



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE  
JUNE 26-27, 2023, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Minimum number of rounds/contests for championship selections.** The committee is recommending an adjustment to the minimum number of rounds/contests for championship selections to provide greater clarity and align with women's golf (see Action Item 2-a).
2. **Top seed regional site preferences.** The committee is recommending that teams in contention for #1 seeds during the championships be permitted to rank their regional site preferences (see Action Item 2-b).
3. **Automatic qualification.** The committee is recommending 30 conferences to receive automatic qualification to the 2024 championships (see Action Item 2-c).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Minimum number of rounds/contests for championship selections.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the minimum number of rounds/contests for championship selections be adjusted to require a minimum of 15 rounds to be completed, with at least eight rounds taking place in the spring, rather than the current minimum number of eight contests.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, men's golf requires that teams and individuals participate in a minimum of eight contests in order to be eligible for championship selections. Because a contest can range from 18 holes to 54 holes, this has led to some confusion regarding what a team or individual needs to do to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements.

Historically, an overwhelming majority of teams and individuals under consideration for championship selection compete in approximately 25 rounds at minimum, so this recommendation should not necessitate a change in current scheduling practices. The committee believes that this adjustment will, however, provide greater clarity and

understanding throughout the membership. Additionally, it will align men's and women's golf with the same selection criteria, ensuring consistency across both genders.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This adjustment will ensure that the minimum selection criteria is clear and understandable for all student-athletes and coaches.

**b. Top seed regional site preferences.**

(1) Recommendation. That teams under consideration for #1 seeds at each of the six regional sites be permitted to rank their preferred sites for regional competition.

(2) Effective date. 2024 championships.

(3) Rationale. The men's golf community has engaged in discussion regarding a move to non-predetermined regional sites for several years, and the topic gained momentum following the 2022 championships, when a regional was unable to be conducted at a predetermined host site and a new site was selected to host the regional on less than one month's notice.

A portion of the men's golf community believes that non-predetermined regional sites are worthy of consideration, as they would afford the opportunity for the most deserving teams to benefit from strong regular seasons, having earned the right to host these competitions. NCAA staff and men's golf committee members have engaged in discussions with administrators, rules officials, and hotel partners and understand that while non-predetermined regionals would place a greater reward on regular-season performance for the top teams, there are also many operational challenges that would be introduced by moving away from predetermined regional sites. The men's golf committee believes that this recommendation hits an appropriate middle ground, allowing those teams with the best regular-season performances to be rewarded by designating their rank order of preferred predetermined regional sites, while not sacrificing many of the operational efficiencies that result from advance planning with predetermined sites.

Given that host courses for regionals have a variety of factors that distinguish them from one another, including geography, location, course yardage and grass types, the committee believes that the teams earning top seeds should also earn the right to compete at the regional site that best fits the makeup of their teams. As such, the committee recommends a process by which NCAA staff can allow regional site

preference submissions through a confidential electronic submission during the spring semester for those institutions that may be in contention for #1 seeds.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. This recommendation could potentially result in an additional flight to a regional site for teams seeded #1.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This allowance will reward the student-athletes on the teams earning #1 seeds through their play during the season to compete on their preferred courses to advance from regionals to the finals site.

**c. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 30 conferences sponsoring men's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2024 championships: American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic Coast 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; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American 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; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.
- (2) Effective date. 2023-24 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended. 2023-24 will mark the first year of the Big Sky Conference's two-year grace period to retain their automatic qualification status, per the June 22, 2023, men's golf committee videoconference report and June 26, 2023, Competition Oversight Committee approval.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Approval of 2022 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2022 annual meeting report.

2. **Review of Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed relevant action items from the 2022-23 academic year.
3. **Review of 2023 regionals.** The committee reviewed and discussed the 2023 regionals, which were conducted at six sites.
  - a. **Regional evaluations.** The committee reviewed survey responses from regionals, noting overall satisfaction from participants. Committee members noted some challenges faced at specific sites and stressed their desire for future sites and planning staff to prioritize a consistent experience across all six regionals. Committee members also noted a desire for additional preparation for potential playoff scenarios during planning processes with future host sites.
  - b. **Rules officials.** The committee continues to be very pleased with the job performed by Brad Gregory, Division I Men's Golf Official in Charge, and his team of regional and finals site rules officials.
  - c. **Administrative meeting/practice round.** The committee discussed the regional administrative meeting and practice rounds and continue to support the current schedule.
  - d. **Tee times.** The committee discussed tee times at regionals and made no adjustments at this time for the 2024 championships.
4. **Review of 2023 finals site.** The committee discussed the 2023 championship finals, which were conducted at Grayhawk Golf Club.
  - a. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the finals site evaluations and noted overall satisfaction with the championships. Specifically, committee members noted a high level of satisfaction from championship participants with the attention to detail and championship-level atmosphere at the finals site, which has improved during each of the three years at Grayhawk. Committee members and survey respondents were very pleased with the overall commitment from the host institution, host organization and host venue.
  - b. **Practice round.** The committee discussed the practice round for the championships and continues to favor tee times over a shotgun start, so long as weather conditions allow all participants to complete play.
5. **Future regional sites planning.** The committee discussed the predetermined host sites for the 2024-26 regionals and noted areas that staff should emphasize during the planning process with hosts, including practice round expectations, course setup, and the overall student-athlete experience. The committee also made tentative site representative assignments for the 2023 regionals.

