

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN’S GOLF COMMITTEE
JUNE 24-25, 2020, VIRTUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 30 conferences sponsoring men’s golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2021 championships: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pacific-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; Western Athletic Conference; and West Coast Conference.
- (2) Effective date. 2020-21 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2019 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2019 annual report as written.
- 2. 2019-20 Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed items from the 2019-20 academic year relative to men’s golf.
- 3. Championships Finance Review Working Group recommendations.** The committee discussed the working group’s recommendations and the potential impact on men’s college golf. The committee is concerned that many high-quality teams that have made regionals in

the past, with some of those teams advancing to the finals, may now not make the regional field with this recommendation to reduce the field size. Further, the committee believes since the NCAA does not pay for travel or per diem to the regionals and without a reduction in the number of regionals conducted, there is no savings with this proposal to the NCAA. Additionally, if this recommendation is approved, individual medalists from AQ conferences would no longer receive an automatic berth into regionals. The committee prefers maintaining the current number; however, if changes do need to be made, the committee would be comfortable with reducing the field from 81 teams to 75 and individuals from 45 to 15. The committee believes that the men's golf championship is more of a team sport than team/individual and would be willing to give up individual spots for more team spots. Additionally, the committee would look to reduce the number of regional sites from six to five, which would save the NCAA approximately \$30,000. With this reduction, men's golf would be just slightly over the 25% threshold that the working group is targeting (the working group recommended between 15-25% of teams that sponsor the sport make the championship field). Each regional field would have 78 players, which is the number of players in each wave at the NCAA championship as well as the same number of players that are in waves at U.S. Opens and full field PGA Tour events.

4. **2020-21 selections.** The committee will continue to discuss with coaches what the fall and spring seasons may look like due to COVID-19. The committee understands that flexibility will be needed throughout the season. At the current time, the committee is not making any adjustments to either the schedule submission dates or the .500 record requirement for an at-large selection but will continue to reevaluate both as the ability to play golf in the fall is determined along with what schedules may look like for teams due to travel restrictions.
5. **Joint committee meeting.** The men's and women's committees met jointly to discuss issues relevant to college golf.
 - a. Golfstat. The committees met with Golfstat representatives and discussed a variety of topics, including how reliable rankings will be this year with many schools playing a regional schedule or even a conference-only schedule. The committees discussed situations that could occur this year with individuals withdrawing from an event and how that could be handled in Golfstat. Additionally, Golfstat indicated that they would provide past results from NCAA regionals and finals on their public website, hopefully by the 2021 championship. Finally, the committee indicated that Golfstat may need to be flexible with how many rounds are required to be played for teams to be ranked in Golfstat as minimum numbers for sport sponsorship and selections could be modified due to COVID-19.
 - b. USGA updates. The committees met with Craig Winter, Senior Director, Rules of Golf and Amateur Status, and Liz Fradkin, Director, Player Relations at the United States Golf Association (USGA). Mr. Winter discussed the adaption of the Rules of Golf during COVID-19 with regard to flagsticks, rakes, etc. The USGA continues to

look at common touch points on the golf course as well as additional ways to address scoring and signing of scorecards. Ms. Fradkin provided an update on ways the USGA is handling COVID-19 from a testing and playing perspective for the upcoming men's and women's US Amateurs. Finally, the USGA continues to speak with NCAA representatives about student-athlete name, image and likeness issues and the ability to be flexible to adjust with the Rules of Amateur Status. The USGA plans on having a new modernized code in 2022 but may need to adjust depending upon state laws and NCAA bylaws. The committees continue to express appreciation to the USGA for its partnership with the NCAA and having a staff member on site each year as part of the rules team at each championship. Mr. Winters also noted the value and importance of continuing to build on the strong relationship that continues to exist between the USGA and the NCAA through the work of the Intercollegiate Relations Committee composed of key stakeholders within collegiate golf, along with representatives from the USGA, both men's and women's coaches associations, and the NCAA national office.

- c. Golf Channel coverage. Golf Channel representatives Andrea Starkey, vice president of strategic programming and partnerships, and Thomas McKee, director of collegiate golf strategy, provided the committees with a summary of Golf Channel's plans for 2020-21, including information around PGA Tour University as well as other regular-season events Golf Channel is looking to televise.
 - d. Substitutions. The committees discussed substitutions during stroke play and how the aggregate playoff is handled should the need arise during the event. Any playoff at the finals site on the men's side is a shotgun format with all five scores counting. The women's committee expects to use the same format once substitutions are permitted at regionals and finals.
 - e. Future sites. The committees discussed bids received to host the 2023-2026 NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships. The committees are pleased with both the number and quality of venues that have submitted bids. Staff noted the deadline for bids to be completed as well as addressing questions related to the current bids.
6. **Rules officials.** The committee talked with Mr. Gregory and Jim Moriarity, NCAA assistant director of rules, about issues relative to the Rules of Golf. Mr. Moriarity explained some of the changes the USGA made in relation to the Pace of Play guidelines, but those will have minimal impact to the regionals or finals. Additionally, Mr. Gregory updated the group on continued enhancements being made at Grayhawk Golf Club, including a couple of new tees that should take the yardage to approximately 7,320 and a par of 71. Grayhawk is also looking to move a couple of bunkers along with adding a few trees to tighten up the drive zones. The committee continues to be appreciative of the work being done by Mr. Gregory and Mr. Moriarity.

7. **Golf Coaches Association of America.** The committee discussed the recommendations from the Championships Finance Review Working Group with Gregg Grost, CEO of the Golf Coaches Association of America, and John Kennaday, incoming president of the GCAA. Each group will be very supportive of the other and will share letters that are being sent to the working group. The committee continues to be very appreciative of the relationship between the two groups and will also look to schedule a call in the near future to discuss scheduling in 2020-21 due to COVID-19.
8. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship from 2019-20 and noted any anticipated changes for the 2020-21 academic year with continued conference realignment.
9. **Manual review.** The committee reviewed the pre-championships, host operations and committee operations manual and asked NCAA staff to update as necessary.
10. **Future meeting dates.** The committee selected June 24 for the 2021 annual meeting, which will be held virtually.
11. **Committee Chair.** The committee has selected Connie Hurlbut to serve as chair of the committee for the 2020-21 year.
12. **Outgoing committee members.** The committee thanked Mark Hankins, head men's golf coach at the University of Nebraska, and Scott Schroeder, head men's golf coach at the University of North Florida, for their service to the committee over the past four years.

Committee Chair: Connie Hurlbut, West Coast Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee June 24-25, 2020, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Steve Bailey, Marquette University.	
Jimmy Bass, University of North Carolina, Wilmington.	
Derek Freeman, University of California, Los Angeles.	
Mark Hankins, University of Nebraska.	
Connie Hurlbut, West Coast Conference.	
Scott Schroeder, University of North Florida.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Steve Bradley, University of South Florida.	

Marcus El, Golfstat.
Liz Fradkin, United States Golf Association.
Brad Gregory, NCAA Head Rules Official.
Arthur Johnson, University of Texas at Austin
Brian Laesch, Golfstat.
Thomas McKee, Golf Channel.
Jim Moriarity, NCAA Rules Official.
Andrea Starkey, Golf Channel.
Ali Szafranski, Golfstat.
Craig Winter, United States Golf Association.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Bonnie Johnson, Championships and Alliances, Media.
Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances, Broadcasting.
Rick Nixon, Championships and Alliances, Media.
Jay Jay Rackley, Championships and Alliances.
Natalie Steger, Championships and Alliances, Broadcasting.