KEY ITEMS.

1. **Selection Criteria - .500 record requirement modifications.** The Division I Men’s Golf Committee is recommending a modification on how the committee will handle teams that pull out of scheduled tournaments or cancel a scheduled tournament, as well as evaluating any changes to a team’s schedule during the season.

2. **Determining 15th team/9th individual after three days of stroke play.** The Division I Men’s and Women’s Golf Committees are recommending that any ties for the final team spot and individual spots after three days of stroke play be decided by the non-sudden death tiebreaking procedures rather than a playoff.

ACTION ITEMS.

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

2. **Nonlegislative Items.**
   a. **Selection Criteria - .500 Record Requirement Modifications.**
      (1) **Recommendation.** That any team that withdraws from regularly scheduled tournament or cancels a scheduled tournament will incur losses to each team in the field. However, should a tournament be cancelled for reasons beyond the team’s control, the team will not incur any penalties.

      (2) **Effective Date.** Immediately.

      (3) **Rationale.** The committee has had the .500 record requirement in place for eight years. During that time, teams have protected their .500 record by withdrawing from tournaments to not incur losses as well as cancelling scheduled events. The committee believes that once a schedule is set, teams should complete that schedule unless the tournament is cancelled for reasons beyond its control. In addition, any changes to a team’s schedule due to weather-related cancellations must be approved by the men’s golf committee. The committee also reiterated that two teams from the same institution cannot participate on the same day unless one of them is declared a junior varsity team (and as such be precluded from having its scores count).
(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.

b. **Automatic Qualification Applications.**

(1) **Recommendation.** The committee recommended that the following 31 conferences sponsoring men’s golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2016 championships: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 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; 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.** 2015-16 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.

c. **Team/Individual Tiebreaking Process After 54 Holes of Stroke Play.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve using non-sudden death tiebreaking procedures at the finals site for determining the final teams (15th) and individuals (9th) after the conclusion of 54 holes of stroke play rather than a playoff.

(2) **Effective Date.** 2016 championship.

(3) **Rationale.** From an administrative perspective, the time required to conduct a playoff may affect television windows and compromise any course maintenance that needs to be completed in advance of round four. The non-sudden death tiebreaking procedures for teams take into account each day’s drop score, which
means the team that advances using this procedure is a true team effort since team scores for each day take the top four of five scores. This procedure already is in place to break ties in pairings.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Using the tiebreaking procedure specific to teams allows all five student-athletes’ scores to count toward helping their institution advance to the final day of stroke play over three rounds (54 holes), rather than just the usual process in which team scores for each day consist of only the top four of five scores. Further, this adjustment should provide additional rest and recovery time for those teams and individuals advancing to the fourth round of stroke play.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.


3. 2015 Regional Review. The committee reviewed the regional sites for the 2015 championships.

   a. Review of Site Evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from the regional sites and was pleased with how well those tournaments were conducted. The committee was concerned with the condition of a few of the courses, but most of that was due to the hard winter in those locales.

   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. The committee was very pleased with the new 11-minute increments and the impact on pace of play.

   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.

f. **Coaches Carts.** The committee reiterated its stance to not allow coaches to have carts at the regionals or finals. However, those coaches with disabilities will continue to be provided carts, but coaches may not use those carts to hold umbrellas, apparel or other items.

g. **Hosting Regionals.** The committee will continue to evaluate how courses are selected, as well as who hosts regionals to determine if top seeds should be provided hosting opportunities. The committee will continue to discuss the issue with coaches over the coming year.

4. **2015 Championships Review.** The committee reviewed the finals site at The Concession Golf Club.

a. **Review of Championship Evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from The Concession Golf Club and noted the event’s overall success in hosting both the men’s and women’s championships. The golf committee appreciated Golf Channel’s efforts in televising the championships, and comments from coaches and student-athletes indicated as much. The committee thanked the staff at The Concession Golf Club and the University of South Florida for all their work with the both championships 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.

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 Golf Channel televised live. The committee believed airing the quarterfinal matches enhanced the coverage this year, and members appreciated Golf Channel’s efforts in making it happen.
5. **2016 Championships Discussion.** The committee discussed the 2016 championships in Eugene, Oregon, at the Eugene Country Club.

   a. **Tee Times.** The committee discussed pairings for the third day of the championship. In order to provide more rest to the top teams, the pairings for the third day will have the top 15 teams (as determined through 36 holes) go out in the morning wave while teams 16-30 will be paired in the afternoon wave. If weather causes the championship to be decreased from four stroke-play rounds to three, the top 15 teams (as determined by 36 holes) would be paired together in the afternoon for television purposes while teams 16-30 would be in the morning wave. The committee will also move to 11-minute increments between tee times, which should help with pace of play.

   b. **Opening Breakfast.** The committee voted to move the reception to a breakfast, with all speakers and the Elite 90 award being accommodated during this time. The coaches meeting will occur after the breakfast, and the shotgun practice round will begin at 10 a.m. There will be a follow-up meeting with coaches on any concerns from the practice round.

