

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JULY 10-12, 2017, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Substitutions – postseason play.** The Division I Men's Golf Committee is recommending that substitutions be permitted during the postseason (regionals and finals) of the championship (see Action Item 2-a).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Substitutions – regionals and finals.

- (1) Recommendation. That substitutions be permitted (between stipulated rounds only) during the postseason (regionals and finals – both stroke and match play) of the men's golf championships.
- (2) Effective date. 2018 championships.
- (3) Rationale. For the 2017 championships, substitutions were permitted only for the match-play portion of the tournament. The committee continues to believe that substitutions should be extended to include the stroke-play portion for both regionals and finals. The committee has discussed the topic with coaches at length over the past year, and in a recent survey to vet the matter further, 57 percent of the nearly 200 coaches responding indicated that substitutions should be permitted, at the coach's discretion, for both stroke play (regionals and finals) as well as the currently approved match play. This approval rating is nearly 20 percent higher than when the same survey was conducted a year ago. With substitutions permitted for match play in 2017, 23 programs brought a sixth player to the championships, and seven of the eight teams that advanced to the match-play finals had a sixth player on site. Importantly, none of the seven teams with a sixth player used that player, which indicates to the committee that in most instances, coaches would use the sixth player only for emergency situations (injury or illness). The committee believes allowing substitutions for stroke play will provide each team the ability to adjust its lineup (between stipulated rounds) in a manner that ensures each team participates with five players. In those cases when a sixth player is brought along who does not participate, the committee

believes this nonetheless enhances the experience for that student-athlete by providing the player with the opportunity to observe the national championships and to know what is expected to make the lineup in future years.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None, as the travel party is currently at eight (five student-athletes and three nonstudent-athletes) and the committee would adjust the travel party to provide for six student-athletes and two nonstudent-athletes. However, participating institutions that choose to bring additional individuals beyond the travel party of eight could incur additional costs. However, schools may elect to bring only five student-athletes, and either way the travel party will remain at eight.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Substitutions would allow for one additional student-athlete to travel with the team to the championship. That student-athlete would be permitted to participate in the practice round and follow the championships as a spectator, which would provide a good experience for the future. These student-athletes would be available in the event of injury, illness or a coach's decision to play.
- b. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 31 conferences sponsoring men's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2018 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. 2017-18 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2016 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2016 annual report as written.
2. **2016-17 Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed items from the 2016-17 academic year relative to men's golf.
3. **2017 regional review.** The committee reviewed the regional sites for the 2017 championships.
 - a. Site evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from the regional sites and was pleased with how well those tournaments were conducted. The committee noted any issues and asked staff to communicate with hosts to correct for the future.
 - b. Championship bracket. The committee believes the bracketing went well this year and that all six regional sites were properly balanced.
 - c. 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 noted that players were waiting on the first or 10th tees at one of the sites. The committee believes that the head rules officials, in conjunction with the NCAA site rep, should have the flexibility to adjust tee times to 10-minute increments to avoid players waiting on the tee as they make the turn for their back-nine holes.
 - 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. Practice rounds. The practice round at regionals went well with no major issues. The committee believes coaches appreciated the shotgun practice round and will continue it moving forward. The committee wants to solicit feedback from coaches at the convention in December on whether there should be a time par for the practice round.
 - 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. Committee members may seek to limit the speed on those carts to ensure that coaches who have carts do not have a competitive advantage.
 - g. Tee times. The committee adjusted the tee times at regionals to have a consistent starting time each day at 7:30 a.m. Additionally, for days two and three, tee times will still be based on the previous day(s) score(s), but the best teams will tee off first each day rather than using traditional pairings where the leaders tee off last. Finally, the committee believes the head rules official, in conjunction with the NCAA site rep, should have the flexibility to adjust tee times based on the weather forecast each day.

