



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JUNE 26-27, 2024, ANNUAL 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 Women's Golf Committee would request that women'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.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 25 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2025 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; St. Louis Intercollegiate 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.

[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. 2024-25 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. Approve a cut after 36 holes of competition to a field size of 15 teams and six individuals.
- (2) Effective date. May 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. In 2016, the Division III Championships Committee approved cutting the field after 54 holes. The championship has grown considerably since then; from 21

teams to 29 teams. Being an outdoor sport, the championship risks weather delays. 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. It also provides teams and individuals a greater competitive experience as this will improve pace of play and reduce congestion on the driving range and putting greens. Additionally, the following factors support the recommendation:

- A survey of Division III conference commissioners, athletics directors, head coaches, and senior woman administrators showed 62% supporting a 36-hole cut.
 - If the 36-hole cut had been implemented since 2017, data revealed no more than two teams would have been impacted on either side of the cutline. The 36-hole cut is also a standard used during the Division III Men's Golf Championship as well as other golf tournaments.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. With Shorts Travel requesting teams to book one-way flights to the championship, there should not be any additional budget impact from a travel standpoint.
- (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 the option of playing four rounds of golf (two practice days and two competition days). The teams that after two days know they are not likely to make the cut still have doing so as a goal.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of 2024 annual meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the 2024 annual meeting schedule.
2. **2023 annual report.** The committee approved the 2023 annual meeting report as submitted.
3. **2023 WGCA report.** The committee reviewed the 2023 report presented at the WGCA convention.
4. **Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the 2023-24 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 2024 championship.** The committee reviewed the 2024 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.
 - 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, but noted flags should be placed only on holes 1 and 10.
 - 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 discussed alternatives for future welcome banquets.
 - g. Live scoring. The committee was pleased with the use of electronic scorecards, which provided hole-by-hole live scoring for the event.
 - h. Officials. The committee was pleased with the rules, officials, and the execution of rules.
8. **2025 championships.**
 - a. Pre-championships conference call. The committee discussed the agenda for the call and noted items to emphasize.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Credential. The women's championships provide ball markers as the credential for student-athletes.

- d. Championships yardages. The committee agreed to keep the yardage at the championships at least 5,800 yards.
 - e. Welcome banquet. The committee would like to see the host do a similar event as when they hosted the 2022 championships.
 - f. Walk-through practice. The committee discussed and agreed to remove the walk-through practice round and offer two optional practice rounds instead. Only five participants are allowed in the playing practice round.
 - g. Pairings and tee times. The committee discussed pairings and tee times for the championships and agreed that the third- and fourth-round start times can be shifted. The committee will continue to review pairings.
 - h. Scoring. The committee was pleased with the scoring area being partitioned off in its own standalone area. The committee agreed that the scoring location should be covered and roped off on 9 and 18 greens.
 - i. Spectator carts. The committee recommends renting spectator carts on a strictly first-come, first-served basis. The committee would prefer spectators rent no more than 30 carts per day.
9. **Ranking calls**. The committee discussed rankings and agreed to have three in the spring and a fourth at the time of selections.
10. **Golfstat review**. Carolyn Kupchik 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 process worked well, as it enhanced live scoring and reduced the number of volunteers needed to do scoring.
11. **Head rules official**. Committee members noted that the rules officials were very active and knowledgeable and were quick to respond to needs as they arose, which reflected positively on the event. The committee agreed that the implementation of a director of course setup had a positive impact on the championship and noted that the head rules official and director of course setup remain two different people.
12. **Manuals review**. The committee review the pre-championships manual, host operations manual and participant manual.
13. **Committee chair**. The committee agreed to appoint Adele Burk as committee chair for 2024-25.

14. 2025 annual meeting dates. The committee agreed to hold its 2025 annual meeting on June 25-26.

Committee Chair: Mary Giorgi, St. Catherine University

Staff Liaison(s): Demetria Young, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Women's Golf Committee June 26-27, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Adele Burk, New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Matt Kluck, Williams & Jefferson College.	
Mary Giorgi, St. Catherine University.	
DeeDee Jarman, Methodist University.	
Dave Wester, University of Texas at Dallas.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff in Attendance:	
Demetria Young, Championships and Alliances.	
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Laura Mlynski-Peterson, Championships and Alliances.	
Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Alison Spungen, Division III Governance.	
Natalia Herrera, Division III Governance.	