KEY ITEMS.

1. **Substitutions – postseason play.** The Division I Men’s Golf Committee is recommending that substitutions be permitted during the postseason (regionals and finals) of the championship (see Action Item 2-a).

2. **2018 selection announcement adjustment.** The NCAA Division I Women's and Men’s Golf Committees are recommending that their respective selection announcements for the regional fields be moved back one day from Thursday to Wednesday, effective with the 2018 championships (see Action Item 2-b).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. **Substitutions – regionals and finals.**
      - (1) **Recommendation.** That substitutions be permitted (between stipulated rounds only) during the postseason (regionals and finals – both stroke and match play) of the men’s golf championships.
      - (2) **Effective date.** 2017 championships.
      - (3) **Rationale.** The committee discussed the idea of substitutions at the championship (regionals and finals) in light of the injury to a University of Texas student-athlete who was injured in the semifinals of the championship. The individual subsequently was unable to play in the championship match, and his team forfeited that individual match within the overall team match, meaning Texas began the match with an 0-1 deficit and had to achieve the three points necessary to win the match with only four golfers instead of five. Currently, substitutions are permitted only before the first tee time on the first day of competition (stroke play). If a player is injured or sick, the team is not able to replace that player in the lineup once competition begins. The committee believes that institutions should be able to substitute a player, at the coach’s discretion, during either stroke play or match play of the championships. Substitutions have been discussed for the past two years at the Golf Coaches...
Association of American convention; however, discussion has mostly been about substitution during the regular season. The events of the most recent championship prompted the committee to consider substitutions for postseason play, over which it has jurisdiction. In a recent survey by the GCAA after the championship, 39 percent of coaches supported substitution for any reason, but that percentage increased to 55 percent if substitutions were for injury/illness reasons only. However, the committee does not want to be put in the position of determining whether an injury or illness is serious enough to allow a substitute. Accordingly, the committee believes substitutions being at the coaches’ discretion is the most logical way to proceed. The committee also noted that just over 50 percent of coaches responded to the survey and 57 of those had teams in the top 80 of the final Golfstat ranking for the 2015-16 season. Forty-eight percent of those in the top 40 supported substitutions for any reason, while 44 percent of those ranked 41-80 supported substitutions.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None, as the travel party is currently at eight (five student-athletes and three non-student athletes) and the committee would adjust the travel party to provide for six student-athletes and two non-student athletes. However, participating institutions that choose to bring additional individuals beyond the travel party of eight could incur additional costs. However, schools may elect to only bring five student-athletes and either way the travel party will remain at eight.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Substitutions would allow for one additional student-athlete to travel with the team to the championship. They would be permitted to participate in the practice round and follow the championship as a spectator, which would provide a good experience for the future. They would be available in the event of injury, illness or a coach’s decision to play. The recommendation also ensures that the opposing student-athlete who otherwise would sit out the match due to the forfeit would have an opportunity to compete.

**b. Selection date.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That the regional selections be announced on the first Wednesday in May, except for when May 1 falls on a Thursday, in which case selections would be announced on April 30.

(2) **Effective date.** 2018 championships.

(3) **Rationale.** The committee is sensitive to providing an adequate number of days between selections and the start of regional play, since institutions pay their own way to regionals. The date change might require some conferences to adjust their conference tournaments to end a day earlier than currently scheduled, but
with an effective date of 2018, the committee believes there would be enough notice for conferences to adapt. The committee noted that for 2017, only three conference championships are scheduled to run a day beyond the proposed selection date.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Automatic qualification.

(1). Recommendation. That the following 31 conferences sponsoring men’s golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2017 championships: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 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; Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic 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; Summit League; Sun Belt Conference, Western Athletic Conference; and West Coast Conference.

(2) Effective date. 2016-17 academic year.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. 2015 annual meeting report. The committee approved the 2015 annual report as written.

2. 2015-16 Competition Oversight Committee actions. The committee reviewed items from the 2015-16 academic year relative to men’s golf.

