



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JUNE 12-14, 2017, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Postseason Events – Eligibility for Championships – General Institutional Eligibility Requirements – Bylaw 18.4.2.1-(e) – Waiver of Sports Sponsorship Requirement for Cross Country and Track and Field.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division II Championships Committee recommend the Division II Management Council issue a one-time waiver of Bylaw 18.4.2.1-(e) to permit student-athletes and teams from institutions that did not meet minimum sports sponsorship requirements in cross country, indoor track and field, or outdoor track and field during the 2016-17 academic year to remain eligible for championship selection in 2017-18, provided all other championship eligibility requirements are satisfied.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Current legislation specifies that in Division II men's and women's cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field, institutions must meet the minimum contest and participant requirements for sponsorship as set forth in Bylaw 20.10.3.3 to be eligible to enter a team or an individual in NCAA championship competition. Since the current legislation was adopted in 2005, the minimum qualifying standards in all three sports have evolved and now very closely mirror sport sponsorship requirements.

Sport sponsorship is reviewed in arrears. As a result, an institution that failed to meet sport sponsorship requirements in 2016-17 would not only be ineligible for selection per applicable qualifying standards in 2016-17, but would be ineligible for championship selection in the involved sport in 2017-18 as well. The legislation has not been actively enforced since its adoption in 2005. In 2016-17, six institutions failed to meet sport sponsorship in Division II indoor track and field and 53 failed to meet the requirements in Division II outdoor track and field. The Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field Committee agreed that the requirement should remain in place and should be enforced moving forward, but that a one-time waiver of the legislation is necessary to provide notice to institutions due the significant and unexpected impact on student-athletes.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes at institutions that meet the minimum scheduling requirements and other eligibility requirements for Division II cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field during the 2017-18 academic year will remain eligible for championship selection if their institution failed to meet sports sponsorship requirements in the applicable sport in 2016-17.

b. NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships selection process.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Championships Committee approve the following recommendations:

- After each event has been filled to the desired minimum field size and the overall championship field size does not exceed the maximum number of participants (270 per gender for indoor track and field, and 377 per gender for outdoor track and field), the strength of events will be the priority when looking to fill the remaining spots.
- To determine the strength of the event, the committee would calculate the average of the last accepted mark in each event over the last three years and compare that to the next mark on the descending order list.
- If an event continues to be the strongest for that year, student-athletes will be added until the maximum field size for that event is reached. Once this number is reached, the committee will no longer add student-athletes to that event and will move to the next strongest event.
- If the maximum championship field size is exceeded after each event has been filled to the desired minimum field size, student-athletes will be removed from the weakest events based on comparing the average of the last accepted mark in each event over the last three years to the last desired minimum field size mark in each event. No more than two student-athletes will be removed from any given event, even if it continues to be the weakest event for that year.
- The maximum field size for relay and combined events will be adjusted to ensure the championship meet is not lengthened as outlined in the current selection process.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. The current selection process calls for the committee to calculate strength of each event by looking at 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. In doing this, the committee believes these averages are not giving a true indication of each event's strength, as the best way to determine the strength of that event in previous years would be to compare the last mark accepted for each event over the last three years. Also, coaches focus on last marks accepted in previous years as a goal for student-athletes to achieve in hopes of qualifying for the championships.

When the process of adding or removing student-athletes from events comes into play during selections, trying to determine the time for comparing strength or balanced field size can cause confusion. In trying to balance the two, student-athletes can be added to weaker events or removed from stronger events rather than weaker events in order to maintain balanced field sizes. The committee will still look at balanced field sizes at the beginning of the selection process when each event begins at its respective desired minimum field size.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes who have been successful in the stronger events for a given year will be selected to the championships.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the schedule and made no adjustments.
- 2. 2016 annual meeting reports.** The committee approved its 2016 annual meeting report as written, as well as the report from the 2016 joint meeting with the NCAA Divisions I and Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committees.
- 3. Joint meeting agenda.** Committee members reviewed the joint meeting agenda and made no adjustments.
- 4. Review of DirectAthletics and Track and Field Results Reporting System.** The committee discussed changes to the registration page for the NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships and ways to clear up confusion with noted registration deadlines. The championship manager will explore possible changes with DirectAthletics on the championships wrap-up call to be held on a future date.
- 5. 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 Bylaw 20.10.3.3. While double-dual meets are accepted for sport

sponsorship, the committee does not allow these meets to count for championship qualifying purposes. Notifications of the upcoming change have been included in the NCAA Division II Newsletter since December 2016 and in the 2016-17 sport manuals.

