

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
AUGUST 6, 2018, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

• **Access ratio.**

- a. Recommendation. Modify NCAA Bylaw 31.3.1.1 to increase the access ratio in women's golf from 1:7 to 1:6.5.
- b. Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- c. 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. In 2017-18 for women's golf, the at-large ratio was 24 percent of the bracket. In 2018-19 it is projected that the at-large percentage will be 16 percent. If the access ratio for women's golf were adjusted to 1:6.5, the bracket would expand from 25 teams to 28 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 since it is considered an individual/team sport; however, only six true individuals are selected to the championships, which accounts for less than 5 percent of the total participants at the championships. The men's golf committee will also be requesting a change in the access ratio.
- d. Estimated budget impact. \$21,700.
- e. 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 21 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2019 Division III Women's Golf Championships: American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference;

Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College 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.

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

- (2) Effective date. 2018-19 championship season.
- (3) Rationale. All recommended conferences meet the criteria for automatic qualification eligibility.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Regional alignment.

- (1) Recommendation. To align the five regions in an effort to more evenly distribute the institutions across the regions.
- (2) Effective date. 2019-20 championship season.
- (3) Rationale. Women's golf is divided into five regions. With the growth of the sport, the regions have become unbalanced. On the high end, the East region has 84 institutions to a low of 29 institutions in the Midwest region. The Central, Great Lakes and West regions range from 32 to 43 institutions. The attachment provides the alignment the committee is proposing.

The committee understands that the division commissioners are reviewing regionalization for all sports and may be proposing something similar most likely for the 2020-21 season. The committee feels that the recommendation should be implemented for 2019-20 with the understanding that there could be additional realignment.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

Committee Chair: Jerry Bergsma, Calvin College
Staff Liaison: Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Women's Golf Committee August 6, 2018, Teleconference	
Attendees:	
	Jerry Bergsma, Calvin College.
	Brad Duckworth, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
	Peter Gyscek, Washington and Lee University.
	Skip Molitor, Whitman College.
Absentees:	
	None.
Guests in Attendance:	
	None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
	Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
	None.