



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JUNE 10-11, 2024, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Expenses Provided by the Institution for Practice and Competition – Permissible – Practice.**

- a. Recommendation. That the Division III Management Council sponsor legislation for the 2025 NCAA Convention that amends Bylaw 16.8.1.1 (practice) to increase the radius from an institution's campus from 100 to 300 miles as follows (strikethrough indicates language removed; bold indicates language added):

16.8.1.1 Practice. Expenses may be paid for practice sessions only if they are associated with an away-from-home contest or conducted at a site located within ~~the member institution's state or, if outside that state, not more than 100~~ **300** miles from the ~~member~~ institution's campus.

(Note: The proposal is meant to apply for all sports. However, if this is not acceptable, the Men's Golf Committee would request that men's golf be granted an exception from the legislated radius.)

- b. Effective date. August 1, 2025.
- c. Rationale. The committee cites the following rationale for the recommendation:
 - Discrepancies in state sizes (e.g., Texas vs. Massachusetts).
 - Student-athlete experience, as this could provide an opportunity to practice at different courses and in different areas of the region. Coaches often attempt to stop near the hometowns of their out-of-state players during trips to and from away contests. Practicing would be beneficial during these stops if it were possible.
 - Students already cannot miss class for practice per Bylaws 17.1.4.2 and 17.1.4.2.1, so amending the radius does not affect those rules.
 - Per Bylaw 31.3.2.2, the definition of "in-region" competition includes a 500-mile radius from the institution. In the current regional alignment for Division III men's golf, there are examples of teams within the same conference located more than 500 miles apart (e.g., Lake Forest College and Mississippi University for Women).
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would allow more flexibility for teams to practice at different courses and in different areas of the region. Additionally, the recommendation does not affect the existing bylaws regulating missed class time.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2023 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **2023-24 Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the relevant actions and information items from the 2023-24 Championship Committee meetings.
3. **2024 championships.**
 - a. **Course.** The committee noted that Boulder Creek's greens and fairways were in outstanding condition. The clubhouse was sufficiently separated for teams and spectators, and the staff was fantastic. However, the Legacy Golf Club's course conditions were unsatisfactory (for example, there was water on the fairways, no sand in some of the bunkers and no grass in other spots). The committee, though, believes the Legacy staff did the best they could despite a last-minute change in management and a new superintendent starting the week of the NCAA tournament. The committee emphasized the importance of selecting sites with a high-quality secondary course if the current two-course format continues. Coaches and committee members have stated several times recently that the secondary course at the national championships has been the worst course teams have played throughout the year.
 - b. **Hotels.** The committee agreed both hotels were great in 2024. Sunset Station's breakfast setup was outstanding, the surrounding area had everything teams would need nearby, and the location between the two courses was appropriate. While there was a casino in this hotel, the layout had them separated, which helped ease the committee's initial concerns about teams staying there. The headquarters hotel was clean and appropriate. The proximity to the courses was good and local dining options were satisfactory.
 - c. **"Block Party" (Banquet).** The committee emphasized the student-athletes love the block party atmosphere compared to a formal banquet. Team attendance was 100%. The food and coordination of the event was outstanding. The host did a great job adding memorable elements like the "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign and the coaches' putting contest. Better coordination is still needed with the GCAA to make sure their planned awards and recognition can be incorporated into the event. The committee noted that the first year with BirdieBox and having student-athlete gifts on site is off to a promising start.
 - d. **Evaluations.** The committee reviewed the championship evaluations, noting that the post-championship evaluations mirrored feedback from participants at the championship. The committee recognizes the importance of selecting sites with quality courses in the future, which was mentioned often in the evaluations.
 - e. **Awards presentations.** The committee noted the awards presentation went more smoothly than in years past. The script, roles, and distribution of awards were organized, and having the NCAA photographer help orchestrate photos for each award was very helpful. The committee noted wanting to include the GCAA when developing the run of show for the awards presentation.