- h. Greens books. The committee noted that StrackaLine books were available at five of the six regional sites, and that it was up to the host whether to allow Stracka to print and distribute the books. The committee believes the books, based on consistency across all regional sites, should be available at all sites for teams to purchase. Staff will discuss this during the conference call with the six regional sites.
- 4. 2017 championships review.** The committee reviewed the finals at Rich Harvest Farms.
- a. Championship evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from Rich Harvest Farms and noted the host's overall success in conducting both the men's and women's championships. The 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 Rich Harvest Farms and Northern Illinois University for all their work with both championships to ensure a successful student-athlete experience. The committee noted that the snacks around the golf course were not as plentiful as in the past and will work with future hosts to ensure adequate quantities in the future.
 - b. Championship format. The committee continues to believe that the match-play format has created the drama and excitement desired, and that it has attracted greater attention to the championship.
 - c. Practice round. The committee believes the shotgun practice round worked well and allowed the coaches meeting to occur earlier in the day. The committee is very comfortable with the schedule and will not make any adjustments for future years.
 - d. 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 and will announce the quarterfinal and semifinal pairings in the student-athlete dining area. The committee was very pleased with the pairings process, especially for the championship match that Golf Channel televised live.
 - e. Tee times. The committee believes the tee times for the third day of competition were appropriate because they provided the top teams from the first two days with a morning time for the third round.
 - f. Complimentary meals. The men's and women's committees reviewed the current requirement of the host school to provide complimentary meals (breakfast and lunch) during the competition days and decided to eliminate this hosting financial requirement for 2018. Meal options for breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided at the golf course with schools having the option to purchase. In making this adjustment, the committees noted the increasing financial burden that this requirement has created for

hosts, and given that the NCAA reimburses participating institutions at the finals with a daily per diem for members of the NCAA official travel party.

5. **2018 championships.** The committee discussed the 2018 championships in Stillwater, Oklahoma, at Karsten Creek Golf Club.
 - a. Course setup. The committee discussed the upcoming site visit to Karsten Creek Golf Club and how the golf course may be set up for 2018. The committee will refer to the number of prior NCAA events that have been played at the venue when working with the head rules official on the setup for 2018.
 - b. Tee times. The committee believes the teams that have performed the best the first two days should be first off on the third day, and not in the traditional pairings as is currently done. The committee discussed the issue with Golf Channel, and they indicated no preference for the third day of tee times, so the committee will make the adjustment going forward. The committee discussed tee times with Golf Channel for day four and will make no adjustments. The committee will adjust tee times 15 minutes later for the championship match so that the final tee time will be at 3:05 local time.
 - c. Media issues. The committee discussed student-athlete name pronunciations and ways to ensure that players' names are pronounced correctly both on the tee as well as on Golf Channel. Rick Nixon will work with each of the starters prior to the first round to ask players the correct pronunciation and will report any discrepancies to Golf Channel prior to the broadcast beginning on Monday. Mr. Nixon also suggested a possible media sit-down with the chair of the committee during the championship week to discuss issues relative to college golf. The committee noted the excellent setup for the media this past year and would like to see a similar setup for future venues.
 - d. Rope and staking. Oklahoma State desires minimal roping at Karsten Creek to allow fans to watch by walking in the fairways with each group. The cart paths are routed through the brush and trees, and keeping spectators on the cart paths could hinder attendance. The committee will continue talking with Golf Channel on the site visit to see how the issue can be resolved.
 - e. Site visit. The committee noted that NCAA staff, committee chairs, head rules officials and Golf Channel representatives will conduct a site visit with Oklahoma State University and Karsten Creek Golf Club on September 18-19.
6. **Selections.** The committee discussed the selection process for the championships. The committee believes the selection show on Golf Channel continues to enhance the championship. The committee thought the tie-in with the Chicago Cubs and Wrigley Field was an enhancement to the show and provided added media engagements for head coaches from Northwestern University and the University of Illinois, Champaign.

