KEY ITEMS.

1. **2015 Championships Format Adjustment.** The Division I Men’s and Women’s Golf Committees are recommending an adjustment to the format for the finals site that will replace the individual-only day on Monday with play by the top 15 teams and nine individuals not on one of the advancing teams for implementation in 2015 (see Nonlegislative Item a).

2. **Course Access During Regular Season – Finals Site.** The Division I Men’s and Women’s Golf Committees established a policy that eliminates the opportunity for teams/individuals to play the finals site course beginning August 1 prior to the championships. The host institution will be prohibited from playing and practicing at the championship finals site beginning 10 days prior to the championships (see Informational Item 8a).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative Items.**
   - None.

2. **Nonlegislative Items.**
   a. **Championship Format Adjustment – Teams/Individuals.**
      
      (1) **Recommendation.** That the 2015 finals format consist of three days of stroke play (54 holes), after which the top 15 teams and nine individuals not on an advancing team will be determined. That is followed by a final day of 18 holes of stroke play (Monday) to determine the top eight teams that will advance to match play as well as the 72-hole individual champion. The team national champion will be determined by a match-play format that will consist of quarterfinals and semifinals conducted on Tuesday, followed by the finals on Wednesday. The adjustments to the finals schedule are provided in **bold** and outlined as follows:

      **Wednesday** – Teams arrive.
      **Thursday** – Practice round.
      **Friday** – First day of stroke-play competition (18 holes).
      **Saturday** – Second day of stroke-play competition (18 holes).
Sunday – Third day of stroke-play competition (18 holes) to determine the top 15 teams along with the top nine individuals not on an advancing team for final 18 holes of stroke-play competition.

Monday – Final round of stroke-play competition to determine the top eight teams for match-play competition and 72-hole individual champion crowned.

Tuesday – Quarterfinals and semifinals of team match play.

Wednesday – Championship match to determine team champion.

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. During its recent meeting, the Division I Men’s and Women’s Golf Committees reviewed format adjustments created because of weather conditions during the 2014 Division I Men’s Golf Championships and recommended that they be adopted for 2015. In making their recommendation, committee members noted that the revised format adds excitement to the competition by teams having to advance to the top eight for match play, yet it maintains the 72-hole stroke-play format for determining the individual champion. Additionally, replacing the individual-only day on Monday with play by the top 15 teams and nine individuals not on one of the advancing teams gives greater television exposure for more institutions and players.

In conducting its review of the 2013-14 season, the committee was enthusiastic about the exposure that the Golf Channel partnership provided the sport. Further, the committee anticipates building on the expanded yearlong exposure for the sport by conducting the 2015 women’s and men’s championships during back-to-back weeks, with live Golf Channel coverage provided during the final three days of each event.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. The recommended format adjustment maintains the focus on the team competition that is central to the collegiate golf experience for the student-athletes, while allowing for the 72-hole stroke-play format to continue determining the individual champion. Additionally, the Golf Channel will be able to use the live broadcasts to enhance the experience and exposure for the student-athletes and the institutions they represent.
b. Automatic Qualification Applications.

(1) **Recommendation.** The committee recommended that the following 31 conferences sponsoring men’s golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2015 championships: American Athletic Conference; America Sky Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference, Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic 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; Summit League; Sun Belt Conference, Western Athletic Conference; and West Coast Conference.

(2) **Effective Date.** 2014-15 academic year.

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

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** The Championships/Sports Management Cabinet has traditionally approved all recommended conferences that the committee has forwarded for consideration.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2013 Annual Meeting Report.** The committee approved the 2013 annual report as written.

2. **2013-14 Championships/Sports Management Cabinet Actions.** The committee reviewed items from the 2013-14 academic year relative to men’s golf.