   c. **Semifinalist Awards.** The committee discussed the process and history of presenting the semifinalist awards at the conclusion of the semifinal matches. The committee determined that it is best for the semifinalist trophy to be awarded at the press conference of the two losing teams, with no formal presentation. Coaches will be able to take the trophy following the conclusion of the press conference.

   d. **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.

   e. **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.

   f. **Media Access.** The committee discussed the post-round/match media access for student-athletes and coaches and believed that some adjustments can be made to accommodate needs for the NCAA and Golf Channel. NCAA staff will work with Golf Channel on a script for the day, and the committee wants to ensure that pairings for the quarterfinal matches will be announced as soon as possible following the conclusion of play on Monday. The committee also would like to discuss with future hosts how food can be available for media members each evening.
g. **Complimentary Meals.** The committee discussed the complimentary meals that are provided to teams on a daily basis. The committee reiterated that only the travel party of eight should be provided complimentary meals. The travel party list needs to be provided in advance, and anyone above the eight on the travel party needs to pay in advance. The committee also wants hosts to consider allowing teams to purchase food on the course at concession stands if needed.

h. **Staking and Roping.** The committee thought that the staking and roping for this past year’s championship was a little too close to cart paths. NCAA staff and Golf Channel representatives will work with Executive Sports on the site visit to ensure that roping is further from the cart paths at future sites.

i. **Stoppage of Play.** The committee will continue to show flexibility during weather delays on whether teams should be permitted to warm up prior to resuming play.

j. **Coaches on the Driving Range.** The committee reiterated that only designated coaches, as identified by the institution, are permitted at any of the practice areas.

6. **Selections.** The committee discussed the selection process for the championships.

   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. The committee thought that the live interview with Mike Carter enhanced the show and hope that it will continue in the future. The committee will work with Golf Channel as it relates to the 2016 selection show (since the selection date is changing in 2016).

7. **Golfstat.** The committee met with Mark Laesch from Golfstat to discuss any changes to the ranking process. Mr. Laesch indicated that he will be making some enhancements that will better assist the committee in the selection process.

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. **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 airing the quarterfinals this year and believed overall that things went very well. Tom Knapp indicated that the air windows for 2016 will provide for live golf in
prime time for East Coast viewing, with more information to follow on the upcoming site visit to Eugene Country Club.

b. **USGA Groove Conditions Rule.** The committees conducted a teleconference with USGA Senior Director Thomas Pagel. The committees expressed appreciation to the USGA for having a staff member on site at each championship to assist with questions related to grooves. 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 noted he is very excited about the relationship between the USGA and the NCAA, and in particular how the Intercollegiate Relations Committee has enhanced that relationship. Mr. Pagel noted that this is a rules year and that he will keep the parties updated as to any changes. He did note that he did not expect any changes to the amateur status code in the next rules cycle.

c. **Regional Trophies.** The committees would like to see regional trophies provided to the team and individual medalist of each regional. There are team sports that provide regional champion trophies in lieu of semifinalist trophies. However, in golf, teams that win a regional are not guaranteed to place in the top four at the national championship, so additional trophies would need to be ordered. NCAA staff will work through the governance structure to forward a proposal for regional trophies for regional winners.

9. **Substitutions.** The committee discussed the pros and cons of substitutions during college golf tournaments. The committee is aware that the Golf Coaches Association of America is discussing the topic and will wait for any formal proposal from the GCAA before acting.

10. **Rules Officials.** The committee recommends two additional officials be provided at the regional events. This would provide a total of nine officials, which would be in line with the same percentage of officials that work the women’s regionals.

11. **Golf Coaches Association of America.** The committee will continue to work with the GCAA board on issues related to college golf. The committee believes that relationship is very good, and members will take advantage of the experience on the board to discuss ideas concerning college golf. The committee wants feedback from the board on whether to propose a minimum number of competitions required to be eligible for selection as an at-large team.

12. **Chair Nomination.** The committee nominated Eric Sexton, athletics director at Wichita State University, to serve as chair for the 2015-16 year. Mr. Sexton will replace current
chair Mike Carter, director of athletics at Oral Roberts University, when Mr. Carter’s term as chair expires at the end of August.

13. **Sport Sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship from 2014-15 and any anticipated changes for the 2015-16 academic year with continued conference realignment.

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

15. **Future Meeting Dates.** The committee determined that the meeting dates for 2016 will be July 11-13.

16. **Outgoing Committee Members.** The committee thanked Mr. Carter and Larry Mays, head men’s golf coach at Georgia Southern University, for their service to the committee over the past four years, and specifically Mr. Carter for his service as chair of the committee.

*Committee Chair: Mike Carter, Oral Roberts University*

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

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<td><strong>Attendees</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>Scott Lieberwirth, University of Texas at El Paso</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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<td>Other Participants</td>
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<td>Mike Holder, Oklahoma State University</td>
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<td>Brad Hurlbut, Sacred Heart University</td>
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<td>Julie Kimmons, NCAA</td>
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<td>Tom Knapp, Golf Channel</td>
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