



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE
JUNE 20-22, 2022, 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.

[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. 2022-23 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. Regular-season competition format.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following competition formats be included as allowable options for purposes of rankings and selections: six-count-five and six-count-four.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2022.

(3) Rationale. While both the six-count-five and six-count-four formats are currently allowable for all three divisions of men's golf competitions, neither is currently allowable for women's golf competitions, as women's golf currently allows only five-count-five and five-count-four formats as countable competition to be used toward rankings and selections.

All three divisions' women's golf committees believe that the six-count-five and six-count-four formats should be allowable for women's competitions to provide flexibility in tournament format offerings as are currently available in men's golf. The committees believe that aligning men's and women's golf is in the best interests of college golf.

Additionally, the committee believes that the allowance for formats using a sixth player will encourage the growth of the sport by creating additional participation opportunities for student-athletes to compete as a counting member of the team.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The allowance of these two additional formats would afford women's golf student-athletes with increased participation opportunities as a counting member of the team.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of 2022 annual meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the 2022 annual meeting schedule.
2. **2021 annual report.** The committee approved the 2021 annual meeting minutes as submitted.
3. **Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the 2021-22 Championships Committee actions.
4. **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.
5. **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.

6. Review of 2022 championship. The committee reviewed the 2022 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 and noted a few minor issues. The committee noted positive feedback regarding the hosting job done by the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority. The committee noted an issue with the conditions of two greens and the committee will be more proactive with the golf course officials in the future to ensure there are no issues or at least ensure that golf course officials communicate any issues if they arise.
- 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. Volunteers. The committee was pleased with the volunteers at the championships. The sports commission does an incredible job securing volunteers.
- g. NCAA.com coverage. The committee recommends that staff work with .com to improve the coverage with more detailed daily recaps and videos along with more social media content.
- h. Officials. The committee was pleased with the officials.

7. 2023 championships.

- a. Pre-championships conference call. The committee discussed the agenda for the call and noted items to emphasize.
- b. 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 adjust pairings to promote out-of-region and nonconference pairings.

- c. Walk-through practice. The committee discussed and agreed to allow student-athletes to use a putter during the walk-through practice round.
- d. Championships yardages. The committee agreed to keep the yardage at the championships at least 5,800 yards.
- 8. **Ranking calls**. The committee discussed the fall ranking and agreed to move that ranking to be the first ranking in the spring. The committee feels that there is not enough competition in the fall to merit a ranking.
- 9. **Golfstat review**. Marcus El from Golfstat joined the meeting and discussed results reporting. He also noted that Golfstat has the ability for electronic scorecards at the championships. The committee feels this is a positive addition that would provide live scoring.
- 10. **Nine-hole scoring**. The committee agreed to allow nine-hole scoring increments above 18 holes.
- 11. **Head rules official**. The committee conducted a videoconference with Head Rules Official Bill Buss. The committee noted its continued satisfaction with Mr. Buss and his rules committee for their performance during the championships. 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. The committee agreed to offer Mr. Buss the head rules official position for the 2023 championships.
- 12. **Manuals review**. The committee review the pre-championships manual, host operations manual and participant manual.
- 13. **Committee chair**. The committee agreed to appoint Bret Billhardt as chair of the committee for 2022-23.
- 14. **2023 annual meeting dates**. The committee agree to conduct its 2023 annual meeting June 21-22, 2023.

Committee Chair: Jodie Burton, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges
Staff Liaison(s): Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Women's Golf Committee June 20-22, 2022, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Bret Billhardt, Wittenberg University.	

Jodie Burton, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.
Thomas Chatfield, Hood College.
Mary Giorgi, St. Catherine University.
Peter Gyscek, Washington and Lee University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Bill Buss, Head Rules Official.
Marcus El, Golfstat.
NCAA Staff in Attendance:
Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Alison Spungen, Division III Governance.