

**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE  
JUNE 23-25, 2015, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

**a. Automatic Qualification.**

1. Recommendation. That the following 17\* conferences sponsoring women's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2016 championships.

American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

\*Confirmation of Aqs and pool numbers will be determined based on sport sponsorship information available at the time of championship selections.

2. Effective Date. 2015-16.
3. Rationale. Each conference meets the defined criteria for automatic qualification. The Southern Athletic Association and the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference will receive an AQ for the first time in 2016.
4. Estimated Budget Impact. None.
5. Student-Athlete Impact. None

**b. Match Play.**

2. Recommendation. That match play be an approved format for regular-

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season events and that the results will be used for selections. The only allowable formats will be Team Match Play and Team Medal Match Play.

2. Effective Date. September 1, 2015.
3. Rationale. This allows for an additional format to be used during regular-season competition, and match play is a common format for golf.
3. Estimated Budget Impact. None.
4. Student-Athlete Impact. Student-athletes and coaches will welcome the opportunity to have the option to play a contest using match play.

c. Committee Chair.

1. Recommendation. That Deb Steward, director of athletics at William Smith College, serve as chair of the Division III Women's Golf Committee.
2. Effective Date. September 1, 2015.
3. Rationale. Ms. Steward has served on the committee for two years, and her experience will serve her well as the chair. She will replace current chair Melanee Wagener when Ms. Wagener's term as chair expires at the end of August.
5. Estimated Budget Impact. None.
6. Student-Athlete Impact. None

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2014 Annual Meeting Minutes.** The committee approved the 2014 annual meeting minutes as submitted.
2. **2014-15 Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the actions and information items from the 2014-15 Championships Committee meetings.

### 3. 2015 Championships Review.

- a. Championships Evaluations. The committee reviewed and discussed surveys from the 2015 championships and noted various minor issues. The surveys indicated that the resort was an excellent championships site.
  - b. Executive Sports. The committee discussed the role of Executive Sports at the championship site and noted the enhanced look and feel of the championships as a result of their services.
  - c. Disabled Spectators. The process for disabled spectators worked well.
  - d. Spectator Rules. The committee discussed and will clarify the penalty language for violating spectator rules.
  - e. Student-Athlete Socials. The student-athlete socials (ice cream bar and movie night) were well received.
  - f. Banquet. The committee was pleased with the championship banquet, noting that recognizing seniors was a nice added touch.
  - g. Special Olympic Clinic. The committee felt the Special Olympics clinic was well received. Members noted the challenge of attracting an adequate number of Special Olympic athletes due to the location of the Mission Inn, and the fact that the best day to conduct the clinic is on Sunday, which in this case was Mother's Day. Nicole Wright, the tournament director, did an excellent job of reaching out to the local Special Olympic chapter to market the event to them. In the end, 20 Special Olympians attended the clinic.
  - h. Awards Ceremony. The committee suggested updating the awards ceremony script to include recognizing the Elite 89 award winner and to recognize any hole-in-ones.
  - i. Participant Awards. The committee suggests that the student-athlete mementos change annually (for example, alternating each year between apparel and a bag).
4. **Waiver**. The committee discussed the waiver that allows institutions to count events in which they had four participants (rather than five) toward sport-sponsorship requirements is ending this year and voted not to extend it. The committee discussed and supported a

proposal the Centennial Conference is submitting to count a contest with four participants.

**5. 2016 Championships.**

- a. Evaluation Regions and Pool Breakdown. The committee discussed the evaluation regions and anticipated pool breakdown for the 2016.
- b. Practice Times (course walk-through). The committee will schedule course walk-through times in the morning and afternoon. The assigned times will be based on seeding and travel.

- c. Pairings. The committee discussed pairings for the championships. In the past, pairings were determined by seed going straight from 1-21. Because of the way the pairings were assigned, teams were typically paired with the same teams every day. The committee decided to adjust the pairings slightly in order to provide opportunity to play with different teams. For example, pairings for day one will be as follows:

<u>Morning Day #1</u>	<u>Afternoon Day #1</u>
1, 4, 7	10, 12, 14
2, 5, 8	11, 13, 15
3, 6, 9	16, 18, 20
Individuals	17, 19, 21

- d. Coach's Cart. The committee discussed the use of the coach's cart at the championships. During practice rounds, the assistant coach or institutional personnel may ride in the coach's cart. During competition, once the designated coach signs in, the assistant coach is then a spectator and cannot ride in the cart. No parents are to be in the coach's cart at any time.
- e. Enhancement Funds. The NCAA supplemental funding and DIII matching funding programs will be used for Golfstat live championship scoring.

**6. Head Rules Official.** The committee recommends Sam Herb to be the head rules official for the 2016 championships.

**7. 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 two spring rankings. The fall ranking will be published November 5 and the spring rankings will be published April 14 and 28.

8. **Rules.** The new club-anchoring rule will be in effect January 2016 for all amateur events.
9. **Selection Criteria and Process.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria for the championships. The committee also reviewed the selection process and selection forms.

The committee discussed the seeding process during selections. The committee will seed selected teams based on Golfstat rankings.

10. **Golfstat.** Mark Laesch, Golfstat president, met with the committee and reviewed the role of Golfstat during the year, and during selections and at the championships, and noted that there were no issues. The committee recommends continuing with the Golfstat webinar in October for committees. Mr. Laesch asked that the committee discuss implementing "six-players-count-four" (rather than the current five-count-four), as the men's committees in all three divisions allow the designation. The committee supported the idea and will recommend it to the Divisions I and II women's committees to also allow it.
11. **Governance Update.** The committee met with Louise McCleary to discuss issues related to the division. Ms. McCleary provided the committee with information related to the current budget and the impact last year's adjustments had on the budget.
12. **Committee and Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Rosters.** The committee reviewed the national and regional advisory committee terms that will expire in 2015.
13. **Committee Calendar.** The committee reviewed the committee calendar and made necessary updates.
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. **Outgoing Committee Member.** The committee thanked Melanee Wagener for her service to the committee.
16. **Future Meeting Dates.** The committee determined that the meeting dates for the 2015 annual meeting will be June 28-30 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair: Melanee Wagener, Mount St. Joseph University*

*Staff Liaison(s): Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances*

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<b>Meeting Date: June 23-25, 2015</b>	
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Absentees</b>
Jerry Bergsma, Calvin College	Brad Duckworth, Alverno College
Skip Molitor, Whitman College	
Josh Schroeder, Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	
Deb Steward, William Smith College	
Melanee Wagener, Mount St. Joseph University	
<b>Other Attendees:</b> Louise McCleary, NCAA; Mark Laesch, Golfstat; Nancy O'Hara, NCAA	