

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JULY 18-19, 2019, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Predetermined regional sites.** The committee is seeking feedback from the coaches with regard to moving from predetermined regional sites to allowing the top six seeds in the Golfstat rankings one month prior to selections to host regionals. (See Informational Item 11.)
- **Regular-season substitutions.** The committee is delaying implementation of allowing substitutions for the regular season by one year. (See informational item 12.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 30 conferences sponsoring men's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2020 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; Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; Western Athletic Conference; and West Coast Conference.
- (2) Effective date. 2019-20 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2018 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2018 annual report as written.
2. **2018-19 Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed items from the 2018-19 academic year relative to men's golf.
3. **2019 regional review.** The committee reviewed the regional sites for the 2019 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 felt that the course setup was better this year than in years past and really tested the best collegiate players in the country.
 - 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 good job with the course setup to ensure a difficult test at most sites. Staff will provide any feedback from the regionals regarding course setup to Brad Gregory.
 - 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 in addition to ensuring that greens books are available for all teams/individuals in the field.
 - g. Tee times. The committee will allow for the head rules official in conjunction with the NCAA site rep to modify tee times at the regionals to provide a 9 a.m. start if the weather forecast is favorable for that particular day. The committee believes with good weather there will not be any issues finishing play and it will allow competitors a little more rest as well as providing the maintenance staff more time to prepare the golf

- course for play. However, the final day of competition will still be a 7:30 a.m. start to possibly allow teams to depart that evening after the competition ends.
- h. Coaches cart. The committee discussed whether coaches should be provided carts at the regionals and made no change to the current policy. Coaches will still be provided a cart for use as long as they present a doctor's verification.
 - i. Designated coaches. The committee reiterated that the advice coach begins for those coaches with designated coaches wristbands when the stipulated round begins for each student-athlete. If programs have more than two coaches on their designated coach list, those coaches would be permitted to be on the driving range prior to play and also with the team during the practice round since the stipulated round has not yet begun.

4. 2019 championships review. The committee reviewed the finals at the Blessings Golf Club.

- a. Championship evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from the Blessings 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 the Blessings and University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, for their work with both championships to ensure a successful student-athlete experience. The committee would like for music to be played once again on the tees for the 2020 championship during both stroke play and match play.
- 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 discussed options for the practice round, including going to tee times. The committee will talk more with the coaches in December at the coaches convention prior to making a decision for 2020.
- 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 believed that the tee times for the championship went very well. The pace of play was a little longer, which necessitated an adjustment to the tee times for Monday. The committee felt that the earlier tee times on the championship match day were the only option given the weather predicted for that day.
 - f. Brigham Young University advancement. The committee believes the adjustments made for BYU's advancement to the finals were handled very well. The committee complimented the course superintendent and his staff on all of the course preparations that needed to be completed. The committee discussed the request from BYU in advance of the championship to play with a marker, and after conferring with the women's committee decided that should BYU qualify for future championships they will not have the ability to play with a playing marker during their third round.
 - g. 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.
 - h. Welcome breakfast reception. Both the men's and women's golf committees discussed removing the welcome breakfast reception held early Thursday morning to provide participants a little more rest time. Thursday is a very busy day with a coaches meeting, shotgun practice round along with providing accommodations for Bylaw 31.1.4.1 for institutions that advance to the finals and needing to play one of their competitive rounds on that day. The committees will continue to discuss this adjustment and finalize a decision later this fall which will also include exploring options with Golf Channel to announce the Elite 90 award during their programming.
 - i. Coaches feedback. The committee reviewed each item of feedback from the coaches and took action as needed. The committee appreciates the coaches taking the time to provide feedback and believes it is essential to ensuring a quality student-athlete experience.
5. **2020 championships.** The committee discussed the 2020 championships in Scottsdale, Arizona at Grayhawk Golf Club.
- a. Course setup. The committee discussed the upcoming site visit to Grayhawk Golf Club and how the golf course may be set up for 2020. The committee is encouraged that the club has made some renovations to the golf course to test the best collegiate players in the country.
 - b. Tee times. The committee understands that the tee times will need to be adjusted for each of the days for the 2020 championship. With sunrise much earlier and sunset

