



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JUNE 28-30, 2016, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

• Access ratio.

- (1) Recommendation. That the access ratio for women's golf be modified from 1:7 to 1:6.5.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. The women's golf committee believes that the access ratio should be modified to provide more access to at-large teams. The access ratio for men's and women's golf is currently set at 1:7. Team sport access ratios are 1:6.5. The at-large percentage for team sports is between 25 percent and 40 percent of the bracket. For women's golf, it is 18 percent of the bracket. If the access ratio for women's golf were adjusted to 1:6.5, the bracket would expand from 22 teams to 24 teams. The percentage of at-large teams would increase to 25 percent of the bracket. This percentage is more in line with team sports that have automatic qualifiers. The committee understands the rationale regarding the 1:7 ratio for golf; however, only six true individuals are selected to the championships, which accounts for 5 percent of the total participants at the championships. The men's golf committee will also be requesting a change in the access ratio.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$17,000.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposal will provide more teams the opportunity to compete at the championships. For the additional teams at the championships, there is potential for missed class time. However, the academic year is already complete for a number of institutions during the time in which the championships are conducted.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 19* conferences sponsoring women's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2017 championships:

American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

*Confirmation of AQs and pool numbers will be determined based on sport sponsorship information available at the time of championship selections.

- (2) Effective date. 2016-17 championship season.
 - (3) Rationale. Each conference meets the defined criteria for automatic qualification. The Old Dominion Athletic Conference and Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference will receive an AQ for the first time in 2017. Anticipated pool allocations for the 2017 championships are as follows: Pool A – 19 berths; Pool B – 1 berths; Pool C – 2 berths.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. None
- b. Championships format.
- (1) Recommendation. That after 54 holes the field be cut to 15 teams and six individuals.
 - (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.
 - (3) Rationale. The championships has been negatively affected by inclement weather in three of the last six years. The committee makes every effort to complete 72 holes, but twice in the last six years, the championships had to be shortened to a 54-hole event. In both of those years, the morning wave had completed its final round. The afternoon wave had started but was unable to finish. In 2014, the championships experienced several weather delays during the week, requiring the committee to implement an administrative cut after three rounds. Currently, the championships requires a two-tee start and two waves

(morning and afternoon). This leaves very little time to accommodate a weather delay. Cutting the field to 15 teams and six individuals will provide for only one wave of play on the final day, which will allow greater flexibility to address weather delays.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. At most, \$8,400. All teams will book travel round trip (returning late Friday or Saturday), assuming they make it through the entire length of the championships. If a team is cut, the NCAA will pay the \$200 change fee to accommodate their return one day early, but if there is any fare increase, teams must pay this additional fee themselves. Teams do, however, continue to receive the full per diem of six days per person. Since the cut will be determined early evening Thursday, the committee believes that most teams will not change their flight.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The experience for those student-athletes missing the cut might be diminished; however, they have had a high-quality experience having already played four rounds of golf (one practice day and three competition days). The teams that after three days know they will not place at the top will still have a goal to achieve (making the cut).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2014 annual meeting minutes.** The committee approved the 2015 annual meeting minutes as submitted.
2. **2015-16 Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the relevant actions and information items from the 2015-16 Championships Committee meetings.
3. **2016 Championships review.**
 - a. Championships evaluations. The committee reviewed surveys from the 2016 championships and noted various minor issues. The surveys indicated that the golf course provided an excellent championships site. The committee noted positive feedback regarding the location of the banquet, the condition of the golf course and the hosting job done by the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority. There were also many positive comments regarding the Special Olympics clinic.

The committee noted several comments regarding the weather delays and not being able to finish the final day of competition. Feedback also indicated a desire for space inside the clubhouse for teams to wait during a weather delay. This will be discussed

with the 2017 host.

- b. Executive Sports. The committee discussed the role of Executive Sports at the championships site and noted the enhanced look and feel of the championships as a result of their services.
 - c. Disabled spectators. The committee noted that the process for disabled spectators worked well.
 - d. Spectator rules. The committee reviewed the spectator rules and noted that they should be displayed more prominently.
 - e. Student-athlete socials. The committee discussed the student-athlete socials (ice cream bar and line dancing) and noted that the ice cream bar was popular but that the line-dancing event was not well attended. Members decided that after competition and with two banquets, the student-athletes prefer something simple like the ice cream bar. The committee decided to limit the socials to something that is not time-consuming.
 - f. Banquet. The committee was pleased with the championship banquet held at the NASA astronaut gallery, though members noted that a tour of the museum could be added before the meal. The guest speaker, a former Division III student-athlete, was well received. The committee noted a few minor suggestions regarding how the meal is served and will address these with the 2017 championships host.
 - g. Special Olympics clinic. The committee felt the Special Olympics clinic was well received. The golf course provided three games that both the Special Olympic athletes and the NCAA student-athletes enjoyed. Members noted the challenge of attracting an adequate number of Special Olympics athletes given the fact that the best day to conduct the clinic is on Sunday, which in this case was Mother's Day. Holly Kesterson, the tournament director, did an excellent job of reaching out to the local Special Olympics chapter to market the event to them. In the end, 20 Special Olympics athletes attended the clinic.
 - h. Web stream. The committee was pleased with the daily recap videos produced on NCAA.com and would like to see those expanded annually.
4. **Sport sponsorship**. The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship reports and noted that the bracket for 2016-17 will be 22 teams.
 5. **Legislation change**. The committee discussed legislation adopted at the 2016 convention that allows institutions to count events in which they had four participants (rather than five)

