



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS SUBCOMMITTEE
JUNE 11-12, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Action items.

a. Amend .500 rule.

- (1) Action. Amend the .500 rule so that it is satisfied when a team is at or above .500 (a) at the end of all regular-season play; or (b) at the end of all regular-season play and their conference championship (stroke play); or (c) at the end of all regular-season play and their conference championship (stroke play and match play).
- (2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. Golf is the only sport in which a team can compile more than two losses in a conference championship. Therefore, the subcommittee feels it is appropriate to ensure that playing in the conference championship can't hurt but only help a team's ability to meet or exceed .500 by providing the options listed in the recommendation. The original intent of the .500 rule in golf was to ensure that most teams play in events with a cross-section of teams nationally. Amending the rule as proposed in the recommendation maintains that intent while also ensuring that a conference championship doesn't hinder a team's ability to reach .500.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact: None.

b. Rankings.

- (1) Action. Adjust the rankings process by (a) implementing guardrails for all runaway winners, not just the runaway winner as it currently stands; (b) applying a bottom guardrail to minimize the impact of any outliers; (c) establishing a rankings penalty for any team that withdraws from an event without subcommittee approval.
- (2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. The subcommittee feels the rankings are working well but would like to add changes that minimize the impact of outlier performances. In addition,

currently when a team withdraws from an event, only its won-lost record is affected, so the subcommittee wants to add a rankings penalty to ensure teams don't withdraw from an event just to hold their ranking if they are well above .500.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact: The changes will help reward the student-athletes who earned the ranking on the course.

c. Regional assignments.

- (1) Action. Allow the top five ranked teams to indicate their preferred regional site prior to selections. While a team's preference will not be considered a guarantee, the subcommittee will try to accommodate it as much as possible during its deliberations.
- (2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. Teams that have earned the top spots in the rankings should have the benefit of being assigned to the location of their choice based on their performance during the regular season. Due to locations of the regionals, host schools and other teams in the top six, the subcommittee cannot guarantee placement.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact: This will allow the student-athletes who earned the right as a top seed to be assigned to a location if possible where they are likely to be most comfortable.

d. Match-play statistics.

- (1) Action. Any singles match in a match-play contest that does not reach its conclusion will not count toward the rankings.
- (2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, rules are in place for match-play events to select ahead of time how unfinished matches are treated. They can be set so any student-athlete who is winning at the time the team component is determined is declared the winner, or they can be set up so that if a match doesn't reach a conclusion it

doesn't count. This change in policy will ensure that results are calculated the same at every match-play event.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will ensure the student-athletes' results at match-play events are treated the same.

e. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Action. That the following 30 conferences be granted automatic qualification to the 2027 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championships: American Conference, Atlantic Sun Conference, Atlantic 10 Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 12 Conference, Big East Conference, Big Sky Conference, Big South Conference, Big Ten Conference, Big West Conference, Coastal Athletic Association, Conference USA, Horizon League, Ivy League, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mid-American Conference, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, Mountain West Conference, Northeast Conference, Ohio Valley Conference, Pacific-12 Conference, Southeastern Conference, Southern Conference, Southland Conference, Southwestern Athletic Conference, Summit League, Sun Belt Conference, West Coast Conference, Western Athletic Conference.
- (2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. Each of the recommended conferences are eligible for automatic qualification. The Patriot League filed a waiver to extend its two-year waiting period to get back to six teams, but the subcommittee was not in favor. While the subcommittee was sympathetic to the situation, it was also wary of the precedent-setting nature of the request and the potential of taking a spot away from an at-large team.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact: The student-athletes in the conferences that have earned automatic qualification will have the opportunity to participate in the NCAA championships.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Approval of 2025 annual meeting report.** The subcommittee approved the 2025 annual meeting report.

2. Review 2026 regionals.

- a. **Regional evaluations.** The subcommittee reviewed the evaluations from the regionals and directed NCAA staff to make sure the hosts received the appropriate feedback.
- b. **Hotels.** The subcommittee asked NCAA staff to work with future hosts to make sure there is a focus on the hotels selected for teams with regard to location, quality and breakfast.
- c. **General expectations.** The subcommittee wanted it denoted in the regional manual that teams can allow any member of their travel party to use the team cart in the practice round, but there is still a maximum of two people in a cart.
- d. **Practice rounds – shotgun start.** The subcommittee approved moving to a shotgun start for all regional sites for the practice round. If there are issues with a smaller practice range or the ability for the maintenance crew to get the course ready for the officials, then a site can ask the subcommittee to use tee times. In addition, the practice round should be pushed back to make sure the maintenance crew can get the course ready. Finally, the site reps should work with the officials to make sure teams have a reasonable time to get around the course during the practice round (e.g., one group per hole).
- e. **Playoff 5/5 vs 5/4.** The subcommittee discussed a potential change in playoff format but decided to make no changes at this time.
- f. **Babygrande golf.** NCAA staff updated the subcommittee on the Babygrande golf regional coverage, including unique views.

3. **Review of finals site.** The subcommittee will review the championship evaluations with the oversight committee during its July meeting.

4. **Future regionals site.** The subcommittee reviewed the 2027 regional host sites.

5. 2027 Finals site planning.

- a. **Tee times.** The tee times will continue to be the same on competition days.
- b. **Pairings.** The subcommittee plans to have the first tee time off hole No. 1, instead of No. 10, on the practice day and first day of competition. The topic will be discussed with the men's subcommittee during the July oversight committee meeting for a final decision on the format.

