



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE  
JUNE 17-18, 2024, MEETING

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Scoring and ranking services.** In collaboration with the Division I Women's Golf Committee and Professor Mark Broadie, the committee discussed adjustments to be made to the national collegiate golf ranking methodology in advance of the 2024-25 academic year, based largely on feedback received from the membership and a working group formed by the Golf Coaches Association of America. (See Informational Items 10, 11 and 16.)
2. **Automatic qualification.** The committee is recommending 28 conferences to receive automatic qualification to the 2025 championships. (See Action Item 2.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Automatic qualification.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 28 conferences sponsoring men's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2025 championships: American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East 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; 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. 2024-25 academic year.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended. 2024-25 will mark the first year that the Big Sky Conference and Pacific-12 Conference will not receive automatic qualification to the championships.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review/approve 2023 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2023 annual meeting report.
2. **Review of 2024 regionals.** The committee reviewed and discussed the 2024 regionals, which were conducted at six sites.
  - a. **Regional evaluations.** The committee was provided survey responses from regionals and noted overall satisfaction from participants, as the collective feedback and quality of the experience across the six regional sites was very positive. Committee members noted some areas for improvement in future years, including the implementation of an on-site communication tool for coaches at all sites. Committee members also discussed weather delays and resumption of play procedures.
  - b. **Rules officials.** The committee continues to be supportive of the overall 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 continues to support the current schedule, with the administrative meeting preceding a shotgun start practice round at all six sites.
3. **Review of 2024 finals site.** The committee discussed the 2024 championship finals, which were conducted at Omni La Costa in Carlsbad, California, for the first of three consecutive years.
  - a. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the finals site evaluations and noted overall satisfaction with the championships during the first year at this new site. Specifically, staff and committee members noted a high level of satisfaction from championship participants with the quality and setup of the golf course, as well as the convenience of staying on site at the championship venue. Committee members and survey respondents noted areas for future improvement, including meal offerings and on-course snacks and the hotel registration and check-in process.
  - b. **Committee notes.** Staff and committee members reviewed a comprehensive list of notes for improvements for future championships at Omni La Costa focusing on the following key areas: golf course and practice facilities; food and lodging; and logistics and other operational items.

- c. **Practice round.** The committee discussed various options for the practice round for the championships, including the possibility of using one of two different preset tee time formats, depending on whether Bylaw 31.1.4.1 will impact the practice round day. Staff and committee members will continue these discussions ahead of the 2025 championships, as course maintenance schedules could prevent a second option from being used.
- 4. **2025-26 championships planning.** The committee discussed the predetermined host sites for the 2025-26 regionals, including potential conflicts with some predetermined host sites. Committee members directed staff to follow up with the impacted institutions, which may result in adjustments to the 2025 regional host sites, to be determined in the coming weeks.
  - a. **Tee times and pairings structure.** The committee discussed the tee times and pairings structure at the national championships and made no changes.
  - b. **Individual awards ceremony.** Committee members discussed the individual awards ceremony following the fourth round of stroke play and continue to feel that this ceremony should be part of the championships. Committee members directed staff to use an on-site communication tool with all participating teams and individuals in order to best disseminate information regarding timing and location of the individual awards ceremony. Committee members also directed staff to update this information in the participant manual and other communications wherever possible.
  - c. **Match play pairings process, timing, and starting hole assignments.** Committee members and staff discussed the match play pairings process, timing and starting hole assignments and any flexibility that may exist. Committee members and staff will discuss these topics directly with Golf Channel in more detail during the planning process for the 2025 championships.
- 5. **2025-26 regional sites planning.** The committee discussed the predetermined host sites for the 2025-26 regionals, including potential conflicts with some predetermined host sites. Committee members directed staff to follow up with the impacted institutions, which may necessitate one or more replacement host sites during the 2024-25 academic year.
- 6. **2027 and 2028 bid process.** The committee discussed the ongoing 2026-27 and 2027-28 championship bid process. The committee and staff will have further discussions in July and August and will make future site recommendations within the prescribed timeline for the bid process.

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. Committee members directed staff to continue working through the feasibility of a postseason format with non-predetermined regional sites, with next steps including a travel and financial

analysis, a historical study of advancing teams by seed and hosting opportunity and gathering feedback from past and future potential host sites.

Staff and committee members will also collaborate with the women's golf committee on this potential future format change.

## **7. Championships selections process.**

- a. Seeding and regional assignments.** The committee discussed the seeding and regional assignment process and was pleased with the process used during the 2023-24 academic year.
- b. Meeting schedule.** The committee discussed the selections meeting schedule from the 2023-24 academic year and agreed to mirror that schedule in 2024-25.