7. **Golfstat.** The committee met with Marcus El and Brian Laesch from Golfstat and discussed questions regarding the rankings reports that both committees had received throughout the year and potential membership access enhancements to the Golfstat site for 2017-18. With the change in leadership at Golfstat over the past year, the committees encouraged Mr. Laesch to work with the respective coaches associations to lead a presentation at the 2017 coaches convention to help continue educating coaches on the ranking system and to help introduce the staff to the membership.
8. **Schedule submission.** The committee will ask that all institutions submit their playing schedules for 2017-18 (both fall and spring) by October 1 to Golfstat. Teams will still be able to add events after this date but only with golf committee approval. The committee understands that not all teams will have their spring schedules complete, but the committee emphasized that teams should submit as much of their schedule as possible. The committee will work with Golfstat to ensure that this information is included in the registration letter sent in early August to all coaches.
9. **Course access policy.** The committee discussed the course access policy that has been in place for the past two years and how that policy impacts future hosts, specifically beginning in 2020 when the championships will be at the same venue for three consecutive years. The committee noted that effective August 1, 2019, no participants, including those from the host institution, would be provided an exception to the course access policy during the regular season for each of the three years (2020-22) that the championships are conducted at Grayhawk Golf Club. Further, the committee modified the language slightly to include the entire facility [i.e., practice facilities and additional golf course(s)] rather than just the golf course, as well as prohibiting walking the golf course during the same time frame. The committee discussed a similar policy for regionals but did not take any action at this time.
10. **Joint committee meeting.** The men's and women's committees met jointly to discuss issues relevant to college golf.
 - a. Golf Channel coverage. Andrea Starkey, vice president of strategic programming and partnerships at the Golf Channel, and Brandt Packer, producer at the Golf Channel, summarized Golf Channel feedback and viewership ratings and demographics specific to the 2017 women's and men's national championships. For the third consecutive year of the back-to-back championships, they felt the ratings were strong for both events and showcased the quality of play from collegiate golfers both during the stroke-play and team match-play portions of each event.
 - b. USGA updates. The committees conducted a teleconference with Thomas Pagel, senior director, rules of golf and amateur status at the United States Golf Association (USGA). Mr. Pagel provided an update on the rules of golf modernization project and the timeline for implementation. He also updated the group on the process for registering new events so results will be counted in the World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR), as well as on rules situations that had occurred this past year and lessons learned and

- strategies implemented to handle these and other rules situations moving forward. The committees expressed appreciation to the USGA for having a staff member on site again this year as part of the rules team at each championship. Mr. Pagel also noted the excitement and importance of continuing to build on the strong relationship that continues to exist between the USGA and the NCAA, through the work of the Intercollegiate Relations Committee composed of key stakeholders within collegiate golf, along with representatives from the USGA, both men's and women's coaches associations, and the NCAA national office.
- c. Player substitution – NCAA regionals/finals. The men's committee noted that it was recommending to the Division I Competition Oversight Committee that substitutions be allowed not only for the match-play finals (as was implemented for the 2017 championships), but also during the stroke-play portion of the championships effective for the 2018 regionals and finals (see Action Item 2-a.) The men's committee cited recent survey responses that indicate increased support for the substitution policy, as well as evidence that coaches would likely use the sixth player only in cases of injury or illness.
 - d. Regional trophies. The committees reaffirmed their desire to see regional trophies provided to the team and individual medalist of each regional. Members noted several 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 noted an internal review regarding awards provided across all championships and will continue to monitor these discussions to determine if there is an opportunity to work through the governance structure to propose adding trophies for regional winners in the future.
 - e. Pairings (tee times). The committees reviewed and adjusted the 2017 pairings and tee times for Sunday (stroke play) and Wednesday (match play team finals) for the 2018 championships (see Informational Item 5-b.).
 - f. NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1 discussion. The men's committee reviewed the planning and accommodations made during the women's championships finals at Rich Harvest Farms for Brigham Young University, given the institution's policy of not competing on Sunday, and confirmed along with the women's golf committee that if there becomes a need to implement accommodations for the 2018 finals that Brigham Young would be allowed to conduct its single practice round on Wednesday with the competition round still to be conducted Thursday afternoon once the shotgun practice round has been completed. Additionally, the committees noted that should Brigham Young be selected to the regional field, its golfers would practice on Saturday prior to their first competitive round on Monday. Further, the committee noted that should Brigham Young advance to the finals, the committee would automatically slot the team