3. 2016 regional review. The committee reviewed the regional sites for the 2016 championships.
a. **Site evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from the regional sites and was pleased with how well those tournaments were conducted. The committee was concerned with the condition of a few of the courses, but most of that was due to the hard winter in those locales.

b. **Championship bracket.** The committee believes the bracketing went well this year and that all six regional sites were properly balanced.

c. **Rules officials.** The Rules Officials at each site did a great job with the course setup to ensure a difficult but fair test of golf. The committee continues to be pleased with the 11-minute increments and the positive impact on pace of play.

d. **Pace-of-play.** The pace-of-play checkpoint continues to work well at both the regionals and finals. The committee will continue to educate coaches on the checkpoint system.

e. **Practice rounds.** The practice round at regionals went well with no major issues. However, the committee voted to change the practice round at the regionals to a shotgun start at 9 a.m. local time. The coaches meeting will begin at 8 a.m. with the practice round beginning at 9 a.m. This will allow for coaches to hear from the Head Rules Official prior to the practice round on the Conditions of Competition and how the course will be marked. Coaches may follow up with the head rules official after the practice round if there are questions. This will also ensure that if there is inclement weather during the practice round that all teams are similarly disadvantaged.

f. **Coaches carts.** The committee reiterated its stance to not allow coaches to have carts at the regionals or finals. However, those coaches with disabilities will continue to be provided carts, but coaches may not use those carts to hold umbrellas, apparel or other items.

g. **Hosting regionals.** The committee will continue to evaluate how courses are selected, as well as who hosts regionals to determine if top seeds should be provided hosting opportunities. The committee will continue to discuss the issue with coaches over the coming year.

4. **2016 championships review.** The committee reviewed the finals at the Eugene Country Club.

a. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from the Eugene Country Club and noted the host’s overall success in conducting both the men’s and women’s championships. The golf committee appreciated Golf Channel’s efforts in televising the championships, and comments from coaches and student-athletes
indicated as much. The committee thanked the staff at the Eugene Country Club and the University of Oregon for all their work with both championships to ensure a successful student-athlete experience. The committee liked being on the West Coast due to the favorable weather, as well as the opportunity to televise the event live in prime time on the East Coast.

b. **Championship format.** The committee continues to believe that the match-play format has created the drama and excitement that had been anticipated, and that it has attracted greater attention to the championship.

c. **Practice round.** The committee believes the shotgun practice round worked well and allowed the coaches meeting to occur earlier in the day. The committee felt that flipping the range for short game and full shots worked well, though it would help to have additional coaches available on the range to assist. The committee believed that the reception prior to the practice was much better than a reception post-practice round and will continue that for the future.

d. **Match play.** The committee believes the match-play pairings allowing the coaches to match players in a “President’s Cup” style during the match-play portion of the championship continues to create great drama and excitement. The committee will continue the pairings in that method going forward and will announce the quarterfinal and semifinal pairings in the student-athlete dining area. The committee was very pleased with the pairings process, especially for the championship match that Golf Channel televised live. The committee discussed the situation around the injured University of Texas student-athlete and the impact that substitutions could have for the championship (see Action Item 2-a).

e. **Tee times.** The committee believes the new tee times for the third day of competition were appropriate because they provided the top teams from the first two days with a morning time for the third round. The committee would like to have further dialogue with Golf Channel on tee times for Monday, understanding that the Race to the Eight is important but also not wanting to disadvantage teams that have played the best over the first three days of competition.

f. **Semifinalist awards.** The committee discussed the process in which semifinals trophies are provided at the championship, noting that while it certainly is a significant accomplishment for teams that advance to the semifinals, there is no perfect way to distribute trophies to teams whose seasons have just ended. The committee voted to have the semifinalist trophies be sent to the two teams post-event, which will alleviate the need for teams to coordinate with the host to ship trophies to their campuses.
g. Third-day cut. The committee discussed the change from previous years to use the non-sudden death tiebreaking procedures rather than a playoff to break ties for the top 15 teams and nine individuals not on those teams following the third day of play. The committee believes the non-sudden death tiebreaking procedures is the appropriate method, as it includes all five players over three days of competition. While survey results from the Golf Coaches Association supported a playoff to determine those teams, the committee felt strongly that with all the logistics that could be involved (length of playoff, television airtime windows, number of teams involved, etc.) that it was best to use the non-sudden death tiebreaking procedures to break those ties.

h. Complimentary meals. The committee noted that the complimentary meals provided daily to teams should only include the eight-member travel party. The travel party list needs to be provided in advance, and anyone above the eight on the travel party needs to pay in advance. The committee reiterated that teams’ sports information directors (SID) should be provided complimentary meals as a member of the media. The committee also wants hosts to consider allowing teams to purchase food on the course at concession stands, if needed.


a. Course setup. The committee discussed the upcoming site visit to Rich Harvest Farms and how the golf course may be setup for 2017. The committee will refer to the number of prior events that have been played at the venue when working with the Head Rules Official on the setup for 2017.

b. Tee times. The committee agreed not to adjust tee times for 2017 but would like to confer with Golf Channel to determine times for the fourth day of stroke play at future championships.

