



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE  
JUNE 17-18 AND JUNE 26, 2025, ANNUAL MEETING

**KEY ITEMS.**

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee is recommending 28 conferences to receive automatic qualification into the 2026 championships. (See Action Item 2-a.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Automatic qualification.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 28 conferences sponsoring women's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2026 championships: American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic-10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Coastal 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. The committee noted that the Patriot League is still at five schools and will be in the second year of the grace period for the 2025-26 academic year.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Ranking changes.**

- (1) Recommendation. The committee is recommending the following changes to the rankings algorithm: (a) Increase all points for the national championship by 30 percent; and (b) Establish a guardrail to minimize the impact of stroke differential in situations where there was a runaway winner.
- (2) Effective date. 2025-26 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. The first change is being recommended because the committee felt that reaching the national championship is a significant accomplishment and therefore teams and student-athletes shouldn't be harmed by a below average performance. The second change is being made to limit the impact of stroke differential after a certain margin of victory.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. These changes will help ensure the most deserving student-athletes are ranked the highest.

**c. Selection criteria.**

- (1) Recommendation. The committee is recommending the following changes to the selection criteria that are listed in priority order: (a) Move adjusted scoring average to the third criterion, behind National Collegiate Golf Ranking and head-to-head results/head-to-head stroke differential; and (b) Add spring trending as a criterion.
- (2) Effective date. 2025-26 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. The first change is being made to reflect what the committee values in discussions during selections. The second change is being requested to account for teams that made changes to their roster at the semester break (i.e., players turning professional or transferring). If a top player or two on a team turns professional, it can have a significant impact on a team's strength at regionals. Therefore, the committee feels it is important to take into consideration how well a team plays in the spring season without key student-athletes.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. These changes will help ensure that the most deserving teams and student-athletes are selected for the regional fields.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Approval of 2024 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2024 annual meeting report.
2. **Review of 2025 regionals.** The committee reviewed the 2025 regionals, which were conducted at six sites.
  - a. **Locations.** The 2025 regionals were held in Charlottesville, Virginia; Norman, Oklahoma; Gold Canyon, Arizona; Lexington, Kentucky; Lubbock, Texas; and Columbus, Ohio.
  - b. **Regional evaluations.** The committee reviewed survey responses from regionals and noted most of the feedback was positive. There were weather issues at several sites, including Norman where they were forced to play two rounds on Monday and Lubbock where they had to play the first round Sunday due to the forecast.
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 time.
  - a. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the finals site evaluations and noted, for the most part, overall satisfaction from the participants. Committee members and survey respondents were pleased with the overall commitment from the host institution and host venue.
  - b. **Issues.** The committee was pleased with the new menus and felt they were extremely improved from a year ago. Members noted that alternate tee locations on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole will be further discussed.
4. **2026 regional sites planning.** The committee discussed the six predetermined host sites for the 2026 regionals and noted areas that staff should emphasize during the planning process with hosts.
  - a. **Regional trophies.** The committee was reminded that the national semifinalist trophies were reinstated in lieu of the regional champion trophy.
  - b. **Locations.** The committee was informed that one of the regional sites for 2026 was under new leadership, so the site will be evaluated to determine whether they can still host. They were expected to have a final determination by the middle of July. If not, there would be plenty of options for a replacement site and the process would start immediately.
5. **2026 finals site planning.**