- as the No. 15 seed (if the actual seed was higher than 15) or, should the team's seed be lower than 15, it would receive that seed.
- g. Medical exceptions (justified withdrawal). The committees discussed medical exceptions (justified withdrawals), and the overall impact on an individual player's Golfstat rankings. The committees agreed to continue this discussion during the coming year but took no action at this time.
 - h. Format contingency plans (weather delay). The committees talked briefly about additional options to consider within the current format when play is severely impacted due to lengthy weather delays. The committees took no action at this time but will continue to discuss the matter throughout the year.
 - i. National Collegiate Golf Invitational. The committees reviewed correspondence from the membership proposing an alternative postseason event for teams that do not make the NCAA tournament field but decided to take no action at this time. The committees recommended that the coaches seek a Division I conference that sponsors both men's and women's golf to propose legislation so the full membership has an opportunity to provide feedback before the golf committees discuss it further. The committees noted that the following areas should be clarified if a proposal is submitted: (1) specifics for the selection process; (2) format and number of schools invited (teams and/or individuals); (3) number of days of competition; (4) dates of the event; (5) possible missed class time for quarter-school participants; and (5) potential costs participating institutions would incur.
- 11. Team seeds.** The committee discussed the pros and cons of teams holding their seeds throughout the championship, specifically for match play. Currently, the eight teams that advance to match play are seeded based on their results over the 72-hole stroke-play portion of the championship. After much discussion, the committee decided to make no changes to the seeding process for match play.
- 12. Rules officials.** The committee talked with Brad Gregory, NCAA head rules official, about issues relative to the Rules of Golf. The committee thanked Mr. Gregory for his leadership as well as the recruitment of highly qualified rules officials for both the regionals and finals. The committee believes that Mr. Gregory is doing an excellent job with the course setup, and feedback from the coaches reflects a similar sentiment.
- 13. College Golf All American Classic.** Steve Clar joined the group to discuss the recently adopted exemption for the East Lake Cup and whether a similar exemption should be provided to the College Golf All American Classic. The East Lake Cup is exempted from both the 24 dates of competition and the 144-day playing season, while the All American Classic is exempt only from the 24 dates of competition. The committee discussed possible date changes to the All American Classic that could occur and noted that an exemption may

not be needed. Mr. Clar will obtain further feedback from the All American Classic and report back to the committee.

- 14. Future selection process.** The committee discussed the idea of teams selecting the regional site they would like to attend rather than the committee selecting the site. This would allow teams to select sites that may play to a team's strengths or be closer geographically to their campus. The committee is planning on conducting a mock exercise at the 2017 coaches convention with the top 60 teams from the fall ranking to see how it plays out and what the feedback is from the membership before any formal proposal is made. Staff will work with the Golf Coaches Association of America to include this item in the upcoming convention.
- 15. 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 the current relationship is solid, and members will take advantage of the experience on the board to discuss ideas concerning college golf. The committee was very appreciative of the survey from the GCAA and will continue to work with the GCAA on the topic of substitution in order to gather additional feedback from the membership.
- 16. Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship from 2016-17 and noted any anticipated changes for the 2017-18 academic year with continued conference realignment.
- 17. Manual review.** The committee reviewed the pre-championships, host operations and committee operations manual and asked NCAA staff to update as necessary.
- 18. Future meeting dates.** The committee selected July 9 and 10 for the 2018 annual meeting. Committee members would arrive on Sunday night, and the meeting would begin first thing Monday morning.
- 19. Outgoing committee members.** The committee thanked Bruce Brockbank, head coach at Brigham Young, for his service to the committee over the past four years.

Committee Chair: Brad Hurlbut, Sacred Heart University; Northeast Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee July 10-12, 2017, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Bruce Brockbank, Brigham Young University; West Coast Conference.	
Mark Hankins, University of Iowa; Big Ten Conference.	
Mike Holder, Oklahoma State University; Big 12 Conference.	
Brad Hurlbut, Sacred Heart University; Northeast Conference.	
Scott Lieberwirth, University of Texas at El Paso; Conference USA.	
Scott Schroeder, University of North Florida; Atlantic Sun Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Marcus El, Golfstat.	
Brad Gregory, NCAA Head Rules Official (via teleconference).	
Connie Hurlbut, West Coast Conference.	
Brian Laesch, Golfstat.	
Brandt Packer, Golf Channel.	
Thomas Pagel, United States Golf Association (via teleconference).	
Andrea Starkey, Golf Channel.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Stephen Clar, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances Broadcasting.	
Rick Nixon, Championships and Alliances.	
Jay Jay Rackley, Championships and Alliances.	