



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JULY 10-11, 2023, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Replacement policy for championships.** The committee requests further defining the policy it adopted last year to make the deadline specific to the practice round to allow for a more reasonable time for travel than the current policy of 48 hours prior to the beginning of regional competition. (See Action item 2-a.)
2. **2024 selection date.** The committee recommends modifying the selection day from Friday April 26, 2024, to Monday April 29, 2024. (See Action Item 2-b.)
3. **AQ/selections deadline adjustment.** The Division II Men's and Women's Golf Committees are requesting date adjustments for automatic qualifications and selections. (See Action Item 2-c.)
4. **Substitutions permitted during Regional and National Championships.** The Division II Men's and Women's Golf Committees are requesting that substitutes be allowed during all rounds of post-season play. This includes stroke play and match play at the NCAA Regional Tournaments and the National Championship. (See Action Item 2-e.)
5. **Fall "under consideration" ranking.** The committee requests publishing an "under consideration ranking in early November in addition to the first ranking in the spring being an under consideration ranking (see Action Item 2-f.)
6. **Ranking services provider.** Spikemark will be the new data and ranking services provider for NCAA golf. (See Informational Item 12.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Replacement policy for championships.**

1. Recommendation. Further define the policy adopted last year to state that a team or individual that has been selected and has to withdraw from regional competition can be replaced as long as the committee receives notification within 96 hours of start of the regional practice round.

2. Effective date. September 1, 2023.

3. Rationale. The current policy of 48 hours prior to the start of the regional competition does not allow a reasonable amount of time for teams to travel to the regional competition. The committee also believes that the verbiage "from the start of regional competition" in the current policy can be interpreted differently (e.g., does regional competition begin with the practice round or the first tee time?). Specifying the regional practice round time removes the ambiguity. The committee also believes the 96-hour window is appropriate, as the committee didn't feel that it is plausible to think that someone would be replaced beyond 96 hours of the regional practice round. The committee believes most programs by that point will have already sent student-athletes home.

4. Estimated budget impact. None.

5. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation benefits student-athletes who will have a greater opportunity to participate if a replacement is needed.

b. 2024 selection date.

1. Recommendation. Modify this year's selection date from Friday April 26, 2024, to Monday April 29, 2024.

2. Effective date. September 1, 2023.

3. Rationale. After reviewing automatic qualification forms, the committee saw that the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference will be completing its conference tournament on April 25. The committee is concerned that will not leave adequate amount of time for the regional advisory committee (RAC) to convene and provide its recommendation to the national committee for selections. By moving the selection date, the committee believes it will allow adequate time for the national committee to review those recommendations in deciding selections for the 2024 championship. The committee also believes that moving the date would have little to no impact on travel/logistics for teams that do qualify for the championship with a 10-day window prior to the beginning of the regional competition.

4. Estimated budget impact. None.

5. Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Automatic qualification deadline/selection date adjustment.

1. Recommendation. Modify the deadline by which conferences determine their automatic qualifiers to 12 days prior to the date of regional competition; further modify the selection date to 10 days prior to the practice date of regional competition.
2. Effective date. September 1, 2025.
3. Rationale. Both the Division II Men's and Women's Golf Committees agree that a two-day buffer is needed between the AQ deadline and selections so that regional advisory committees can have a full day after the AQ deadline to discuss at-large selections prior to the national committee call. The committees believe that an AQ date 12 days prior to the practice round is an appropriate amount of time for cost-effective travel logistics and to prepare each team for regional competition. Currently, the selection date for the women is five days prior to the practice date of regional competition. The committees intend to align the policy for both genders as much as possible to accommodate coaches that coach both the men's and women's teams at their institution.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. Allowing additional days prior to regional will positively affect the women in allowing for more rest and preparation days before regional competition. A similar timeline will also allow for more equity between the men and women student-athletes.

d. 2025 and 2026 regional site recommendations.

1. Recommendation. That the NCAA Division II Championships Committee approve the following regional sites for the 2025 and 2026 DII Men's Golf Championships.

Year	Region	Venue	Host
2025	Central/Midwest	St. Joseph Country Club	Missouri Western University
2026	Central/Midwest	Katke Golf Course	Ferris State University

2. Effective date. Immediate.

3. Rationale. The Division II Men's Golf Committee received six bids to host the Central/Midwest Regional in 2025 and five bids to host regionals in 2026. In the other regions, the committee receive little to no bids and could not provide a recommendation at this time for those regions. The committee is working with NCAA staff in working to secure enough in all regions to make a recommendation later this fall. The committee reviewed all bid materials and believes that the golf courses listed above will provide the best experience for student-athletes while balancing proposed budgets, regional geography, recent host experience, and the overlapping host recommendations for the women's golf regional, among other items. The committee believes the host institutions and sport commissions, along with the golf course staffs, will provide quality experiences for participating student-athletes and coaches.