- a. **Non-predetermined regional sites.** The committee discussed the topic of non-predetermined regional sites at length. Ultimately, the committee recommended allowing the teams with the best regular-season performances to be rewarded by designating their rank order of preferred predetermined regional sites, while not sacrificing many of the operational efficiencies that result from advance planning with predetermined sites (see Action Item 2-b).
  - b. **Future conflicts.** The committee discussed two potential conflicts with future regional host sites and asked staff to follow up appropriately with the involved host institutions regarding next steps.
- 6. **2024-26 championships planning.** The committee discussed the 2024-26 championships, which will be hosted by the University of Texas at Austin at Omni La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, California.
  - a. **Course/practice facility updates.** The committee will receive an update on the status of ongoing planning efforts and upcoming golf course renovations from Omni staff during the July 26 joint men's and women's golf committee videoconference.
  - b. **Tee times.** The committee voted to implement the tee time grid used at the 2022 championships, which allows for the top 15 seeded teams in the same wave during the first two days of competition. Committee members reviewed a draft tee time grid for the 2024 championships at Omni La Costa, taking this adjustment into account, while also accounting for the required shuttle for the remote ninth tee start.
  - c. **Match play pairings process/timing.** The committee discussed the match play pairings process and timing prior to the final two days of the championships. The committee will consider moving all pairings to the media center beginning in 2024. Committee members advised staff to add detail into the championship manual regarding the anticipated timing of pairings selections, which should begin roughly 40 minutes following the conclusion of the fourth round of stroke play competition on Monday evening. Committee members noted that this process should be easier to navigate during the 2024-26 championships, with lodging for all student-athletes and coaches on site at Omni La Costa.
  - d. **Individual awards ceremony.** Committee members discussed the individual awards ceremony following the fourth round of stroke play competition and noted the importance of recognizing the individual national champion, as well as the rest of the top 15 individual finishers in the championships. Committee members encouraged staff to identify the best location for this ceremony during planning efforts with hosts at Omni La Costa.
  - e. **Elite 90 Award presentation.** Committee members discussed timing of future Elite 90 Award presentations and asked staff to identify on-site presentation opportunities prior to the first round of championship competition.

- f. Enhancement opportunities.** The committee discussed enhancement opportunities during future championships, including the potential to involve equipment manufacturers to a greater extent during the 2024-26 championships in Carlsbad.
- 7. Future bid process.** The committee discussed the upcoming 2026-27 and 2027-28 championship bid process, which will begin in September. The committee noted their priorities of ensuring that the student-athlete experience is paramount, identifying consistency in the playability and difficulty of future sites, and working to select the best possible sites regardless of geographical spread.

## **8. Selections.**

- a. Minimum number of contests/rounds for championship selections.** The committee reviewed minimum number of contests and rounds for championship selections and noted the current difference in language between the men's and women's golf championships. The committee recommended aligning the selection criteria with women's golf, specifying the number of stroke play rounds needed to be considered for selections (see Action Item 2-a).
- b. .500 record/conference championships.** The committee discussed but did not recommend changes to the current practice of including conference championship results in a team's overall win/loss record.
- c. Seeding and regional assignments.** The committee discussed seeding and regional assignments from the 2023 championships and was pleased with the balance of each regional field.

The committee also reviewed the schedule submission policy and clarified that competition schedules should be set by the established schedule submission deadline. Committee members noted that they received many requests after the deadline for additional competitions during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons and noted that these requests will not be approved moving forward, unless in the case of a full tournament cancellation due to inclement weather or other extreme scenario.

## **9. Policy review.**

- a. 2024-26 finals site course access policy.** The committee and Division I Women's Golf Committee will discuss and confirm the finals site course access policy as part of their July 26 joint meeting.
- b. Coaches' carts.** The committee discussed the implementation of coaches' carts during the regional and finals rounds of the championships. Committee members reiterated that only

designated coaches are permitted to ride in the coaches' carts during competition, including a clarification that only one designated coach for an individual is permitted to ride in the designated cart on a given competition day during the championships. Committee members asked staff to update manual language to clarify these policies in writing. Committee members also asked staff to update manual language related to allowing an additional institutional cart during the match play portion of the championships.

- c. **Bylaw 31.1.4.1.** The committee discussed Bylaw 31.1.4.1 and the impact on the third round of competition at the finals site of the championships.

- (1) **Finals site playing competitors.** The committee discussed the possibility of allowing playing competitors alongside institutions needing accommodations for Bylaw 31.1.4.1. during the third round of competition at the finals site but took no action.

