

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JULY 9-10, 2018, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Playoffs.** The Division I Men's Golf Committee is recommending a modification to how playoffs are conducted during the postseason. (See Action Item 2-a.)
- **Regional course access.** The Division I Men's Golf Committee is recommending adjusting the course access policy for teams at regional play that would mirror the policy already in place for the finals site. (See Action Item 2-b.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Playoffs for advancement (stroke play).

- (1) **Recommendation.** That an aggregate score playoff (all five player scores counting) be used to advance teams from 30 down to 15 (Sunday to Monday) and then additionally from 15 teams to the eight teams that advance to match play. The playoff would still be conducted in a "shotgun" type format with the competing teams playing on five different holes.
- (2) **Effective date.** 2019 championships.
- (3) **Rationale.** Currently, the committee conducts a team playoff (shotgun type format) counting the low four scores of five relative to par. Using an aggregate scoring for the five players will make it less confusing to fans, coaches and players as all five players will now count toward their team total and there is no longer a need to incorporate "relative to par" in the playoff. Additionally, counting all five scores makes it likely that playoffs will end quicker (usually after one hole). Counting four of five scores is what has been done for many years and allows for a team to accumulate a team score if a player was injured or sick during the course of the round and was unable to compete in the playoff. However, now that substitutions are permitted for stroke play, a team that has a player who cannot finish the round due to illness or injury can substitute for the playoff since a playoff is considered a new round under the Rules of Golf, and therefore all five scores could count toward the team total.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would make it easier for everyone to understand the playoff as well as ensuring that all five players' scores are used to determine advancement.

b. Regionals course access policy.

- (1) Recommendation. That courses hosting a regional tournament not be permitted to host a regular-season or conference postseason event during the academic year prior.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championships. (However, the committee would exempt any site that has a previously scheduled event for the 2018-19 academic year.)
- (3) Rationale. The men's golf committee has heard feedback from coaches in the past that teams may have benefited from having played the golf course on which regionals were conducted. The committee believes this does not provide a fair playing situation to all teams selected to that regional site. The men's golf committee is not indicating that the host cannot conduct an event in the city of the regional, just that the regular-season event would need to be played at another golf course in the city and only for the year they are hosting. The host institution would be exempt from this policy and would be permitted to play and practice at the golf course up to the start of the regional. A similar policy is currently in place for the national championships.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None to the NCAA. Hosts could have higher fees associated with a different golf course in town but typically those fees are incorporated into the entry fee for the event.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Substitutions during conference tournaments.

- (1) Recommendation. That substitutions be permitted during all conference postseason tournaments that determine the automatic qualifier for both teams and individuals.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championships.

- (3) Rationale. Many conferences over the past year have asked to use the same substitution option for their postseason tournaments that was permitted at regionals and finals during the 2018 championships. Since substitutions were permitted only for postseason play, conferences were unable to use the option and teams were not able to gauge how they might use substitutions once the postseason began. Permitting this recommendation would allow conferences to conduct their postseason event in a similar manner to which the NCAA championships (regionals and finals) are conducted.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None to the NCAA. The impact may vary for member schools, but teams would more than likely travel with an additional player for conference tournaments anyway.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This recommendation would provide valuable experience, whether playing or not, to the substitute that was brought along. For those conference tournaments that use match play to determine their AQ, they would ensure that they have five players playing against five players to determine the AQ. Additionally, should a team have a player who becomes injured or ill, they would be able to substitute to ensure they are on equal footing as the other teams vying for their conference AQ.

d. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 31 conferences sponsoring men's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2019 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. 2018-19 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2017 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2017 annual report as written.
2. **2017-18 Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed items from the 2017-18 academic year relative to men's golf.
3. **2018 regional review.** The committee reviewed the regional sites for the 2018 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. The committee is concerned with the lack of difficulty with some of the regional golf courses and will work with the head rules officials to consider course setups that offer a stiffer challenge to the best collegiate players.
 - b. **Championship bracket.** The committee believes the bracketing went well this year and that all six regional sites were properly balanced. The committee discussed the individual medalist automatic qualifier and how the medalist is determined should two or more individuals tie for medalist honors. While the committee would like to see all ties for the individual medalist decided on the golf course, the committee realizes that it is up to each conference as to how they determine who earns the automatic qualification for the individual medalist.
 - c. **Rules officials.** The rules officials at each site did a good job with the course setup to ensure a difficult test at most sites. However, as noted above, the committee will work with each regional head rules official to ensure a difficult but fair test for each of the regional sites.
 - d. **Pace of play.** The pace-of-play checkpoint continues to work well at the regionals with relatively few penalties.
 - 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 ensure that each site conducts a shotgun practice round so that all sites are consistent.
 - f. **Yardage book.** The committee would like to see all regional sites produce a tour quality yardage book for teams to purchase.
 - g. **Tee times.** The committee believes the new tee times this year worked well and made no changes for 2019.

