REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN’S AND WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JUNE 15-17, 2016, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   - Committee chair.
     a. Recommendation. That Preston Grey, head cross country and women’s track and field coach at Azusa Pacific University, be appointed chair.
     b. Effective Date. September 1, 2016.
     c. Rationale. Mr. Grey has served as a member of the Division II Track and Field and Cross Country Committee since September 2015 and has been a strong contributor to the committee.
     d. Estimated budget impact. None.
     e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Review meeting schedule. The committee reviewed the schedule and made no adjustments.

2. 2015 annual meeting reports. The committee approved its 2015 annual meeting report as written, as well as the report from the 2015 joint meeting with the NCAA Division I and Division III Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committees.

3. Division II Championships Committee reports. The committee reviewed the Championships Committee meeting reports from the past year and had no concerns.

4. Joint meeting agenda. Committee members reviewed the joint meeting agenda and made no adjustments. Feedback specific to the rules proposals will be provided to the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Track and Field Rules Committee at the joint meetings.
5. **Review of DirectAthletics and Track and Field Results Reporting System.** The committee was pleased with the improvements DirectAthletics made in response time to concerns and overall customer service.

6. **Minimum contest requirements.** The committee noted the increased championship minimum contest requirements will be fully implemented beginning with the 2017-18 season for Division II cross country and indoor track and field to align with the sport sponsorship requirements outlined in NCAA Bylaw 20.10.3.3. While double-dual meets are accepted for sport sponsorship, the committee will not allow these meets to count for championship qualifying purposes. Notifications of the upcoming change will be added to the NCAA Division II Newsletter and sport manuals for cross country and indoor track and field.

7. **Code of conduct procedures.** The committee discussed the code of conduct fine process implemented for the 2015-16 season and updated the language in the cross country manuals.

8. **Media access at championships.** The committee discussed concerns with media on the track during championships and potentially interfering with officials’ views during races. Moving forward, no media will be allowed to stand on the track surface during any race and must remain in designates areas. The committee also noted institutions have used media credentials for additional coaches who are outside of the allotted team personal credential numbers. The committee will work with future hosts to better monitor the misuse of credentials and will reiterate credential policies in communication with participating institutions.

9. **Cross country.**

   a. **2016 championships.** The committee discussed the 2016 NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Championships, including regional rounds. The committee noted concerns with the championship course width, proximity of start and finish line, and the number of marshals needed for this course. The concerns will be addressed on the site visit.

   b. **Banquet.** The committee will explore different possibilities for a banquet or social gathering and the potential of moving the date based on the championship per diem allotment. The committee continues to hear concerns of the event being held the night before competition, which interferes with many of the student-athletes’ typical pre-competition routines.

   c. **Weather policy.** The committee discussed the lack of a detailed inclement weather policy for the championships. A detailed policy, similar to the ones used by Divisions I and III, will be created.

   d. **Timing.** Committee members noted that Leone Timing will be the new timing company for the 2016 cross country championships.
10. **Indoor and outdoor track and field – general policies.** The committee discussed the current process for determining strength of events and if an adjustment in the average range used would result in more accurate strengths. NCAA staff will work to gather information for the average of marks for places six through 20 over the past five years for indoor track and field and the average of marks for places six through 25 over the past five years for outdoor track and field for the committee to review on the July call. The committee will also begin to explore the International Association of Athletics Federations strength-of-events charts and how this approach may be better suited for comparing event strength.

The committee will explore different banquet or social options for the same reasons as noted for cross country.

11. **Indoor track and field.** The committee felt Pittsburg State University’s staff did an excellent job hosting the 2016 NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track and Field Championships. The only concern was the institution also hosting the first round of the 2016 NCAA Division II Women’s Basketball Championship the same weekend. The basketball arena was to be the location of the warm-up area for the track and field championships and an alternate plan was made to move the warm-up area to a tent outside. Had there been any severe weather, the warm-up area would have been shut down and a very limited space on the infield of the track would have been used. For future championships, the committee will work closely with the host to create a more secure backup warm-up space that could be used in any weather.

The committee discussed the 2017 championships and will consider implementing a three-day competition schedule instead of the traditional two-day schedule. The championships are part of the 2017 NCAA Division II National Championships Festival, which will require institutions to arrive earlier in the week than during a traditional championships year.

12. **Outdoor track and field.** The committee reviewed the evaluations from the 2016 NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Championships and discussed issues that arose during the championships. NCAA staff will work with the hosts to address the concerns and correct the issues for the 2017 championships.

The committee discussed the 2017 championships and will explore possibly moving up the start times for the decathlon and pentathlon, offering a press conference before the start of the championships, moving coaching boxes, changing the layout of the banquet, and a few small additions and changes to the facility setup. The committee and the NCAA will work with the host on all areas where change is desired.

13. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the pool of officials used for the 2016 indoor and outdoor track and field championships. Members felt the group of key officials the committee selected did a good job, but were concerned with the performance from the group of supplemental officials the hosts secured. Moving forward the committee will consider selecting an officials coordinator who will select the supplemental officials necessary for each championship,
instead of the host.

The committee also reviewed the key officials positions and noted the announcers should be removed from this group. Accordingly, the respective number of officials will be added for each championship in place of the announcers. The Division II indoor and outdoor championships have significantly fewer paid selected key positions than Divisions I and III, and the committee feels this is becoming a safety concern. By removing the announcers and adding more key official positions, the committee feels this would help with mitigate safety concern and provide momentum for an increase in key official positions for Division II.

14. **Qualifying standards and conversions.** The committee reviewed the 2016 qualifying standards and conversions and adjusted events based on marks obtained during the 2015-16 academic season.

15. **Budget items.** The committee discussed the upcoming budget cycle and will explore the costs of potential enhancements for each championship.

16. **Academic and membership affairs update.** A representative from the NCAA academic and membership affairs staff updated the committee on Division II legislation being discussed within the governance structure.

17. **Division II governance update.** A member of the Division II governance staff discussed the Division II priorities for 2015-16 and potential priorities for the 2016-17 academic year.

18. **Other business.** The executive director of the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association joined the meeting to review discussion topics from executive committee teleconferences, including (1) the certification of last chance meets for indoor and outdoor track and field that take place the weekend before selections; (2) reducing the number of participating student-athletes at a competition for outdoor from 10 to 14 to meet sports sponsorship and championship qualifying criteria; (3) the regulation of cross country courses; (4) and the presentation of All-American medals during the championship awards ceremony.

The committee also discussed issues with new NCAA members that conduct meets that do not follow the outlined qualifying criteria or the 2015-16 NCAA Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Rules book. Committee members will work with NCAA staff to continue educating new members on conducting meets that adhere to all policies for marks achieved to be counted toward championships qualification.

*Committee Chair: Amber Feldman, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association*

*Staff Liaison: Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances*
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Dall, Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville; Lone Star Conference.</td>
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<td>Amber Feldman, Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association.</td>
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<td>Preston Grey, Azusa Pacific University; Pacific West Conference.</td>
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<td>Kelley Kish, Nova Southeastern University; Sunshine State Conference.</td>
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<td>Lorne Marcus, St. Thomas Aquinas College; East Coast Conference.</td>
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<td>Andrew Towne, Hillsdale College; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Matt van Lierop, University of Mount Olive; Conference Carolinas.</td>
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<td>Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA</td>
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<td>Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<th>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</th>
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<td>Maritza Jones, Division II Governance.</td>
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<td>Katie Willett, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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