3. **2014 Regional Review.** The committee reviewed the regional sites for the 2014 championships.
a. **Review of Site Evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from the regional sites and was pleased with how well those tournaments were conducted.

b. **Review of Championship Bracket.** The committee believes the bracketing went well this year and that all six regional sites were properly balanced.

c. **Review of Rules Officials.** The Rules Officials at each site did a great job with the course setup to ensure a difficult but fair test of golf. It should be noted that Brad Gregory, Head Rules Official, may need to replace two regional head rules officials due to individuals stepping aside. Mr. Wagner will work with Mr. Gregory on replacements and provide to the committee.

d. **Pace-of-Play.** The pace-of-play checkpoint continues to work well at both the regionals and finals. The committee will continue to educate coaches on the checkpoint system.

e. **Review of Practice Rounds.** The practice round at regionals went well with no major issues. The committee reiterated that if teams are delayed from reaching the regional and playing at their scheduled practice times for reasons beyond their control, the regional site representative will work with the delayed teams to find an agreeable time to play the golf course. If a practice round is delayed due to weather, the site representative will decide about continuing the practice round on a case-by-case basis. A shotgun practice round or adjusted tee times are options for the committee to consider should inclement weather be forecast.

4. **2014 Championships Review.** The committee reviewed the finals site at Prairie Dunes Country Club.

a. **Review of Championship Evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from Prairie Dunes Country Club and noted the event’s overall success despite the weather. The committee discussed the evaluations and noted the negative comments on the hotel situation. The golf committee appreciated the Golf Channel’s efforts in televising the championships, and comments from coaches and student-athletes indicated as much. The committee thanked the staff at Prairie Dunes and Wichita State University for all their work with the weather delays to ensure a successful student-athlete experience.

b. **Review of Championship Format.** The committee continues to believe that the match-play format has created the drama and excitement that had been anticipated, and that it has attracted greater attention to the championship.
c. **Review of Practice Round.** The committee believes the shotgun practice round worked well and allowed the coaches’ meeting to occur earlier in the day. The committee also prefers a reception to the more formalized banquet, and feedback from coaches on the reception this year was again positive.

d. **Review of Match-Play.** The committee believes the match-play pairings allowing the coaches to match players in a “President’s Cup” style during the match-play portion of the championship continues to create great drama and excitement. The committee will continue the pairings in that method going forward. The committee was very pleased with the pairings process, especially for the championship match that the Golf Channel televised live. NCAA staff will look to create a pairings board that can be used on the Golf Channel set in the future for both men’s and women’s championships. The committee discussed the third-round pairings and will make no changes going forward.

5. **2015 Championships Discussion.** The committee discussed the 2015 championships in Bradenton, Florida, at the Concession Golf Club.

a. **Tee Times.** The committee agreed not to adjust tee times at the finals, meaning leaders will continue to go off last on the third day of competition.

b. **Golf Course Access for Coaches.** The committee discussed the policy implemented at the regionals and finals this year regarding coaches going back onto the golf course after the practice round. The committee believes the new policy worked well and agreed to retain it for next year.

c. **Push/Pull Carts.** The committee discussed the use of non-motorized push/pull carts for participants during the regionals and finals that was permitted this year for any student-athletes. Approximately 10 percent of the student-athletes used push/pull carts at the championships.

d. **Media Access.** The committee discussed the post-round/match media access for student-athletes and coaches and believed that the team press conferences and access to the media went very well this year. The committee appreciated the NCAA media services staff’s help in this area.

e. **Future Site Golf Course Access.** The committee discussed the access to the championship golf course in the year prior to the championship. The committee noted how access has been granted in the past but has significant concerns going forward with a back-to-back championship with the Division I women. The committee will work with the women on a policy that works going forward.
6. **Selections.** The committee discussed the selection process for the championships.

   a. **Selection Show.** The committee believes the selection show on Golf Channel enhanced the championship. The committee did not believe the tighter timeline had any negative effect on the selection process.

   b. **Waiver for Individual Medalists.** The committee confirmed that the waiver for the individual medalist approved this year for teams going through the reclassification process will be an annual waiver.

7. **Golfstat.** The committee met with Mark Laesch from Golfstat to discuss any changes to one of the tools used for selection. Mr. Laesch met with both men’s and women’s committees to explain the ranking and provide a better understanding of how it works. Both committees talked about when the first ranking should be made public but will continue with an October 15 publish date for the first ranking. The committees asked Mr. Laesch to work with the respective coaches associations to provide a similar overview at the coaches convention to continue educating coaches on the ranking system.

