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

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative item.
   - United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA)
     All-America awards.

     (1) **Recommendation.** Allow for the presentation of the USTFCCCA All-America
         awards at the Division I cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and
         field championships.

     (2) **Effective date.** November 1, 2016.

     (3) **Rationale.** The USTFCCCA All-America awards are prestigious honors that deserve
         a platform like the NCAA championships for their distribution. Currently, awards
         are mailed to recipients. This recognition would enhance the student-athlete
         experience in that it would showcase their athletics achievements in front of their
         peers, parents and fans.

     (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

     (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

2. Nonlegislative item.
   - Division I outdoor track and field championships format.

     (1) **Recommendation.** Continue with the current championships format that the Division
         I Championships/Sport Management Cabinet approved in the winter of 2015 as part
         of a two-year trial for re-evaluation after the 2016 championships. The approved
         format has men competing on Wednesday and Friday and women competing on
         Thursday and Saturday.

     (2) **Effective date.** June 2017.

     (3) **Rationale.** The new format has prompted expanded live broadcast coverage with
         increased viewership ratings and in-venue attendance. Additionally, the team
competition has been easier to follow since it focuses only on one gender each day. This also allows for each gender to get their moment without feeling as if they may be overshadowed by the opposite gender.

The committee also believes the new format has enhanced the student-athlete experience by allowing student-athletes of the opposite gender to support their counterparts on their off day. Additionally, committee members noted the number of record-setting performances that have occurred, which could be attributed in part to the off day between competition days.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Committee.**
   a. The Division I Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committee reviewed and designated subcommittee assignments for the 2016-17 academic year for cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field.

   b. The committee re-appointed current chair Angie Lansing, senior associate athletics director/senior woman administrator at Indiana State University. Ms. Lansing, who is now in her third year on the committee, has shown great leadership and has a wealth of knowledge in cross country and track and field.

2. **USTFCCCA proposal to change the 1,500-meters to a mile at the outdoor track and field championships.**
   
   - The committee took no action on this proposal, noting that the 1,500-meter distance remains consistent with what is run on the international level (i.e., Olympic Games, IAAF World Championships). This consistency allows for greater opportunities and success for student-athletes who hope to have opportunities to qualify and compete on the international level.

3. **2017 Northeast cross country regional course change.**
   
   - The committee approved the University at Buffalo’s request to change the course location for the 2017 Northeast cross country regional championships. The new course, Audubon
Golf Course, which hosted the 2011 NCAA Northeast regional, was not available at the time Buffalo submitted its bid to host the 2017 event.

4. Officials review.

a. The committee reviewed the officiating challenges from this past year. Members noted with the USA Track and Field Championship meet being moved to the same weekend as the NCAA Divisions I, II and III championships, there were greater challenges with identifying and securing the appropriate number of certified and experienced officials. Similar challenges emerged during the Division I outdoor track and field East preliminary at the University of North Florida due to the Division II outdoor track and field championships taking place that same weekend in Bradenton, Florida, and the NAIA championships also taking place in Alabama.

The committee noted it will be important during the upcoming bid cycle to ensure that the three divisions keep each other apprised of where they would like to host championship events each year in order to avoid similar conflicts.

b. The committee continued discussions from the joint divisional meetings and re-emphasized support for a national officials coordinator in track and field. This person could help identify certified officials for all championship events across the three divisions. This would also ensure that officials are not receiving more than one invitation to a given NCAA championship event on the same weekend (e.g., Division I East preliminary and Division II championships). The national officials coordinator could also help recruit prospective and emerging officials.

5. DirectAthletics/Track and Field Results Reporting System (TFRRS) review.

a. Given the challenges that have emerged in the past, the committee wants to explore with DirectAthletics the options available to better manage reporting of double dual results to TFRRS.

b. The committee would also like to work with DirectAthletics to automatically pull the best marks for combined events during championship selections and seeding for indoor and outdoor track and field. Currently, coaches are required to enter each seasonal best mark for each sub-event of the combined events during declarations. The committee believes that using the system to automatically pull the best marks for each student-athlete will make the declaration and seeding process more efficient.

The committee noted its desire for better communication from Eagle Eye once workers arrive and begin setting up their equipment to ensure that cameras are placed in approved locations that do not obstruct spectator sightlines. However, the committee acknowledged the positive impact that Eagle Eye video review continues to have during the indoor and outdoor track and field championships competition.

7. **Travel.**

- The committee met with Juanita Sheely, NCAA director of travel and insurance, to review issues that arose while booking championship travel for outdoor track and field, specifically with charter flights. The committee found the behavior that some institutions who were frustrated about their charter arrangements displayed toward NCAA travel representatives unacceptable, and members agreed to send a letter to those schools to make them aware that future instances may result in a misconduct.

8. **Indoor and outdoor track and field minimum contest requirements.**

- The committee reviewed legislation recently adopted and effective with the 2016-17 season requiring teams to meet sport-sponsorship minimums for indoor and outdoor track and field in order to be eligible for the respective championship.

