KEY ITEM.

- **Player substitution – NCAA finals during match play.** The NCAA Division I Women's Golf Committee continued discussing the pros and cons of allowing player substitutions for match play only for the women's golf championships (see Informational Items 5b and 11d).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   - **Automatic qualification.**
     
     (1) **Recommendation.** That the following 28 conferences sponsoring women's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2018 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.** 2017-18 academic year.

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

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

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

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 11.
2. **Annual meeting report.** The committee approved the report from its 2016 annual meeting as written.

3. **2017 regional tournament sites.** The committee reviewed the participant surveys and noted positive feedback for the four regional host sites. As part of planning for next year's regionals, the committee asked staff to work with each of the host sites so that a box lunch option is available for schools to consider for on-course meals.
   
   a. **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the current schedule of events and did not recommend changes for 2018.
   
   b. **Pace of play.** The committee made no changes for 2018 to the pace of play regulations and noted that coaches and participants continue to embrace the single morning wave of tee times over the previously used two-wave system (morning/afternoon). Further, the committee reaffirmed its desire to continue working 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 improve the overall pace of play for the tournament field.
   
   c. **Tee times and pairings – individuals/teams.** The committee reviewed and adjusted the first competition day of pairings by placing the top-seeded teams first off of #1 and #10 tees, with individuals placed prior to the last set of teams. The second and third days of pairings in the 54-hole tournament will remain unchanged for 2018. Additionally, the committee reaffirmed its intent to continue using 7:30 a.m. start times where appropriate to maximize daylight hours.

4. **2017 championships finals.** The committee commended Northern Illinois University and Rich Harvest Farms for their outstanding efforts and hospitality extended to all participants, coaches and spectators throughout the week of the 2017 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.
   
   a. **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the 2017 schedule of events and will make no substantive changes for the 2018 championships.
   
   b. **Tee times and pairings.** The committee reviewed the stroke-play and match-play tee times and pairings and recommended for 2018 that the current pairings used for Saturday's stroke-play competition also be used for Sunday's stroke-play round. Additionally, for Wednesday's national championships team finals, the match-play tee times will start 15 minutes later. The pairings and tee times for the other competition days will remain unchanged for 2018. 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 the current tiebreaking playoff procedures and added a two-team playoff shotgun option but made no other substantive adjustments to the procedures for the 2018 championships.

d. **Meal accommodations – finals.** The men's and women's committees reviewed and agreed to eliminate the current requirement for the host school to provide complimentary meals (breakfast and lunch) during the competition days. Meal options for breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided at the golf course with schools having the option to purchase. In making this adjustment, the committees noted the increasing financial burden this fundraising requirement has created for hosts, as well as the fact that the NCAA reimburses participating institutions at the finals with a daily per diem for members of the NCAA official travel party.

5. **Championship discussions.**

a. **Course setup – regionals-finals.** The committee talked at length about the importance of having course setups at the regionals and finals sites that provide a challenging but fair test of golf and that can appropriately separate the field, resulting in the best teams/individuals advancing while showcasing the high quality of play by today's top women's collegiate players. The committee noted the significant weather challenges throughout the 2017 championships that affected scoring. Committee members agreed course setup will remain a high priority for future championships.

b. **Player substitutions – finals site match play.** The committee discussed updates from the men's committee regarding the first year of the player substitution policy for the finals site match-play competition. Members noted that initial concerns from coaches on the women's side regarding potential "gamesmanship" did not seem to occur and overall the change was viewed as positive for addressing fairness. The committee has worked with the leadership of the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) during the past year to gather feedback from a working group of head coaches to discuss the pros and cons of implementing this concept for the women's championships. In addition to that feedback, the committee plans to conduct a wider discussion on the topic during the WGCA Round Tables conducted during the upcoming USGA Women's Junior Golf Championships, and then determine whether there is support to formally submit a recommendation to the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee for consideration.

c. **Stoppage-of-play procedures.** The committee reviewed the current policies and recommended no changes for the 2018 championships. The committee reaffirmed that communication among key stakeholders continues to be 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.
d. **Course access after completion of practice/competition rounds.** The committee reviewed the current policies and recommended some minor editorial adjustments for clarification of the current policy for the 2018 championships.

