; and (4) timing of the participant reception and the coaches rules/administrative meeting during the day of the practice round.

a. **Schedule of Events.** The committee reviewed and adjusted the 2016 schedule of events so that the participant breakfast welcome reception and coaches rules/administrative meeting will both be conducted prior to the shotgun practice round, which will move to a 10 a.m. start. Additionally, there will be a short follow-up meeting for coaches right after the practice round concludes to address any questions. The committee feels these adjustments will allow institutions to complete their championship commitments earlier in the day, providing more time for student-athletes to eat, rest and prepare for the start of the first day of stroke-play competition.

b. **Tee Times and Pairing – Individuals/Teams.** The committee reviewed and adjusted the tee times and pairings for 2016 in order to provide the top teams an opportunity for rest given their play during each of the first three days of stroke-play competition. For the first day of 18 holes of stroke play on Friday, teams 1-12 and individuals 1-6 will go out in the afternoon wave, while teams 13-24 and individuals 7-12 will be paired in the morning wave. For Saturday's second round of stroke play, teams 1-12 and individuals 1-6 will go out in the morning wave, while teams 13-24 and individuals 7-12 will go out in the afternoon wave. For Sunday's third round of stroke play, teams 1-12 and individuals 1-6 will go out in the morning wave, while teams 13-24 and individuals 7-12 will go out in the afternoon wave. In making the adjustments, the committee noted that if weather were to cause the 72 hole stroke-play portion of the championships to be reduced from four rounds to three (54 holes), the top 1-12 teams and 1-6 individuals would be paired together in the afternoon wave for television purposes and teams 13-24 and individuals 7-12 would be in the morning wave.

Further, the committee agreed to maintain the current 11-minute intervals for the first three rounds of stroke-play competition, and that the practice round will remain as a shotgun start.

c. **Tie-breaking Playoff Procedures.** The committee adjusted the language regarding tie-breaking procedures for pairings purposes when a sudden-death playoff is not possible as well as when determining the top 15 teams and nine individuals not on one of the advancing teams at the finals. The committee noted that these tie-breaking procedures are easier to understand and can be more consistently applied at regionals and finals sites. The committee asked staff to update the information accordingly in the various manuals for the 2016 championships.
d. **Match-Play Tee Times and Pairings.** The committee reviewed the match-play tee times and pairings and made no adjustments for the 2016 championships.

e. **Awards Presentations and Meal Accommodations.** The committee reviewed the presentation of the semifinalist trophies to the two non-advancing teams and determined that these awards in 2016 will be provided to the schools during their respective press conferences, rather than during a formal presentation. Additionally, staff will work with the hosts to ensure there are adequate food options for advancing teams who are required to stay on site for an extended time in order to meet required media obligations specific to the broadcast coverage the next day.

Finally, the committee discussed the process for institutions to access the complimentary meals provided on a daily basis. The committee determined that only the NCAA official travel party should be provided the complimentary meals, which would result in teams being eligible for eight meals (e.g., five student-athletes and three non-athletes), and schools that qualify an individual would be eligible only for two meals (e.g., one student-athlete and one non-athlete). The committee asked staff to work with hosts to develop a process in which the travel party list can be submitted in advance, and any institutions that have members beyond the NCAA official travel party limits will need to submit payment for their respective meals in advance. The committee also asked staff to talk with hosts about options for institutions to purchase food on the course, if desired.

f. **Salute to Service Day.** The committee reviewed and reaffirmed its interest in continuing the Salute to Service Day on the Monday that the NCAA individual champion is crowned. Further, the committee directed staff to make the recommended adjustments to the script used on the first and 10th tees in preparation for the 2016 championships.

g. **Misconduct Review.** The committee reviewed a potential misconduct situation that occurred during the championships.

