KEY ITEMS.

1. **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 from Thursday to Wednesday, effective with the 2018 championships (see Nonlegislative Item 2-b).

2. **Selection criteria – minimum winning percentage for at-large teams.** The Division I Women's Golf Committee is recommending that beginning with the 2017-18 season, a .500 or better record versus Division I opponents will be required to be considered for team at-large selection into the championships (see Nonlegislative Item 2-c).

3. **Player substitution – NCAA finals during match play.** The Division I Women's and Men's Golf Committees reviewed current rules prohibiting substitutions in collegiate golf. After discussing the pros and cons of allowing substitutions, the women's committee agreed to continue exploring the concept, but only for the team match play portion at the championships finals, and only if the membership would support the change. The committee will collaborate with the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) to seek additional feedback and discuss the matter further (see Informational Item 11-c).

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 2017 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.** 2016-17 academic year.

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

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

### b. 2018 selection announcement adjustment.

(1) **Recommendation.** That the selection announcement be moved back from Thursday to the last Wednesday in April, which provides 11 days before the start of regional competition.

(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. Selection criteria – minimum winning percentage for at-large teams.

(1) **Recommendation.** That beginning with the 2017-18 season, a .500 or better record versus Division I opponents will be required to be considered for team at-large selection into the championships.

(2) **Effective date.** 2017-18 season.

(3) **Rationale.** The .500 minimum winning percentage criterion has been an annual meeting agenda item for almost 10 years, with greater discussion occurring over the last couple of years given the increased parity among teams in women’s golf. Specifically, the committee believes the recommendation addresses the following:
• Currently, women's golf is the only sport that has the ability to select at-large teams with less than a .500 record against Division I opponents. When the committee conducted its end-of-season review each of the past two years, there were nine teams selected for at-large spots, six in 2014-15 and three in 2015-16, that achieved a winning percentage below .500 (ranging from a low of .380 to a high of .490)

• This adjustment would align women's golf with other NCAA team sports, as well as with men's and women's tennis (2012-13) and men's golf (2007-08), which currently have this criterion as part of their team at-large selection consideration;

• It would provide more scheduling opportunities for all teams, which would result in a potential increase of more comparative information available in the rankings process for selection, including a greater likelihood of head-to-head comparisons and common opponents; and

• It may help resolve some of the scheduling issues, given that most tournaments are invitational fields as determined by the host school, and the committee feels that this requirement may help to open those fields to a wider spectrum of the membership for consideration.

It is also important to note that the committee worked with the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) over the past year to survey the coaching membership regarding this change and found a significant majority of automatic-qualifying conferences (74 percent) and WGCA respondents (66 percent) supported the proposal.

Further, the committee is aware that if this criterion is added, teams may try to protect their .500 record by withdrawing from tournaments at the last minute or cancel scheduled events to avoid incurring losses. The committee believes that once a schedule is set by an established deadline (October 1), teams should (1) complete that schedule unless a tournament is cancelled for reasons beyond the host's control, while (2) maintaining the ability to add a tournament after the October deadline if an institution has dates of competition still available in order to complete their schedule. Therefore, the committee will stipulate that any changes to a team's schedule due to weather-related cancellations or addition of an event after the established deadline must be approved by the women's golf committee. Further, any team that withdraws from a regularly scheduled tournament or cancels a scheduled tournament unless it is for reasons beyond their control would incur a loss to each of the teams in the field.
(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This adjustment could provide more opportunities for student-athletes to play against some of the best competition in the country.

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 12.