- c. **Wednesday practice sessions.** The practice sessions were very well received, so they will continue to be held in two-hour blocks (8-10 a.m., 10 a.m.-Noon, Noon-2 p.m.).
 - d. **Wednesday walk-through.** Starting with the 2027 championship, the subcommittee decided to cancel the Wednesday team walk-through. Therefore, the coaches meeting will be moved to 4 p.m. Wednesday.
 - e. **Thursday practice day.** The subcommittee determined it will change the start of the practice round to 7 a.m. In addition, pace of play will continue at 18 minutes per hole.
 - f. **NCAA/WGCA coach finals experience collaboration.** The subcommittee received a presentation from Courtney Trimble, the WGCA chief operating officer, about having select coaches attend the finals site to work operations along with the subcommittee. The subcommittee was receptive to the idea and will discuss more details as the championship nears.
 - g. **Shuttles, range, work assignments, nametags, operations.** The subcommittee discussed committee operations during the championships.
6. **Player carts – riding carts, motorized push carts.** The subcommittee decided to approve two or three tournaments to use the motorized push carts as a test to see if they should be approved with a blanket waiver for future use. Kari Williams will work with WGCA to determine the tournaments.
7. **.500 rule.** The subcommittee recommended amending the .500 rule as specified in Action Item 1-a starting with the 2026-27 season. The Division I Women's Golf Oversight Committee will review the recommendation during its July meeting.
8. **Selections.**
- a. **Schedule submission policy.** The subcommittee is revisiting the policy of mandating teams to play as a team if they have four players in attendance. The policy will be revisited during the July oversight committee meeting. Sept. 1 will remain the deadline date for schedule submissions.
 - b. **Formats.** The subcommittee charged NCAA staff with contacting Marcus El of Clippd to determine if any events used medal match or 6 count 5 during the 2025-26 season.
 - c. **Rankings.** The subcommittee is recommending changes to the rankings as specified in Action Item 1-b. This will be formally discussed during the July oversight committee meeting.

- d. **Seeding – swap vs. slide; travel; conference affiliation.** The subcommittee discussed its current policies and procedures with regard to applying the S-curve during selections.
 - e. **Regional assignments.** The subcommittee is recommending allowing top teams to indicate their preference for regional assignments as specified in Action Item 1-c. This will be formally discussed and voted on during the July oversight committee meeting.
 - f. **Match-play stats.** The subcommittee also is recommending adjustments as specified in Action Item 1-d to ensure all match-play matches are treated the same. This will be formally discussed and voted on during the July oversight meeting.
 - g. **Team withdrawal rankings penalty.** The subcommittee is recommending a penalty for teams that withdraw from an event without subcommittee approval, in addition to the current penalty of losses to the field. (See Action Item 1-b.) The subcommittee will discuss with the men's subcommittee and Mark Broadie to determine the appropriate penalty.
9. **Review of course access policies.** The subcommittee reviewed both the current regional and finals site access policy and felt both were appropriate in current form. The subcommittee requested NCAA staff to publish the formal regional policy on the NCAA golf administration page.
 10. **Rules discussion.** The subcommittee had a discussion with head rules official Allison Brown about several topics, including model local rule G-12 and determined no changes were necessary at this time.
 11. **Automatic qualification.** The subcommittee recommended conferences to receive automatic qualification as specified in Action Item 1-e. In addition, the subcommittee is recommending the waiver from the Patriot League be denied.
 12. **National committee.** The subcommittee was reminded it will need to replace Halley Morell, who recently took a position at a new school. Nominations are being collected and the oversight committee will select a replacement at the end of July.
 13. **Legislation.** Brittney Jackson gave the subcommittee an update on several legislative topics, including Bylaw 17 deregulation.
 14. **WGCA update.** The subcommittee heard from WGCA Chief Executive Officer Courtney Trimble about the LPGA Pathway program and a potential collaboration with the NCAA for coaches to experience working the NCAA finals site.

- 15. USGA update.** Heather Daly-Donofrio updated the subcommittee about WAGR, national teams playing in regular-season collegiate events and amateur eligibility.
- 16. Scoreboard by Clippd update.** Marcus El, Carolyn Kupchik, Matt Wheeler of Scoreboard by Clippd joined the subcommittee to discuss updates to the website.
- 17. Golf Channel update.** The subcommittee will receive a full presentation from Golf Channel during the July 2 oversight committee meeting.
- 18. NCAA enforcement update.** The subcommittee received a presentation from Brynna Barnhart and Nicole Sherwin of the NCAA enforcement staff on tampering.

Subcommittee Chair: Kari Williams, Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, Big Ten Conference.

*Staff Liaison(s): Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.
 Brittney Jackson, Division I Governance and Member Services.*

NCAA Division I Women's Golf Subcommittee June 11-12, 2026, Annual Meeting
Attendees:
Kalen Anderson, University of South Carolina, Columbia, Southeastern Conference.
Marc Chandonnet, Seattle University, West Coast Conference.
Scott MacDonald, San Jose State University, Mountain West Conference.
Emily Marron, University of Central Florida, Big 12 Conference.
Ellie Shannon, Wake Forest University, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Kari Williams, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, Big Ten Conference.
Absentees:
Rebekah Parkhill, University of Tulsa.
Guests:
Mark Broadie, Allison Brown, Heather Daly-Donofrio, Marcus El, Carolyn Kupchik, Courtney Trimble and Matt Wheeler.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Mark Bedics and Brittney Jackson.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
John Baldwin, Brynna Barnhart, Jackie Kawamoto, Nicole Sherwin.