- much later in Arizona, the tee times could potentially start as early as 6 a.m. The committee will evaluate tee times once the pace of play has been determined on the upcoming site visit and work with Golf Channel to fit into the television window provided.
- c. Site visit. The committee noted that NCAA staff, committee chairs, head rules officials and Golf Channel representatives will conduct a site visit with Arizona State University and Grayhawk Golf Club in October.
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 liked the later start time this year for the Selection Show and realizes that the timing could change annually based on Golf Channel commitments but prefers the later start time if at all possible.
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 replaced never participated.
8. **Schedule submission.** The committee will ask that all institutions submit their playing schedules for 2019-20 (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. **Joint committee meeting.** The men's and women's committees met jointly to discuss issues relevant to college golf.
- a. Course access during regular season – finals site. The committees discussed at length both as individual committees and then as a joint committee and reconfirmed that in order to maintain the fairest and most equitable championship site that no adjustments to the current policy would occur for the 2019-20 season. The committees noted that the current policy is specific to the venue, which would include both golf courses and the practice facilities at Grayhawk.

- b. Golfstat rankings. The committees met with Golfstat representatives and discussed a variety of topics, including match play results; live scoring tiebreaker site; 18-hole rankings; availability of accessing archived rankings and statistics from past tournaments, and submission and tracking of team schedules. The committee asked Golfstat to help assemble a user manual for teams to handle substitutions for the regular season and postseason.
- c. Match play included in rankings. Currently, match play results submitted to Golfstat cannot end in a tie. Going forward, the committees support allowing ties to occur in regular-season events so results can be submitted to Golfstat either as a win, loss or tie. Tournament hosts that decide to conduct a match play tournament would still need to develop tiebreaking language prior to the event so teams will know how they will advance in the bracket. Therefore, a team match could end in a tie for Golfstat rankings purposes, while a predetermined method should be provided by the host for determining team advancement for a specific event.
- d. USGA updates. The committees conducted a teleconference with John Bodenhamer, senior managing director, championships at the United States Golf Association (USGA). Mr. Bodenhamer noted that the overall changes to the rules that went into effect January 1, 2019, have been well received and that there are no further rules clarifications anticipated at this point. The USGA feels that the implementation of the rules modernization project has helped to move the game forward. He also updated the group on the use of the WAGR rankings along with the addition of an age filter exemption rather than the full rankings body in order to create greater transparency for the association when selecting players for participation on various USGA teams. The committees expressed appreciation to the USGA for continuing to partner with the NCAA and having a staff member on site again this year as part of the rules team at each championship. Mr. Bodenhamer 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.
- e. Golf Channel coverage. Golf Channel representatives Andrea Starkey, vice president of strategic programming and partnerships, and Thomas McKee, director of collegiate golf strategy, provided the committees with a summary of Golf Channel's feedback and viewership ratings along with demographics specific to the 2019 women's and men's national championships. For the fifth consecutive year of the back-to-back championships, they felt the ratings were strong for both events, particularly given the weather delays that occurred during the women's championships resulting in required daily adjustments to air times; 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 continues to have a strong desire 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 for possibly covering some regular-season women's and men's events.
- f. NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1 discussion – use of marker. The women's and men's committees reviewed the current accommodations provided Brigham Young University during their respective 2019 regionals and/or finals site participation that are required per NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.1. Neither committee recommend the need for further adjustments for the 2020 championships, but they did reconfirm that a rules official (non-playing partner) will continue to serve as the marker for an individual and/or each team member during the duration of the player's competition round in addition to a walking scorer.
 - g. Fine increases – missed deadlines. The committees reviewed the current fine policy for men's and women's golf along with the overall revised Division I fine structure and approved increasing fines that are currently at \$100/\$200 to \$500 and fines that are \$500 to \$750. The committees feel there has been an increase in missed annual deadlines in recent years and hopes this increase will deter coaches from missing these deadlines in the future.
- 10. Five Count Five format.** The committee discussed whether all five scores should count toward a team total now that substitutions for the championship are permitted. The biggest obstacle in a five count five format is how to handle disqualifications where an individual score cannot be recorded. With the new Rules of Golf, most DQs can be handled with some sort of a stroke penalty except for a player who signed an incorrect scorecard. The committee discussed with Mr. Bodenhamer of the USGA how the situation could be handled, and he said he would talk with staff at the USGA to see if a resolution could be identified and was open to continue dialogue at the upcoming Intercollegiate Relations Committee meeting in January.
- 11. Future bids – regionals.** The committee discussed the history of predetermined bids for regionals and believed there should be some merit for a team's success during the regular season. The committee would like to consider going to non-predetermined sites for the six regionals. Rather than having sites determined years in advance, sites would be determined about a month out from selections with the top six teams being awarded a host site pending submission of a facility and sufficient hotel rooms to house the teams/individuals. This process would be very similar to the hosting process for many of our other NCAA championships with non-predetermined sites. The committee will continue to discuss this option with coaches at the upcoming convention in December.