2. Annual meeting report. The committee approved the report from its 2015 annual meeting as written.

3. 2016 regional tournament sites. The committee reviewed the participant surveys and noted positive feedback across all four regional host sites. As part of planning for next year's regionals, the committee discussed developing an addendum to the participant manual that answers key questions as well as addressing the following areas: (1) confirming adequate on-course bathroom facilities; and (2) ensuring that appropriate hydration products are available in student-athlete hospitality areas.

   a. Schedule of events. The committee reviewed the current schedule of events and did not recommend changes for 2017.

   b. Pace of play. Coaches and participants continue to embrace the single morning wave of tee times, even though overall pace of play continues to be a little slower than with the prior use of the two waves (morning/afternoon). The committee noted that there will be no changes for 2017, but will continue to work closely with the NCAA head rules official to determine the appropriate tee time interval (nine or 10 minutes) for each regional site that can help to improve the overall pace of play. The committee reaffirmed the importance of conducting the NCAA championships under a proper pace of play, and members continue to feel that they can attain this goal and monitor pace of play without implementing the "checkpoint system," as overall, this has not been a significant issue during the women's championships.

   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 2017.

4. 2016 championships finals. The committee commended the University of Oregon and Eugene Country Club for their outstanding efforts and hospitality extended to all participants, coaches and spectators throughout the week of the 2016 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.
Further, the committee was very pleased with the positive feedback from participants and coaches specific to (1) course setup; (2) tee time adjustments that were implemented for the first three days of stroke play, which provided more rest between rounds; (3) moving the participant reception to a breakfast; and (4) conducting the coaches rules/administrative meeting prior to the start of the shotgun practice round.

a. **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the 2016 schedule of events and will make no substantive changes for the 2017 championships. The committee felt that the adjustments made this year, particularly to the practice round day, allowed 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 pairings.** The committee reviewed the stroke-play and match-play tee times and pairings and recommended no substantive changes for 2017, noting that the stroke-play tee time adjustments made for the 2016 championships met the expectations of providing the top teams an opportunity for rest during each of the first three days of competition. The committee also reaffirmed its intent to maintain the current 11-minute intervals for the first three rounds of stroke play, and that the practice round will remain as a shotgun start.

c. **Tiebreaking playoff procedures.** The committee reviewed and recommended no substantive adjustments for the 2017 championships to the language regarding the tiebreaking 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.

d. **Awards presentations and meal accommodations.** The committee reviewed the process established this year for presenting the semifinalist trophies to the two non-advancing teams immediately following completion of each match and determined that this same awards protocol will be used in 2017. Further, the committee will continue to work with the host to provide food for the advancing teams during each round of match play that are required to stay on site for an extended time in order to meet media obligations for the broadcast coverage the next day.

The committee also reviewed and made no changes for 2017 to the process implemented this year for institutions to access the complimentary meals hosts provide for members of their NCAA official travel party. The committee noted that any other institutional members beyond the NCAA official travel party that are credentialed would continue to be billed to the schools by the host at the conclusion of the event. The one exception to this policy would be sports information directors, who would be eligible to be credentialed through the NCAA media portal and would in turn be eligible to receive complimentary meals that are provided to the media by the host.
e. **Salute to service day.** The committee reviewed and reaffirmed its commitment to continue the Salute to Service Day programming for 2017 on the Monday that the NCAA individual champion is crowned.

5. **Championships discussions.**

a. **Course setup – regionals/finals.** The committee was very pleased with the overall improvements this year regarding course setup at the regionals and final sites and will continue to make this an area of emphasis for the 2017 championships. The committee noted that feedback from participants and head coaches indicated that the golf courses were set up in such a manner that provided a challenging but fair test of golf that resulted in the best teams/individuals advancing while showcasing the high quality of play by today's top women's collegiate players.

b. **Stoppage-of-play procedures.** The committee reviewed the current policies and recommended no changes for the 2017 championships. The committee reaffirmed that communication among key stakeholders is critical to administering a successful stoppage-of-play plan, and requested that staff continue to emphasize the procedures 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 policies and made no adjustments for the 2017 championships.

d. **Review of accommodations per NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1.** The committee reviewed the planning and accommodations made during the finals in Eugene for Brigham Young University, given the institution's policy of not competing on Sunday, and made no recommendations for substantive changes to the schedule if there becomes a need to implement the accommodations for the 2017 finals. The committee did note that with the regional format changing in 2017 where competition rounds will be conducted on Monday–Wednesday, with the practice round occurring on Sunday, that Brigham Young, if selected to the regional field, would be provided the opportunity to conduct its single practice round on Saturday prior to the start of Monday's regional first round.

e. **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 2016-17.

