



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JUNE 17, 18 AND 24, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 29 conferences sponsoring men's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2026 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; 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. 2025-26 academic year.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review and approval of 2024 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2024 annual meeting report.
- 2. Review of 2025 regionals.** The committee reviewed and discussed the 2025 regionals, which were conducted at six sites.

The committee was provided with 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 once again positive. Committee members discussed the significant impact that weather delays had on the conduct of several of this year's regional sites and were overall pleased with the way that each was managed. The committee also discussed considerations for future host sites and minimum facility requirements for hosting. Staff will confirm that bid specifications for future regionals appropriately outline the expectations for the tournaments.

3. **Review of 2025 finals site.** The committee discussed the 2025 championship finals, which were conducted at Omni La Costa in Carlsbad, California, for the second of five consecutive years.
 - a. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the finals site evaluations and noted overall satisfaction with the championships during the second year at the site. Specifically, staff and committee members noted an increased level of satisfaction from championship participants with the food and beverage offerings and the quality, maturation, and playability of the golf course. Committee members and survey respondents also noted positive feedback regarding the convenience of staying on site at the championship venue.
 - b. **Areas for improvement.** While survey respondents appreciated the opportunity for teams to stay on site at the competition venue, committee members noted their desire for staff to prioritize affording this same opportunity for additional institutional room availability for traveling institutional personnel when planning for future championships at Omni La Costa.
4. **2026-28 regional sites planning.** The committee discussed predetermined host sites for the 2026-28 regionals, including one conflict with a previously predetermined host site. The committee discussed and confirmed the preferred process for replacing the previously predetermined site via the original pool of bidders.
5. **2026 finals site planning.** The committee discussed the predetermined host sites for the 2025-26 regionals, including one conflict with a previously predetermined host site.
 - a. **Coaches meeting.** The committee discussed the virtual coaches meeting and encouraged staff to explore options for the optimal timing of this meeting, notably in coordination with the Haskins Award reception, and while being considerate of travel for participating institutions.
 - b. **Practice round.** The committee discussed various options for the practice round for the championships, noting that there is no perfect format that allows 186 players to play the practice round in a reasonable amount of time.

- c. **Pairings.** Committee members and staff discussed pairings at the national championship finals, including the possibility of flipping the times on holes one and ten during the first two days of competition. The committee made no changes during the annual meeting but noted that they will continue to discuss possible adjustments in advance of the 2026 championships.
 - d. **Other.** The committee discussed crowd control during match play, particularly with spectators being permitted to walk in the fairways and in proximity to putting surfaces. Committee members discussed the need to ensure that staff and volunteers are in place to appropriately manage crowds in future years.
- 6. **.500 rule.** The committee discussed the requirement for teams to have an overall win-loss record of .500 in order to be eligible for at-large selection to the championships. Committee members noted that a change to the .500 rule would fundamentally change the way that scheduling occurs. Committee members understand the worry about taking many losses in a large conference championship field, but there is also concern about removing conference championships from a team's overall win-loss record, as there are teams each year that depend on picking up a large number of wins at their respective conference championships. Committee members also noted that many regular season events include field sizes equal to or greater than the largest conference championship fields.

Staff informed committee members of a survey being sent to all men's and women's head golf coaches to gather feedback on the .500 rule, and this topic will be discussed in greater detail once those survey results are known.

7. **Selections.**

- a. **Schedule submission policy.** The committee discussed the schedule submission policy and made no changes for the 2025-26 season. Committee members emphasized the importance of continued communication and education to inform the membership of key processes and deadlines.
- b. **Formats.** The committee discussed various formats of competition, including one proposed format from a member conference for an event with two separate stroke play pods, each with a subset of teams advancing into a match play event to follow.
- c. **Rankings.** The committee discussed the college golf rankings and spent time during both days of their annual meeting conversing with Dr. Mark Broadie and members of the women's golf committee to explore potential adjustments to the ranking algorithm ahead of the 2025-26 season.

- d. **Seeding.** The committee discussed the seeding and regional assignment process and was pleased with the process used and subsequent balance for the regional sites during the 2025 championships.

8. Review of course access policies.

- a. **2025-26 championships.** 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. **Regional sites.** The committee discussed the policy prohibiting regional venues from hosting regular season or conference postseason tournaments during the same academic year and added clarifying language to the policy to include exhibitions.
- c. **Motorized push carts.** The committee reviewed a membership request to allow the use of motorized push carts during competition. The committee did not approve this request.

9. Rules discussion with Brad Gregory. The committee met with Brad Gregory, head rules official for the championships, and discussed several items. The committee continues to be very pleased with the professionalism and expertise that Mr. Gregory and his team of rules officials bring to the championship finals and regionals to help elevate them to an elite level.

