



Men's Golf

Men's Golf

The National Golf Championship, and all events related thereto, are under the control and supervision of the NCCAA Golf Coaches and are subject to standards developed by these respective coaches and subsequent approval by the NCCAA Board of Directors. These standards shall receive annual review and approval by the National Golf Committee at the National Coaches' Meeting in conjunction with the National Golf Championship. The National Golf Committee shall be appointed and approved annually at the National Golf Championship for the following year. The National Golf Committee shall consist of the following: the National Golf Chair, the National Golf Vice-Chair and two Golf Coaches with broad geographical representation. This committee shall have the responsibility to administer the National Golf Championship.

I. SELECTION OF TEAMS

A. Regional Championship Qualifications

Any region may conduct a championship to determine a regional champion; however, the winner of such an event is not automatically qualified for the National Golf Championship. Awards shall be provided by each region.

B. National Championship Qualifications

1. Only teams that are in good standing with the NCCAA shall be eligible. Good standing shall include all dues paid in full, free from any sanctions imposed by the NCCAA and provision of valid certification of all student-athletes planning to participate.
2. All NCCAA member institutions must send to the National Office a completed Declaration of Intent to Participate form by September 15 for all varsity sports. (See Forms & Procedures section.)
3. 18 teams shall be selected by the NCCAA Championship Selection Committee. All members in good standing must post at least two 18-hole tournament team scores before September 28 to be considered for selection. All teams must submit ALL tournament scores for the fall season to the NCCAA National Golf Chair. Selection shall be made September 30.
4. The team selection process will utilize the following criteria shall be used:
 - a. Team scoring average for fall (to date).
 - b. Strength of schedule and courses competed on.
 - c. Current NAIA/NCAA national rankings (where applicable).
 - d. Number of teams from candidate's NCCAA region already selected.
 - e. Past performances in NCCAA National Golf Championships.
5. The championship shall be held as near the end of October as possible. The exact dates shall be subject to course availability and potential weather conditions in the host area of the country. Field selection shall be made 24 days prior to the championship. Special consideration is needed to give teams enough time to complete the qualifying tournament scores, while also giving teams enough time to make travel arrangements.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

A. Administration

1. It is recommended that the site and date of the National Golf Championship be determined two years in advance.
2. Both the site and date of the National Golf Championship shall be approved by vote of the National Golf Committee and presented to member institutions.
3. Site for the National Golf Championship must conform to all regulations outlined in the "Facility Criteria" section that follows.
4. Host institution shall receive an automatic bid, which must be accepted.

B. Facility Criteria

1. The course should be centrally located for member institutions. An average travel time for all participating teams should not exceed 12 hours.
2. Facility membership must not be discriminating on basis of race, gender, creed or nationality.
3. Course slope rating should be a minimum of 120 or the course rating should be equal to or above the established par from championship tees.
4. "Use of Facility" should include restrooms, snack shop/restaurant, pro shop, score board, driving range, putting green and the 18 hole course.
5. Championship tee times or shotgun start shall not begin before 8:00 A.M. but shall be determined by course staff and Championship Director. One practice round shall be available on the day immediately before the first

round. When the competitive rounds fall on Monday and Tuesday, practice rounds shall also be available Saturday for participants who are not allowed to practice or compete on Sunday.

6. Greens fees should fall between \$25-\$50 per player per round.

NOTE: The above list is a guide for course selection. The National Golf Committee reserves the right to use other criteria or factors when applicable. In such a case, all courses considered shall be notified.

C. Financial Considerations

1. Institutions serving as host to the National Golf Championship must ensure that every effort will be made to secure full or partial sponsorship to help reduce lodging, meals and travel expenses.
2. The "Facility Criteria" guidelines for course fees must be adhered to and may only be exceeded with approval of the National Golf Committee.
3. When possible, a team dinner should be provided for all participants following the practice round in order to allow time for fellowship of participants.

D. Advertising

The host sponsor of a Regional or National Championship shall not accept advertising or promote in any way the marketing or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco or illegal drugs in connection with the NCCAA Golf Program.

E. Meetings

A meeting of the coaches of the competing teams, host coach and members of the National Golf Committee shall be held prior to the National Championship to review playing rules, interpretations and any other administrative matters that may be necessary. Also, discussion and vote(s) shall take place on any guideline changes the golf coaches wish to recommend to the NCCAA Board of Directors at the NCCAA Annual Convention.

F. Awards (see Awards Section)

1. The NCCAA maintains a standardized awards program for all National Championships. Team, medalist and National Coach of the Year awards are ordered and paid for by the National Office (at the request of the National Golf Chair). The championship host pays for all other awards (i.e. All-Tournament Team, etc.).
2. The National Coach of the Year shall be named at the conclusion of the National Golf Championship. All coaches present at the National Golf Championship shall cast a ballot. There shall be only one vote per institution.
3. The top ten finishers in the National Golf Championship shall be deemed NCCAA All-Americans and shall receive plaques provided by the National Office denoting their accomplishment.
4. Scholar-Athlete Criteria:
 - a. Honorees are selected each year based on criteria and standards established by the National Golf Committee.
 - b. Nominations must be submitted to the National Golf Chair on the official nomination form and received by the established deadline (see [Appendix A](#)). The Scholar-Athlete Checklist shall be used to ensure proper documentation (see [Appendix B](#)).
 - c. The nominated student-athlete must:
 1. Be a junior or senior academically (a minimum of 72 semester hours or equivalent) and have been at the nominating institution for at least one full term.
 2. Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent for all terms completed at the time of nomination.
 3. Be a member of the varsity golf team and have at least two years varsity competition at the collegiate level.
 4. Be of high Christian character, in good standing at the nominating institution and certified by the head coach.