8. **Men’s and Women’s Committee Joint Meeting.** The men’s and women’s committees met jointly to discuss issues relevant to college golf.

   a. **Course Access During Regular Season.** The women’s and men’s golf committees reviewed current policies in place for course access for the finals sites for both championships and agreed to implement the following adjustments effective August 1, 2014. The revised policy states that “Student-athletes and coaches are prohibited from play or practicing at the championship finals course beginning August 1 of the championship academic year other than those student-athletes and coaches who are members of the course or who are competing in sanctioned events of the state’s amateur or professional golf associations, the USGA, LPGA and PGA.” Violations of this policy may result in sanctions listed under NCAA midconduct provisions or disqualification for a team or an individual(s), with no substitution permitted. The host institution will be prohibited from playing or practicing on the championship finals course beginning 10 days prior to the women’s championship.

   b. **Golf Channel Coverage.** The committees talked with Golf Channel representatives regarding this past year’s championship and coverage of the event. Golf Channel noted the ratings for the event exceeded expectations. Golf Channel was excited about how the “race to the eight” played out on television. Golf Channel and the respective committees discussed how an adjusted format could provide for that excitement on an annual basis (see Nonlegislative Item a). The respective committees will seek feedback from the membership on the proposed format. The
committees were very pleased with each of the selection shows this past year. Golf Channel noted that they are working on providing two independent selection shows that are not embedded into either Golf Central or Morning Drive shows. Both selection shows would stay on Monday for 2015. NCAA staff noted that the date for selections will be changing beginning in 2016 to a Thursday. Golf Channel would prefer a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday selection day as they have more flexibility on those days for a show. Golf Channel has not yet determined air times for the 2015 championships and has asked the NCAA to look at what the recommended times would be for Tuesday, knowing that day has the least flexibility. The committees noted that bid requests for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 championships have gone out, and they will work with Golf Channel on awarding those bids in the fall. Golf Channel would like to mic the coaches during the round, but they understand that this would require a legislative change.

c. USGA Groove Conditions Rule. The committees conducted a teleconference with USGA Senior Director Thomas Pagel, who discussed the groove rule that was in effect for the championships this year. The committees expressed appreciation to the USGA for having a staff member on site at each championship to assist with questions. He also discussed Rule 14-1b related to the anchoring of the putter and noted that the rule will be implemented in January 2016 for all levels of play. Mr. Pagel discussed the success of the recent U.S. Opens for both men and women that were held on back-to-back weeks at the same course last month. NCAA staff expressed appreciation for the invite to the Opens and noted the many positive takeaways to help with the NCAA championships in future years. Mr. Pagel also provided an update on the Pace of Play campaign, noting the collection of data regarding why bottlenecks occur and how to better set up a golf course to achieve an appropriate pace of play.

9. Sport Sponsorship. The committee reviewed sport sponsorship from 2013-14 and any anticipated changes for the 2014-15 academic year with continued conference realignment.

10. Manual Review. The committee reviewed the pre-championships, host operations and committee operations manual and asked NCAA staff to update as necessary.

11. Future Meeting Dates. The committee determined that the meeting dates for 2015 will be July 6-8.
12. **Outgoing Committee Members.** The committee thanked John Kennaday, head men’s golf coach at San Jose State University, for his service to the committee over the past four years.

*Committee Chair: Mike Carter, Oral Roberts University*

*Staff Liaison(s): Donnie Wagner; Championships and Alliances*

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<th>July 7-9, 2014 Annual Meeting</th>
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<td><strong>Attendees</strong></td>
<td><strong>Absentees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Brockbank, Brigham Young University</td>
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<td>Mike Carter, Oral Roberts University</td>
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<td>John Kennaday, San Jose State University</td>
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<td>Larry Mays, Georgia Southern University</td>
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<td>Jonathan Roos, Monmouth University</td>
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<td>Eric Sexton, Wichita State University</td>
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Other Participants
- Julie Kimmons, NCAA
- Mark Laesch, Golfstat
- Rick Nixon, NCAA
- Andrea Starkey, Golf Channel
- Donnie Wagner, NCAA