



**NCAA DIII MEN'S GOLF COACHES CONNECT
CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
October 7, 2026**

Ryan Richardson (NCAA Championship Manager) welcomed all to the call. Also in attendance were Vince Gmerek (NCAA GMS), Chad Eisele (NCAA DIII Champs Committee), and John Sjoberg (GCAA). [*CLICK THIS LINK TO ACCESS THE CALL RECORDING*](#)

NCAA Champs Update – Ryan Richardson

Ryan gave the following updates:

- Coaches Connect overview:
 - History of DII's coaches connect program and the future of DIII's. DIII is adding women's soccer (fall), men's basketball (winter), and men's golf (spring) for the 2026-27 academic year. The format will stay the same: NCAA updates, NCAA GMS updates, AHCA updates, other topics.
 - The 2026-27 reports will be distributed in the following manner:
 - NCAA liaison will email the report to the participants on the call, the conference commissioners, and the NCAA sport committee.
 - The conference commissioners will email the report to their conference directors of athletics.
 - The coaches on the call will email the report to their fellow conference coaches.
 - The GCAA liaison will share the report with the GCAA staff.
- Championship Updates:
 - 43 teams: AQ = 35, At-large = 8. 10 Individuals.
 - New AQ for Midwest Conference.
 - Kingsmill Resort – Williamsburg, VA. May 18-21. The women's championships will be held at the same location one week before the men's.
 - Rankings: First fall ranking is Wednesday, October 14, until the final fall tournament is completed.
- Championships Committee Update - Chad Eisele
 - Chad notified the group that DIII Champs Committee met in Indianapolis two weeks ago with all sport committee chairs.
 - The bid portal opens up soon for 2028/29, 2029/30, 2030/31.
 - Division III is currently not in a budget year.

NCAA Governance and Member Services (GMS) Update – Vince Gmerek

Vince gave the following update:

- The deadline for proposals for 2027 NCAA Convention was Sept. 15. There were five total proposals in Division III.
- Vince went into detail about the age-based eligibility model, which is one of the membership-sponsored proposals.

- **What does “five for five” mean?** This is not a five-season guarantee. Seasons don’t technically exist in this model. Student-athletes have a five-year window that begins with the earliest of either your initial full-time enrollment at any college or university OR the academic year after you turn 19. Student-athletes will do what they can within that window. Hardship waivers and extension waivers would go away. Standard exceptions still exist: military, religious mission, and pregnancy.
 - Similar to Divisions I and II, there will be a similar window for potential hardship waivers for those that may meet criteria for one prior to the official rule change.
- If adopted in January, the rules would go into effect immediately. **How would it be applied?** 2026-27 student-athletes continuing or exhausting eligibility can choose which model benefits them the most. For student-athletes starting in 2027-28, the age-based model is their only option.
- There is a possibility an amendment is suggested to make the proposal “division-based,” which requires a 2/3 vote for the proposal to be approved. Division III does not *have* to do this.

GCAA Update – John Sjoberg

John gave the following updates:

- GCAA Convention at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas, NV. on December 8-10, 2026. The convention is good for professional development and each division has a breakout session to discuss important topics. [Link to convention registration.](#)
- Sign up for your membership for the GCAA. Coaches must be members to nominate and vote for their student-athletes for postseason awards.

Other business:

- [Link to NCAA.org D3 MGO Page](#)
- [Link for coaches to access Scoreboard by Clipd without ads.](#)
- Question about the most recent regional proposal – The survey results are being reviewed by the sport committee to be discussed at an upcoming committee meeting. Correspondence will be provided to the coaches connect group about any decisions made. **One important finding from the results that Ryan can share is that DIII conference commissioners and ADs would not support a regional format without both genders pursuing the change.**
- Submitted question: “Is there an advantage to playing three round tournaments?”
 - Ryan shared this visual to show Team A (blue) played all three-round tournaments and Team B (green) played all two-round tournaments.