   (2) **Course walk-through at finals.** The committee reaffirmed its intent to continue to provide access in 2017 for teams/individuals that advance to the finals site in order to locate shipped equipment, secure yardage books and walk the course if desired on Wednesday prior to the start of Thursday's shotgun practice round.
However, the committee noted that schools will not be allowed to practice at the venue, access bunkers or greens, or take equipment (except for range finders) with them when walking the course.

6. **Golf Channel discussion.** The committee reviewed and expressed their appreciation for the high quality and extensive broadcast coverage that the NCAA's partnership with the Golf Channel has provided for women's collegiate golf, and how the overall profile of the sport and the student-athletes'/coaches' championships experiences continue to be enhanced. The committee noted that with this year's championships being conducted on the West Coast, play was aired live each of the three days during prime time windows each evening, which resulted in increased viewership.

   - **Selection show announcement.** The committee noted the overall positive feedback from the membership regarding this year's Golf Channel broadcast of the selection announcement, but asked staff to visit with the Golf Channel about possibly announcing both the teams and individual participants for each regional site at the same time rather than waiting until the end of the show to announce the 24 individual participants. For the second straight year, committee 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 2017 championships will be Thursday, April 27, with the specific time to be determined. Additionally, NCAA staff reminded the committee that the date for selections will change from Monday to Thursday for the first time this coming year.

   In reviewing feedback from the Golf Channel specific to future broadcast windows available for the 2018 selection announcement and beyond, the committee noted it will request that the selection day be moved one day earlier to the last Wednesday in April, still maintaining at least an 11-day window for schools to schedule travel before the start of regional competition (see Nonlegislative Item 2-b). This minor adjustment will eliminate any concerns for maintaining the quality and length of the current selection show. Currently only three conferences have scheduled their postseason championships in 2017 to run beyond what the recommended selection show date would be starting in 2018, and staff will reach out to them directly if the recommendation is approved so they have as much time as possible to adjust.

7. **Officials.** The committee met with NCAA head rules official Jerry Lemieux and the NCAA director of course setup Janet Lindsay. The committee thanked both officials for their outstanding work and partnership throughout this past year. Specifically, the committee commended Mr. Lemieux for his continued success in securing a highly talented group of rules officials for the regionals and finals; and Ms. Lindsay for her direction and leadership with improving course setups at both the regionals and finals sites. The committee reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest quality of officiating at each round of competition,
and maintaining the continued focus on course setup for all rounds of the championships. The committee also reviewed and approved the recommended adjustments to the fall hard card and asked staff to move forward with posting and distributing the information to the membership as well as reviewing and approving the four individuals recommended for service as the 2017 head regional rules officials.

8. Selections.

a. Selection criteria. The committee reviewed the selection criteria and made no adjustments for 2016-2017 season.

b. .500 rule discussion. The committee agreed to recommend that beginning with the 2017-18 season, a .500 or better record versus Division I opponents should be included as a selection criterion for consideration of at-large teams into the 2018 championships (see Nonlegislative Item 2-c).

