



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JUNE 25-27, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

▪ **Committee chair.**

- (1) Recommendation. That Jerry Bergsma, women's golf coach at Calvin College, continue to serve as chair of the Division III Women's Golf Committee.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Bergsma's previous service as the chair for the 2017-18 academic year and his knowledge of the sport will be beneficial to the committee.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2017 annual meeting minutes.** The committee approved the 2017 annual meeting minutes as submitted.
- 2. 2017-18 Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the relevant actions and information items from the 2017-18 Championships Committee meetings.
- 3. Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship and pool documents.
- 4. Regionalization.** The committee reviewed the regions and noted that the East region has significantly more institutions than the other four regions. The committee will be reviewing options to possibly realign some of the regions.

5. **Access ratio.** The committee is working with the men's committee to propose a change in the access ratio to be more in line with other team sports.
6. **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.
7. **2019 rules changes.** The committee discussed the upcoming rules changes and the impact they will have. The committee requested information on how these rules changes will be communicated to the membership.
8. **Minimum yardage.** The committee will be adjusting the minimum yardage requirement for competition to count beginning with the 2019-20 season. Currently, the yardage for all divisions for women's golf is set at a minimum of 5,800 yards. The course can be set at any par as long as the yardage is a minimum of 5,800 yards. Men's golf yardage is set relative to par (par 70 – 6,100; par 71 – 6,300; par 72 – 6,500). The women's committee will require that for Division III, the yardage be set relative to par as follows:

PAR 70 = 5,600
PAR 71 = 5,700
PAR 72 = 5,800
PAR 73 = 5,900
PAR 74 = 6,000

The committee acknowledged that Division III women's golf is improving and growing, and that the product should be branded to entice more participation and ultimately attract more players into Division III. Lower scoring averages will help improve the brand. Relating a specific par to a specific yardage will provide continuity in the sport. Tournament play will be more consistent now rather than previously when yardage was set arbitrarily (i.e., 5,800 yards for par 72, 73 or 74), and setting yardage relative to par will provide more flexibility for tournament hosts. The yardage and par recommendations are 89 to 92 percent of the men's yardages.

9. 2018 championships review.

- a. **Championships evaluations.** The committee reviewed surveys from the 2018 championships and noted various minor issues. The surveys indicated that the golf course provided an excellent championships site. The committee noted positive feedback regarding course setup and the hosting job done by Oglethorpe University and the Central Florida Sports Commission.

- b. Executive Sports. The committee noted that while Executive Sports was not used this year for equipment setup, the host did a nice job performing those duties.
- d. Disabled spectators. The committee noted that the process to accommodate spectators with disabilities worked well.
- e. Spectator rules. The committee reviewed the spectator rules and noted few issues.
- f. Banquet. The committee was pleased with the championship banquet. The committee would like the host to work on securing a speaker in the future.
- g. Special Olympics clinic. Unfortunately, the Special Olympics clinic had to be cancelled due to weather. However, the host did take the initiative to make sure a Special Olympics athlete was present to do a ceremonial first tee shot on the first day of competition. Committee members noted that if this is to be done in the future, it would work better if done on the practice round when there is a shotgun start and all the student-athletes can be on the first tee to see the ceremonial shot.
- h. Folds of Honor. The committee was pleased with how the Folds of Honor program was conducted this year. Committee members noted that they would like to see more female military personnel being honored. The committee asked staff to work with the golf coaches association to include that with the tee announcements and storyboards.
- 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.

10. 2019 championships.

- a. Pre-championships conference call. The committee discussed the agenda for the call and noted items to emphasize.
- b. Pairings. The committee discussed pairings for the championships and noted that the adjustment made this year to promote out-of-region pairings worked well.
- b. 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 fan giveaways.
- e. Awards ceremony. The committee discussed minor improvements to the awards ceremony.

- 11. 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 and were quick to respond to needs as they arose, which reflected positively on the event.
- 12. 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 7, and the spring rankings will be published April 18, and May 2 and 6 (selections).
 - c. Rankings and selection documents. The committee reviewed the spreadsheets for rankings and selections and made minor changes. A formal request has been made to Golfstat to produce committee specific reports.
- 13. 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.
- 14. Two active coaches at the championships.** The committee discussed the new policy that will allow two coaches at the 2019 championships. The committee recommends using a form for the director of athletics to complete to list the two coaches that will be attending the championships to ensure both coaches are recognized by the athletics department.
- 15. National committee/regional advisory committee replacements.** The committee discussed regional advisory committees and noted anticipated roster changes.
- 12. Committee calendar.** The committee reviewed the committee calendar and made necessary updates.
- 13. Governance update.** The committee met with Adam Skaggs from the law, policy and governance staff 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. Future meeting dates.** The committee agreed to conduct its 2019 annual meeting June 24-26

in Indianapolis.

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

| Division III Women's Golf Committee June 25-27, 2018, Meeting | |
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| 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: | |
| 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: | |
| John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances | |
| Adam Skaggs, Law, Policy and Governance. | |