- f. **Scoring areas.** The committee noted that the path and flow of scoring areas at both courses were sufficient. The committee emphasized its preference for continuing with paperless scoring in the future.
 - g. **Water, ice/snacks on course.** The committee praised the host for their outstanding attention to participants' hydration needs. With temperatures surpassing 90 degrees each day, hydration was the top priority going into the championships. The evaluations from players, coaches and officials reflected praise as well.
 - h. **Special Olympics tee shots.** The committee praised the host for making the Special Olympians and their families feel appreciated. The committee was also encouraged by 100% attendance by student-athletes at both courses.
 - i. **Folds of Honor.** The committee noted the teams getting their assigned soldiers earlier in the week was well-received. The committee recommended the Folds of Honor signage be out on the course from the first practice round through Wednesday instead of only on Wednesday. This would allow for more visibility and make Wednesday's celebration more significant.
 - j. **Starters.** The committee noted the starters were outstanding in terms of voice volume, delivery, crowd control and their efforts to make the student-athletes feel special.
 - k. **Volunteers.** The committee noted that the LVCVA was among the best host groups in recent years. The volunteers were available, attentive and engaged with student-athletes and spectators.
 - l. **Spectator carts.** The committee noted that quantity of carts and the process by which they were distributed worked very well. The committee recommended the NCAA, the host and both courses agree to a fixed price for rentals at both courses and to get that in writing instead of a verbal agreement. One course changed the plan and charged significantly more for spectator carts than the other, which frustrated some spectators and coaches.
 - m. **NCAA.com coverage.** The committee was satisfied with the improvement of the recaps produced by NCAA.com and the inclusion of post-round interviews with players and coaches. The committee still recommends Division II and Division III golf explore outside vendors to livestream these events.
4. **Review ranking and selection process.** The committee recommended the NCAA and the golf committees work to make the Clippd rankings the sole criterion for golf, similar to teams sports now using NPI, and removing selection criteria from the equation. There are adjustments to the rankings currently being reviewed based on recommendations from the Division I Men's and Women's Golf Committees and GCAA and WGCA subcommittees that, if the ranking methodology is improved and satisfies the membership, may lead to a proposal from the Division III committees to the Championships Committee about removing the current selection criteria. The committee noted that if a proposed change occurs, members would still prefer having regional advisory committees to help teams progress toward meeting minimum selection requirements. The committee continues to agree with rankings being four weeks prior to the selection date while the current process is in place. Committee members are pleased with the current preselection and selection processes the NCAA liaison implemented.

5. **Review sport sponsorship list and pool document.** The committee received the updated sponsorship and pool document for 2024-25. There will be a new conference earning automatic qualification this year, so the number of AQs moves to 35 with eight at-large berths.
6. **Discuss 2025 NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championships.**
 - a. **Courses.** The committee reviewed information about Midvale Country Club and Cobblestone Creek Country Club. Both courses are of high quality. A site visit will be conducted in late September around the same time as the NCAA Fall Preview.
 - b. **Hotels.** The committee noted the team hotel will bill sufficiently located between the courses.
 - c. **Officials.** The committee noted the officials did a good job this year and would prefer the same crew in 2025 if possible.
 - d. **Block Party.** The committee agreed to continue with the "block party" theme and is confident that the host in Rochester will be able to deliver a great experience.
 - e. **Teams and individuals.** In 2025, the field will consist of 43 teams (34 in Pool A and nine at-large berths) and 10 individuals not from the selected teams.
 - f. **Substitutions.** The committee tabled this discussion until a more detailed discussion can occur between the men's and women's committees regarding travel party size and increasing the number of allowed participants during practice rounds.
7. **Championship regionals proposal.** The committee continues to develop a proposal to add a regional round to the championships. The committee reviewed the results of the survey sent to the membership in April 2024 to solicit feedback about regionals. The committee will meet jointly with the Division III Women's Golf Committee to solicit feedback on what has already been developed and to see if there is any interest from the women's committee to implement regionals as well. Once the proposal is finalized, it is likely an additional survey will be presented to the membership for feedback prior to submitting the proposal to the Championships Committee.
8. **2027 and 2028 bid process.** The committee continues to discuss site selection for the 2027 and 2028 championships. The committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Championships Committee by the July 31 deadline.

Committee Chair: Jon King, Alvernia University
Staff Liaison(s): Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's Golf Committee June 10-11, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Brian Bruha, Lake Forest College.	
Jon King, Alvernia University.	

John Sjoberg, Emory University.
Tom Koehle, Pennsylvania State University, Altoona.
Dan Wesley, University of Rochester.
Absentees:
William Raleigh, Schreiner University.
Drew Galbraith, Trinity College (Connecticut).
Guests:
None.
NCAA Staff in Attendance:
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Eric Hartung, Law, Policy and Governance.