KEY ITEMS.

- **Pace of play – checkpoint system.** The NCAA Division I Women's Golf Committee adopted the USGA checkpoint system at both the regionals and finals, effective with the 2019 championships (see Informational Item 6b).

- **Player substitutions – finals site match play only.** The committee noted that effective for the 2019 championships finals, teams advancing to match play will have the opportunity to consider substituting a player, if desired (see Informational Item 6d).

- **Determining 15th team/ninth individual spots after three days of stroke play – playoff option.** The committee approved the sudden-death playoff option as a tiebreaker to determine the top 15 teams and nine individuals not on one of the advancing teams at the finals (if course conditions and time permits) rather than the current practice of using the non-sudden-death tiebreaking procedures to make this determination (see Informational Item 6f).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   - **Automatic qualification.**
     1. **Recommendation.** That the following 27 conferences sponsoring women's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2019 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; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

2. **Effective date.** 2018-19 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 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee.

2. **Annual meeting report.** The committee approved the report from its 2017 annual meeting as written.

3. **2018 regional tournament sites.** The committee reviewed the participant surveys and noted the significant amount of positive feedback received for all four regional host sites.

As part of planning for the 2019 regional competitions, the committee asked staff to emphasize during monthly host calls the expectation and importance of having each site set up and ready for play prior to the start of the practice round. Additionally, the committee adjusted its current policy for non-competing players that are part of an institution's official travel party. Effective for 2019, if an institution brings an additional player as part of its team travel party, that player will be allowed to use the practice facilities throughout the regional competition, but institutions would not be allowed to have a sixth player participate in their practice round.

a. **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the current schedule of events and did not recommend changes for 2019.

b. **Tee times and pairings – individuals/teams.** The committee reviewed the current tee times and pairings and did not recommend changes for 2019. Additionally, the committee reaffirmed its intent when appropriate to continue using either 7:30 a.m. or 8 a.m. start times in order to maximize daylight hours. Further, the committee noted 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.
4. **2018 championships finals.** The committee commended Oklahoma State University and Karsten Creek Golf Club for their outstanding efforts and hospitality extended to all participants, coaches and spectators throughout the week of the 2018 women's national championships. Additionally, the committee recognized the Golf Channel for its continued outstanding coverage leading up to and throughout the crowning of the individual and team national champions.

- **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the 2018 schedule of events and will make no substantive changes for the 2019 championships.
  
  - **Wednesday – optional course walk-through day.** The committee reaffirmed its intent to continue to provide access in 2019 for teams/individuals that advance to the finals site in order to locate shipped equipment, secure yardage books and participate in the optional course walk-through, 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 participating in the optional course walk-through.

5. **Tee times and pairings.** The committee reviewed the stroke play and match play tee times and pairings and did not recommend adjustments for 2019. 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.

6. **Championships discussions.**

   a. **Course setup – regionals-finals.** The committee expressed its appreciation for the leadership that Allison Brown, NCAA head rules official, along with the four regional head rules officials provided specific to course setup at each of the regional and finals host sites. Committee members agreed that course setup will continue as a high priority for future championships, with the goal each year of providing a challenging but fair test of golf 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.

   b. **Pace of play – checkpoint system.** The committee discussed at length the increased pace of play concerns that have resulted over the past several years during the women's championships (regionals and finals). To address these concerns, the committee agreed to adopt the USGA checkpoint system at both the regionals and finals, effective with the 2019 championships. In making this pace of play policy adjustment, the committee noted the importance of working with NCAA staff to create and make available educational resources for institutions and conferences that sponsor women's golf to access and possibly consider implementing at tournaments during the regular season.
Further, the committee noted the importance for conferences to consider implementing the USGA checkpoint system during their end-of-season conference championships.

c. **Players as "spectators" after individual match completion.** The committee discussed as part of the overall student-athlete experience the importance of providing the opportunity during the match play competition for competing players to be able to celebrate with their teammates as matches are completed yet stay in compliance with the Rules of Golf specific to not providing "advice." The committee agreed to provide "inside the ropes" access when managing this student-athlete opportunity yet maintaining the players' status as "spectators" once their individual matches have concluded.

d. **Player substitutions – finals site match play only.** The committee reviewed and reaffirmed the conditions of competition established for institutions interested in using the opportunity to substitute a player during the team match play portion of competition at the finals, effective for the 2019 championships. To help the membership become more familiar with the "substitution conditions" for teams and players, the committee asked staff to move forward with posting and distributing the information. (Attachment)

e. **Stoppage-of-play procedures.** The committee reviewed the current policies and recommended no changes for the 2019 championships. The committee reaffirmed that communication among key stakeholders continues to be critical to administering a successful stoppage-of-play plan, and members asked staff to continue emphasizing those procedures during monthly host prep calls with the tournament director and venue staff.