## **8. Policy review.**

- a. Finals site course access policy.** The committee and the Division I Women's Golf Committee reviewed and made no adjustments to the finals site course access policy introduced in August 2023.
- b. Access to coaches' carts.** The committee discussed the use of coaches' carts during the regionals and finals. Committee members noted that the coaches' cart is for team support usage; it is not to be used for scouting and needs to stay within the participating institution's group(s) during competition. Committee members also discussed possibly relaxing this policy to allow for credentialed members of the team travel party to ride in the cart during competition. Staff will update manuals with appropriate language as final decisions are made.
- c. Driving range access.** The committee discussed access to the driving range during the championships and noted that only credentialed individuals with proper access allowances should be permitted inside the ropes on the driving range. For participating institutions, this includes all credentialed members of the team travel parties.
- d. Media carts.** Committee members discussed media cart usage during the championships. Committee members also agreed that the allowance for an additional institutional cart during the match play portion of the championships will remain in place.

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

- a. Course setup.** The committee was very pleased with Mr. Gregory's course setup for the championships during the first year at Omni La Costa. Committee members discussed with

Mr. Gregory the variety of hole locations that exist on the renovated green complexes at the site.

Mr. Gregory and committee members discussed specific holes and hole locations where adjustments may be needed in future years, including holes 8, 11, 16 and 18.

Mr. Gregory also spoke positively to the partnership that the host site initiated with the United States Golf Association agronomy team, which assisted with course conditions during the initial year of the championships at Omni La Costa.

- b. Misconduct penalties.** The committee and Mr. Gregory discussed on-course misconduct/unsportsmanlike conduct during the regionals and finals.

**10. Discussion with Golf Coaches Association of America representatives.** The committee met with Dustin Roberts from the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA), who expressed his appreciation to the committee for their willingness to accept feedback from the GCAA's working group on rankings, which is aimed at addressing concerns from the coaching membership with the inputs and algorithm that produces the national collegiate golf rankings.

**11. Scoring and ranking services.** The committee spent considerable time discussing scoring and ranking services, including recent feedback from the Golf Coaches Association of America working group regarding potential adjustments to the rankings ahead of the 2024-25 academic year. Specifically, the committee discussed addressing the following areas of concerns within the ranking methodology in advance of the 2024-25 academic year: accounting for outliers within the rankings, removing the win premium and more appropriately balancing the overall distribution of points, reducing the weighting of match play, and working to have less volatility in the rankings/more reward for consistency.

Committee members met with members of the Division I Women's Golf Committee and Dr. Mark Broadie during an extended joint committee meeting to address the concerns from the membership. Additional details from these discussions are included in the joint committee meeting report.

**12. Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the automatic qualifying conferences for 2024-25. (See Action Item 2.)

**13. Sport sponsorship list.** Staff will update sport sponsorship lists appropriately ahead of the 2024-25 academic year.

**14. National committee.** Committee members and staff thanked Jim Fee for his service to the national committee during the past two years, including serving as chair during the 2023-24 academic year. Mr. Fee has contributed greatly to college golf as a former head coach and as a member and chair of both the men's and women's golf committees in recent years.

Committee members and staff look forward to welcoming Andrew Danna, head men's golf coach at Florida Gulf Coast University, to the committee in September.

The committee voted that John Hauscarriague, associate director of athletics at the University of California, Irvine, serve as chair for the 2024-25 academic year.

**15. Manual review.** Committee members directed staff to review and edit select manual language in preparation for the 2024-25 season and 2025 championships. NCAA staff liaisons will further review all championship manuals to ensure consistency across both genders of Division I golf, where appropriate.

**16. Joint meeting with women's golf committee.** The committee met virtually with members of the women's golf committee to discuss a variety of topics important to college golf, including scoring and ranking services, the current ranking algorithm, the current championship bid process for future host sites, a review of the finals site and finals site course access policy, and trophies awarded at regionals and the national championships.

**17. 2025 committee meeting dates.** The committee tentatively set meeting dates for June 17-18.

**18. Other business.** The committee discussed Bylaw 31.1.4.1 and the impact on the third round of competition at the finals site. The committee discussed possibly allowing playing competitors alongside institutions needing accommodations for Bylaw 31.1.4.1. during the third round but took no action at this time.

Committee members and staff also discussed desired correspondence to the membership ahead of the 2024-25 academic year to clarify scheduling allowances to alleviate potential confusion and eliminate any gray area that has previously existed about scheduling. Staff will draft and finalize a memorandum to be sent to the membership later this summer, ahead of the September 1, 2024, schedule submission deadline for the 2024-25 academic year.

Committee members also discussed enforcement of the logo policy at the championships. Staff will collaborate with NCAA enforcement staff on next steps and best practices to address these concerns moving forward.

*Committee Chair: Jim Fee, University of South Florida*  
*Staff Liaison: John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee June 17-18, 2024, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Deedee Brown-Campbell, Texas Tech University.	

Jim Fee, University of South Florida.
Jamie Green, Duke University.
John Hauscarriague, University of California, Irvine.
Kenneth Jones, University of Tennessee Chattanooga.
John Kennaday, San Jose State University.
Jon Reehoorn, Oregon State University.
Joy Vrbka, Auburn University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Brian Russell, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Andrew Danna, Florida Gulf Coast University.
Brad Gregory, Head Rules Official.
Dustin Roberts, Golf Coaches Association of America.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.
Jackie Kawamoto, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
None.