- a. **Tee times.** The committee wants to explore options regarding having the first tee time be off hole No. 1 instead of hole No. 10 on the first day. The committee will follow up with some of the coaches of the top-ranked teams for further discussion.
  - b. **Pairings.** The committee felt like the current pairings should continue.
  - c. **Coaches meeting.** The committee felt that having the coaches meeting on site was effective and will continue with it at the same time and place.
  - d. **Walk-through.** The committee discussed the timing of the walk-through and felt that noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesday was still appropriate.
  - e. **Practice day.** The committee discussed the pace of play of the practice round and reiterated that due to the number of teams, it is always going to be at least six hours. In addition, the committee reiterated that the six individual qualifiers should play in the same group so there will be one less group overall on the course.
6. **Player carts.** Staff reported that there is a formal process in place, and it will be in written form and placed on NCAA.org prior to the start of the season.
7. **.500 rule.** A survey was sent out to all the head coaches regarding the .500 rule, and the committee will review the results when they are compiled in early July.
8. **Selections.**
- a. **Schedule submission policy.** The committee reaffirmed the September 1 schedule submission date.
  - b. **Formats.** The committee felt that the same formats should be continued to be approved.
  - c. **Rankings.** The committee is recommending two changes to the rankings algorithm. The first one is a 30 percent bonus to all points at the national championship. The second is to establish a guardrail to minimize the impact of stroke differential in situations where there was a runaway winner. (See Action Item 2-b.)
  - d. **Seeding.** The committee stressed the importance of following the “S curve” as closely as possible to ensure that all regionals are balanced as closely as possible.
  - e. **Regional assignments.** The committee stressed that closest location to each of the top seeds is still important and will continue to be an important aspect of the selection but not the only factor.

- f. **Selection criteria.** The committee voted to change the order of the criteria with moving adjusted scoring average to the third criterion, behind National Collegiate Golf Ranking and head-to-head results/head-to-head stroke differential. In addition, they voted to add spring trending as a criterion to be able to account for teams that made changes to their roster at the semester break. (See Action Item 2-c.)

**9. Review course access policies.**

- a. **Finals sites.** The committee discussed the course access policy for the finals site and tweaked the policy for teams to be able to eat at the restaurants on property. However, should not walk, play or practice at the venue.
- b. **Regional sites.** The committee made no changes to the current policy, which allows regional sites to host regular-season events in the same year.

**10. Rules discussion.**

- a. **Model local rule G-12.** The committee met with Allison Brown, director of rules for the championships, and revisited the potential impact of MLR G-12. The committee agreed to continue with the status quo for the foreseeable future.
- b. **Pace of play.** This was the first year without the checkpoint system, and the committee felt the new USGA standard was implemented effectively.
- c. **Scorecard/15-minute rule.** The committee felt this was a nice addition for the postseason and will continue to use it moving forward. It will not be added to the hard card, but regular-season events can use it if they so choose.

- 11. Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed and approved the automatic qualification applications for the 2025-26 academic year, noting the Patriot League is in the second year of its grace period for being under six teams. (See Action Item 2-a.)

- 12. Number of individuals advancing to Monday at finals site.** The committee discussed having anyone tied for the last spot be able to play Monday without a playoff. Members directed staff to determine how many players would have been affected over past years and work with finance to see what the budget impact would be.

- 13. Sport sponsorship.** The committee discussed sport sponsorship across the division, including changes in conference alignment.

- 14. National committee.** Jon Kasper will be rotating off the committee on August 31. He will likely not be replaced due to the governance structure changes.

- 15. Manual review.** The committee charged the staff with making relevant updates where necessary for the 2025-26 championship manuals.
- 16. Joint meeting with men's golf committee.** The committee met jointly with the men's golf committee to discuss a variety of topics. (See the joint report for more information.)
- 17. 2026 annual meeting.** The committee decided to wait to determine annual meeting dates until after the new sport oversight committee was in place but wanted to make sure to avoid June 15.
- 18. Committee chair.** The committee was informed of possible governance structure changes and therefore delayed a vote on the new chair until August when they had more information.
- 19. WGCA Update.** Courtney Trimble, the new WGCA executive director, gave an update on her plans for the organization.

*Committee Chair:* Jon Kasper, Big Sky Conference  
*Staff Liaison:* Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women's Golf Committee June 17-18 and June 26, 2025, Annual Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jennifer Aguilar, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.	
Kalen Anderson, University of South Carolina, Columbia.	
Mary Giardina, Florida Atlantic University.	
Jon Kasper, Big Sky Conference.	
Scott MacDonald, San Jose State University.	
Emily Marron, University of Central Florida.	
Halley Morell, Bradley University.	
Ellie Shannon, Wake Forest University.	
Kari Williams, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Allison Brown, Head Rules Official.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>	
Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Jackie Kawamoto.	