



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JULY 12-13, 2022, COMMITTEE MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Championship finals field size increase.** The committee is recommending an increase of the finals site field size to 27 teams, up from the current number of 24 qualifying teams, to have an equal percentage of sponsoring institutions participating at the finals site as men's golf (10%) (see Action Item 2-a).
2. **Schedule submission policy adjustment.** The men's and women's golf committees are recommending an adjustment to the current annual schedule submission deadline, from October 1 to August 31 (see Action Item 2-b).
3. **Regular season competition formats.** The committee is recommending that two additional competition formats be allowable for regular-season competition: six-count-five and six-count-four. Both formats are currently allowable for men's golf (see Action Item 2-c).
4. **Automatic qualification.** The committee is recommending 27 conferences to receive automatic qualification into the 2023 championships (see Action Item 2-d).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Championship finals site field size increase.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the championship finals field size be increased to allow for 27 qualifying teams, up from the current number of 24 qualifying teams.
- (2) Effective date. 2023 championships.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, women's golf has a lower access ratio than men's golf regarding the number of teams qualifying for the finals site of the championships. While the committee would prefer an increase to 30 teams to allow the same number of women's and men's teams to advance to their respective finals, the recommendation to increase to 27 qualifying women's teams would provide an equitable access ratio across the sport, with ten percent of both men's and women's teams advancing from regionals to the finals site.

Though an increase to 27 teams at the finals site would result in four teams advancing to the finals from three regional sites and five teams advancing from the remaining three regional sites, the committee believes that it is important to provide as many participation opportunities as possible for women's student-athletes. As such, the committee has developed a plan to implement a strength-of-field metric into the selection process to ensure maximum balance and fairness at regional sites, should this field size increase be approved for the finals site.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$46,000.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. With an additional three teams qualifying for the finals site, an additional 18 deserving women's golf student-athletes will have an opportunity to compete in the national championship finals.

b. Schedule submission policy adjustment.

- (1) Recommendation. That the schedule submission requirement be adjusted to reflect an annual submission deadline of August 31, in place of the current annual deadline of October 1.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, the October 1 schedule submission deadline allows teams to compete in tournaments for the first month of the season and adjust their schedules accordingly for the remainder of the year, without penalties. Under the current deadline, coaches are able to take early season results into consideration and adjust the remainder of their competition schedule to best position their teams for postseason qualification.

Both the men's and women's golf committees believe that an earlier submission deadline of August 31 will minimize the potential for gamesmanship when scheduling tournaments, given that no competition is permitted to be conducted prior to that date.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This adjustment to the schedule submission deadline will ensure maximum competitive equity for student-athletes throughout the regular season.

c. Regular-season competition formats.

(1) Recommendation. That the following competition formats be included as allowable options for purposes of rankings and selections: six-count-five and six-count-four.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2022.

(3) Rationale. While both the six-count-five and six-count-four formats are currently allowable for all three divisions of men's golf, neither is currently allowable for women's golf, which currently allows only five-count-five and five-count-four formats as countable competition to be used toward rankings and selections.

All three divisions' women's golf committees believe that the six-count-five and six-count-four formats should be allowable for women's competitions to provide flexibility in tournament format offerings as are currently available in men's golf. The committees believe that aligning men's and women's golf is in the best interests of college golf.

Additionally, the committee believes that allowing formats using a sixth player will encourage the growth of the sport by creating additional participation opportunities for student-athletes to compete as a counting member of the team.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Allowing these two additional formats would afford women's golf student-athletes with increased participation opportunities as a counting member of the team.

d. Automatic qualification.

(1) Recommendation. That the following 27 conferences sponsoring women's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2023 championships: American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic Coast 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; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

(2) Effective date. 2022-23 academic year.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended. The committee noted that the Southland Conference is no longer in a grace period due to the addition of affiliate

members. The committee also noted that the Ohio Valley Conference will enter the first year of its grace period during the 2022-23 season with only five active Division I conference members competing in women's golf.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Approval of 2021 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2021 annual meeting report.
2. **Review of 2022 regionals.** The committee reviewed and discussed the 2022 regionals, which were conducted at six sites for the first time under the new regional format.
 - a. **Six region format.** The committee noted that the first year in the new six region format was very successful. The committee specifically noted the improved pace of play at each of the sites as a key benefit within the new regional model.
 - b. **Regional evaluations.** The committee reviewed survey responses from regionals and was pleased with the overall feedback from the 2022 regional host sites. Committee members also noted some instances where specific sites need to improve for the betterment of the overall student-athlete experience when hosting in future years. Committee members requested that NCAA staff follow up with all regional hosts to provide a summary of participant survey feedback and key learnings from each specific site.
 - c. **Tee times and pairings.** The committee discussed regional tee times and pairings and made no adjustments for the 2023 championships.
3. **Review of 2022 finals site.** The committee reviewed and discussed the 2022 championship finals, which were conducted at Grayhawk Golf Club for the second consecutive year.
 - a. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the finals site evaluations and noted overall satisfaction with the championship. Specifically, committee members noted satisfaction from championship participants with the attention to detail and championship-level atmosphere at the finals site, including the addition of spectator seating areas for the 2022 championships. Committee members and survey respondents were pleased with the overall commitment from the host institution and host venue.
 - b. **Course setup.** The committee noted survey feedback indicating a few areas for additional consideration related to course setup. Committee members discussed this feedback and shared these considerations with Allison Brown, Director of Rules for the Championships.

