



**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE  
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN’S GOLF COMMITTEE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Bracket expansion.**

(1) Recommendation. That the women’s golf championships field size be increased from 21 teams to 23 teams for the 2017 championships.

(2) Effective date. 2017 championships.

(3) Rationale. With the relaxed-standard waiver in place for 2015-16, and with the recent adoption of legislation reducing the number of participants from five to four for the purposes of meeting sport-sponsorship requirements, the committee believes that bracket size for the women’s golf championships should increase from 21 to 23 teams for the 2017 championships. The field will also include six individuals. The anticipated pool allocations are: Pool A – 17, Pool B – 4 and Pool C – 2.

The relaxed-standard waiver was applied to increase the opportunity for conferences to receive an automatic qualification and to assist with field size calculation. Due to budget considerations the past two years, the Division III Championships Committee has not approved a field size increase for women’s golf based on the relaxed-standard waiver. While the automatic qualifiers have grown due to the waiver, the at-large bids have not been protected and in fact have decreased significantly (see chart below). The committee believes that bracket expansion will mitigate this effect. While the Division III Championships Committee has indicated preference for bracket expansion to even-numbered fields when expansion can be accommodated, the committee hopes that the request to a field of 23 (versus 22) is considered given the greater ease in pairings and field size management at the finals site with 23 participating teams.

<b>Championship Year</b>	<b>Bracket Size</b>	<b>AQ’s</b>	<b>At-large (B’s &amp; C’s)</b>
2011	19	11	8
2012	19	11	8

2013	21	11	10
2014	21	15	6
2015	21	16	5
2016	21	17	4

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$16,000.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Increased access to the championships for at-large teams.

*Committee Chair:* Deb Steward, William Smith College, Liberty League

*Staff Liaison(s):* Nancy O’Hara, Championships and Alliances

<b>NCAA Division III Women’s Golf Committee</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Jerry Bergsma, Calvin College; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Brad Duckworth, Alverno College; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
Skip Molitor, Whitman College; Northwest Conference.
Eric Sieger, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Deb Steward, William Smith College; Liberty League.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Support:</b>
Nancy O’Hara, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members:</b>
None.