toward sport-sponsorship requirements.

6. **Match play.** The committee discussed the implementation of allowing match play during the regular season this past year. Members agreed that teams like the format. The committee suggested that the two forms of match play be described in more detail in the pre-championships manual. Members also suggested that the method of reporting match play results be explained in the Golfstat registration memo sent to institutions. The committee asked Golfstat to provide the number of tournaments that used match play this past year in an effort to monitor.
7. **2017 championships.**
 - a. Walk-through and practice round. The committee will schedule course walk-through times in the morning and afternoon. The committee will ask the golf course to reserve the course for four to five hours for the walk-through and to restrict member play during that time. The assigned times will be based on seeding and travel. The committee will ask the rules officials to mark the pin placements for all four days for the practice round.
 - b. Pairings. The committee discussed pairings for the championships in light of the increase in bracket size (from 21 to 22 teams).
 - c. Coach's carts. The committee discussed the use of the coach's cart at the championships. During practice rounds, the assistant coach or institutional personnel may ride in the coach's cart. During competition, once the designated coach signs in, the assistant coach is then a spectator and cannot ride in the cart. No parents are to be in the coach's cart at any time.
 - d. Enhancement funds. The NCAA supplemental funding program will be used for Golfstat live championship scoring.
8. **Head rules official.** The committee noted its continued satisfaction with head rules official, Sam Herb, and his rules committee for their performance during the championships. Committee members noted that rules officials were very active and visible this year and were quick to respond to needs as they arose, creating a positive effect on the event as a whole.
9. **Regional rankings.** The committee discussed the regional rankings this past year, and members agreed it was beneficial to publish the rankings. The committee will continue with a fall ranking and two spring rankings. The fall ranking will be published November 3, and the spring rankings will be published April 13 and 27.

10. **Golfstat.** Mark Laesch, Golfstat president, met with the committee to review Golfstat's role during the year and during selections and at the championships and noted that there were no issues. The committee recommends continuing with the Golfstat webinar in October for committees.
11. **Selection criteria and process.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria for the championships and noted with Mr. Laesch that the reports Golfstat produces should differentiate out-of-division results. Mr. Laesch will refine the reports to ensure that out-of-division results are separate and can be viewed as secondary criteria. He will also remove any results against non-four-year, degree-granting institutions.

The committee discussed the seeding process during selections and will continue to seed selected teams based on Golfstat rankings.
12. **Championship format.** The committee reviewed and discussed a proposal to incorporate a regional format into the championships but took no action at this time. The committee understands the various challenges inherent with integrating this type of format and decided further research needs to be done to better inform a decision.
12. **National committee/regional advisory committee replacements.** There are no changes to the national committee. The committee discussed regional advisory committees and noted anticipated changes.
13. **Committee calendar.** The committee reviewed the committee calendar and made necessary updates.
14. **Bid cycle.** The committee reviewed the timeline related to the current bid cycle.
15. **Review of manuals.** The committee reviewed the committee operations manual, pre-championships manual, host operations manual and the participant manual and made revisions as necessary.
16. **Other business.** The committee met with Louise McCleary, director of law, policy and governance to discuss issues related to the division. The committee also met with Joni Williamson, assistant director of academic and membership affairs.
17. **Future meeting dates.** The committee agreed to conduct its 2017 annual meeting June 27-29 in Indianapolis.

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

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

Division III Women's Golf Committee June 28-30, 2016, Meeting
Attendees:
Jerry Bergsma, Calvin College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Skip Molitor, Whitman College, Northwest Conference.
Eric Sieger, Carleton College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Deb Steward, William Smith College, Liberty League.
Absentees:
Brad Duckworth, Alverno College, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Mark Laesch, Golfstat.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
None.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Louise McCleary, Governance.
Joni Williamson, Academic and Membership Affairs.