2017 NCAA Division II Men’s and Womens Cross Country Championships Selection Procedures

Team Selections
A total of 32 teams will be selected. The process for allocating the berth is is outlined below.

Automatic Qualification
The top three teams from each regional meet will automatically advance to the championship finals (24 teams).

At-large Selection
Eight (8) at-large teams will be selected by the NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Committee using the below outlined selection criteria (in priority order). There is no limit to the number of at-large teams that may be selected from any given region.

The following are the criteria used by the committee to select at-large teams, in order, until a selection emerges. Criteria 1-4 are to be included in the TFRRS-based computer program. Criteria 5-6, if needed, are up to the judgment of the NCAA II Cross Country Sport Committee.

1. Regional place order/performance. A Team cannot be selected ahead of a team that placed in front of them at their respective regional championship meet.

2. Head-to-head competition versus other teams under consideration for at-large selection.
   a. Each of the eight teams under consideration in the current comparison will be viewed one duo at a time, 1 vs 1 (i.e. 1 vs 2, 1 vs 3, 1 vs 4, etc.) to determine which is the best of the eight teams to fill out the 25th-32nd team spots for the National Championship field after the other 24 teams have already been automatically advanced. For example, the eight fourth place finishing teams in each region are compared and the best of those eight teams is advanced as the 25th team. After that fourth-place team moves up then the fifth-place team from the region would then move up and be compared in the next round again against the other seven other fourth place teams and the best of those eight teams would be the next team selected to advance as the 26th team and so forth until the 32-team field is filled.
   b. For each of the 1 vs 1 comparisons, either there will be a tie, and the committee will move on, or, one team will be eliminated from consideration in the current selection comparison if that team emerges as having a direct losing record to the other team in consideration. (Rationale: The team with a losing record to any of the other 8 teams cannot be the best of the 8 teams, because at least that one team was better).
   c. An overall win-loss record of the full 8 teams is not to be used. (Rationale: a team that amasses a great quantity of wins over weak opponents is not necessarily better than a team with quality head to head wins).

3. Results against common Division II opponents (through second tier).
a. Each of the eight teams under consideration in the current comparison will be viewed one duo at a time, 1 vs 1 (i.e. 1 vs 2, 1 vs 3, 1 vs 4, etc.).

b. Second Tier” For each two-team consideration, either there will be a tie, or one team will be eliminated from the current selection round if it has fewer net wins, to be calculated as follows:

- Each team will get a win for any direct victory against a common competitor.
- Each team will get a loss for any direct loss against a common competition.
- Each team will get a win for any victory against a second-degree common competitor (i.e. team A beats team B, team B beats team C, team C beats team D, so team A gets a win against team D).
- Each team will get a loss for any defeat against a second degree common competitor (i.e. Team A loses to team B, team B loses to team C, team C loses to team D). If there are both wins and losses in the common competitor chain, this will not be counted for or against a team.
- The total number of losses as calculated above will be subtracted from the total number of wins, which will be the total “Net Wins”.
- Net Wins = (Direct wins + 2\textsuperscript{nd} Degree Wins) – (Direct losses + 2\textsuperscript{nd} Degree Losses)

Rationale for Second Tier
- Net wins provides a more accurate assessment of a record rather than winning percentage, where 1-0 would be better than 10-1.
- Net wins rewards a team for winning against common competitors, but also penalizes a team for losing against a common competitor. If only wins were counted, 4-2 would be worse than 8-12.
- Net wins, when combined with 2\textsuperscript{nd} degree comparisons, rewards a team for beating a very strong team, as that team is likely to generate many 2\textsuperscript{nd} degree “wins” for the team in question.
- Including common comparisons to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} degree allows for more data in a situation where limited data is often a sticking point in making good decisions.
- Including common comparisons to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} degree allows teams that do not travel outside of their region to benefit from beating teams in their region who have done well against their own common competitors

4. Regional meet point gap ratio – Comparing the team being considered for an at-large bid to the team that placed directly in front of them in the regional results only if that team has already advanced via an at-large selection, not as an automatic selection.

a. Example: In Region A, 2\textsuperscript{nd} place team scores 80 points, 3\textsuperscript{rd} place team (under that consideration) scores 100 points. 80/100=0.8 ration. In Region B, 2\textsuperscript{nd} place team scores 180 points and 3\textsuperscript{rd} place team scores 200 points. 180/200=0.9 ration. A higher ratio would be deemed the closer performance, so in this example, Region B would go over Region A.

b. Each of the eight teams under consideration in the current comparison will be viewed one duo at a time, 1 vs 1, 1 vs 2, etc.
5. Results against common non-Division II opponents.

   • Each of the eight teams under consideration in the current comparison will be viewed one
duo at a time, 1 vs 1, 1 vs 2, etc.

6. In the case of a comparison between any two of the eight teams under consideration for an at-
large bid in which there is no data generated from the above criteria for those two teams, then
the process will be advance by the judgement of the NCAA II Cross Country Sport Committee
based on the merits of those two teams, taking into account regular season success and strength
of schedule.

Definitions

• A-Team Definition – An “A-Team” is defined as having at least four of the members of the
seven that represent each institution at their NCAA Regional XC Championships.

• Last-season Performance – The committee will use data from regular season meets starting
with the date that is seven weeks (51 days) out from the NCAA Division II Regional
Championships (except for a Fall Sports Festival year when it will be nine weeks (65 days))
that have at least four of the seven runners represented on a team that competed for a team in
the regional championships (minimum race distance for women is 5k/3 mile and for men 7k).
Meaning no “B” team results can count against or help a team being considered for selection.
For example, a team cannot be penalized for running a split squad or having non-varsity
runners competing at a meet.

• Regional Point Gap Ratio – The regional point gap ratio is only used to measure the strength
of top teams. A team that is selected automatically is not necessarily a top team thus the
comparison would be faulty.

Breaking Team Ties

In the case of a tie-breaker when comparing teams under consideration at a regular season
meet/race that includes DI, DIII, NAIA or NJCAA schools, then those schools must be taken out
of the scoring comparisons by the committee unless used as a common opponent. For example, a
team could lose to another team in a large meet with various non-Division II schools factored into
the scoring, but still beat them head-to-head if the two teams were scored only against each other
a dual meet.

Additional Individual Selections

After the 32 selected teams have been determined, a minimum 24 additional individuals per gender
are selected to compete at the NCAA Championships.

1. The top two individuals who are not part of a qualifying team will automatically advance to
the championship finals (16 individuals).

2. All individuals who finish in the top five at the regional meet and are not part of a qualifying
team will automatically advance to the championship finals.

3. The next eight individuals will be selected at-large. There is no limit to the number of at-
large individuals that may be selected from the same region. The top individual from each
region not receiving an automatic qualifying spot and not on a qualifying team, will be compared head to head using the same model utilized in the at-large team selection process. Place at the regional meet as well as strength of region are factored into the formula by the committee when comparing at-large individuals, using the following equation:

![Image](image_url)

The individual with the highest score using the above equation will be selected first. This will account for and reward individuals competing well in particularly strong regions, as judged by the number of teams that region qualifies to NCAAs. When an individual receives an at-large selection, the next non-qualifying individual from that region will move up to the consideration round of eight individuals.

- Example:

  Region A Individual:
  Individual finishes 15th
  5 teams qualify
  5/15 = 0.33

  Region B Individual:
  Individual finishes 12th
  3 teams qualify
  3/12 = 0.25

  Individual from Region A would qualify.

**Breaking Individual Ties**
If a situation occurs where two or more individuals are vying for the last qualifying spot, the tie will be broken by selecting the individual with the highest individual placement at his or her regional championship.