Event	Weight (3 Rounds)	Points	Weighted Points		Event	Weight (2 Rounds)	Points	Weighted Points
1	1	100	100		1	0.67	100	67
2	1	50	50		2	0.67	50	33.5
3	1	100	100		3	0.67	100	67
4	1	50	50		4	0.67	50	33.5
5	1	100	100		5	0.67	100	67
	5		400			3.35		268
Formula for Weighted Average Points = Total Weighted Points/Total Round Weight								
	400/5	=	80			268/3.35	=	80

- | Event | Weight (3 rounds) | Points | Weighted Points |
|-------|-------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 1 | 1 | 60 | 60 |
| 2 | 1 | 30 | 30 |
| 3 | 1 | 60 | 60 |
| 4 | 1 | 30 | 30 |
| 5 | 1 | 60 | 60 |
| | 5 | | 240 |
| | 240/5 | = | 48 |
- | Event | Weight (DUALS) | Points | Weighted Points |
|-------|----------------|--------|-----------------|
| 1 | 0.11 | 60 | 6.6 |
| 2 | 0.11 | 30 | 3.3 |
| 3 | 0.11 | 60 | 6.6 |
| 4 | 0.11 | 30 | 3.3 |
| 5 | 0.11 | 60 | 6.6 |
| | 0.55 | | 26.4 |
| | 26.4/.55 | = | 48 |

- ### Future meeting schedule.

- January 13, 2027 (before spring season, post-NCAA and GCAA Convention).
- April 7, 2027 (before postseason).
- June 23, 2027 (post-championship and NCAA annual meetings).

The meeting ended at 1:53 p.m.

NCAA Division III Men's Golf Coaches Connect
Oct. 7, 2026, Videoconference

Attendees:

American Rivers Conference - Joe Powell, Buena Vista University
 Empire 8 - Bob Simms, St. John Fisher University
 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference - Devan Acosta, Hanover College
 Landmark Conference - Lucas Artigliere, Drew University
 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association - Mitchell Lowney, Trine University
 Middle Atlantic Conference (Commonwealth and Freedom) - Patrick Vogelsang, Marywood University
 Midwest Conference - Brian Bruha, Lake Forest College
 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference - Sloan Wallgren, Carleton College
 New England Small College Athletic Conference - Justin Kumpulanian, Middlebury College
 North Coast Athletic Conference - Grant Wallace, Kenyon College
 Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference - Justin Wyeth, Aurora University
 Ohio Athletic Conference - Brian Booher, Otterbein University
 Old Dominion Athletic Conference - Bryan Hearn, Randolph-Macon College
 Presidents' Athletic Conference - Matthew Kluck, Washington and Jefferson College
 St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference - Jeff Nelson, Spalding University
 Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference - Emlyn Aubrey, Centenary College (Louisiana)
 United East Conference – Rob Lytle, Pennsylvania College of Technology
 University Athletic Association - John Sjoberg, Emory University

Absentees:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference – TBD
 American Southwest Conference - Jordan Cox, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
 Centennial Conference - TBD
 Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference - TBD
 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin - TBD
 Collegiate Conference of the South - Dave Schreyer, Huntingdon College
 Conference of New England - TBD
 Great Northeast Athletic Conference - TBD
 Liberty League - TBD
 Little East Conference - TBD
 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference - James O'Reilly, Salem State University
 North Atlantic Conference - TBD
 Northwest Conference - Patrick Daugherty, Willamette University
 Skyline Conference - Jeff Dimarco, St. Joseph's University (Long Island)
 Southern Athletic Association - TBD
 Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference - Alec Spencer, University of La Verne
 State University of New York Athletic Conference - TBD
 Upper Midwest Athletic Conference - Mitch DeKruif, Bethany Lutheran College
 USA South Athletic Conference - TBD
 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference - Andrew DeLong, University of Wisconsin-Stout Polytechnic

Division III Championships Committee in Attendance:
Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College, Division III Championships Committee.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Vince Gmerek, NCAA Governance and Member Services.