



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JUNE 27-29, 2017, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Committee chair.

- (1) Recommendation. That Jerry Bergsma, women's golf coach at Calvin College, serve as chair of the Division III Women's Golf Committee.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Bergsma's service and knowledge of the sport will be beneficial to the committee.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Field size increase.

- (1) Recommendation. That the field size for women's golf be increased to 25 teams.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. In February 2017, the Division III Championships Committee approved the women's golf field size increase from 22 to 26 pending sport sponsorship review. Based on the 2016-17 sport sponsorship and the access ratio of 1:7, the field size should be increased to 25. While the Championships Committee has indicated a preference for bracket expansion to even-numbered fields, an odd or even field size is irrelevant in golf, thus the committee recommends increasing the field size as prescribed by the access ratio. It should also be noted that while the automatic qualifiers have increased over the years (see chart below), the at-large bids have not been protected and in fact have decreased significantly.

CHAMPIONSHIPS YEAR	INSTITUTIONS SPONSORING WITHOUT USE OF WAIVER*	FIELD SIZE WITHOUT USE OF WAIVER*	INSTITUTIONS SPONSORING WITH USE OF WAIVER*	FIELD SIZE WITH USE OF WAIVER*	AQ'S WITHOUT USE OF WAIVER	AQ'S WITH USE OF WAIVER	INSTITUTIONS NOT MEETING SPORT SPONSORSHIP
2009-10	95	12	116	15	11 (3 conf in grace)	11	29
2010-11	108	14	129	19	11 (5 conf in grace)	11	20
2011-12	104	13	130	19	7	11	22
2012-13	117	17	145	21	6	11	29
2013-14	126	18	145	21	10	15	29
2014-15	126	18	161	23/21**	12	16	28
2015-16	128	18	158	23/21**	14	17	32
2016-17	133	19	154	22	18		29
CHAMPIONSHIPS YEAR	INSTITUTIONS SPONSORING (PREVIOUS YEAR)	FIELD SIZE		AQ'S			
2017-18	173	25 (24.71)		20 (requested)			37

*Bracket is determined based on sponsorship from the previous year.

**Bracket calculation using sponsorship numbers with the waiver in place is 23. The Championships Committee approved a bracket of 21.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$25,500. In February 2017, the Championships Committee approved a budget impact of \$34,000 if the field was increased to 26 teams.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposal will provide more teams the opportunity to compete at the championships.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2016 annual meeting minutes.** The committee approved the 2016 annual meeting minutes as submitted.
2. **2016-17 Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the relevant actions and information items from the 2016-17 Championships Committee meetings.
3. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship and pool documents.
4. **Automatic qualifier applications.** The committee will review the automatic qualifier applications once sport sponsorship reports are available in August. The committee will meet via teleconference in August to submit the recommended automatic qualifiers to the Championships Committee.

5. 2017 championships review.

- a. Championships evaluations. The committee reviewed surveys from the 2017 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.
- b. Format and cut. The committee discussed the cut that was implemented, noting that the survey results indicated positive comments from several teams regarding the cut.
- c. 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. The committee was especially pleased with the outstanding Executive Sports staff members. The committee suggested a few operational improvements for the Executive Sports staff for future years.
- d. Disabled spectators. The committee noted that the process for disabled spectators worked well.
- e. Spectator rules. The committee reviewed the spectator rules and noted few issues.
- f. Student-athlete socials. At last year's meeting, the committee decided to discontinue student-athlete socials due to low attendance. There were no comments (negative or positive) from this year's surveys regarding the discontinuation of the socials.
- g. Banquet. The committee was pleased with the championship banquet held at the Kemah boardwalk. The guest speaker, Kathy Whitworth, who is the winningest female golfer, was well received.
- h. Special Olympics clinic. The committee felt the Special Olympics clinic was well received. The golf course provided four games that both the Special Olympic athletes and the NCAA student-athletes enjoyed. 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.
- i. Folds of Honor. The committee was happy with the implementation of the Folds of Honor program.
- j. NCAA.com coverage. The committee was pleased with the daily recap videos produced

on NCAA.com and would like to see those expanded annually.

6. 2018 championships.

- a. Pairings. The committee discussed pairings for the championships in light of the increase in bracket size (from 22 to 25 teams).
- b. Course setup. The course at Mission Inn is a difficult course. The committee discussed ways to improve the setup and will note them to the head rules official during the site visit.
- c. Schedule of events. The committee made minor changes to the schedule of events.
- d. Enhancement funds. The NCAA supplemental funding program will be used for Golfstat live championship scoring.
- e. Awards ceremony. The committee discussed minor improvements to the awards ceremony.

7. 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.

8. Rankings and selections process.

- a. Rankings and selection criteria. The committee reviewed the criteria for rankings and selections.
- b. 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 three spring rankings. The fall ranking will be published November 2, and the spring rankings will be published April 12, 26 and 30 (selections).
- c. Rankings and selection documents. The committee reviewed the spreadsheets for rankings and selections and made minor changes. The committee noted that since Golfstat produces the data on the reports, Golfstat should be asked to produce the reports.

9. Golfstat. Staff members from Golfstat met with the committee to review their role during the year, as well as with selections and at the championships. The committee recommends continuing with the Golfstat webinar in October for committees.

- 10. Two active coaches at the championships.** The committee discussed the men’s proposal to allow two active coaches at the championships but took no action at this time.
- 11. National committee/regional advisory committee replacements.** The committee discussed regional advisory committees and noted anticipated changes.
- 12. Committee calendar.** The committee reviewed the committee calendar and made necessary updates.
- 13. Governance update.** The committee met with Jay Jones, associate director of law, policy and governance, to discuss issues related to the division.
- 14. 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.
- 15. Other business.** The committee met with Jeff Myers, director of academic and membership affairs, and Liz Suscha, managing director of championships and alliances, to review an inquiry from a conference regarding its automatic qualifier status.
- 16. Future meeting dates.** The committee agreed to conduct its 2018 annual meeting June 25-27 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 27-29, 2017, Meeting
Attendees:
Jerry Bergsma, Calvin College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Brad Duckworth, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Skip Molitor, Whitman College; Northwest Conference.
Eric Sieger, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Deb Steward, William Smith College; Liberty League.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Ali Arends, Golfstat.
Marcus El, Golfstat.
Brian Laesch, Golfstat.

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jori Anne Jasper, Law, Policy and Governance.
Jay Jones, Law, Policy and Governance.
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.