f. **Tiebreaking playoff procedures.** The committee reviewed the current tiebreaking playoff procedures and approved the use of the sudden-death playoff option when determining the top 15 teams and nine individuals not on one of the advancing teams at the finals. In making this adjustment, the committee noted its commitment to breaking ties conducting a sudden-death playoff if course conditions and time permits. The committee also reaffirmed that when there are two or more teams involved in a playoff, the shotgun format will continue to be used at the finals to break ties. The committee asked staff to update the information accordingly in the various manuals for the 2019 championships. Committee members noted that they will continue their discussions on a future teleconference to determine an appropriate time if the final advancing team and/or individual cannot be determined prior to the established start time for play on Monday and would result in the committee's need to discontinue the playoff and implement the non-sudden death tiebreaking procedures to make the determination.
g. **Course access for coaches prior to start of practice/competition rounds.** The committee reviewed the current policies and recommended additional language for the 2019 championship manuals that will clarify for coach's course access and use of their institutionally assigned golf cart prior to the start of their competition rounds.

h. **Institution access to golf course.**

- Review of course access calendar year policy – 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 2018-19 to prohibit the host institution from walking, playing or practicing on the championship finals course beginning 10 days prior to the men's championships. Additionally, the committees will continue to discuss during future teleconferences whether to establish a policy for course access during the regular season for each of the three years (2020-22) that the championships are conducted at Grayhawk Golf Club.

7. **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 commented on the overall positive feedback received from the membership regarding the Golf Channel broadcast of the selection announcement. Members noted that for the fourth straight year there was an increase in the number of different programs that were highlighted, as well as an increase in the number of institutions that are conducting "viewing parties" with their teams and program supporters, which has added a significant element of excitement surrounding the announcement. The committee confirmed that the selection announcement for the 2019 championships will be Wednesday, April 24 with the specific time to be determined.

8. **Officials.** The committee expressed its appreciation for the leadership NCAA head rules official Allison Brown provided during her first year in this role. Specifically, the committee noted the improved direction and consistency of course setup for the regional and finals sites as well as securing a highly talented group of rules officials. The committee reaffirmed the importance of maintaining the highest quality of officiating at each round of competition and maintaining the focus on course setup for all rounds of the championships. The committee also reviewed and approved the four individuals recommended to serve as the 2019 head regional rules officials.
a. **Transport of players during competition rounds.** The committee reviewed the policy that was implemented at the 2018 finals for transporting players to the bathroom when needed during a competition round by either an official or designated coach and confirmed support for adopting this policy for implementation at the 2019 regionals and finals sites.

b. **2018 fall hard card.** The committee 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.

9. **Selections.**

   a. **Selection day timeline.** The committee reviewed the timeline for completing the selection process Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 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 2018-2019 season.

10. **Golfstat.** The committee met with Marcus El and Brian Laesch from Golfstat and discussed various questions specific to the rankings reports that both committees received throughout the year. As a follow-up to these preliminary rankings discussions, both committees have requested additional information from Golfstat on the possible effects of match play competition and 18-hole events on player and team rankings for their review on a future teleconference this fall.

   a. **18-hole tournaments.** The committee had preliminary discussions and reviewed information specific to the number of 18-hole tournaments and rounds that were submitted to Golfstat over the past two years for inclusion in the rankings. Although the committee took no action at this time, they agreed to work in partnership with the membership to continue to review the affects 18-hole matches have on the Golfstat rankings. Specifically, the committee will continue to monitor the number and type of tournaments yearly that result in stroke play competition being less than the standard 54-hole tournament moving forward and the reasons for this difference (e.g., weather-shortened event that was originally scheduled for 54 or 36 holes of stroke play competition; regularly scheduled dual matches or 18-hole stroke play rounds as a qualifier for match play bracket pairings).

   b. **Match play calculations – rankings.** The committee reviewed a document the Golfstat staff developed to illustrate how match play competition impacts the Golfstat rankings and asked staff to post this information on the Golfstat site as well as on the sport-specific site on [www.ncca.org](http://www.ncca.org) as a resource for the membership.
c. **Medical Exceptions.** The committee revisited the topic of medical exceptions (justified withdrawals) and the overall impact on an individual's Golfstat rankings but made no further adjustments to the current practice in evaluating these types of situations when requested by a member institution.

11. **2019 championships – The Blessings Golf Club, Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

   a. **Championships dates – May 17-22, 2019 (Friday-Wednesday).** The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville will host the 2019 championships finals at The Blessings Golf Club in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The four regional sites are: (1) Auburn University Club in Auburn, Alabama (Auburn University, host); (2) Forest Akers Golf Courses – West in East Lansing, Michigan (Michigan State University and Lansing Sports Authority, co-hosts); (3) Jimmy Austin OU Golf Club in Norman, Oklahoma (University of Oklahoma, host); and (4) Tumble Creek Golf Club in Cle Elum, Washington (University of Washington, host). Regional play will be conducted May 6-8, 2019.