- 6. Code of conduct procedures.** The committee discussed the code of conduct fine process and made no changes.
- 7. Media access at championships.** The committee discussed continued issues with misuse of media credentials and access for media. The committee will continue working with future hosts to better monitor the misuse of credentials and limit media access on the infield as much as possible.
- 8. Cross country.**
 - a. 2017 championships.** The committee discussed the 2017 cross country championships, including regionals. The committee noted concerns with an area of the national championships course that could be a potential issue in the event of inclement weather, number of marshals needed for this course and indoor location for awards if necessary. The concerns will be addressed on the site visit.
 - b. Banquet.** The committee discussed options for a banquet or social gathering and ways to make the event more interactive and enjoyable for all attendees. 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. In an effort to eliminate this issue, the committee will look at ways to start/end the event earlier.
 - c. Selection process.** The committee will work with DirectAthletics to ensure the proper software and steps are in place for the new selection process. If possible, the committee will run a mock selection with the new criteria before selections Nov. 6.
- 9. Indoor and outdoor track and field.**
 - a. Scratches.** The committee discussed the current process for adding student-athletes to the selected championship field if a medical scratch occurs. If a student-athlete medically scratches and is one of the members of a selected relay team, the committee will allow that relay to compete but will look to add a student-athlete to the next strongest event to get back to the required overall championship field size. If a medical scratch occurs in individual or combined events, the committee will add back to the event in which the scratch occurred only if the scratch results in the event going below the minimum desired field size. Otherwise, the committee will add to the next strongest event.

- b. Awards ceremony.** The committee discussed moving away from a continuous awards ceremony at the outdoor track and field championships and adding set award times for each day. Various possibilities for schedules and awards sessions will be reviewed.
- c. Clerking procedures.** The committee discussed rewording and creating a separate clerk check-in section to address times and protocol in the participant manual to avoid confusion. The issue of student-athletes missing or reporting late for check-in times before events has become more prevalent and has resulted in multiple student-athletes being disqualified from the championships. In an effort to minimize this issue, the committee will work to educate coaches and student-athletes on the proper procedures.
- d. Banquets/socials.** The committee will explore banquet or social options for all championships. There continues to be an issue in finding a venue that can accommodate the size of the outdoor championships.
- e. Regular season vs. championships.** The committee explored ways to work with the membership to create educational opportunities for coaches and administrators on rules and policies for running track and field meets, which could help create regular-season meets running in a similar manner as the championships.

10. Indoor track and field. The committee felt Birmingham CrossPlex staff did a great job hosting the 2017 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships. The championships were part of the 2017 NCAA Division II National Championships Festival, which allowed for the implementation of a three-day schedule. The overall feedback was positive and allowed more rest time for student-athletes. The members will review the schedule before the 2021 National Championships Festival and determine whether to use the unique schedule.

The committee discussed the 2018 championships and will work with the host on enhancing the spectator viewing for events, based on feedback received after hosting the 2016 championship at the same location. The committee will also look for alternatives for warm-up space for student-athletes in the event the institution is awarded a basketball preliminary round.

11. Outdoor track and field. The committee discussed the 2018 championships and a timeline for reviewing all bids to host the championships. Once a host is determined, the committee will look at the championships event schedule to see if there are periods of minimal events that can be eliminated to make for shorter days.

The committee will begin to explore the possibility of a date change to avoid being on the same weekend as Division I outdoor track and field preliminary rounds and the Division III Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships in hopes it will decrease the conflict in securing qualified officials.

12. Officials. The committee reviewed the pool of officials used for the 2017 indoor and outdoor track and field championships and the addition of official positions created when the announcer positions were removed as key official positions. Members noted that the officials in the key positions were strong and did a great job at both championships.

The addition of an NCAA national assignor of officials has been approved, and staff outlined the process for interviewing candidates. This position will be responsible for assigning all official positions across all divisions.

13. Qualifying standards and conversions. The committee reviewed the process for setting the automatic and provisional qualifying standards for the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. For the automatic qualifying mark, the committee will look at the average of the fourth-place mark achieved for each event over a three- and five-year period and use the fastest/better average mark. For the provisional qualifying mark, the committee will look at the average of the 40th-place mark achieved for each event over a three- and five-year period and use the slower/lesser average mark.

14. Academic and membership affairs update. A representative from the NCAA academic and membership affairs staff updated the committee on Division II legislation as noted above.

15. Committee. Committee members noted that this will be the last in-person meeting of the group as structured, since separate committees for cross country and track and field will begin operating this fall. As such, Preston Grey, head cross country and women's track and field coach at Azusa Pacific University, was voted as the chair for the NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Committee, and Jody Russell, faculty athletics representative at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, was voted as the chair for the NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee.

16. Other business. The committee reviewed the current protests procedures and voted to eliminate the jury of appeals, which will make the referee's ruling final.

Committee Chair: Preston Grey, Azusa Pacific University, Pacific West Conference.
Staff Liaison: Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 12-14, 2017, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Steve Blocker, Emporia State University; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
Lee Glenn, University of North Georgia; Peach Belt Conference.	
Preston Grey, Azusa Pacific University; Pacific West Conference.	
Kelley Kish, Nova Southeastern University; Sunshine State Conference.	
Lorne Marcus, St. Thomas Aquinas College; East Coast Conference.	
Jody Russell, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	
Andrew Towne, Hillsdale College; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Donisha Carter, Championships and Alliances.	
Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Geoff Bentzel, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.	