Accommodations for Golf Student-Athletes with Disabilities

The NCAA encourages participation by student-athletes with disabilities (physical or mental) in intercollegiate athletics and physical activities to the full extent of their interests and abilities. An NCAA member institution will have the right to seek, on behalf of any student-athlete with a disability participating on the member's team, a reasonable modification or accommodation of a playing rule, provided that the modification or accommodation would not:

1. Compromise the safety of, or increase the risk of injury to, the student-athlete with a disability or any other student-athlete;
2. Change an essential element that would fundamentally alter the nature of the game; or
3. Provide the student-athlete an unfair advantage over the other competitors.

To request any such modification or accommodation, the member's director of athletics, or their designee, must submit a rule waiver request, in writing, to the liaison of the appropriate championships sports committee (contact information below). Such written request should include:

a. The playing rule from which relief is sought;
b. The proposed modification or accommodation;
c. The anticipated duration of the requested modification or accommodation;
d. Any modification or accommodation the student-athlete has received from the university or college and/or any golf organizations (e.g. USGA or AJGA);
e. Current, signed documentation of diagnosis/condition (including relevant test data and recommended treatment) from the treating professional (e.g., medical doctor, clinical psychologist, or another qualified individual);
f. The original date of diagnosis of condition/disability;
g. Modification or accommodation being recommended and rationale for this recommendation;
h. Clarification if this is a temporary issue/injury or a permanent condition/disability; and
i. A written statement from the school's healthcare provider (e.g., team physician) indicating that the student-athlete has been cleared to participate in competition. Please specify the date of this medical clearance.

Upon receipt of a complete waiver request, the NCAA staff liaison will consult with other NCAA staff, sport governing bodies, and/or external subject matter experts, to conduct an individual inquiry as to whether the requested modification or accommodation can be made. In making this assessment, the NCAA may request additional information from the member institution. The information will then be forwarded to the applicable sports committee, who will make a final decision. A member of the NCAA staff will communicate the decision in writing (which may be via email) to the requesting member institution. If the request is granted, the member school should be prepared to provide the written decision to the head official and tournament director (if applicable) for each competition in which the student-athlete will participate. NCAA members are directed to consult Guideline 1L of the NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook for further considerations regarding participation by student-athletes with disabilities.

Please allow a minimum of two weeks following submission for this process to be completed.

Sport Committee liaison contact information:
Division I Men's Golf – John Baldwin – jbaldwin@ncaa.org
Division I Women's Golf – Mark Bedics – mbedics@ncaa.org
Division II Men's Golf – Antonio Cannavaro - acannavaro@ncaa.org
Division II Women's Golf – Mariah Martin – msmartin@ncaa.org
Division III Men's Golf – Ryan Richardson – rrichardson@ncaa.org
Division III Women's Golf – Demetria Young – dyoung@ncaa.org