e. **Review of accommodations per NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1.** The committee noted that for regional competition, that Brigham Young University, if selected to the regional field as either a team and/or individual, would continue to be provided the opportunity to conduct its single practice round on Saturday prior to the start of Monday's regional first round.

f. **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 slightly modified the language for 2017-18 to include the entire facility [i.e., practice facilities and additional golf course(s)] rather than just the championship golf course as well as prohibiting walking the golf course during the same time frame. Additionally, the committees supported but will continue to discuss during future meetings a deadline that would be effective August 1, 2019, for which no participants, including those from the host institution, would be provided an exception to the course access policy during the regular season for each of the three years (2020-22) that the championships are conducted at Grayhawk Golf Club.

   (2) **Course walk-through at finals.** The committee reaffirmed its intent to continue to provide access in 2018 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 continue to 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 continued to express its 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.

   - **Selection show announcement.** The committee noted the overall positive feedback from the membership regarding the Golf Channel broadcast of the selection announcement, and the increased number of different programs that were highlighted throughout the hour-long broadcast. For the third straight year, committee members noted an increase in the number of institutions that are conducting "viewing parties" with their teams and program supporters, which continues to add an element of
excitement surrounding the announcement. The committee confirmed that the selection announcement for the 2018 championships will be Wednesday, April 25, with the specific time to be determined. Additionally, NCAA staff reminded the committee that the date for selections this year will change from Thursday to Wednesday.

7. **Officials.** The committee expressed its appreciation for the leadership NCAA Head Rules Official Jerry Lemieux provided through his continued success in securing a highly talented group of rules officials for the regionals and finals; and to Janet Lindsay for her direction and leadership with continuing to improve 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 the four individuals recommended for service as the 2018 head regional rules officials.

8. **Selections.**
   
a. **Selection day timeline.** The committee reviewed the timeline for completing the selection process Wednesday, April 25, 2018, in preparation for the selection announcement that evening on the Golf Channel.
   
b. **Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and made no adjustments for 2017-2018 season.

9. **Golfstat.** The committee met with Marcus El and Brian Laesch from Golfstat and discussed various questions specific to the rankings reports that both committees had received throughout the year and potential enhancements to the Golfstat site for membership access for 2017-18. With the change in leadership at Golfstat over the past year, the committees encouraged Mr. Laesch to work with the respective coaches associations to lead a presentation at the 2017 coaches convention to help continue educating coaches on the ranking system and to help introduce the staff to the membership.

10. **2018 championships – Karsten Creek Golf Club, Stillwater, Oklahoma.**
   
a. **Championships dates – May 18-23, 2018 (Friday-Wednesday).** Oklahoma State University will host the 2018 championships finals at Karsten Creek Golf Club in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The four regional sites are: (1) Don Veller Seminole Golf Course & Club, Tallahassee, Florida (Florida State University, host); (2) The University of Texas Golf Club in Austin, Texas (University of Texas at Austin, host); (3) University Ridge Golf Course in Madison, Wisconsin (University of Wisconsin, Madison, host); and (4) Stanford Golf Course in Stanford, California (Stanford University, host). Regional play will be conducted May 7-9, 2018.
b. **Site visit.** The committee noted that NCAA staff, committee chairs, course setup officials and Golf Channel representatives will conduct a site visit with the Oklahoma State University/Karsten Creek Golf Club host local organizing committee members September 18-19.

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.** Andrea Starkey, vice president of strategic programming and partnerships at the Golf Channel, and Brandt Packer, producer at the Golf Channel, summarized Golf Channel feedback and viewership ratings and demographics specific to the 2017 women's and men's national championships. For the third consecutive year of the back-to-back championships, they felt the ratings were strong for both events and showcased the quality of play from 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 provided an update on the rules of golf modernization project and the timeline for implementation. He also updated the group on the process for registering new events so results will be counted in the World Amateur Golf Rankings, as well as on rules situations that had occurred this past year and 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 team at each championship. Mr. Pagel also noted the excitement and importance of continuing to build on the strong relationship that continues to exist 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 the NCAA national office.

   c. **NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1 discussion.** The women's committee reviewed the planning and accommodations made during the championships finals at Rich Harvest Farms for Brigham Young University, given the institution's policy of not competing on Sunday, and confirmed along with the men's golf committee that if there becomes a need to implement accommodations for the 2018 finals that Brigham Young would be allowed to conduct its single practice round on Wednesday with its competition round still to be conducted Thursday afternoon once the shotgun practice round has been completed.