G. Squad Size

No more than five players representing a member institution may participate in the National Golf Championship. The traveling party shall be limited to seven members including the coach and players. Expenses (banquet tickets, provided meals) for personnel in addition to the approved traveling party shall be absorbed by the respective institution. Substitutions for medical casualties or extenuating circumstances shall be made at the discretion of the National Golf Committee.

H. Format of Competition

1. The National Golf Championship shall be a 54-hole (18 holes each day over 3 days) stroke play event with teams counting the top 4 of 5 scores.
2. After 36 holes, the top 12 teams shall be allowed to play the final 18 holes. The bottom 6 teams shall be cut from the field.
3. If an individual from a cut team currently stands in the top 30 overall individual scores, he shall be allowed to participate in the final round.
4. In case of inclement weather, the National Golf Committee, in conjunction with the course liaison, shall make a determination of adjustments to this format. No fewer than 18 holes shall constitute a completed event.
5. The second and third round pairings shall be based upon team standings from the first and second round with leaders teeing off last.
6. USGA rules shall govern all play except where local rules or conditions apply.

I. Golf balls

Only golf balls on the current USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls may be used. It is the responsibility of each coach to review this list on the USGA website and insure all participants are in compliance. Penalty for breach of this condition is **disqualification**. The “one ball rule” is not in effect.

J. Time of starting

Determined by the NCCAA Golf Championship Committee. When tee times are utilized, players should report to their assigned starting tee a minimum of 5 minutes before their time. Once a player arrives at their initial tee box, all cell phones/PDA/communication devices must be turned off until they have completed play and submitted their scorecard. **Distance measuring devices are allowed, however slope/wind features are not permissible for use.**

K. Transportation

Players shall walk at all times during a stipulated round. Coaches, committee members or rules officials may transport a player in cases of a ruling where no provisional was played, or in case of emergency situations (restroom needed) or when an area is designated as a “Shuttle Route”.

L. Pace of Play

All players are required to keep pace with the group in front of them. A group that is deemed to be “Out of Position” shall be given a warning by a rules official and then shall be monitored. If the group fails to get themselves back into position within the next 2 holes, a 1-stroke penalty may be assessed to each player. In cases where the slow play is clearly due to the actions of a single player, the penalty may be individually applied.

M. Discontinuance of Play

All participants must comply with any discontinuance of play signaled by the committee. During any discontinuance, all practice areas shall be closed. Penalty for practicing during such a situation shall result in disqualification. Practice putting is not allowed between the play of any holes or on the putting green of a player’s final hole. Penalty for such action is **disqualification**.

N. Advice/Spectators

Each team must designate up to two individuals for the purpose of offering advice. Teammates are designated as outside agents in relation to any player. Breach of rule is **disqualification**. Spectators are to remain on cart paths or, when no cart path is easily defined, a minimum of 20 yards from participants. Spectator’s cell phones are not allowed to be on while on the golf course. First offense shall receive a warning. The second offense shall result in the individual being removed from the golf course.

O. Equipment

Clubs, umbrellas, rain gear, etc. shall not be given to or retrieved from spectators during play.

P. Scorecard

Scorecards for each round of play shall be turned in at the scoreboard immediately following completion of the player’s round. All scorecards are deemed to be official once the player has left the scoring area.

Q. Close of Competition

The competition is deemed to have closed when the trophy has been awarded to the winner or, in absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the committee.

R. Conduct

A player may be removed from the competition at any time at the discretion of the committee for unbecoming conduct. This includes profanity, throwing clubs, damaging golf course property via striking or slamming club(s), and/or using tobacco or alcohol products. Penalties can range from a two-stroke penalty to disqualification from the round or the full event. Simply stated, the NCCAA expects all participants, coaches, and spectators to honor Christ in their conduct.

S. Inclement Weather

Should weather impact the event, the following policy shall apply with course and NCCAA staff discretion. Every effort shall be made to complete the 54 hole event. If play is suspended on Monday and cannot resume that day, players shall mark their position. Round 1 shall then be completed Tuesday, and Round 2 shall start as soon as possible. If Round 2 cannot be completed on Tuesday, then every effort shall be made to complete it on Wednesday. If Round 3 cannot begin before 10 a.m., then the event shall be judged complete as a 36 hole competition. In no case shall the event conclude on Thursday.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Officers

Chair: Steve Evans, Indiana Wesleyan University (Year 1 of a 3-year term)

Vice-Chair: Kenny Lawson, Campbellsville University (Year 1 of a 3-year term)

B. National Championship Dates and Sites

October 24-26, 2011 The Hombre Golf Club, Panama City, Florida

October 22-24, 2012 The Hombre Golf Club, Panama City, Florida

October 21-23, 2013 TBA

IV. OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

The Rules of Golf by United States Golf Association (USGA) with NAIA-Golf Coaches Association approved modifications. To obtain rules, contact: USGA, P.O. Box 200, Far Hills, New Jersey 07931.