4. Estimated budget impact. Budget expenditures are estimated at \$36,000 for 2025 and \$20,000 for 2026.

5. Student-athlete impact. The venues and host institutions selected will provide quality student-athlete experiences during the championships.

e. Substitutions permitted during Regional and National Championships.

1. Recommendation. That substitutes be allowed during all rounds of post-season play. This includes stroke play and match play at the NCAA Regional Tournaments and the National Championship. The committees are also recommending that substitutions can be allowed during conference championships but that will be at the discretion of each individual conference.

2. Effective date. 2024 championships.

3. Rationale. Substitutions are currently permitted during the National Championship for both men and women during match play. Both the DII Men's and Women's Golf Committees agree that it is in the best interest of college golf to permit substitutions for post-season play during stroke play and match play moving forward.

4. Estimated budget impact. Participating institutions that choose to bring additional individuals beyond their normal travel roster could incur additional costs. It is important to note that the requested adjustment would be deemed permissible but not required. Therefore, schools may elect to bring only five student-athletes without an additional budget impact.

5. Student-athlete impact. Substitutions would allow for one additional student-athlete to travel with the team to regional competition. These student-athletes would be afforded a regional championship opportunity and would be available to be substituted into the team lineup in event of injury, illness, or a coach's decision.

f. Fall “under consideration” ranking.

1. Recommendation. Allow the committee to publish an “under consideration” ranking in early November in addition to the first ranking in the spring being an under consideration ranking.
2. Effective date. 2024-25 academic year.
3. Rationale. The committee believes it is important for golf programs to know where they stand after the completion of their fall season so they can plan for any additional scheduling prior to the February 1 deadline. With four of the 22 automatic qualifying conferences being decided in October, the committee believes it is extremely important for those programs to know where they stand so they can plan accordingly in the spring season by competing in tournaments that can help their regional rankings and in turn allow them to qualify as an at-large for regional competition.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and schedule for the meeting.
2. **Approval of 2022 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2022 meeting report as presented.
3. **Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed the strategic plan that guides its actions in the coming years. The committee adjusted the verbiage in one of the long-term goals, removing what they felt was unnecessary and redundant language. The committee will annually review and update the strategic plan.
4. **Manuals review.** The committee is currently reviewing the pre-championships, host operations, and participant manuals. Each committee member was assigned a particular manual to review and will work with staff to make updates prior to the manuals being published for the 2024 championships. The committee did agree to adjust how phones can be

used during play by adjusting the unsportsmanlike conduct verbiage in the pre-championships manual.

5. **Sports sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the current sponsorship list and noted adjustments in sponsorship and conference membership in Division II men's golf.
6. **National and regional advisory committees.** The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee rosters and noted anticipated changes for the upcoming academic year. The committee also noted that terms for two of the four current national committee members are scheduled to expire at the same time. The committee plans to recommend that the Division II Nominating Committee stagger term expiration dates for committee members in future years.
7. **Academic and membership affairs update.** Staff updated the committee on a number of issues, including that there continues to be sufficient returns on the coaches certification exam. However, golf coaches should still be reminded to complete that exam. Staff also reported that they had spoken to the DII Women's Golf committee about questions regarding the First Date of Practice and Competition- Non Championship Segment (Rule 17.12.5). Staff explained that any adjustment to this rule would need to take place through the legislative process. The DII Men's and Women's Golf committees plan to discuss adjustments to the rule throughout the year.
8. **NCAA Division II Championships Committee Updates.** The committee reviewed recent actions from the Division II Championships Committee, including updates on the timing of the budget cycle requests. The Championships Committee will finalize recommendations for the next budget cycle during its September meeting.
9. **Division II governance update.** The committee received an update on the 2022-23 Division II priorities, including the work of the Division II Implementation Committee, Division II SAAC priorities, DII Day, and the 50th anniversary timeline.
10. **Review of the 2023 championship.** The committee reviewed the 2023 championship and noted the following:
 - a. **Regional review (overall).** The committee reviewed participant, host, and officials comments along with their own respective debriefs of the regionals they attended. In all regions, the committee members were pleased with the success of the one tee start. The committee was also extremely satisfied with the success of Groupme usage at regionals and with radios. The committee noted the success of student-athlete electronic scoring in the Central/Midwest regional and pointed to positive comments in the surveys of those involved in that regional. The committee noted that more hotel rooms should be reserved in the West/South Central regional due to more teams traveling by air the night before the practice round than the other three regionals. The committee would also like to see a regional award script be produced, similar to what is used at the finals site.