9. Golfstat. The committee met with Mark Laesch from Golfstat and discussed questions about current reports and potential enhancements available on the Golfstat site for the membership to access for the 2016-17 season.


b. Championships dates – May 19-24, 2017 (Friday-Wednesday). Northern Illinois University will host the 2017 championships finals at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, Illinois. The four regional sites are: (1) Ironwood Golf and Country Club, Greenville, North Carolina (East Carolina University, host); (2) The Scarlet Course/OSU Golf Course in Columbus, Ohio (The Ohio State University, host); (3) The Rawls Course in Lubbock, Texas (Texas Tech University, host); and (4) UNM Championship Course in Albuquerque, New Mexico (University of New Mexico, host). Regional play will be conducted May 8-10, 2017.

c. Site visit. The committee noted that NCAA staff, committee chairs, course setup officials and Golf Channel representatives will conduct a site visit with the Northern Illinois University/Rich Harvest Farms host local organizing committee members September 11-13.

11. Women's and Men's Golf Committees joint meeting. The women's and men's committees met jointly to discuss the following 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 finals during team match play.** 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 women's committee agreed to continue exploring the idea, but only in the match play portion at the championship finals, and only if it can be determined that the membership would support the concept as a way to enhance the championships experience. The committee has begun preliminary discussions with the leadership of the WGCA and intends to collaborate with the organization to gather more feedback and decide whether to formally submit a proposal.

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 would work well for the men's and women's championships moving forward (see Informational Item 5-d.).

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.

12. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the 2015-16 sport sponsorship list and discussed schools that are considering adding the sport for 2016-17.

13. **2016-17 committee roster, selection of chair and timeline.** The committee recognized Lissa Bradford, head women's golf coach at Belmont University, and Peter Fields, former athletics director at Montana State University, Bozeman, for their tremendous 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 2016-17 committee members.

The committee also selected Jim Fee, associate athletics director at University of South Florida, to serve as chair, effective immediately. Mr. Fee will be in his fourth year on the committee and brings to this role nearly 20 years of department-wide administrative and head golf coaching experience at South Florida. Mr. Fee replaces Mr. Fields, who has completed his four-year term on the committee while serving the last two as chair.

14. **Future sites/bid process updates.** The committee reviewed the initial list of bid intentions submitted for hosting women's regional sites for 2019-2022, and men's and women's finals sites from 2018-2022. Staff reviewed the timeline for the current bid cycle with final bid submissions due August 12 and that the announcement for all sites selected will be conducted by the national office 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 men but also for all women's regional competition sites moving forward.
15. **Championships manuals.** The committee asked staff to make the necessary adjustments to the various championships manuals.

16. **Future meetings.** The committee discussed conducting its 2017 annual meeting either July 10-12 or July 26-28 in Indianapolis and will look to finalize the date during a future teleconference.

17. **Other business.** The committee conducted a teleconference with Kristi Knight, head women's golf coach at Kansas State University and president of the WGCA; and Roger Yaffe, executive director of the WGCA. The following items were discussed: (1) WGCA survey results from finals site participants; (2) player substitutions; (3) the .500 rule; (4) course setup at regionals/final sites; (5) WGCA awards display and recognition at the finals; (6) national committee composition for 2016-17; and (7) review of the bid process timeline for selection of future regional and final 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

| Division I Women's Golf Committee  
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<th>July 11-13, 2016, Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lissa Bradford, Belmont University; Ohio Valley Conference.</td>
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<td>Jim Fee, University of South Florida; American Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Fields, Montana State University, Bozeman; Big Sky Conference.</td>
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<td>Martin Jarmond, The Ohio State University; Big Ten Conference.</td>
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<td>Casey VanDamme, South Dakota State University; The Summit League.</td>
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<td>Annie Young, Colorado State University; Mountain West Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Absentees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>None.</td>
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<td><strong>Guests in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristi Knight, Kansas State University (WGCA President) (via teleconference).</td>
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<td>Mark Laesch, Golfstat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Lemieux, Head Rules Official (via teleconference).</td>
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<td>Janet Lindsey, Director of Course Setup (via teleconference).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Pagel, USGA (via teleconference).</td>
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<td>Roger Yaffe, WGCA Executive Director (via teleconference).</td>
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<td><strong>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol A. Reep, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td><strong>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Hale, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances (via teleconference).</td>
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