- (2) **Third-round pairings.** For pairings purposes during the third round of competition at the finals site, the committee clarified that the leaderboard position and corresponding tee time for any team needing accommodations for Bylaw 31.1.4.1. shall remain vacant. Committee members asked staff to update manuals to accurately reflect this process.

- 10. **Rules discussion with Brad Gregory.** The committee met with Brad Gregory, head rules official for the championships, and discussed several items.

- a. **Advice givers with third permissible coach.** The committee and Mr. Gregory discussed the number of permissible advice givers with the addition of a third permissible institutional coach. For the 2023-24 regionals and championships, the committee made no changes to the current number of allowable designated advice givers.
- b. **Greens reading materials.** The committee discussed greens reading materials with Mr. Gregory and voted not to adopt Model Local Rule G-12 for the 2023-24 season or for the 2024 championships. Committee members noted that feedback on MLR G-12 will continue to be gathered during the fall season.
- c. **Misconduct penalties.** The committee and Mr. Gregory discussed on-course misconduct/unsportsmanlike conduct during competition, including options for penalties within the Rules of Golf.
- d. **Playoff honors.** The committee discussed playoff honors and confirmed that they will continue to be decided by coin flip during the championship.

- 11. **Discussion with Golf Coaches Association of America representatives.** The committee met with Gregg Grost and Dustin Roberts from the Golf Coaches Association of America and discussed a number of topics, including scoring and ranking services, Model Local Rule G-12, regional sites, the schedule submission policy, and the finals site course access policy.

**12. Scoring and ranking services.** The committee met with Derek Freeman, founder and CEO of SPIKEMARK, and discussed the use of SPIKEMARK ranking and scoring software beginning in the 2023-24 academic year. Mr. Freeman showed committee members a demonstration of the SPIKEMARK website and allowed for questions, answers, and feedback to be shared.

**13. Future bid process.** The committee discussed the upcoming 2026-27 and 2027-28 championship bid process. The committee received an update from NCAA staff on anticipated adjustments to the bid cycle as a two-year process, rather than a four-year process, as originally scheduled.

The committee also discussed the possibility of non-predetermined regional sites, as opposed to the current process of predetermining regional sites. The committee discussed the benefits and challenges with non-predetermined regional sites, both of which are significant.

Under the current format of predetermined regional sites, the committee confirmed its desire to ensure that the student-athlete experience is paramount through the selection of the best possible sites, which may not always have an equal spread geographically. Committee members expressed a desire for consistency in competitive experience and difficulty of the courses selected to host.

**14. Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the automatic qualifying conferences for 2023-24 (see Action Item 2-c).

**15. Sport sponsorship list.** The committee reviewed the current sport sponsorship list and noted anticipated changes for the 2023-24 academic year.

**16. National committee.** Committee members and staff thanked Jimmy Bass and Steve Bailey for their service during the past four years. Mr. Bass and Mr. Bailey have contributed greatly to college golf and to the success of the championships during their terms. Committee members and staff look forward to the beginning of terms for two new committee members: Jake Harrington, head coach at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, and Ken Jones, associate athletic director at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

The committee will vote on a chair for the 2023-24 season prior to September 1. Committee members and staff thanked Mr. Bass for his service to the committee as chair during the 2022-23 season.

**17. Manual review.** Committee members and staff reviewed and made suggested edits to select manual language in preparation for the 2023-24 season and 2024 championships. NCAA staff liaisons will further review all championship manuals to ensure consistency across both genders of Division I golf, where appropriate.



**18. Joint meeting with women's golf committee.** The committee met virtually with members of the women's golf committee to discuss Model Local Rule G-12. The men's and women's committees also set a half-day joint virtual meeting for July 26 to discuss a variety of other topics related to college golf.

**19. 2024 committee meeting dates.** The committee tentatively set in-person meeting dates for June 24-25, 2024.

*Committee Chair:* Jimmy Bass, University of North Carolina, Wilmington  
*Staff Liaison:* John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee June 26-27, 2023, Meetings	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Steve Bailey, Marquette University.	
Jimmy Bass, University of North Carolina Wilmington.	
Jim Fee, University of South Florida.	
John Hauscarriague, University of California, Irvine.	
Michael Levy, Texas Christian University.	
Glen Millican, University of New Mexico.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Sarah Adams, Wichita State University.	
Derek Freeman, SPIKEMARK.	
Brad Gregory, Head Rules Official.	
Gregg Grost, Golf Coaches Association of America.	
Jake Harrington, University of Arkansas, Little Rock.	
Bradford Hurlbut, Farleigh Dickson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Breanna Jenco, Xavier University.	
Kenneth Jones, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.	
Jon Kasper, Big Sky Conference.	
MaryLou Mulflur, University of Washington.	
Patty Post, University of Delaware.	
Dustin Roberts, Golf Coaches Association of America.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.	
Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	

None.
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