- 12. Substitutions – regular season.** The committee discussed the Competition Oversight Committee's recent approval of substitutions for regular season play in 2019-20. With many field sizes already set for the regular season, as well as how invitations are handled for individual players not in the five-man lineup for teams, the committee believes it is best to delay implementation for the regular season until the 2020-21 academic year. Coaches fully support substitutions for the regular season; however, with the tight turnaround to the 2019-20 season, the committee believes it is in the best interests of men's golf to delay for one year.
- 13. 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 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 an update on how the renovations at Grayhawk Golf Club will impact the course setup.
- 14. Misconduct.** The committee sent a letter of misconduct to an institution that competed at the championships. The institution will have 14 days to appeal the misconduct.
- 15. Greens books.** The committee discussed the use of greens books by the players and coaches at the regionals and finals site. The committee believes that all courses hosting a regional or final should allow access to have their greens lasered and all teams should have access to a greens book so that no competitive advantage is gained.
- 16. Minimum rounds for selections.** The committee reviewed the minimum rounds needed to be ranked and selected to the field for both teams and individuals. The committee currently does not require any spring rounds to be completed for a team or individual to be selected. While an issue arose this past year, the committee believes it to be an isolated issue and felt no need to require a specific number of rounds in the spring to be selected to the field as either an individual or team.
- 17. Golf Coaches Association of America.** The committee will continue to work with the GCAA board on issues related to college golf. The committee believes the current relationship is solid, and members will take advantage of the experience on the board to discuss ideas concerning college golf.
- 18. Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship from 2018-19 and noted any anticipated changes for the 2019-20 academic year with continued conference realignment.
- 19. Manual review.** The committee reviewed the pre-championships, host operations and committee operations manual and asked NCAA staff to update as necessary.

- 20. Future meeting dates.** The committee selected June 29-30 for the 2020 annual meeting.
- 21. Committee Chair.** The committee has selected Connie Hurlbut to serve as chair of the committee for the 2019-20 year.
- 22. Outgoing committee members.** The committee thanked Mike Holder, Director of Athletics at Oklahoma State, and Brad Hurlbut, Director of Athletics at Fairleigh Dickinson University, for their service to the committee over the past four years.

Committee Chair: Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Northeast Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee July 18-19, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Derek Freeman, University of California, Los Angeles	
Mark Hankins, University of Nebraska.	
Mike Holder, Oklahoma State University.	
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University.	
Connie Hurlbut, West Coast Conference.	
Scott Schroeder, University of North Florida.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Stephen Bailey, Marquette University.	
John Bodenhamer, United States Golf Association (via teleconference).	
Marcus El, Golfstat.	
Brad Gregory, NCAA Head Rules Official (via teleconference).	
Brian Laesch, Golfstat.	
Thomas McKee, Golf Channel.	
Jim Moriarity, NCAA Rules Official (via teleconference).	
Andrea Starkey, Golf Channel.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Bonnie Johnson, Championships and Alliances, Media.	
Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances, Broadcasting.	
Rick Nixon, Championships and Alliances, Media.	

Jay Jay Rackley, Championships and Alliances.
