



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 18-20, 2018, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **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 III cross country championship in conjunction with the NCAA top 15 place finishers.
  - (2) Effective date. November 1, 2018.
  - (3) Rationale. The USTFCCCA All-America awards are prestigious honors that deserve a platform like the NCAA championships for their distribution. Currently, the NCAA top 15 place finishers come up to the stage to receive their NCAA awards, then once the NCAA ceremony has concluded the USTFCCCA All-America ceremony begins. This ceremony includes the NCAA top 15 finishers, making it an awkward and confusing program for both student-athletes and the fans. Allowing for the All-America recognition to take place in conjunction with the NCAA top 15 finisher awards would greatly improve the ceremony and end the championships on a positive note.
  - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
  - (5) Student-athlete impact. This recognition would enhance the student-athlete experience in that it would showcase their athletics achievements in front of their peers, parents and fans and eliminate confusion during the awards ceremony.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Cross country selection criteria.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following language be added as the last step in the team at-large selection process:

*In the case of a comparison between any two of the 16 teams under consideration for an at-large bid in which there are no data generated from the above criteria, the process will be advanced by the judgement of the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee. Results against common non-DIII opponents and regular-season success will be considered.*

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.

- (3) Rationale. During the past two selections the last teams being considered for selection did not have any comparable data generated through the selection system. The committee would like to use additional information provided by DirectAthletics as a way to compare teams, including common non-DIII opponents and regular-season success. The Division II committee currently uses this language for their selection process.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Regional champion trophies for cross country.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA provide a regional team trophy to each of the eight men's and women's cross country regional team champions.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. The USTFCCCA previously provided regional championship trophies for each of the eight men's and women's regional champions. However, due to NCAA policies this group was told it could no longer provide those trophies. Therefore, the committee would like to have the NCAA provide those trophies to the regional team champions to enhance the student-athlete experience during the first round of the NCAA Division III cross country championships.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Each regional trophy costs \$586.60. Therefore, a trophy for each of the eight men's and women's regional champions would cost \$9,385.60.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This addition to the championships will positively impact the student-athlete experience. The committee received many negative comments and questions about why the trophies were not provided this year.

**c. 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 2018-19 academic year.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Thomasson will be serving his fourth year on the committee and second year as committee chair. His peers on the committee unanimously voted to reappoint him as chair for a second year and trust he will continue to do an excellent job leading the committee in the 2018-19 academic year.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2017 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 one committee member's term is expiring and a new individual 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 all committee members should attend the championship facility walk-throughs, not just subcommittee members. Therefore, all committee members will be asked to arrive at the championship locations in time for the facility walk-through.
4. **Review of the cross country regionals and championships.**
  - a. Championships administration. The committee felt Principia College did an outstanding job hosting the event. The committee noted it was great to have the championship at a dedicated cross country course and thought it provided for great competition. There are some operational items the committee would like to see done differently at future championships, including double lining the course, having larger team tents and more secure restricted areas. Overall, though, the committee thought the championship was very successful.
  - b. Regionals. The committee reviewed the administration of the cross country regionals and noted the hosts did a nice job. There is still 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 asked NCAA staff to research possible solutions to this problem and present recommendations to the group at a later date.
  - c. Championship and regional start times. The committee recommends that races at the national championship continue to start one hour apart; pending adjustments for web stream coverage. Additionally, the committee recommends that race order continues to rotate by gender each year. Therefore, in 2018 the women will race first, with the men racing second.
  - d. Selection process. The committee discussed the current cross country selection process and criteria and voted to adjust the selection criteria as indicated above (see Nonlegislative Action Item 2a).
  - e. 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.

## **7. Review of the indoor track and field championships.**

- a. Championships administration. The committee agreed that the Birmingham CrossPlex and Birmingham Southern College were excellent hosts and that the staff was extremely accommodating and collaborative. The committee noted the facility was spectacular but the location of the championship was somewhat outside the Division III geographical footprint, making team travel difficult and expensive. Additionally, the committee would like to see more food options available in the student-athlete hospitality area. The committee also reviewed the championship evaluations and noted that the student-athletes and coaches who responded had a wonderful experience and that the championship went very smoothly.
- b. Selections. The committee agreed the indoor championships selection process is very efficient with TFRRS. The committee noted that next year the championship field for both men and women will increase to 20 individuals in each event, though this will not affect the selection process.
- c. Sport sponsorship. The committee reviewed sport sponsorship for indoor track and field and appreciates having been granted the field size increase for both the men and women for the 2019 indoor track and field championships. Additionally, the committee voted to adjust the selection timeline to shorten the declaration window. Declarations will now open at 10 a.m. Eastern time and close at 1 p.m. Eastern time. The late entry period will now be from 1-3 p.m. Eastern time with selections starting at 4 p.m. Eastern time. This shortened declaration window will allow the committee to post the selection information on Sunday evening instead of Monday morning, which will give teams more time to plan for the championships.
- d. Technical manual. The committee reviewed and adjusted the technical manual as needed.
- e. 2019 indoor track and field championship schedule of events. The committee reviewed a draft of the 2019 indoor track and field championship schedule of events and noted the facility poses some challenges to the committee's ideal schedule. Specifically, the limited number of runways and pits for the jumping events may create a longer schedule of events. However, the committee will work with the host to create the best possible schedule given the facility limitations and ensure this schedule is finalized and posted online by late fall.