- c. **Practice round.** The committee was pleased with the practice round and noted that the earlier start time worked well for the practice round tee times in 2022.
 - d. **Tee times and pairings.** The committee discussed tee times at the finals site, including whether the highest ranked teams should begin play during the morning or afternoon wave on the first day of competition. The committee did not take any action on this topic.
- 4. **2023 Regional sites planning.** The committee discussed the six predetermined host sites for the 2023 regionals and noted areas that staff should emphasize during the planning process with hosts, including course setup, consistency between sites and the overall student-athlete experience. The committee also made tentative site representative assignments for the regionals.
- 5. **2023 championships planning.**
 - a. **Tee times.** The committee reviewed the tee time grid for the championships and noted satisfaction with the minor adjustments that were made for the 2022 championships. The committee agreed that no changes should be made for the 2023 championships.
 - b. **Enhancement opportunities.** The committee continues to believe that there is not a good fit in the championship schedule of events for a banquet or breakfast reception. In place of either event, committee members directed staff to explore other enhancement opportunities for participants, including a site-specific championship memento.
 - c. **Other items.** Committee members discussed other possible championship enhancement ideas, including a reception for administrators and the inclusion of hospitality tents on the competition course. The committee did not take action on these discussions.
- 6. **2024-26 championships planning.** The committee discussed the 2024-26 championships, to be hosted by Omni La Costa, and will receive an update from La Costa representatives during a joint men's and women's golf committee call in August.
- 7. **Selections.**
 - a. **Schedule submission policy.** The committee discussed the October 1 schedule submission policy and noted desired improvements with the tracking process in future years. The men's and women's golf committees also recommended an earlier schedule submission date beginning in 2023-24. (See Action Item 2-b.)
 - b. **Seeding/spring ranking.** The committee discussed seeding for regionals and the evaluation of teams that incur significant roster changes during the season. The committee discussed the possibility of obtaining a spring-only ranking from Golfstat to assist with this evaluation.

- c. **Regional assignments.** The committee was pleased with the selection process and assignment of teams to regionals in 2022.

8. Review course access policies.

- a. **2023 championships.** The committee reviewed the course access policy for the 2023 championship finals and made no changes.
- b. **2024-26 championships.** The committee discussed the course access policy for the 2024-26 finals and urged staff to continue working through details with the host site to ensure a truly neutral championship experience.
- c. **Regional sites.** The committee reviewed the regional site course access policy and voted to make a minor edit to clarify that access to regional host courses will be restricted beginning with “the day of regional selections,” rather than “ten days prior to the regional practice round.”

9. Rules discussion with Allison Brown. The committee met with Allison Brown, Director of Rules for the Championships, and discussed a number of topics, including regional and finals site course setup, regional head rules officials, and coaches’ meetings at regionals and the finals site.

10. Golfstat. The committee met with Marcus El and Ian Gillam from Golfstat to discuss several items, including shortened events due to weather, alternate competition formats, unfinished match play matches, and individual tournament withdrawals.

The committee also voted that, during the match play portion of the championships, any individual matches that are unfinished when the team match is completed should not be counted as final; rather, these individual matches should be shown and reported as unfinished matches (similar to what is done in Division I tennis).

The committee also received clarification from Golfstat staff that no stroke differentials are recorded when an individual student-athlete is forced to withdraw from an event during the regular season. Only a head-to-head individual result is recorded in these instances, which is the same process in place for postseason substitutions.

The committee also voted to permit the submission of 27- or 45-hole results to Golfstat, in the extremely rare instances where these would be necessary due to inclement weather, particularly during conference championships.

11. Golf Channel. The committee met with Thomas McKee from Golf Channel and discussed a number of topics, including coverage and ratings from the 2022 championships; the St.

Andrew's Collegiate Invitational, which will begin in the 2023-24 academic year; and the broadcast schedule for the 2022-23 academic year.

12. Automatic qualification. The committee reviewed and approved the automatic qualification applications for the 2022-23 academic year, noting no changes from 2021-22. Staff and committee members noted that the Ohio Valley Conference will be in the first year of the grace period for its AQ in 2022-23 due to changes in membership, with only five member institutions sponsoring the sport during the upcoming academic year. (See Action Item 2-d).

13. Sport sponsorship list. The committee discussed sport sponsorship across the division, including changes in conference alignment and institutions transitioning into Division I.

14. National committee. The committee voted Bradford Hurlbut, director of athletics at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus, as chair of the committee.

Committee members expressed their sincere appreciation for the leadership and dedication from Julie Manning during her time on the committee and two years of service as committee chair. Ms. Manning's term will expire September 1, 2022.

15. Manual review. Committee and staff discussed and made relevant updates where necessary for the 2022-23 championship manuals.

16. Joint meeting with men's golf committee. The committee will meet jointly with the men's golf committee on August 10.

17. 2023 committee meeting dates. The committee agreed to meet June 28-29, 2023.

18. Other business. Committee members discussed the checkpoint system used during the championship finals and potential methods for continued education to the membership regarding its use.

Committee members also discussed the .500 rule but did not take action on that topic.

Committee Chair: Julie Manning, University of Minneapolis, Twin Cities
Staff Liaison: John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women's Golf Committee July 12-13, 2022, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Bradford Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Breanna Jenco, Xavier University.	

Jon Kasper, Big Sky Conference.
Julie Manning, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
MaryLou Mulflur, University of Washington.
Patty Post, University of Delaware.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Sarah Adams, Wichita State University.
Marcus El, Golfstat.
Ian Gillam, Golfstat.
Thomas McKee, Golf Channel.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.
Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jordan Koller.