

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE JUNE 16-17, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **1. 2024 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2024 annual meeting report as submitted.
- **2. 2024-25 Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the relevant actions and information items from the 2024-25 Championship Committee meetings.
- 3. 2025 championships.
 - **a. Evaluations**. The committee reviewed the championship evaluations, noting that the post-championship evaluations mirrored feedback from participants at the championship. The committee recognizes the weather was a challenge for all involved but is proud of the resiliency and effort shown to get all 72 holes completed.
 - **b.** Host(s). The committee applauded St. John Fisher University and Rochester NY Sports Commission for their partnership and execution of the championships. Both groups were organized, flexible and helpful. The committee would recommend they be awarded championships in the future.
 - c. Courses. The committee emphasized that despite the weather challenges all week both courses were outstanding and of championship quality. The staff at both courses ran a first-class tournament and showed great flexibility with the multiple changes to the schedule due to the weather. Without the effort of both staffs and their ground crews, it is unlikely all 72 holes would have been completed. They were accommodating, professional and helpful with the student-athletes, coaches and spectators throughout the championship. The committee emphasized the importance of selecting sites with a high-quality secondary course if the current two-course format continues.
 - **d. Hotels.** The committee agreed both hotels were satisfactory in 2025. The Woodcliff Hotel & Spa were great partners from initial planning through selections, and they handled the check-in process of 43 teams seamlessly. It was mentioned several times in the post-championship evaluations that breakfast was repetitive and bland, but the committee feels the hotel did a great job accommodating a party of our size (350 players and coaches) and making sure everyone was fed efficiently within the time allotted to travel to the courses, which is most important. The surrounding area also had everything teams would need nearby, and the location between the two courses was appropriate. The headquarters hotel was nice as well with sufficient local dining and travel time to both golf courses.
 - e. "Block Party" (Banquet). The committee emphasized the outstanding job the host did

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with the block party. This was the first time in this championship that the block party was held on campus because the championship is historically played at off-campus sites. The coaches and teams really appreciated the campus atmosphere at St. John Fisher University. They provided plenty of outstanding food choices and the "Tastes of Rochester" theme for the meal added a great local feel. The GCAA submitted their PING All-Region teams in a timely manner, which enabled them to be announced as an enhancement for those in attendance

- **f. Administrative meetings.** The committee recommended that all weather contingency plans should be announced during the on-site administrative meeting. While the plans that were eventually forced to use were discussed and confirmed with the committee prior to the championship, it would be best to make the coaches aware as well to limit confusion.
- **g. Scoring areas**. The committee noted that the path and flow of scoring areas at both courses were sufficient, especially during shotgun rounds where several groups reported at one time. The committee emphasized its preference for continuing with paperless scoring in the future
- **h. Special Olympics tee shots**. The committee praised the host and the teams 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. 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.
- **j. Folds of Honor.** The committee noted that, although the pivot to a shotgun start during the second round prevented honoring the fallen soldiers as planned, the script that was read to the competitors at both courses and the moment of silence prior to the start was well done. Teams and individuals receiving their <u>assigned soldiers</u> at the administrative meeting and the QR codes that were rolling on the digital scoreboard were nice touches the committee would like to see continue.
- **k.** Volunteers. The committee noted that the volunteers from both St. John Fisher and the local area were outstanding. The volunteers were available, attentive and engaged with student-athletes and spectators and remained flexible throughout the week with all the changes due to weather.
- **l. Awards presentations**. The committee noted the awards presentation went very well this year. The script, roles, and distribution of awards were organized. Pivoting indoors with the unpredictable weather proved to be a smart decision as well.
- **m. Spectator carts**. The committee praised the championship manager's process for spectators who needed accommodations receiving priority for cart rentals this year. Although the pivot to a second-round shotgun start and spectator carts not being available at either course caused some frustration and less-than-ideal behavior from spectators, the committee agreed the process was organized in the best possible manner and should continue at future championships.
- **n.** NCAA.com coverage. The committee was satisfied with the improvement of the recaps

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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 continue to work to make the Clippd rankings the sole criterion for golf, similar to team sports now using NPI, and removing other selection criteria from the equation. The committee noted that, while there are still concerns with the algorithm and point distribution, for the second year in a row the top finishers at the championships were all in the top five of the final Clippd rankings prior to selections, which confirms its validity. The committee submitted common questions from the membership for the championship manager to send to Mark Broadie and Clippd.
- **5. Division III Championships Committee update.** Laura Peterson-Mlynski updated the committee on items the Championships Committee is currently discussing, including the possibility of increasing per diem earlier than initially scheduled, the possibility of new rules committee structures, and bench sizes.
- **6. Academic and membership affairs update.** Corey Berg, associate director of academic and membership affairs, spoke with the committee about a new legislative process, potential recommendations being discussed and an update about Division III graduate transfer rules.
- **7. Division III governance update.** Ali Spungen from the Division III governance staff updated the committee on a variety of governance topics.
- **8. Review sport sponsorship list and pool document.** The committee received the updated sponsorship and pool document for 2025-26. There will be a new conference (Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) beginning the two-year waiting period for automatic qualification.
- 9. Discuss 2025 NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championships.
 - **a.** Courses. The committee reviewed information about the El Campeon and Las Colinas at Mission Inn Resort. Both courses are of high quality. A site visit will be conducted in September at the same time as the NCAA Fall Preview.
 - **b. Hotels**. The committee noted the team hotel being on site at the resort is a great feature of the 2026 site. There is concern about the selected individuals having to stay at an off-site hotel due to the teams taking 100% of the rooms at the resort, but there is no other solution at this time. The championship manager has made accommodations for the individuals and coaches to eat breakfast at Mission Inn when they arrive for practice and competition.
 - **c. Officials**. The committee noted the officials did a great job this year and would prefer the same crew in 2026 if possible.
 - **d. Block Party.** The committee agreed to continue with the "block party" theme and is confident that the host in Howie-in-the-Hills will be able to deliver a great experience.
 - e. 2022 evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from 2021-22 when Mission Inn

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Resort previously hosted this championship for awareness of potential situations where the championship can improve this time around.

- **f. Teams and individuals**. In 2026, the field will consist of 43 teams (34 automatic qualifiers and nine at-large berths) and 10 individuals not from the selected teams.
- **10.** Championship regionals proposal. The committee has adjusted the proposal to add a regional round to the championships following the review of the results from the second membership survey. The championship managers are awaiting the cost analysis from the NCAA travel department, which will be the final item needed to finalize the proposal for the Championships Committee to consider. The committee hopes to present the proposal in the upcoming months.
- **11. Future bid cycle.** The committee received an update and tentative timeline for the upcoming bid cycle for the 2029-2031 championships.

Committee Chair: Tom Koehle, Pennsylvania State University, Altoona Staff Liaison(s): Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's Golf Committee June 16-17, 2025, Meeting

Attendees:

Brian Bruha, Lake Forest College.

Dave Eavenson, Methodist University.

Tom Koehle, Pennsylvania State University, Altoona.

David Lindholm, Williams College.

William Raleigh, Schreiner University.

Tana Thomas, Swarthmore College.

Absentees:

Dan Wesley, University of Rochester.

Guests:

Marcus El, Scoreboard by Clippd.

Chad Eisele, Division III Championships Committee.

Carolyn Kupchik, Scoreboard by Clippd.

NCAA Staff in Attendance:

Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs.

Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.

Ali Spungen, Law, Policy and Governance.