5. **Championships Discussions.**

   a. **Course Set-Up – Regionals/Finals.** The committee talked at length about the importance of having course set-ups at the regionals and finals sites that provide a challenging but fair test of golf and that can appropriately separate the field, resulting in the best teams/individuals advancing while showcasing the high quality of play by today's top women's collegiate players. The committee directed staff to work with the head rules official to achieve the desired emphasis for future course set-ups.
b. **Stoppage-of-Play Procedures.** The committee reviewed the current policies and removed the 10-minute warm-up requirement if a stoppage lasts more than an hour. The adjustment for the regionals and the finals sites allows the committee more flexibility during weather delays regarding whether teams should be permitted to warm up prior to resuming play. Additionally, because communication among key stakeholders is critical to administering a successful stoppage-of-play plan, committee members asked staff to continue emphasizing this point during monthly host prep calls with the tournament director and venue staff.

c. **Course Access After Completion of Practice/Competition Rounds.** The committee reviewed the current policy specific to course access and directed staff to add the following language to all manuals for the 2016 championships: “Coaches may go back onto the golf course after the practice round or competition round, but only as a spectator. Coaches and/or student-athletes may not go onto the putting greens or within 20 feet of the putting greens. Coaches who violate this policy will not be permitted to coach the following day, and the number of permissible coaches for that team the following day will be reduced by the number of offending coaches.”

d. **Coach Access to Scorer's Tent.** The committee reviewed the policy specific to coaches' access to the scorer's tent and made no adjustments for the 2016 championships.

e. **Review of Regular-Season Minimum Course Length.** The committee reviewed the regular-season minimum course length of 5,800 yards and took no action.

f. **Non-Playing Participants in Team Uniforms.** The committee reaffirmed that non-playing members of an institution's team are not allowed to provide advice to their competing teammates. Members asked staff to make this a point of emphasis during the mandatory coaches rules/administrative meeting. Only the designated two coaches are allowed to give advice during competition.

g. **Media and Photographer – Course Access and Interview Post-Round Protocol.** The committee discussed the post-round/match media access for student-athletes and coaches and believed that some adjustments can be made to accommodate needs for the NCAA and the Golf Channel. The committee wants to conduct the pairings for the quarterfinal matches as soon as possible following Monday's completion of play. Additionally, the NCAA media coordinator will develop guidelines specific to on-course access by photographers for implementation in 2016.
h. Institution Access to Golf Course.

(1) **Review of Course Access During Regular Season – Finals Site.** The women's and men's golf committees reviewed the current policy specific to calendar year regular-season course access at the finals site and made no adjustments for 2015-16.

(2) **Access to the Course the Day Before the Practice Round.** The committee confirmed that teams/individuals that advance to the finals site will have the opportunity to locate shipped equipment, secure yardage books and walk the course if desired on Wednesday afternoon prior to the start of Thursday's shotgun practice round. In providing this opportunity, the committee noted that schools will not be allowed to practice at the venue or take equipment with them when walking the course. The committee requested that staff develop a policy for inclusion in the finals site participant manual that will provide the guidelines specific to this course access opportunity.

6. **Sunday Play Prior to Noon Waiver Update.** Committee members noted that until women's golf can be added to legislation that provides an exception to Bylaw 31.1.4.4.1 for men's golf and women's rowing (see the committee's recommendation in Nonlegislative Item No. 2-b), the committee will need to request a yearly waiver from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee. The golf committee noted that the waiver is necessary to accommodate the championships format that was implemented in 2015 for the finals that results in a full day of competition on Sunday, and then in 2017 when the date formula adjusts for regional competition and the option for a practice round prior to the start of competition is provided on Sunday.

7. **Golf Channel Discussion.** The committee discussed the outstanding coverage provided for women's collegiate golf this year through the NCAA's partnership with the Golf Channel, and how the overall profile of the sport and the student-athletes/coaches' championships experiences were greatly enhanced. The committee noted the value the three days of multiple live broadcasts during prime-time windows provided, as well as re-airing play during the final day of stroke-play competition when the NCAA individual champion was crowned. Committee members also noted that highlighting the "race to the eight," along with covering all rounds of the team match-play competitions to determine the team national champion, has generated unprecedented exposure for the high quality of play in today's women's collegiate game. The committee asked staff to visit with the Golf Channel on better defining the timing and exposure for non-NCAA awards that various groups present during the finals week.
**Selection Show Announcement.** The committee applauded the Golf Channel for its expanded coverage during this year's broadcast of the women's selection announcement. Members noted an increase in the number of institutions that conducted "viewing parties" with their teams and program supporters, which added to the excitement surrounding this year's announcement. The committee confirmed that the selection announcement for the 2016 championships will be Monday, April 25, with the specific time still to be determined. Additionally, NCAA staff reminded the committee that the date for selections will be changing to Thursday beginning in 2017.

