



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE  
JUNE 21-22, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 24 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2023 Division III Women's Golf Championships: American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northeast Women's Golf Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference submitted a request for an automatic qualification to the championships. This request was denied by the committee. The conference lost its AQ for the 2021-22 championships for not having at least four core members participate in women's golf. If the conference meets sponsorship 2022-23 and 2023-24, it will be eligible for an AQ.

[Note: Confirmation of AQs and pool numbers will be determined based on sport sponsorship information available at the time of championship selections.]

- (2) Effective date. 2023-24 championship season.
- (3) Rationale. All conference institutions will be reviewed at the time of selections to determine if the criteria for automatic qualification were met.
- (4) Estimated budget. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Championships format.**

- (1) Recommendation. That after 36 holes the field be cut to 15 teams and six individuals.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.
- (3) Rationale. In 2016 the Division III Championships Committee approved cutting the field after 54 holes. The championships has grown considerably since then; from 21 teams to 29 teams. Being an outdoor sport, the championships risks weather delays and with the size of the field leaves very little time to accommodate a weather delay. Cutting the field after 36 holes will provide for only one wave of play on the final two days, which will allow greater flexibility to address weather delays without jeopardizing the integrity of the championships.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Most teams will book travel round trip (returning late Friday or Saturday), assuming they make it through the entire length of the championships. If a team is cut, the NCAA will pay the \$200 change fee to accommodate their early return, but if there is any fare increase, teams must pay this additional fee themselves. The change fee cost could be offset with a savings in per diem if a team decides to leave after being cut.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The experience for those student-athletes missing the cut might be diminished; however, they already will have enjoyed a high-quality experience by having played three rounds of golf (one practice day and two competition days). The teams that after two days know they will not place at the top will still have a goal to achieve (making the cut).

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review of 2023 annual meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the 2023 annual meeting schedule.
- 2. 2022 annual report.** The committee approved the 2022 annual meeting report as submitted.
- 3. 2022 WGCA report.** The committee reviewed the 2022 report. They would like to collaborate with the WGCA on a mentorship program for new coaches.
- 4. Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the 2022-23 Championships Committee actions.

5. **Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed its strategic plan and agreed to continue evaluating how it serves the best interests of Division III women's golf and aligns with the men's championships.
6. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship and pool documents. The committee agreed to maintain a field size of 29, which is within the approved budgeted field size.
7. **Review of 2023 championship.** The committee reviewed the 2023 championship and noted the following:
  - a. Championship evaluations. The committee reviewed participant survey results, as well as those submitted by rules officials and the host tournament director. The survey results focused mainly on the unplayable-hole situation.
  - b. Spectator rules. The committee reviewed the spectator rules and noted that the rules need to be posted and enforced during the practice round.
  - c. Folds of Honor. The committee was pleased with how the Folds of Honor program was conducted.
  - d. Tee times. The committee reviewed the tee times and noted there were minimal pace-of-play issues.
  - e. Championships assignments. The committee reviewed the committee assignments for the championships and felt they worked well.
  - f. Welcome banquet. The committee thought the welcome event at Mission Inn was well received. The food was good and the outdoor games were enjoyable. The closest-to-the-pin contest was very popular.
  - g. Live scoring. The committee was pleased with the use of electronic scorecards, which provided hole-by-hole live scoring for the event.
  - h. Gamekast. The committee was pleased with the Gamekast production, which was used for the first time. The committee would like to improve the coverage with more detailed daily recaps and videos along with more social media content.
  - i. Officials. The committee discussed in detail the issue of the unplayable holes and discussed how to prevent this from occurring in the future. The committee was pleased with the rules officials and the execution of rules.
8. **2024 championships.**

- a. General. Holly Sheilley, the director of athletics at Transylvania University, discussed with the committee the 2024 championships her institution is hosting.
  - b. Pre-championships conference call. The committee discussed the agenda for the call and noted items to emphasize.
  - c. On-site rules meeting. The committee discussed communicating the tiebreaker holes at the meeting. They would also like the head rules official to be open to address coaches' questions and concerns. Committee members suggested that at the meeting the NCAA administrator make sure that each coach has downloaded the EventDirect app and a test message be sent.
  - d. Credential. The women's championships provide ball markers as the credential for student-athletes. The committee would like staff to pursue the idea of doing a bag tag instead.
  - e. Championships yardages. The committee agreed to keep the yardage at the championships at least 5,800 yards.
  - f. Welcome banquet. The committee would like to do something similar to what was done in 2023 but would like to encourage team interaction. Ideas presented during the meeting were creating mixers/competition and mix the table seating.
  - g. Walk-through practice. The committee discussed and agreed to continue allowing student-athletes to use a putter during the walk-through practice round. The committee will also allow six participants to participate in the walk-through. Only five participants are allowed in the playing practice round.
  - h. Pairings and tee times. The committee discussed pairings and tee times for the championships. The committee agreed that the initial seeding will be based on the Golfstat national ranking, but the committee will defer to the Golfstat regional ranking if it differs. The committee will continue to review pairings and possibly adjust to promote out-of-region and nonconference pairings.
  - i. Scoring. The committee felt that while the scoring area at Mission Inn worked fine being in the committee room, they would prefer a more private space for scoring.
  - j. Spectator carts. The committee recommends that the carts be rented on a strictly first-come, first-serve basis. The committee would prefer no more than 30 carts per day be rented by spectators.
9. **Ranking calls**. The committee discussed rankings and agreed to have three rankings in the spring in addition to a fourth ranking at the time of selections.

- 10. Golfstat review.** Ian Gillian was on site at the championships and the committee was pleased with the Golfstat live scoring. The committee and officials were especially pleased with the implementation of electronic scorecards. The new process worked well, as it enhanced live scoring and reduced the number of volunteers needed to do scoring.
- 11. Nine-hole scoring.** The committee agreed to continue allowing nine-hole scoring increments above 18 holes.
- 12. Head rules official.** Committee members noted that the rules officials were very active and visible and were quick to respond to needs as they arose, which reflected positively on the event. Further discussion was held on the course setup and hole location situation that occurred. The committee agreed that a search for a head rules official that has an expertise in course setup is necessary. The committee plans to discuss with the men's committee the need for both championships to have a Director of Rules and to request additional funding for a Director of Course Setup.
- 13. Manuals review.** The committee review the pre-championships manual, host operations manual and participant manual.
- 14. Committee chair.** The committee agreed to appoint Mary Giorgi and Dave Wester as co-chairs of the committee for 2023-24. Mary will focus on the course setup while Dave will focus on the operational side of the championships.
- 15. 2024 annual meeting dates.** The committee agree to conduct its 2024 annual meeting June 26-27.

*Committee Chair:* Bret Billhardt, Wittenberg University

*Staff Liaison(s):* Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Women's Golf Committee June 21-22, 2023, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Bret Billhardt, Wittenberg University.	
Thomas Chatfield, Hood College.	
Mary Giorgi, St. Catherine University.	
DeeDee Jarman, Methodist University.	
Dave Wester, University of Texas at Dallas.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	

Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.
<b>NCAA Staff in Attendance:</b>
Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Laura Mlynski-Peterson, Championships and Alliances.
Alison Spungen, Division III Governance.
Becca Trovato, Academic and Membership Affairs