9. **Qualifying criteria review.**

- The committee continued discussions from the joint divisional meeting regarding changes in qualifying criteria. The committee also discussed “legitimate competition” and whether institutions were conducting competition that violated the spirit of the rule when it comes to the minimum number of events that must be contested. The committee noted several meets conducted during the course of the year that appeared to have been staged simply to meet the minimum requirement of 10 events (i.e., a single student-athlete in an event whose performance may not be perceived as legitimate effort). However, since it is difficult to define “legitimate competition” and whether an attempt or time obtained is legitimate, the committee took no further action.

10. **Cross country regional and national championship review.**

    a. The committee applauded the leadership and great work by the University of Louisville in staging a terrific 2015 championship event. Members also noted their desire to continue working with the Louisville staff to explore all options for adjusting the start area for the 2017 cross country championships in an effort to ensure it is the fairest and safest possible start for the first 800 or so meters.
b. Committee members noted that moving forward at the regional championships, a minimum of four clerking lines should be provided at each site to help expedite and ensure a smooth clerking process.

c. For the 2016 regional and national championships, there will be two 15-minute protest windows. One window will occur immediately after the official results for the women’s race are posted, and the other will be immediately after the official results of the men’s race are posted. These two windows will replace the one window that used to be available after the final race of the day.

d. The committee agreed to create a sports information (SID) credential for future cross country championships. This will allow for SIDs to be more easily identified and will grant them access to certain areas (i.e., team tents) that traditional media would not be allowed to enter.

e. Committee members cited feedback from the championship surveys indicating too few buffet lines at the 2015 cross country banquet. The committee will encourage future hosts to provide a greater number of lines for future banquets to help expedite the process.

f. The committee reviewed the championship timeline in the pre-championships manual, noting that the qualifying window will begin two weeks earlier this year on Friday, September 9. The Division I Competition Oversight Committee approved this adjustment at its fall 2015 meeting.

g. The committee discussed the web stream of the 2015 national championships and noted that the production area should be barricaded to avoid unnecessary foot traffic and course vehicles from interfering with the production. Additionally, the committee noted ways to possibly enhance the championship web stream, pending available funds, including improving the gator cam to ensure smooth transmission, exploring a second cart with gator cam that can follow the second pack of runners, having the finish line camera remain focused on the runners crossing the finish line rather than staying focused on the individual champion, and possibly having a split screen during the web stream.

h. The committee began drafting a document reviewing the current format of the cross country regional championships and agreed to finalize the document in the coming months.

11. Indoor track and field championships review.

a. The committee recognized the passion, dedication and hard work of the Birmingham CrossPlex staff, Samford University staff, and University of Alabama at Birmingham staff in executing a tremendous championship. Their willingness to go above and beyond to
ensure a great championship experience for the student-athletes, coaches and fans was evident throughout.

The committee did note a few challenges with officials, and ensuring that events remained on schedule and were appropriately staffed during set-up. In particular, they noted that more marshals were needed to assist in the flow from competition to the recovery and mixed zone areas. Additionally, the committee noted a mechanical issue that affected the facility temperature throughout competition.

b. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures and made no adjustments for 2016-17.

c. The committee reviewed the indoor track and field technical manual and noted the following for the 2016-17 manual:

1) The warm-up time for the long jump, triple jump, shot put and weight throw will be decreased from 45 minutes to 30 minutes. Additionally, the final round will start a maximum of 10 minutes after the completion of the last attempt in the preliminary round.

2) The warm-up time for the high jump will be decreased from 60 minutes to 45 minutes.

3) The committee discussed a proposal to decrease the number of advancers from the preliminary round to the final round from nine to eight but voted to remain with nine at this time. The committee noted that the rule book allows for the advancement of one competitor more than the number of scoring places, with a maximum of nine. Members also believe nine qualifiers makes the event more competitive.

4) The indoor pentathlon 800 meters and heptathlon 1,000 meters will be contested as single races.

5) The committee clarified the language for splitting the two pits of the combined events high jump and pole vault. The competitors with the top eight performances will be assigned to one pit, and the competitors with the next eight performances will be assigned to the other pit.

6) The heptathlon pole vault will pass 1 cm above the meet record.

7) The committee discussed updated relay policy language, which will not be able to be completed until the updated rules changes are finalized for the 2016-17 year.
d. The committee reviewed the 2016 championship broadcast ratings, noting a 138 percent increase over the 2015 ratings. Members noted that being on ESPN2 in 2016 as opposed to ESPNU in 2015 likely contributed to the increase.

12. Outdoor track and field preliminary rounds and championships review.

a. The committee recognized the outstanding job the University of North Florida and the University of Kansas did in hosting the preliminary rounds. The committee noted in particular the efforts the staff at Kansas went to, given the number of weather-related challenges during the course of the meet. Committee members noted that the indoor facility at Kansas provided the flexibility for several events to be moved indoors.