c. Golf course access for coaches. The committee discussed the policy implemented at the regionals and finals this year regarding coaches going back onto the golf course after the practice round. The committee believes the new policy worked well and agreed to retain it for next year.

d. Media issues. The committee discussed student-athlete name pronunciations and ways to ensure that players’ names are pronounced correctly both on the tee as well as on Golf Channel. Rick Nixon will work with each of the starters prior to the first round to ask players the correct pronunciation and will report any discrepancies to Golf Channel prior to the broadcast beginning on Monday. Mr. Nixon also suggested a possible media sit-down with the chair of the committee during the championship week to discuss issues relative to college golf.
6. **Selections.** The committee discussed the selection process for the championships. The committee believes the selection show on Golf Channel continues to enhance the championship. The committee did not believe the tighter timeline had any negative effect on the selection process. The committee thought that the live interview with Eric Sexton enhanced the show and hopes that it will continue in the future. The committee agreed to recommend that the selection announcement occur one day earlier (see Action Item 2-b).

7. **Golfstat.** The committee met with Mark Laesch from Golfstat to discuss any changes to the ranking process. Mr. Laesch noted several enhancements to assist the committee in the selection process. The group also discussed how substitutions could be handled within the ranking process should substitutions be approved for regular-season play (see Action Item 2-a).

8. **Schedule submission.** The committee will ask that all institutions submit their playing schedules for 2016-17 (both fall and spring) by October 1 to Golfstat. Teams will still be able to add events after this date but only with golf committee approval. The committee understands that not all teams will have their spring schedules complete, but the committee emphasized that teams should submit as much of their schedule as possible. The committee will work with Golfstat to ensure that this information is included in the registration letter sent in early August to all coaches.

9. **Course access policy.** The committee discussed the course access policy that has been in place for the past two years. While there were unique situations that developed in 2016, the committee will continue to handle those types of situations as they occur. The committee discussed a possible change from 10 days to seven days for the host institution to have access to the golf course but made no change at this time.

10. **Joint committee Meeting.** The men’s and women’s committees met jointly to discuss issues relevant to college golf.

   a. **Golf Channel coverage.** Julie Kimmons, NCAA director of broadcast services, provided an overview of the Golf Channel feedback and viewership rating and demographics specific to the 2016 women's and men's national championships. For the third consecutive year and first year broadcasting live in prime time for East Coast viewing, the ratings for both events exceeded expectations and showcased the quality of play by the top men's and women's collegiate golfers both during the stroke-play and team match-play portions of each event.

   b. **USGA updates.** The committees conducted a teleconference with Thomas Pagel, senior director, rules of golf and amateur status at the United States Golf Association (USGA). Mr. Pagel reviewed rules situations specific to video replay that have occurred during recent USGA events, as well as lessons learned and strategies implemented to handle these and other rules situations moving forward. The
committees expressed appreciation to the USGA for having a staff member on site again this year as part of the rules teams. Mr. Pagel also noted the excitement and importance of continuing to build on the strong relationship that currently exists between the USGA and the NCAA, through the work of the Intercollegiate Relations Committee composed of key stakeholders within collegiate golf along with representatives from the USGA, both men's and women's coaches associations and NCAA national office.

c. **Player substitution – NCAA regionals/finals.** The committees reviewed current rules prohibiting substitutions in collegiate golf, along with the situation that occurred during the final match of this year's men's championships that prevented a team, due to a player injury, from competing with its full complement of players (and also resulted in an opposing player not having the opportunity to compete that day for his institution). The committee also noted the impact on the championships when a player in a match-play lineup is unable to compete, which forces the team to achieve the three points required to win the match with four players instead of five. After discussing the pros and cons of allowing substitutions, the men’s committee agreed to recommend to the Division I Competition Oversight Committee that substitutions be allowed for the 2017 Division I men’s championships (regionals and finals only). (See Action Item 2-a.) The committee noted that the topic of substitutions has been discussed for the past two years at the annual GCAA convention; however, most of the discussion revolved around the regular season. However, with the situation that occurred this year at the championship, the men’s committee felt the need to act. 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.

d. **Regional Trophies.** The committees reaffirmed its desire to see regional trophies provided to the team and individual medalist of each regional. Members noted several 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 noted an internal review regarding awards provided across all championships and will continue to monitor these discussions to determine if there is an opportunity to work through the governance structure to propose adding trophies for regional winners in the future.

e. **Press conferences/pairings.** The committees reviewed the current process and past locations on site that have been used to conduct daily press conferences and announce the quarterfinal match play pairings, and asked staff to identify a larger location to accommodate the increasing interest from student-athletes, coaches, institutional staff and fans to view these media events.
f. **NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1 discussion.** The committees discussed the accommodations made for Brigham Young this year in Eugene regarding Bylaw 31.1.4.1 (Sunday competition) and agreed that the process is the fairest for the men's and women's championships moving forward, in order to accommodate the bylaw.

g. **54 hole cut.** The committees discussed the process used to reduce the field after 54 holes of play and reiterated support for using the non-sudden death tiebreaking procedures for the cut to the top 15 teams and nine individuals. The committees confirmed that for the cut to the top nine individuals, the first tiebreaker is the most recent round's score, which means those recorded with the third-day hole locations.