8. **Officials.** The committee met with NCAA head rules official Jerry Lemieux about addressing and improving course set-up concerns expressed through the championships participant survey results at both the regionals and finals sites (see Informational Item No. 5-a), as well as reviewing adjustments to the stoppage of play and tie-breaking procedures that the committee intends to implement for 2016 (see Informational Item Nos. 5-b and 4-c). Committee members also noted that scorecards for all rounds will continue to include pace-of-play times in order to encourage a favorable pace of play. The committee is not at this time considering a "checkpoint system" to monitor pace of play. Mr. Lemieux confirmed that he is finalizing selection of the four head regional rules officials who will oversee the 2016 regional sites and will provide those individuals to the committee for final review. The committee commended Mr. Lemieux again this year for his efforts in securing a highly talented group of USGA rules officials for the regionals and finals. The committee reiterated the importance of maintaining this high quality of officiating at each round of competition.

9. **Selections.**

   a. **Selection Criteria.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and made no adjustments for 2016.

   b. **.500 Rule Discussion.** The committee discussed the pros and cons of using the .500 winning selection criterion for women's golf. Members noted that the men's committee has used this criterion successfully for a number of years. The women's committee agreed to continue exploring the idea, as well as monitor whether various adjustments the men's committee is making to the criterion this year mitigate some of the women's committee's current concerns. Additionally, the committee asked staff to get feedback on the matter from the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) in order to discuss the issue further at the WGCA convention in December.
c. Selection of Alternates (Individuals). The committee reaffirmed its desire to maintain a full field of 132 players at the finals site that consists of 24 teams and 12 individuals not on an advancing team. Members reviewed the current protocol for selecting an alternate if after the completion of regional play an individual not on one of the advancing teams is unable to compete at the finals due to extenuating circumstances. The approved protocol would use the current regional tournament tie-breaking procedures for individuals in the order listed, minus the use of the playoff option if the situation should occur after the completion of regional play and before the start of the first practice round at the finals.

10. Golfstat. The committee met with Mark Laesch from Golfstat and discussed questions about current reports and about potential enhancements available on the Golfstat site for the membership to access for the 2015-16 season. The committee asked Mr. Laesch to work with the sports information directors for the regionals and finals in order to make greater use of the textbox on the live scoring site for providing more real-time updates regarding the status of their event (e.g., advancing teams/individuals, playoffs and results, weather delays, play under way, etc.). Finally, the committee asked staff to work with Mr. Laesch about possibly developing an online video on the Golfstat site to help the membership with their understanding of the Golfstat ranking tools.


- Championships Dates – May 20-25, 2016 (Friday-Wednesday). The University of Oregon will host the 2016 championships finals at Eugene Country Club in Eugene, Oregon. The four regional sites are: (1) Shoal Creek Club in Shoal Creek, Alabama (University of Alabama, host); (2) The University Club in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (Louisiana State University, host); (3) Traditions Club in Bryan, Texas (Texas A&M University, College Station, host); and (4) Stanford Golf Course in Stanford, California (Stanford University, host). Regional play will be conducted May 5-7.

  (1) Site Visit. The committee noted that NCAA staff, the women's and men's golf committee chairs and Golf Channel representatives will conduct a site visit with the University of Oregon's host local organizing committee at Eugene Country Club August 17-19.

  (2) Schedule of Events. The committee adjusted the schedule of events for the finals site and asked staff to make the necessary adjustments for 2016 (see Informational Item No. 4-a) so they can be discussed with the hosts during the site visit.
(3) **Tee Times and Pairings.** The committee adjusted the tee times and pairings for 2016 (see Informational Item No. 4-b) so they can be discussed with the hosts during the site visit.