- h. Regional winners. The committee will no longer move a team that wins its regional to the top 15 seeds at the national championship if that team is not already one of the top 15 teams in the Golfstat ranking after regionals. The committee believes that the top 15 teams in the Golfstat ranking after regionals should be playing in the same wave, and that regional champions should be seeded where they are ranked and not artificially bumped to a different wave based on their finish at the regional.
4. **2018 championships review**. The committee reviewed the finals at Karsten Creek Golf Club.
 - a. Championship evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from Karsten Creek 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 Karsten Creek and Oklahoma State University for their work with both championships to ensure a successful student-athlete experience. The committee noted that the music on the tees was a great idea, as well as at the driving range, and would like to see this continue at future championships. Additionally, in future years player walk-up songs could be used, especially in match play. The committee also noted that the food in the clubhouse and out on the golf course was outstanding and served as a model for future championships.
 - 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. The food trucks during the practice round was a nice touch and provided plenty of food for the players.
 - 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. Committee members reviewed comments about the timing for pairings for the championship match on Golf Channel and noted that they would like to see more time between the conclusion of the semifinals and the televised pairings so that advancing coaches can meet with their players to discuss the pairings for the following day.

- 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. Playoffs. The committee has recommended that playoffs from 30 teams down to 15 teams as well as from 15 teams to the eight match play teams will continue to be in a shotgun format but with aggregate scoring rather than the best four of five scores relative to par (see Action Item 2-a). The committee noted that the aggregate scoring should end most playoffs in one hole and therefore time should not be an issue in most years. However, the committee did note that should a playoff for either tiebreak not be able to be conducted, the committee will revert to the non-sudden-death tiebreaking procedures to determine the advancing teams.
- g. Brigham Young University advancement. The committee believes the adjustments made for BYU's advancement to the finals were handled very well. The committee was complimentary of the course superintendent and his staff on all of the course preparations that needed to be completed. The committee discussed the slotting of BYU into the wave with the top 15 teams, and while some coaches were critical of this move, the committee will ask for feedback from the membership at the coaches convention as to options to alleviate this artificial slotting. The committee also learned that it is best to have only one team on the second hole during the practice round so that the course turnaround time from the practice round to BYU's competitive round be as quick as possible.
- h. Substitutions. The committee believes the use of substitutions during both regionals and finals went well. The committee noted the coaches made decisions on substitutions for varying reasons, which went along with the original premise that any substitutions should be left up to the coach and not for just injury or illness. Additionally, the committee asked Brad Gregory, NCAA director of rules, to develop some language that would indicate when the substitution becomes official and that no further substitution may take place for that round.
- i. Credentials. The committee asked that a form be added to the finals participant manual that would allow teams to request up to three credentials for athletics department representatives.
- j. Coaches feedback. The committee reviewed each item of feedback from the coaches and took action as needed.

- 5. 2019 championships.** The committee discussed the 2019 championships in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at The Blessings Golf Club.
- a. Course setup. The committee discussed the upcoming site visit to The Blessings Golf Club and how the golf course may be set up for 2019. The committee indicated that the site visit will be very important with relatively few collegiate events having been hosted at The Blessings.
 - b. Tee times. The committee proposed potential tee time changes to the Golf Channel for the final day of stroke play for review that would provide for teams that have played the best for the first three days with an earlier tee time. The committee will continue this discussion with Golf Channel at the annual coaches convention in December.
 - c. Site visit. The committee noted that NCAA staff, committee chairs, head rules officials and Golf Channel representatives will conduct a site visit with the University of Arkansas and The Blessings Golf Club on September 10-12.
 - d. Non-sudden-death tiebreakers. The committee realized with the use of substitutions that the current non-sudden-death tiebreaking procedures need to be adjusted. The committee will now use the following for any ties requiring the non-sudden-death tiebreakers:
 - (1) First tiebreaker – cumulative total of the non-counting scores.
 - (2) Second tiebreaker – cumulative total of the lowest player score from each round.
 - (3) Third tiebreaker – cumulative total of the second lowest player score from each round.
 - (4) Fourth tiebreaker – cumulative total of the third lowest player score from each round.
 - (5) Fifth tiebreaker – cumulative total of the fourth lowest player score from each round
 - (6) Sixth tiebreaker – revert to original seeding of teams.
- 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 but would like to see additional coaches interviewed during the course of the show as well as more social media items.
- 7. Golfstat.** The committee met with Marcus El and Brian Laesch from Golfstat and discussed questions regarding the rankings reports that both committees received throughout the year and potential membership access enhancements to the Golfstat site for 2018-19. The committee asked for additional information from Golfstat, including how substitutions can be handled within the Golfstat ranking process for individuals as well as having archival rankings from each ranking date throughout the regular season both going forward as well

as for the past few years. Additionally, the committees would like to see the impact that 18-hole tournaments have on the ranking system. The committee asked that Golfstat conduct testing on 18-hole rounds with substitutions as well as running the rankings as if the substitution and the individual he was substituted for never participated.