- a. **Model local rules.** Mr. Gregory noted that there are no planned changes for the 2025-26 academic year regarding any model local rules. Mr. Gregory informed the committee that the next rules changes are planned for January 2027.
- b. **Finals site accommodations.** The committee and Mr. Gregory discussed course setup at the national championship finals when Bylaw 31.1.4.1 impacts the third round of competition. Committee members and Mr. Gregory discussed options to maximize competitive fairness for the field through course setup. Mr. Gregory noted that, following the 2025 championships, he and his rules committee identified areas on each green where only a single hole location is available, and they will plan accordingly in future years.
- c. **Checkpoint.** Mr. Gregory and the committee discussed the checkpoint pace-of-play system, specifically noting that all other championships are moving away from using checkpoint, including USGA national championships and the Division I women's golf championships. The committee approved Mr. Gregory's recommendation that the DI men's golf championships also move away from checkpoint and move to an out-of-position and individually timed pace-of-play system beginning with the 2026 championships. Mr. Gregory, committee members, and staff discussed the need to educate coaches at the 2025 coaches convention regarding the enforcement of out-of-position timing.

- d. **Misconduct.** Mr. Gregory and committee members discussed misconduct during the championships and confirmed that it is appropriate for both committee members and rules officials to give verbal warnings to players following an act of misconduct. Staff will update communication in the regional and finals site coaches meeting materials to ensure that this message is communicated consistently to all head coaches prior to all rounds of the 2026 championships.
- e. **Course conditions at La Costa.** Mr. Gregory and committee members discussed course conditions at the finals site. Mr. Gregory noted his overall admiration for the Omni La Costa staff, led by Director of Agronomy David Smallwood, and the job that they have done getting the golf course to championship-caliber condition following its recent renovation.

Mr. Gregory noted that green firmness and speeds were much better in year two when compared with year one at Omni La Costa. Mr. Gregory spoke positively to the continued partnership that the host site initiated and has continued with the United States Golf Association agronomy team, which will assist with planning efforts for future championships.

Committee members noted that the lack of penalizing rough was the most consistently communicated course complaint through participant surveys and verbal feedback and discussed possible future solutions to account for this ahead of future championships.

- f. **Playoffs.** Mr. Gregory noted to committee members that he believes that we have the correct playoff holes and procedures for the national championship finals. It was also confirmed that the first match to the tee should have priority to begin play in playoff situations that may overlap with ongoing matches.

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

Committee members also discussed the concept of automatic qualification for highly ranked individuals to the national championship finals. The committee took no action on this topic, noting that qualification through regionals is the path currently provided for access to the national championship finals, for both teams and individuals.

11. Future formats. The committee discussed the national championship finals and vetted several possible format adjustments that could relieve pressure of playoffs for advancement but took no action at the current time. Committee members noted that future decisions should be in the best interests of the championships.

- a. **Teams and individuals advancing to Monday (finals site).** The committee discussed potential alternatives and possible tee time grids, should the number of teams and/or

individuals advancing to the fourth round of stroke play competition be adjusted in the future.

Committee members requested that staff research recent national championship history to gather more details and assist with these conversations moving forward.

- b. Non-predetermined regional sites.** Staff informed committee members of a survey being sent to all men's and women's golf head coaches to gather feedback on non-predetermined regional sites. This topic will be discussed in greater detail once those survey results are known.
- 12. National committee.** During the committee's joint meeting with the Division I women's golf committee, an update was received regarding forthcoming changes to the sport committee structure to allow more decision-making oversight to live within each sport, though some items will still require additional approval. Committee members also noted that a new Atlantic Coast Conference representative will be appointed to the committee for the 2025-26 season.
- 13. Review of championship manuals.** Committee members directed staff to review and edit select manual language in preparation for the 2025-26 season and 2026 championships.
- 14. Golf Coaches Association of America update.** The committee was unable to meet with Dustin Roberts from the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) during their annual meeting and will meet with Mr. Roberts in July.
- 15. Other business.** 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, a survey recently sent to all men's and women's head golf coaches, future host sites and upcoming bid processes, a review of the finals site and finals site course access policy, and the policy regarding requests for the use of motorized carts during competition, among other items.

Committee members did not yet set meeting dates for summer 2026 but noted that they would like to avoid June 15 and surrounding dates, if possible.

The committee discussed five rules modifications proposals that were recently received from the membership and took no action on any of the proposals.

Committee members also briefly discussed a proposal regarding a uniform start date for fall competition and determined that they will discuss further alongside members of the women's golf committee once the new committee structure is in place.

Staff Liaison: *John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee June 17, 18 and 24, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Deedee Brown-Campbell, Texas Tech University.	
Andrew Danna, Florida Gulf Coast University.	
John Hauscarriague, University of California, Irvine.	
Quincy Heard, Alabama State University.	
Kenneth Jones, University of Tennessee Chattanooga.	
John Kennaday, San Jose State University.	
Jay Moseley, The Ohio State University.	
Joy Vrbka, Auburn University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Brad Gregory, Head Rules Official.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.	
Jackie Kawamoto, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.	