12. **Women's and Men's Golf Committees Joint Meeting.** The women's and men's committees met jointly to discuss issues relevant to college golf.

   a. **Golf Channel Coverage.** The committees talked with Golf Channel representatives regarding this past year's championship and coverage of the event. Golf Channel noted the ratings for the event exceeded expectations. Golf Channel was excited about airing the quarterfinals this year and believed overall that things went very well. Tom Knapp indicated that the air windows for 2016 will provide for live golf in primetime for East Coast viewing, with more information to follow on the upcoming site visit to Eugene Country Club.

   b. **USGA Groove Conditions Rule.** The committees conducted a teleconference with United States Golf Association (USGA) Senior Director Thomas Pagel. The committees expressed appreciation to the USGA for having a staff member on site at each championship to assist with questions related to grooves. He also discussed Rule 14-1b related to the anchoring of the putter and noted that the rule will be implemented in January 2016 for all levels of play. Mr. Pagel noted he is very excited about the relationship between the USGA and the NCAA, and in particular how the Intercollegiate Relations Committee has enhanced that relationship. Mr. Pagel noted that this is a rules year and that he will keep the parties updated as to any changes. He did note that he did not expect any changes to the amateur status code in the next rules cycle.

   c. **Regional Trophies.** The committees would like to see regional trophies provided to the team and individual medalist of each regional. There are team sports that provide regional champion trophies in lieu of semifinalist trophies. However, in golf, teams that win a regional are not guaranteed to place in the top four at the national championship so additional trophies would need to be ordered. NCAA staff will work through the governance structure to forward, at the appropriate time, a proposal for regional trophies for regional winners.

13. **Sport-sponsorship list.** The committee reviewed the 2014-15 sport sponsorship list and discussed schools that are considering adding the sport for 2015-16.
14. **2015-16 Committee Roster and Timeline.** The committee recognized and thanked Jackie Booth, head women's golf coach at New Mexico State University, and Carol Blackmar, head women's golf coach at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, for their service and leadership during their tenure on the national committee. Additionally, the committee reviewed and finalized its annual timeline for staff to distribute to the 2015-16 committee members.

15. **Future Sites/Bid Process Updates.** The committee reviewed the dates and sites for the next three years. The group noted that the next bid cycle would begin later this year, and staff will continue to update the committee specific to the timeline and overall process once the information is available. The committee reaffirmed the importance of continuing to identify, recruit and select the highest quality golf courses to serve as host venues for not only the back-to-back championship finals sites with the men but also for all regional competition sites moving forward.

16. **Championships Manuals and Committee Calendar.** The committee asked staff to make the necessary adjustments to the various championships manuals.

17. **Future Meetings.** The committee agreed to meet July 11-13, 2016, in Indianapolis.

18. **Other Business.** The committee conducted a teleconference with Kristi Knight, head women's golf coach at Kansas State University, and Trelle McCombs, head women's golf coach at Texas A&M University, College Station, both of whom are members of the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) board of directors. The following items were discussed: (1) tee times at finals specific to first three days of stroke play; (2) the .500 rule; (3) course set-up at regionals/final sites; (4) the timing of the reception at the finals; (5) Salute to Service Day programming; (6) WGCA awards recognition at the finals; (7) national committee service; and (8) bid process update for future sites. Both groups reaffirmed the value of conducting this dialogue as a part of the national committee's regular annual meeting agenda and asked NCAA staff to plan accordingly for future meetings.

*Committee Chair: Peter Fields, Montana State University-Bozeman, Big Sky Conference
Staff Liaison: Carol A. Reep, Championships and Alliances*
### July 6-8, 2015, Meeting

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Attendees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Blackmar, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Jackie Booth, New Mexico State University</td>
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<td>Lissa Bradford, Belmont University</td>
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<td>Jim Fee, University of South Florida</td>
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<td>Peter Fields, Montana State University-Bozeman</td>
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Other Attendees:
Kristi Knight (Kansas State University), and Trelle McCombs (Texas A&M University, College Station) from the WGCA board of directors (via teleconference); Tom Knapp, Golf Channel (via teleconference); Mark Laesch, Golfstat; Jerry Lemieux, head rules official (via teleconference); Robin Hale, NCAA; Julie Kimmons, NCAA (via teleconference) and Carol A. Reep, NCAA.