- b. Regional spectator cart policy.** The committee felt that the new policy with spectator carts was a success for the most part at regionals. The only adjustments that the committee would like to see made in the future with the policy is that hosts delegate someone to manage the cart pickup with signs on carts indicating that only those who are granted a cart receive one. The committee also would like the policy to be further stressed to the coaches on pre-championships calls so that coaches understand it is their responsibility to let the host know who will need a spectator cart to avoid issues on site.
- c. Regional signage.** The committee was happy with the signage at this year's regionals; however, the committee is looking forward to having NCAA tee markers at future regionals to help make the event more special (that budget request was approved earlier by the Championships Committee). The committee would like to see signage made in the future indicating that the practice facility is closed until the start of the practice round. The committee would like this signage to be placed around the driving range, putting area, and any other practice facilities.
- d. Finals site (review).** The committee reviewed participant, host, and officials comments along with their own respective debriefs of the championship at Avalon Lakes. They noted that box lunches should be served on day four of competition between the quarterfinal and semifinal matches. They also noted that the practice facilities should close 30 minutes after the last putt drops, and that all practice facilities (including the driving range and putting green) should close at the same time on all days. The committee also reviewed the report from Head Official Mike Peluso and noted there were no major challenges in 2023. The committee was extremely happy with the rules officials and appreciated their hard work and effort. Lastly, the committee was thankful and appreciative of the hard work and diligence of the Mountain East Conference and Avalon Lakes in putting on a great championship.
- e. Administrative meetings.** The committee noted that an administrative meeting should take place 30 minutes prior to the practice round and 30 minutes at the conclusion of the practice round in addition to a virtual meeting taking place the Monday after regional competition has been completed. During the pre-practice round meeting the committee would like the ground rules to be emphasized for the practice round and to provide overall reminders of the policy of the championship. Following the practice round, the committee would like to have all coaches together to answer any questions as a group and re-emphasize key policies for the start of play the next day.
- f. Merchandise Sales.** The committee reviewed the merchandise sales reports from the championship as informational knowledge.
- g. Championship Coverage.** The committee was very pleased with the coverage of the event on social media this year. Members hope the social media coverage of the event can continue to grow, and they are very much interested in putting budget dollars toward

increasing social media coverage to have two dedicated tournament staffers covering social media throughout all five days of the championship. The committee would like to see a media day type event take place during the championship (during the banquet) so that all student-athletes can be involved in the coverage.

11. 2024 championships action plan.

- a. Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed the applications for automatic qualification.
- b. Selections.** The selections call is currently scheduled to begin on Thursday night, April 25 and then finish on Friday April 26 with a release at 5 p.m. Eastern time on Friday. The committee would like to adjust the selection call to Monday April 29 with a release at 5 p.m. Eastern time that day. (See Action Item 2-b.)
- c. Committee responsibilities.** The committee reviewed and adjusted the committee responsibilities document that will be used going forward to prepare committee members for being on site at the championship. The committee also would request that a rules official be in the scorers tent near the 18th green going forward.
- d. Championship experience.** The committee would like to see locker room access be available at championships going forward and also a more streamlined process for shoe-shining (the committee felt the shoe-shining perk was a major addition to the championship experience). The committee also wants to make sure merchandise is adequately placed for optimal sales, that coolers and box lunches are placed in visible locations, and that more water/Powerade product is ordered.
- e. Coaches communication.** The committee discussed the use of the Event Direct application during the championship next year and that they would like to see the application allow communication between coaches/administrators and the committee instead of just the committee being able to message coaches/administrators and not coaches/administrators being able to message back. The committee feels the two-way communication is necessary if the app is to be used during the championship.

12. Golf data and rankings RFP. The committee was notified that Spikemark, LLC would be the official ranking and data service provider for NCAA golf. Spikemark will be providing videos and information on how to access and use the system. The committee noted a need to have Spikemark provide a check and balance system to assist with monitoring the schedule submission deadline.

