



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JUNE 14-16, 2017, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Indoor track and field championship access ratios.

- (1) Recommendation. That five spots be added to each men's indoor track and field event, and three spots be added to each women's indoor track and field event, bringing the maximum number of participants allowed in the meet for each gender to 396. These increases would bring the men's access ratio down from 1:28.97 to 1:23.5 and the women's access ratio down from 1:23.2 to 1:20.5.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, the men's access ratio for indoor track and field is 1:28.97 and the women's access ratio is 1:23.2. The range for championship access ratios for individual-team sports, per the NCAA Division III Championships Committee policy, is between 1:16-1:24. The current men's indoor track and field ratio is well outside this range, and the current women's ratio on the edge. The NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee would like to increase the maximum number of men and women allowed in the meet to provide more student-athletes access to the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships, since the number of programs and indoor track student-athletes have been steadily increasing over at least the past five years. Additionally, five men's indoor track and field programs and four women's programs are expected to be added by 2020.

This increase will allow for a maximum of 120 additional student-athletes to compete in the championships. However, given that student-athletes may compete in multiple events, the committee expects that only 72 student-athletes will actually be added to the meet (see calculations attached).

[Note: If the Championships Committee does not approve the increase to both the men's and women's access ratio, the Track and Field and Cross Country Committee recommends that four competitors be added to all men's indoor track and field events, resulting in 60 new access spots for men and a maximum of 381 men's competitors allowed to compete in the meet. This would bring the men's access ratio down from 1:28.97 to 1:24.4, which is closer to the 1:16-1:24 range.]

- (4) Estimated budget impact. See Attachment A for option 1. See Attachment B for option 2.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. A maximum of 120 additional student-athletes may be invited to compete in the indoor track and field championships, and the new access ratios will enable more student-athletes to experience a Division III indoor track and field championship.

b. Committee chair.

- (1) Recommendation. That Thomas Thomasson Jr., associate director of athletics and recreation services at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Camden, serve as the chair of the committee for the 2017-18 academic year.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Thomasson will be serving his third year on the committee and was previously the acting committee co-chair. The committee agrees that Mr. Thomasson has the necessary experience to effectively guide the committee and will be a great asset to help administer the 2017-18 championships.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2016 annual report.** The committee approved the report from last year's annual meeting as submitted.
- 2. Committee assignments.** The committee reviewed the sport-specific assignments from this year and made necessary changes, as two committee members' terms are expiring and two new individuals will join the committee this fall.
- 3. Committee timeline.** The committee reviewed this past year's timeline and voted to adjust the committee arrival dates for all championships. The committee felt there was some down time during the first few days on-site this past year and adjusted the committee arrival times accordingly for 2017-18.
- 4. Chair's report.** The committee reviewed the chair reports from all three championships and will use this feedback throughout the planning process for the 2017-18 championships.
- 5. Committee Operations Manual.** The committee reviewed the Committee Operations Manual and made edits as necessary.
- 6. Review of the cross country regionals and championships.**
 - a. Championships administration. The committee felt the Louisville Sports Commission and Spalding University did an outstanding job hosting the event. The committee noted the facility and course provided for great competition and were well maintained. Additionally, the committee noted the host was very knowledgeable about the sport,

which helped to make the championship and planning process very efficient. The banquet was also well received; however, it remains a challenge to ensure all participants are fed in a timely manner. The committee would like to have the banquets continue in the future and will continue to emphasize the importance of having six or more serving lines available. The committee also noted that the packet pickup can be shortened and will look to develop a packet pickup template to provide to all future hosts to ensure the hosts know the committee's expectations.

The committee again noted that the separation of the coaches' association awards and NCAA awards made the awards ceremony inefficient and does not reflect well on either organization. The committee would like to allow the coaches association awards and NCAA awards to be presented simultaneously.

- b. Regionals. The committee reviewed the administration of the cross country regionals and noted the hosts did a nice job. There is some concern that the regional meets are becoming too big, and as such, it has become difficult to secure hosts for these events. The committee voted to create a subcommittee to research possible solutions to this problem and will present recommendations at the coaches' association convention this winter. The committee hopes to gain insight and feedback from the coaches on the various options presented and better understand which option the committee should recommend to the Championships Committee in the future.
- c. Championship and regional start times. The committee recommends that races at the national championship continue to start one hour apart; however, the committee would like to move back to alternating race order by gender each year. Therefore, the committee voted that in 2017 the men will race first, with the women racing second.
- d. Selection process. The committee discussed the current cross country selection process and criteria, and voted to adjust the selection criteria as follows: "Adjust the number of runners to be considered an 'A' team in the selection system from three to five. This adjustment will ensure that the committee is considering the results of true 'A' teams during the selection process."
- e. Selection timeline. The committee still feels that using the Track and Field Results Reporting System has made the selection process more efficient. However, to provide the committee more time to evaluate teams and review the regional meet results, the committee voted to move the selection call from Saturday evening to 8 a.m. Eastern Sunday. The selection announcement will remain Sunday afternoon with information posted to ncaa.com by 3 p.m. Eastern.
- f. Sport sponsorship. The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship list and championship access ratios for cross country and noted the championship access ratio is within the policy range.
- g. Nullification. The committee discussed how nullification might be implemented for cross country. Maureen Harty, NCAA associate director of academic and membership affairs, joined the meeting via teleconference to further explain the process to the

committee. The committee noted that it would be best to completely redo the results and rescore a meet when nullification is implemented. The committee feels this is the best and most fair method to use.