11. **Coaches for individual players.** The committee discussed the number of coaches permitted to be with an individual player during regionals and finals and confirmed that according to the Rules of Golf, only one coach should be able to provide advice during competition since the individuals playing are not part of the team competition.

12. **Rules officials.** The committee talked with Brad Gregory, NCAA Head Rules Official, on issues relative to the Rules of Golf. Mr. Gregory felt the new tee times at the finals, with 11-minute increments, positively affected the pace of play. While there were some groups that made the turn and had to wait before teeing off on their back nine, Mr. Gregory felt that the golf course had more to do with that than anything since there were relatively small walks from greens to tees. However, the rules committee will continue to evaluate the issue annually. The committee also discussed recent issues related to the Rules of Golf and television video replay and believed that having Mr. Gregory near a television during the broadcast times will help monitor potential rules violations. The committee discussed having a rules officials in the television production truck during the broadcast windows and will continue to evaluate whether this might be possible. The golf committee will also work with the NCAA television partner to discuss ways to review video in a more timely fashion and before they are shown to the general public on television.

13. **Future bids.** The committee discussed the bid intentions that have been submitted for future regionals and finals. Staff reviewed the timeline for the current bid cycle, noting that final bid submissions are due August 12, and that the national office will announce all sites selected December 7. 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 women but also for all men's regional competition sites moving forward.

14. **Golf Coaches Association of America.** The committee will continue to work with the GCAA board on issues related to college golf. The committee believes that our relationship is solid, and members will take advantage of the experience on the board to discuss ideas concerning college golf. The committee was very appreciative of the survey from the
GCAA and will continue to work with the GCAA on the topic of substitution and additional feedback from the membership.

15. **Chair nomination.** The committee nominated Brad Hurlbut, deputy director of athletics at Sacred Heart University, to serve as chair for the 2016-17 year. Mr. Hurlbut will replace current chair Eric Sexton immediately, since Mr. Sexton has left his position at Wichita State University.

16. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship from 2015-16 and noted any anticipated changes for the 2016-17 academic year with continued conference realignment.

17. **Manual review.** The committee reviewed the pre-championships, host operations and committee operations manual and asked NCAA staff to update as necessary.

18. **Future concepts.** The committee discussed a five-count-five format but did not move forward with a recommendation due to the inability to substitute within a round for injury or illness. The committee also discussed the selection process and how teams are slotted into regional sites. There is some sentiment from the committee to have further dialogue with the coaches in December at the GCAA convention, along with Golf Channel, to consider whether coaches should pick sites for regional play. The committee noted that discussions are preliminary at this point and that further review is necessary before any action is taken.

19. **Future meeting dates.** The committee evaluated possible meeting dates for 2017 that could occur after the US Junior Town Hall meeting and would allow greater feedback from coaches on relevant topics prior to the annual meeting. The exact dates have not been determined at this time as staff continues to evaluate options.

20. **Outgoing committee members.** The committee thanked Mr. Sexton and Jon Roos, senior associate athletics director at Monmouth University, for their service to the committee over the past four years, and specifically Mr. Sexton for his service as chair of the committee.

*Committee Chair: Eric Sexton, Wichita State University; Missouri Valley Conference  
Staff Liaison(s): Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 11-13, 2016, Annual Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Brockbank, Brigham Young University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Holder, Oklahoma State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Hurlbut, Sacred Heart University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Lieberwirth, University of Texas at El Paso</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jonathan Roos, Monmouth University
Eric Sexton, Wichita State University

Other Participants
Brad Gregory, NCAA Head Rules Official (via teleconference); Gregg Grost, Golf Coaches Association of America (via teleconference); Mark Laesch, Golfstat; Thomas Pagel, United States Golf Association (via teleconference); Scott Schroeder, University of North Florida; Julie Kimmons, NCAA (via teleconference), Rick Nixon, NCAA, Jay Jay Rackley, NCAA and Donnie Wagner, NCAA