## **8. Review of the outdoor track and field championships.**

- a. Championships administration. The committee reviewed evaluations from the outdoor track and field championship and noted negative comments regarding the banquet. The banquet remains a challenge for this championship due to the large number of participants, and the facility staff was unfortunately not prepared for this large of an event. Additionally, there were a few negative comments about the lack of reverse

- running at the championship, and the committee noted that the facility did not provide the necessary space to have a camera set up and calibrated for a reverse finish line. Aside from these two challenges, the rest of the championship went very well and the hosts did an excellent job planning for and executing the operational aspects of the event. The University of Wisconsin La Crosse host staff was extremely accommodating and worked hard to ensure the championships went well and that student-athletes had a great experience.
- b. Selections. The committee voted to adjust the selection timeline to shorten the declaration window. Declarations will now open at 10 a.m. Eastern time and close at 1 p.m. Eastern time. The late entry period will now be from 1-3 p.m. Eastern time with selections starting at 4 p.m. Eastern time. This shortened declaration window will allow the committee to post the selection information on Friday evening instead of Saturday morning, which will give teams more time to plan for the championships.
  - 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.
  - e. 2019 outdoor track and field championship schedule of events. The committee reviewed the competition schedule from the last time SPIRE hosted the outdoor track and field championship and will work with the host to make adjustments as necessary.

## **9. General policies and procedures.**

- a. Mandatory coaches meeting. The committee voted to continue the mandatory coaches meeting at each championship for the 2018-19 season. The committee felt these meetings were beneficial and coaches had an opportunity to ask questions. The committee did note that the sign-in sheets for these meetings should be broken out by region in the future to streamline the sign-in process for coaches.
- 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 continues to discuss whether to restrict the number of meets approved per region but will bring this issue forward to the coaches convention for further consideration.
- c. Qualifying criteria. The committee reviewed the selection qualifying criteria and noted they would like to eliminate combined gender 10,000-meter races from the qualifying criteria. More information regarding this topic can be found in the joint divisional meeting report.
- d. Missed deadline action. Liz Suscha, managing director of championships and alliances, joined the meeting to discuss missed deadline committee action. The committee will

- look to shorten the selection window timeline to shorten the entry deadline and streamline this process. This will hopefully reduce the number of missed entry deadlines in the future.
- e. Indoor track records. NCAA staff noted that because the Division III indoor track and field championship will be hosted at a number of banked track facilities in the future, the NCAA statistics group will now keep two sets of NCAA Division III championship records for flat and banked track facilities. The committee asked NCAA staff to research whether a third set of records should also be kept for over-sized indoor tracks.
  - f. Weather index discussion. The committee discussed the need for guidelines regarding heat and cold indexes while on site at the championships. This information will help the committee make informed decisions regarding championship schedule changes. NCAA staff will work with the NCAA Sport Science Institute to find out more information and report back to the committee.
  - g. Future dates and sites. The committee reviewed the future dates and sites for all three championships through 2022. The bid portal will open in early August to accept bids for the 2019 cross country regional meets. Information regarding this process will be included in the Division III Championship Newsletter and through the USTFCCCA newsletter.
  - h. Manual review. The committee reviewed all manuals related to the three championships and made edits as necessary.
  - i. U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The committee met with Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA executive director, to discuss items related to cross country race start times, cross country selection criteria, track and field travel party size, weight implement use at the indoor championship, clerking protocols, reverse running policies for the outdoor track and field championship, and award protocols for cross country and track and field.
  - j. 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.
  - k. Governance update. Jay Jones, NCAA associate director of Division III, joined the meeting to update the group on topics including the alcohol sales pilot program, Division III membership dues increase, the amateurism certification pilot program, the LGBTQ working group, and the NCAA's position on sports wagering and legislation proposals.
  - l. Playing rules discussion. Mark Kostek, NCAA track and field and cross country secretary-rules editor, joined the meeting to discuss rules proposals for the upcoming 2019-20 NCAA track and field and cross country playing rules book. The full list of proposals will go out to the NCAA track and field coaching body in July for a two-

week comment period. The committee is encouraged to review those proposals and provide feedback during the comment period.

*Committee Chair: Thomas Thomasson, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey,  
Camden*

*Staff Liaison: Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 18-20, 2018, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Natalie Bach-Prather, East Texas Baptist University.
Marlee Berg, Westfield State University.
Jessica Devine, University of Minnesota, Morris.
Dara Ford, Otterbein University.
Don Nichter, Dickinson College.
Michael Orechia, University of Puget Sound.
Derek Stanley, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse.
Thomas Thomasson, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Camden
<b>Absentees.</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Mark Kostek, NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Secretary-Rules Editor (via teleconference).
Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA, (via teleconference).
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Jay Jones, Division III Governance.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.