13. Discussion with Division II Women's Golf Committee.

- a. **AQ and selection dates.** The women's committee noted concerns regarding the selection date being less than a week before regional competition begins. The men's committee noted concerns regarding the desire to have more of a buffer from their AQ date to selections. Both committees agreed to submit a proposal to the Division II Championships Committee to implement an AQ date 12 days prior to the regional round practice day and a selections date 10 days prior to the regional round practice day. (See Action item 2-c.)
- b. **Student-athlete advice givers.** Both committees agreed to not approve student-athletes as advice givers, noting that the liability concerns far outweigh the positives.
- c. **Green readings.** Both committees agreed to continue allowing the use of green reading materials for this season and revisit the issue in early 2024.
- d. **Tiebreaking procedures.** The committee discussed the non-sudden-death tiebreaking procedures and made adjustments to be more consistent across both genders.
- e. **Substitutions.** Substitutions in regular season are not allowed. At the NCAA regional and national championship the committee would like substitutes to be allowed between any round of stroke play or between any matches. The substitution could be submitted to the committee up until 10 minutes prior to the selection of matches for the head-to-head competition. If a player is taken out of the lineup in the stroke play portion of the championship, the individual would incur official head-to-head losses to all players in the field who complete the 54 holes of stroke play. (See Action item 2-e.)
- f. **2024 annual meeting.** The committees noted that the annual meeting dates for 2024 will be July 15-16, 2024. Both committees will meet jointly on the 16th.

14. Policy review.

- a. **Golf carts.** The golf cart policy and policy for spectator carts will remain the same for 2024. The committee stressed that it will be the responsibility of the coaches to tell the regional/final site tournament director which spectator needs a cart per the policy. It will be paramount that tournament directors label spectator carts with a cart sign of the name of the spectator that was preapproved.
- b. **Regional allocations for the 2024 championship.** The committee discussed the regional allocation policy reset this year due to this being a Festival year and noted that the number of regional berths to the 2024 championship will be as follows: South/Southeast- 5; Atlantic/East- 5; Midwest/Central- 5; and South Central/West- 5.
- c. **Medal match play and match play.** The committee discussed the opinions from coaches and administrators on this policy and agreed to review this policy every year.

- d. **Student-athlete advice givers.** The committee decided to not move forward with student-athletes as advice givers. The committee would like to share the survey results but feel as though the potential liabilities far outweigh the positives with student-athletes as advice givers. The committee is open to have continued conversations on this topic.
 - e. **Pace-of-play policy.** The committee discussed the checkpoint system and potentially eliminating it from NCAA championships. The committee will discuss this policy with Mike Peluso over the next couple of months before deciding in early winter on if this policy will be eliminated for future championships.
 - f. **Student-athletes electronic scoring at regionals and finals.** The committee noted needing to ask Spikemark what their capabilities are with electronic scoring. They also noted that there needs to be a fail-safe system in place with hosts in the case scores are not being reported due to connectivity issues or student-athlete access to a phone. The committee stressed that all groups would need to report scores in this system. The committee plans to use the Midwest/Central Regional to serve as a test region again in 2024 to garner more opinions on this topic.
 - g. **Individual tee times/finals site pairings.** The committee reviewed the tee times and pairings from this past championship and will adjust the pairings for individuals based on Spikemark ranking going into the championship.
15. **Important Dates for 2023-24.** The committee noted October 1 as the registration deadline and February 1 as the deadline to have schedules submitted to Spikemark. The committee wants to stress the importance of making sure schedules are submitted to Spikemark prior to February 1 to avoid penalties.
16. **Regional rankings.** The committee noted that the timeline for the 2023-24 regional rankings would remain the same as last year with rankings taking place on Fridays. The 2023-24 regional ranking dates are: March 15, 2024; March 29, 2024; April 12, 2024. The committee would like to add an under consideration ranking in November (see Action item 2-f).
17. **Selection criteria.** The committee discussed the effectiveness of the selection criteria for 2023 and believes they are still appropriate.
18. **Future dates and sites.** The committee reviewed the upcoming championships dates and sites, including previously awarded regional and final sites.
19. **Committee Chair.** The committee reelected Sara Higley from Ferris State University as chair for the 2023-24 season.
20. **2025 and 2026 regional bid review and confirmation.** The Committee received six bids to host the Central/Midwest Regional in 2025 and five bids to host regionals in 2026. In the other

regions, the committee receive little to no bids and could not provide a recommendation at this time for those regions. The committee is working with NCAA staff in working to secure enough in all regions to make a recommendation later this fall. (See Action Item 2-d.)

Committee Chair: Sara Higley, Ferris State University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Antonio Cannavaro, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Men's Golf Committee July 10-11, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jeremy Benoit, Goldey-Beacom College.	
Sara Higley, Ferris State University.	
Jimmy Wilson, Georgia College.	
Renee Yuen, Chaminade University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Michael Bond, University of Central Oklahoma.	
Ben Greenberg, Colorado State University, Pueblo.	
Brent Nicoson, University of Indianapolis.	
Suzanne Strudwick, Carson Newman University.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Antonio Cannavaro, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ashley Caldwell, Championships and Alliances.	
Maritza Jones, Division II Governance.	
Ryan Jones, Division II Governance.	
Jordan Lysiak, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Demetria Young, Championships and Alliances.	