ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   - Player substitutions – finals site match play only.
     (1) Recommendation. That substitutions be permitted (between stipulated rounds only) during the match-play portion of the finals of the women's golf championships.
     (2) Effective date. 2019 championships.
     (3) Rationale. The committee has discussed extensively with coaches over the past two years the idea of allowing substitutions for the match-play portion only at the team championships finals. The women's golf committee partnered with the NCAA research staff this past fall, with the support of the Women's Golf Coaches Association, to survey the coaching membership specific to the past three championships (2015-2017), which included match-play competition to determine the team national champion. The committee members were pleased with the high response rate (70 percent) and noted the following highlights from the survey's aggregated results (Attachment).
       - Sixty-six percent of institutions selected to one of the four regional fields supported the concept.
       - Fifty-five percent of the institutions advancing to the finals site from regional competition supported the concept.
       - Thirty-eight percent of the institutions advancing to the match-play finals supported the concept. (The committee noted during its review of the past three years that the team match play has been in place for the women that of the 24 opportunities (eight per year), only 17 schools and six conferences have had an opportunity to participate in this portion of the finals competition. Of those six conferences four supported the concept, one did not support and one was neutral.)
       - Of the 29 conferences that sponsor women's golf, 19 supported the concept, four did not, four were neutral and two had no members respond to the survey.
The women's golf committee reconfirmed that the topic of permitting player substitutions for the match-play portion of the women's and men's championships gathered momentum for consideration when a University of Texas at Austin golfer was injured during his team's semifinal match in 2016. He was unable to play in the championship match, and his team forfeited that individual match within the overall team match. Texas-Austin 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 for the women's championships 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 women's committee believes that institutions should have the opportunity to consider substituting, at the coach's discretion, during the match-play portion of the national championships. This policy change for the women benefits the injured/sick golfer's team but also prevents the opposing school's golfer from having to sit out perhaps the most important match of her competitive career due to the forfeiture.

As part of the women's golf committee's overall two-year review of the player substitution concept, members noted that the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee has already approved the policy for the men's golf committee, which was implemented for the first time at the 2017 men's championships. In reviewing the results of the men's committee's implementation of this policy during the 2017 championships, 23 programs brought a sixth player to the championships, and seven of the eight teams that advanced to the match-play finals had a sixth player on site. Importantly, none of the seven teams with a sixth player used that player, which indicated to the men's committee that in most instances, coaches would use the sixth player only for emergency situations (injury or illness).

The women's golf committee does not foresee a different result for on-site implementation by schools if the concept was adopted beginning with the 2019 women's golf championships finals. In the end, the women's golf committee believes teams that advance to the match-play portion of the finals should have the opportunity to consider substituting a player so that a team is not disadvantaged if a player gets hurt or sick. Both schools involved in a match would then have the same opportunity to maintain the option to compete as a full team of five players as they strive to advance and win the team national championship.

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. It is important to note that the requested adjustment would be deemed permissible but not required. Therefore, schools may continue to elect to bring only five student-athletes, and either way, the travel party will remain at eight.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** If a school desired, substitutions would allow for the opportunity for one additional student-athlete to travel with the team to the championship. It is important to note that the additional student-athlete would not be permitted to participate in the practice round but would be allowed to use the practice facilities and follow the championship competition as a spectator, which would provide a positive experience for the player. The student-athlete 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 forfeiture would now have an opportunity to compete.
2017 Women's Golf Player Substitution Survey Results

Proposed Substitution Condition for Match Play

Prior to a match-play round (quarterfinals, semifinals or finals), a team may substitute a sixth player for any member of the team provided that:

a. The NCAA Division I Women's Golf Committee or the NCAA Rules Committee is notified of the substitution at least 30 minutes prior to the first tee time of the team's match.

b. The sixth player is an eligible member of the institution's team.

*Note 1: When a team has substituted a sixth player, no further substitutions may be made by the team for that round. The team member that was substituted for, becomes the sixth player and the team is limited to that player, if the team wishes to substitute a player prior to any subsequent match play round.

*Note 2: Unless a team chooses to substitute a sixth player prior to a match play draw, the team's five players that played in the previous round will be used for the draw.

Should institutions bring a sixth player as a substitute for match play, that player may use the practice facilities during the women's championships. However, an institution would not be allowed to have a sixth player participate in their practice round.

Quantitative Data
September 26, 2017

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*n=(number of responses)  *N=(number of surveys distributed)

Aggregate Results

Overall

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Finals
Only institutions that competed at finals

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Match Play
Only institutions that competed in match play

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