7. Review of the indoor track and field championships.

- a. Championships administration. The committee agreed that North Central College was an excellent host and that the staff was extremely accommodating and collaborative. The committee noted that packet pickup was especially well organized and would like to develop a standard operating procedure with information from this year's packet pickup to provide to future championship hosts. The committee noted that the facility provided for an exciting atmosphere but had limited space on the infield, which made it a bit tight when all events were going on. The committee also wants to tighten the schedule in the future to reduce dead time between events. Based on the participant evaluations, the student-athletes and coaches were pleased overall, and the championship went very smoothly.
- b. Selections. The committee agreed the indoor championships selection process is very efficient with TFRRS and made no changes to the process.
- c. Sport sponsorship. The committee reviewed sport sponsorship for indoor track and field and will once again submit a request to increase the number of participants for both the men and the women (see Nonlegislative Item 2-a).
- d. Technical manual. The committee reviewed and adjusted the technical manual as needed.

8. Review of the outdoor track and field championships.

- a. Championships administration. The committee noted some challenges during the championships, but that overall the championships went well and student-athletes had a great experience. Many of the challenges stemmed from multiple entities serving as co-hosts, and a lack of volunteers to help with crowd control. The committee discussed ways to mitigate these challenges in the future and is adamant that the facility must be fully set up in time for the committee walk-through so the committee can identify potential problem areas before the start of the championships. Additionally, the committee is very concerned about hotel availability, rates and the process SPIRE used for teams to book hotels. The committee and NCAA staff will work with the host to try to adjust this process for future championships held at SPIRE.
- b. Selections. The committee agreed the outdoor championships selection process is more efficient with TFRRS and made no changes to this process.
- c. Sport sponsorship. The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship list and championship access ratios for outdoor track and field and noted the championship access ratio is within the policy range.

- d. Technical manual. The committee reviewed and adjusted the technical manual as needed.

9. Other business.

- a. Mandatory coaches meeting. The committee voted to institute a mandatory coaches' meeting at each championship for the 2017-18 season. The committee is still considering options for the timing of these meetings on-site but will include this information in each championships participant manual.
- b. Final qualifier meets. The committee discussed final qualifier meets for indoor and outdoor track and field, and the criteria used for approval. The committee would like to standardize the final qualifier meets and will be more stringent on the meets that are approved based on the applications submitted. The committee will also seek input at the coaches' association convention this winter on how to move forward with these meets.
- c. Credential limits at championships. Per a request from the coaches' association, the committee voted to provide each participating institution four coaches credentials per gender for future championships. Although coaches will now have access to the venue for free, **the official travel party number has not changed**. Therefore, coaches traveling to each championship who are not part of their team's designated travel party will still have to pay for their own travel to the championship.

Additionally, the committee voted to provide two additional participant credentials for teams with relays qualified for the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. This will allow teams to provide credentials to their relay alternates and allow those alternates access to the venue for free.

- d. Missed deadline fines. The committee reviewed the current fine amount for missed entry deadlines and voted to maintain it for the 2017-18 season.
- e. Jury of appeals. The committee reviewed the protest procedure and agreed to keep the jury of appeals in place again for 2017-18. The committee thought the process worked well and will look to make a few minor adjustments to speed up the protest process this coming season.
- f. Future dates and sites. The committee reviewed the future dates and sites for all three championships through 2022.
- g. Manual review. The committee reviewed all manuals related to the three championships and made edits as necessary.
- h. U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The committee met with Sam Seemes, USTFCCA executive director, to discuss items related to cross country race start times, cross country award protocols, track and field final qualifier meets, general championship feedback from coaches and championship credential allotments.

- i. Timing request for proposals. The committee reviewed the current request for proposal documents for cross country and track and field timing services, and made edits as necessary.
- j. Governance update. Jay Jones, NCAA associate director of Division III, joined the meeting to update the group on topics including current Division III working groups, budget items and the possible legislation changes.

Committee Chair: Bill Ross, Allegheny College, North Coast Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison: Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances

Division III Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 14-16, 2017, Meeting
Attendees:
Natalie Bach-Prather, East Texas Baptist University; American Southwest Conference.
Chris Daymont, St. Olaf College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Don Nichter, Dickinson College; Centennial Conference.
Michael Orechia, University of Puget Sound; Northwest Conference.
Bill Ross, Allegheny College; North Coast Athletic Conference.
Kelly Scafariello, Salve Regina University; Commonwealth Coast Conference.
Derek Stanley, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Thomas Thomasson, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Camden; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Absentees.
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Maureen Harty, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Jay Jones, Division III Governance.