- 8. Schedule submission.** The committee will ask that all institutions submit their playing schedules for 2018-19 (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 modified the current access policy for the national championship that would allow the host institution to practice and play at the golf course up until 10 days prior to the beginning of the men's championship. Additionally, the committee has recommended a similar policy for regionals. (See Action Item 2-b.)
- 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, summarized Golf Channel feedback and viewership ratings and demographics specific to the 2018 women's and men's national championships. For the fourth consecutive year of the back-to-back championships, they felt the ratings were strong for both events and continue to showcase the quality of play from collegiate golfers both during the stroke-play and team match play portions of each event. In looking ahead, Golf Channel would like to continue to build on player and institutional stories along with expanded coverage of play at each of the regional sites as well as continuing to consider options if presented for covering some regular-season events when possible. Ms. Starkey indicated that substitutions went well on the men's side and that the communication with Golf Channel on substitutions worked well.
 - 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 noted that the rules modernization project changes will go into effect January 1, 2019. The USGA will focus on providing a variety of educational tools across different learning platforms starting in September to help competitive players and officials understand and correctly apply the rules changes. He also updated the group

- on future dates and locations of upcoming USGA championships. 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. Joint session at coaches convention. The committees discussed the opportunity to have a joint session at the December coaches convention to discuss topics around college golf as one body. The committees will work with the respective coaches associations to determine the feasibility and potential topics at a later date.
 - d. Pairings (tee times). The committees reviewed the 2018 pairings and tee times and made no adjustments at this time for the 2019 championships.
 - e. NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1 discussion. The women's and men's committees reviewed the current accommodations provided Brigham Young University during their respective 2018 regionals and finals site competitions that are required per NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1 and did not recommend the need for further adjustments for the 2019 championships. However, members noted that the men's committee will continue to discuss this topic with the women's golf committee as an ongoing dialogue to determine if there are other viable options that should be considered when accommodating institutions per the requirements of the NCAA bylaw.
10. **Playoff hole assignments.** The committees reviewed and confirmed the assignment of holes for playing position in the event of a team playoff. Hole assignments will be identified in advance and provided to the coaches at the beginning of the championship since playoff holes may change from site to site.
 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 Mr. Gregory and Jim Moriarity, NCAA assistant director of rules, 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. The committee also discussed with both gentlemen the pace of play issues at the finals site and

how the process can be improved. Mr. Gregory also provided some guidelines other golf associations use regarding how much warmup time is provided for a suspension of play as well as warm up prior to the start of a round.

- 13. Update from NCAA academic and membership affairs.** Steve Clar joined the group to discuss the exemption recently withdrawn regarding the PGA Minority Championship. The proposal was withdrawn due to the PGA Championship being moved to May. However, the PGA is still trying to determine when the event may take place and if an exemption would still be needed. Mr. Clar also provided an update to the committee on the new transfer rules as well as updates from the Commission on College Basketball that could impact golf down the road.
- 14. Misconduct.** The committee sent a letter of inquiry to an institution that competed at the championships regarding a potential misconduct. The committee will wait to hear back from the institution and determine if any additional penalties should be applied.
- 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.
- 16. Additional metrics for selections.** The committee discussed whether to use an additional metric for selection purposes. The committee asked staff to look into the language in our current manuals to determine if the use of an additional metric is possible.
- 17. Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship from 2017-18 and noted any anticipated changes for the 2018-19 academic year with continued conference realignment.
- 18. Manual review.** The committee reviewed the pre-championships, host operations and committee operations manual and asked NCAA staff to update as necessary.
- 19. Future meeting dates.** The committee selected July 18-19 for the 2019 annual meeting.
- 20. Outgoing committee members.** The committee thanked Scott Lieberwirth, head coach at the University of Texas El Paso, 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 9-10, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Mark Hankins, University of Nebraska.	
Mike Holder, Oklahoma State University.	
Brad Hurlbut, Sacred Heart University.	
Connie Hurlbut, West Coast Conference.	
Scott Lieberwirth, University of Texas at El Paso.	
Scott Schroeder, University of North Florida.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Marcus El, Golfstat (via teleconference).	
Derek Freeman, University of California, Los Angeles.	
Brad Gregory, NCAA Head Rules Official (via teleconference).	
Brian Laesch, Golfstat.	
Jim Moriarity, NCAA Rules Official (via teleconference).	
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.	
Jay Jay Rackley, Championships and Alliances.	