The committee also recognized the importance of having a media relations person available from the host institution to help report weather issues via institutional Twitter and other social media accounts. Members urged a central location and communication plan for reporting weather delays.

b. The committee discussed the tremendous outdoor track and field championships in Eugene, Oregon, recognizing the hard work of the University of Oregon and local organizing committee and volunteers. Committee members did note that they prefer for the individual awards ceremonies to be conducted in-venue during competition as opposed to the new format that was tested this year post-competition on a stage behind the main grandstands. They noted that the new format may not be as favorable as being recognized in front of a stadium full of fans. They also noted it will be worth reviewing the student-athlete and coach surveys once they are completed for further feedback on the awards format.

The committee also wants to explore the option of making the track surface area by the throws cage available for hurdle warm-up once the long throws competitions have concluded each day. This might alleviate the congestion in the warm-up area due to the number of student-athletes and availability of hurdle space for such events as the steeplechase.

c. The committee approved the current timeline and process as outlined in the outdoor track and field pre-championships manual.

d. The committee began reviewing the outdoor track and field technical manual and noted the items below for the 2016-17 manual. The committee will review the remainder of the document in the coming months.

1) The committee re-evaluated and elected to continue to allow student-athletes who qualify to the final in the long jump and triple jump to remain on the same runway they competed on during the semifinal round.
2) The committee discussed a proposal to decrease the number of advancers from the semifinal round to the final round from nine to eight but voted to remain with nine at this time. The committee noted that the rule book allows for the advancement of one competitor more than the number of scoring places, with a maximum of nine. Members also believe nine qualifiers makes the event more competitive.

3) The committee adjusted the warm-up time for the pole vault competition at the East and West preliminary rounds from 90 minutes to 75 minutes. Additionally, participants will be required to check-in no later than 90 minutes prior to the pole vault competition and 75 minutes prior to the start of the high jump competition.

4) The committee noted that the opening height for the pole vault and high jump competitions at the East and West preliminaries shall be the same. For the pole vault it shall be 20 centimeters below the lowest entry mark on the ranked performance list, and for the high jump it shall be 8 centimeters below the lowest entry mark on the ranked performance list.

5) The pole vault progressions for the East and West preliminary rounds will now consist of two increases of 15 centimeters, two increases of 10 centimeters and all other increases at five centimeters.

6) The high jump progressions for the East and West preliminary rounds will now consist of three increases of five centimeters and all others at three centimeters.

7) The committee elected to have competitors from the same institution assigned to the same flight in both the high jump and pole vault at the preliminary rounds. Committee members noted that this is important for coaches who have more than one student-athlete in the event, and for student-athletes that may share poles in the pole vault.

13. Indoor track and field indexing.

- The committee revisited a prior proposal from 2014 to fund a graduate assistant who could review the current indoor track conversion formulas used for the various track facility types throughout the country. The committee elected to take no action, given that most everyone seems to accept the current formulas, and the committee sees no point in spending the time, money and resources on further research at this point.

14. Time demands.

- The committee discussed student-athlete time demands for track and field and cross country and noted many concerns with the potential restrictions that may be forthcoming.
The committee believes that time demands need to be reviewed by sport in order to implement the appropriate policies.

Many student-athletes participate year-round in the three sports of cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field. With multi-sport student-athletes, like those in track and field and cross country, committee members voiced concerns with how the two weeks off at the end of each sport’s season could impact an institution meeting minimum contest requirements for both sport sponsorship and championship eligibility, and how a now shortened season would allow less off-weekends during the actual season for student-athletes transitioning from cross country to indoor track and field, or from indoor track and field to outdoor track and field.

Members believe this all could lead to potential greater risk for injury, since student-athletes would be forced to squeeze workouts, training and competition into a shortened season. Additionally, the committee believes that many of these student-athletes would decide to continue to voluntarily train in an unsupervised manner during any such breaks. This leads to additional concerns of student-athlete well-being and safety.

Committee Chair: Angie Lansing, Indiana State University, Missouri Valley Conference
Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

| NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committee |
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| **Attendees:**                |                                   |
| Matthew Belfield, University of Vermont; America East Conference. |
| Andy Eggerth, Kennesaw State University; Atlantic Sun Conference. |
| Herman Frazier, Syracuse University; Atlantic Coast Conference. |
| Nicole Harvey, Western Athletic Conference. |
| Curt Kraft, East Carolina University; American Athletic Conference. |
| Angie Lansing, Indiana State University; Missouri Valley Conference. |
| Julie Levesque, University of Texas at El Paso; Conference USA. |
| Ben Paxton, Winthrop University; Big South Conference. |
| Shondell Reed, University of Washington; Pac-12 Conference. |
| Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University; Big 12 Conference. |
| Connie Teaberry, Northern Illinois University; Mid-American Conference. |
| **Absentees:**                |                                   |
| Matt Utesch, Lehigh University; Patriot League. |
| **Guests in Attendance:**     |                                   |
| Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA.         |
| **NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:** |                 |
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Anjellica Rospond, Championships and Alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
Juanita Sheely, Administrative Services.