   d. **Player substitution – NCAA finals during team match play.** The men's committee provided an overview regarding the first year implementation of the player substitution policy during the team match-play portion at the men's championships finals. Twenty-three of the 30 schools that advanced to the finals elected to bring an additional player for use as a possible substitution, and seven of the eight teams that advanced to match
play had the ability to use a substitute, if desired. In the end, no institutions chose to use a substitute this year, but the men's committee continues to agree that by providing this student well-being opportunity for competing schools to consider, that the championship competition maintains the ability by both schools to play a match with its full complement of players. The committee also recognized that substitution policy mitigates 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.

e. **Pairings (tee times).** The committees reviewed and adjusted the 2017 pairings and tee times for Sunday (stroke play) and Wednesday (match-play team finals) for the 2018 championships (see Informational Item 4b.)

f. **Medical exceptions (justified withdrawal).** The committees discussed the topic of medical exceptions (justified withdrawals), and the overall impact on an individual players Golfstat rankings. The committees agreed to continue this discussion during the coming year but took no action at this time.

g. **Format contingency plans (weather delay).** The committees conducted a preliminary discussion around additional options that could be considered within the current format when play is severely impacted due to lengthy weather delays. The committees took no action at this time but will continue to discuss throughout the year.

h. **National Collegiate Golf Invitational.** The committees reviewed correspondence from the membership proposing an alternative postseason event for teams that do not make the NCAA tournament field but decided to take no action at this time. The committees recommended that the coaches seek a Division I conference that sponsors both men's and women's golf to propose legislation so the full membership has an opportunity to provide feedback before the golf committees discuss it further. The committees noted that the following areas should be clarified if a proposal is submitted: (1) specifics for the selection process; (2) format and number of schools invited (teams and/or individuals); (3) number of days of competition; (4) dates of the event; (5) possible missed class time for quarter-school participants; and (5) potential costs participating institutions would incur.

12. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the 2016-17 sport sponsorship list and discussed schools that are considering adding the sport for 2017-18.

13. **2017-18 committee roster, selection of chair and timeline.** The committee recognized Jim Fee, associate athletics director at the University of South Florida, for his tremendous service and leadership during his four-year term and service as chair over the past two years on the national committee. Additionally, the committee reviewed and finalized its annual timeline for staff to distribute to the 2017-18 committee members.
The committee also selected Ryan Colton, assistant athletics director at College of the Holy Cross, to serve as chair, effective September 1. Mr. Colton will be in his second year on the committee and oversees the golf programs as part of his administrative responsibilities at Holy Cross. Mr. Colton replaces Mr. Fee, who will complete his tenure on the committee August 31.

14. **Future sites.** The committee reviewed the list of regionals and finals sites that have been selected for 2018-22 during the recent bid cycle.

15. **Championships manuals.** The committee asked staff to make the necessary adjustments to the various championships manuals.

16. **Future meetings.** The committee selected July 9-10 as the dates for the 2018 annual meeting in Indianapolis. Committee members would arrive Sunday night and the meeting would begin first thing Monday morning.

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**Committee Chair:** Jim Fee, University of South Florida, American Athletic Conference  
**Staff Liaison:** Carol A. Reep, Championships and Alliances

| Division I Women's Golf Committee  
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<th>July 10-12, 2017, Meeting</th>
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<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<td>Julie Brooks, University of California, Irvine; Big West Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Colton, College of the Holy Cross; Patriot League.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Fee, University of South Florida; American Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Manning, University on Minnesota, Twin Cities; Big Ten Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<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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<td><strong>Absentees:</strong></td>
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<td>None.</td>
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<td><strong>Guests in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus El, Golfstat.</td>
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<td>Brian Laesch, Golfstat.</td>
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<td>Brandt Packer, Golf Channel.</td>
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<td>Thomas Pagel, USGA (via teleconference).</td>
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<td>Andrea Starkey, Golf Channel.</td>
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<td><strong>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<td>Carol A. Reep.</td>
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<td><strong>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<td>Robin Hale and Julie Kimmons.</td>
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