
SPORT – BY – SPORT REGULATIONS & POLICIES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF REGULAR SEASON

Regular Season Format

Each member participating in the Conference's men's and women's golf league may schedule other members at its own discretion during the regular season.

Regular Season Services

1. A publicity release in the fall naming both a Men's Golf Player of the Month and a Women's Golf Player of the Month for the months of September and October; also a publicity release in the spring naming both a Men's Golf Player of the Week and a Women's Golf Player of the Week are compiled and distributed by the Conference staff.
2. The BIG EAST Conference Men's and Women's Golf Coaches Association hold its official annual meeting each January. These meetings are held at the Conference office headquarters in odd years and via conference call in even years. Attendance is mandatory for all head coaches. In extreme situations where the head coach cannot attend, the institution's sport administrator or Director will determine the substitution.

Regular Season Policies & Regulations

Teams will be granted access to the Championship course for two (2) dates of play OR one (1) collegiate event per academic year; AND an individual will be granted access to the Championship course for two (2) dates of play per academic year.

Regular Season Awards

1. Men's Player of the Year *
2. Women's Player of the Year *
3. Men's Freshman of the Year *
4. Women's Freshman of the Year *
5. Men's All-Conference Team *^ (ten (10) members; each team limited to five (5) nominees, which are submitted in rank order by the head coach)
6. Women's All-Conference Team *^ (ten (10) members; each team limited to five (5) nominees, which are submitted in rank order by the head coach)
7. Men's Coach of the Year * (a vote of all head coaches, with final approval by the Conference staff, determines the award recipient)
8. Women's Coach of the Year * (a vote of all head coaches, with final approval by the Conference staff, determines the award recipient)

* voted after the Championship (inclusive of regular season and Championship results)

^ Any individual who finishes in the top seven (7) at the Championships, and not voted to the All-Conference Team, will automatically be added.

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Format

1. 12-team (men), 8-team (women), 54-hole, stroke play Championship. Men's teams compete in threesomes; women's teams compete in threesomes/pairs. Championships will be held on separate, consecutive weekends with the women competing on the first weekend. Championships are conducted in four days with each team's five members playing an 18-hole practice round on day one, and one 18-hole round on days two, three and four.

Groups of five are permissible during the practice round. Groups of six are not allowed and coaches are not allowed to play during the practice round.

Team scoring is computed by combining the scores of the four lowest players during each round.

2. Suspended Play:

The decision to suspend play because of inclement weather is that of the Committee and the Conference staff with input from the Head Rules Official and the course's professional staff. If everyone has not completed a round, every effort will be made to complete that round at the discretion of the Committee.

The decision to shorten the Championship because of time/weather will remain consistent with USGA standards (18 or 36 holes).

In the event that no 18-hole round can be completed, the Golf Committee will determine the Conference's automatic bid representatives. In the event that the Championship(s) (men's and/or women's) are not completed (17 holes or fewer), no champion(s) will be declared.

3. The men's and women's tournament champions earn the Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Also, the men's individual tournament champion, if not selected on a participating team, will receive an automatic invite as an individual to the NCAA Tournament. In the event of a tie, playoffs (time and weather permitting) will be used for breaking ties for advancement. If a playoff is not possible, the tiebreaking procedures outlined in the NCAA Division I Championship Handbook (Appendix A) will be used.
4. A tournament meeting is conducted for all participating head coaches the day preceding the start of the Championships.
5. A social for the twelve (12) participating men's teams and eight (8) participating women's teams is scheduled the evening preceding the start of the Championships.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures

1. The seeding process will occur on the Wednesday prior to the Championships. Practice round tee times and hole locations will be determined based on overall Golfstat rankings.

Men's Teams:

Conference staff will facilitate a blind draw to determine the first round tee times of the twelve (12) men's teams. Teams will be re-paired for day two/round two and day three/round three based on standings after rounds one and two.

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Seeding Requirements/Procedures (continued)

Women's Teams:

Conference staff will utilize Golfstat rankings to determine the first round tee times for the eight (8) women's teams. Teams will be re-paired for day two/round two and day three/round three based on standing after rounds one and two.

2. Lineups: The head coach must submit his or her lineup according to playing position. The five contestants from each institution must be determined at the technical meeting held the day preceding the start of the Championships.
3. Substitutions: A player may be substituted prior to his/her team's first tee time of the first round of the Championship. The substitution must be made prior to the first tee time and with approval from the Golf Committee and the BIG EAST official. The substitute must assume the position of the replaced player.

Championship Policies & Regulations

1. USGA rules apply.
2. Conference staff will contract and utilize an individual or group from the USGA/Rules Governing Body to handle course set-up and officiating during the Championships. The host institution's coaching staff will assist and act as a liaison in course set-up.
3. The USGA/Rules Governing Body will be responsible for interpretation of the rules. On-site professional staff, the Men's and Women's Golf Committees and Conference Staff will act in an advisory capacity.
4. The Head Rules Official will be responsible for course pin placement throughout the Championship. The head golf professional and course superintendent will act in an advisory capacity.
5. Local course rules are distributed at the beginning of the Championships.
6. Golf carts, pull carts or caddies may not be used by participants in the Championship, including the practice round. Golf carts will be provided for members of the Golf Committee and select tournament officials. The use of carts by any other personnel (including players and spectators) must be approved by the Golf Committee. The only exception to this policy is if a participant is permanently disabled. A written request with accompanying medical statements to use a golf cart or pull cart must be submitted to the Golf Committee at the technical meeting held prior to the start of the Championship.

One cart may be used by each competing institution as long as the use of the cart does not negatively impact the course or the student-athlete experience. Only an institutional representative (non-athlete) may drive or ride in the assigned golf cart during a tournament round. Both designated coaches may ride in the institution's cart at the same time. Only two people may ride in the cart at one time.
7. Thunder and Lightning Safety Policy: The Conference has adopted as policy NCAA Guideline 1D for Lightning Safety. You may find the policy online at:

http://www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi_pls/Sports_Medicine_Handbook_lightning.pdf

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF (continued) CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Policies & Regulations (continued)

9. Contestants must wear uniforms of the same color during competition and practice rounds. Walking or Bermuda shorts are permitted provided they are “normal” team attire and are of the same color. Players may wear slacks or shorts at the individual’s discretion, provided they are of the same color and are considered the team uniform. If a student-athlete wears headgear during practice or competition, it must only display an institutional, Conference or NCAA logo, or no logo at all. A manufacturer’s logo may appear on the side or back of the item as long as it conforms to NCAA Bylaw 12.5.5.
10. Fans may not display signs or banners deemed as being offensive or inappropriate to particular institutions, players or coaches in the facility. These banners should be identified and removed by security personnel.

Championship Awards, Gifts & Services

1. The men’s and women’s Championship teams receive a trophy and individual awards.
2. The men’s and women’s runner-up teams receive a trophy.
3. The men’s and women’s individual champions (lowest cumulative score) receive an award.
4. The men’s and women’s individual runners-up (2nd lowest cumulative score) receive an award.
5. A press release previewing the tournament field is distributed a week prior to the Championships.
6. Each Men’s and Women’s Golf student-athlete competing in the Championships receives a gift from the Conference office, which is shipped to each head coach after the Golf Championships.