   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 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville/The Blessings Golf Club host local organizing committee members September 10-12.

12. **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, summarized Golf Channel feedback and viewership ratings and demographics specific to the 2019 women's and men's national championships. For the fourth consecutive year of the back-to-back championships, they felt the ratings were strong for both events and continue to showcase the quality of play from collegiate golfers both during the stroke play and team match play portions of each event. In looking ahead, Golf Channel would like to continue to build on player and institutional stories along with expanded coverage of play at each of the regional sites as well as continuing to consider options if presented for covering some regular-season events when possible.

   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 noted that the rules modernization project changes will go into effect January 1, 2019. The USGA will focus significantly on providing a variety of educational tools across different learning platforms starting in September to help competitive players and officials understand and correctly apply the rules changes. He also updated the group on future dates and locations of upcoming USGA championships. 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 and men's committees reviewed the current accommodations provided Brigham Young University during their respective 2018 regionals and finals site competitions that are required per NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1 and did not recommend the need for further adjustments for the 2019 championships. However, members noted that the women's committee will continue to discuss this topic with the men's committee to determine if there are other viable options that should be considered when accommodating institutions per the requirements of the NCAA bylaw.

d. **Pairings (tee times).** The committees reviewed the 2018 pairings and tee times and made no adjustments at this time for the 2019 championships.

e. **Playoff hole assignments.** The committees reviewed and confirmed the assignment of holes for playing positions in the event of a team playoff. Hole assignments will be identified in advance and provided to the coaches at the beginning of the championship since playoff holes may change from site to site.

f. **Joint session at coach's convention.** The committees discussed the opportunity to have a joint session at the December coach's convention to discuss topics around college golf. The committees will work with the respective coaches' associations to determine the feasibility and potential topics at a later date.

13. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the 2017-18 sport sponsorship list and discussed schools that are considering adding the sport for 2018-19.

14. **2018-19 committee roster and timeline.** The committee reviewed and finalized its annual timeline for staff to distribute to the 2018-19 committee members.

15. **Future sites.** The committee reviewed the list of regionals and finals sites that have been selected for 2019-22 during the recent bid cycle.

16. **Championships manuals.** The committee agreed to review and provide recommended changes for staff to make to the various championships manuals in preparation for 2018-19.

17. **Future meetings.** The committee selected July 18-19 as the dates for the 2019 annual meeting in Indianapolis.
18. **Other business.** The committee reaffirmed the value of conducting regular discussions with the leadership of the Women's Golf Coaches Association and asked NCAA staff to add this topic to the agenda moving forward and extend an invitation to the president to join the annual summer meeting for this discussion either in-person or via conference call.

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**Committee Chair:** Ryan Colton, University of Richmond  
**Staff Liaison:** Carol A. Reep, Championships and Alliances

| Division I Women's Golf Committee  
| July 9-10, 2018, Meeting |
|---|---|
| **Attendees:** |  
Julie Brooks, University of California, Irvine.  
Ryan Colton, University of Richmond.  
Janell Howland, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.  
Julie Manning, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.  
Casey VanDamme, South Dakota State University. |
| **Absentees:** | None. |
| **Guests in Attendance:** |  
Marcus El, Golfstat (via teleconference).  
Brian Laesch, Golfstat.  
Thomas Pagel, USGA (via teleconference).  
Andrea Starkey, Golf Channel. |
| **NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:** | Carol A. Reep. |
| **Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:** | Robin Hale and Julie Kimmons. |
ATTACHMENT

DIVISION I WOMEN'S GOLF
(Effective for 2019)

PLAYER SUBSTITUTION – Match Play Only at Championships Finals

Substitution Conditions – Match Play Only (Championships Finals Site)

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 that team member's starting time.

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 but would not be allowed to participate in the team's practice round.

Player Substitutions – NCAA Finals During Team Match Play Competition.

- Coaches would be allowed to bring one additional student-athlete to the championships.
- The additional student-athlete would be accounted for within the current NCAA Official Travel Party of eight (provides for six student-athletes and two non-student-athletes).
- The additional player could use the practice facilities throughout the championships but not be allowed to participate in the team's practice round.
- Substitutions would be permitted at the coach's discretion (injury, illness, coach's decision, etc.).
- Coaches would be allowed one substitution per stipulated match play round.
- The additional player would not be permitted to provide advice at any time.
- Coaches may substitute a player at least 30 minutes prior to that team member's starting time.
- Substitutes are not permitted during a match once competition in a match has started.
- Team lineups for match play will be set using the five players that completed the previous round.