



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 10-11, 2018, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- 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 2018-19 academic year for cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field.
- b. The committee reviewed championships travel and monthly teleconference dates for the 2018-19 academic year.
- c. The committee confirmed the appointment of Julie Levesque, senior associate athletics director/senior woman administrator at University of Texas at El Paso, as chair of the committee for 2018-19. Ms. Levesque, who will enter her final year on the committee, has displayed great leadership as a committee member and has demonstrated a keen understanding of track and field and cross country.
- d. The committee reviewed nominees for two current vacancies and submitted recommendations and rationale to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

**2. Rules proposals and review.** The committee reviewed several current and proposed rules for the Cross Country and Track and Field Rules book, noting the following items in particular:

- a. Members expressed their willingness, should the rule be adopted, to mandate the use of starting blocks at the NCAA Division I Indoor Track and Field Championships, Outdoor Track and Field East and West Preliminary rounds and the Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the 60m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 60 hurdles, 100 hurdles, 110 hurdles, 400 hurdles, 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay. If the rule is passed giving the games committee the ability to mandate the use of blocks in these events, it will be added as a championship policy for the 2018-19 championship season.
- b. The committee also reiterated its intention to allow a start information system to be used to detect illegal starts in sprint races for Division I track and field championship events

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should the rules book be updated to allow such devices to be used for this purpose. This will become effective for the 2018-19 championships should the rule be modified.

- c. Committee members noted that questions are raised consistently about arm sleeves in cross country. The current rule states arm sleeves must be of an identical solid color. The committee has asked the rules committee to consider removing "solid" from this rule to allow for flexibility with schools that may wear two-toned sleeves.
- d. The committee reviewed Rule 4-1.3 (minimum number of competitors) and expressed concern about the mandate on two different institutions being represented in each event. Members noted things often occur that are outside an institution's control and another institution, especially in smaller meets (i.e., dual meets), may scratch an athlete from an event, thus invalidating performances of another institution that may still want to compete in that event. The committee recommends rather than a mandate requiring two institutions, require instead a minimum of two competitors even if they are not from different institutions. Depending on what action the rules committee takes, the sport committee may explore with Divisions II and III the possibility of including something in the qualifying criteria.
- e. The committee also reviewed Rule 4-1.4 (minimum events) and referenced a proposal from the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA), that defined both a traditional outdoor track and field meet, as well as an outdoor track and field relay meet, but did not address indoor track and field competition. The committee agreed with pieces of the USTFCCCA proposal, but members felt it could be simplified to create less confusion within the membership. The committee felt there should be only one set of requirements for a meet instead of separate requirements for a traditional meet versus a relay meet. The following are specifics the committee believes the rules committee should address:
  - 1) For outdoor track and field meets require a minimum of nine NCAA championship running events and six NCAA championship field events.
  - 2) For indoor track and field meets require a minimum of six NCAA championship running events and four NCAA championship field events. (The committee noted in particular that many institutions like to use the indoor season to conduct nontraditional NCAA running events such as the 600 meters.)
  - 3) Allow for combined events competition (pentathlon, heptathlon or decathlon) to count toward the minimum events designated for indoor and outdoor track and field. Each combined event competition could be used to count as one running or one field event.
  - 4) Institutions should not be punished for competing in more than the stated minimums, even if they are non-NCAA championship events.
  - 5) Combined event-only meets should be acceptable within the rule.

**3. Officials review.**

- The committee noted a few concerns, including officials working regular-season meets and conducting certain events under “institutional rules” that are in violation of NCAA rules. Additionally, the committee is particularly concerned about an issue regarding the calibration of laser measuring devices in the horizontal jumps at the NCAA Division I East Preliminary in Tampa following a weather delay. Members noted that recalibration should occur following any such delay. The committee will share these concerns with the NCAA track and field officials assignor to help educate and train officials moving forward.

**4. Qualifying criteria.**

- Committee members reviewed the criteria, noting that depending on what rules changes occur, they may want to discuss with the Divisions II and III committees whether to adjust the qualifying criteria minimum number of events to be in line with the rules book as well as the minimum number of institutions and competitors in an event.

**5. Indoor track and field preliminary-round proposal from USTFCCCA.** The committee reviewed a proposal to add an East and West preliminary round to the indoor track and field championships and felt the pros did not outweigh the cons at this point. The committee elected to send the proposal back to USTFCCCA for further vetting, noting the following factors to consider:

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
Addresses concerns with different track sizes, and people can't argue that student-athletes are advancing to the finals site because of track type conversions.	Increased cost to the NCAA (estimated at approximately \$163,000).
Helps address issues with schools that don't have access to the best tracks.	Increased cost to the schools.
Increases percentage for postseason opportunity.	Outdoor season will start one week later.
Provides consistency with outdoor track and field championship structure.	More travel and time away from institution.
	Have to compete at high level for three of four weekends (Conference, Prelims, Championships). Teams are forced to choose if they should go “all-in” at the conference meet.
	Conferences such as Pac-12 and CAA do not have conference championships so this format could be perceived as an advantage. May see

	less participation at meets like the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation meet.
	Conference meets would be forced to move one weekend earlier, thus shortening an already short regular season that much more.
	50/50 split in the membership.

**6. Cross country-only scholarships.** Having heard discussions on this within the membership and at the coaches convention in December, the committee talked informally about the concept during its meeting. Although no action was taken, the committee expressed reservations about allowing cross country-only scholarships. Concerns included that the idea could prompt institutions to consider dropping cross country programs; an acknowledgement that cross country runners also run track, which would mean that adding cross country scholarships would essentially equate to more track scholarships; larger and more well-funded programs would reap the benefits; and a sense that more cross country programs would become made up of middle distance runners so that track scholarships could be used for other event disciplines.

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

- a. As was mentioned in the rules portion of this report, the committee noted the numerous questions that arise each year about arm sleeves. The committee has asked that clear communication be sent the week before the regional championships further highlighting and explaining the specifics of the uniform rule, including arm sleeves.
- b. The committee noted that clerking at the regional and national championships should be organized by box number rather than by institution name. This helps ensure lines are as equal as possible and helps eliminate further confusion when teams are checking in.
- c. The committee discussed the web stream of the 2017 national championships and noted the biggest concern seems to be the pay-to-watch platform currently in place for this meet.
- d. The committee reviewed the regional and national championships surveys and noted the following: (1) the need for clerking to be run more efficiently with a minimum of four lines organized by starting box number, (2) the positive decisions made to move the start of the races at the national championships earlier because of weather, (3) concerns with specifications on the national championship course, and (4) a couple of regional championship timing companies were slow in producing final results and the need to display “unofficial” results moving forward. All efforts will be made to improve upon needed areas in advance of the 2018 championship events, and the committee will stress

the importance of hosts having access to a local meteorologist to help guide decisions in the case of inclement weather.

- e. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures and made no adjustments for 2018-19.
- f. The committee reviewed the current policy on the number of student-athletes that are allowed to be declared prior to the regional championships. After looking at a breakdown of the numbers declared by region per institution, the committee noted very few teams are declaring more than 12 student-athletes. Given this information and the number of wasted resources (e.g., bibs, timing chips, hip numbers, etc.) that are being ordered and organized prior to the competition, the committee voted to adjust the number from 15 to 12. Teams will now be allowed to declare only a maximum of 12 student-athletes prior to the NCAA regional championships.
- g. The committee informally discussed possibly moving the men's championship distance from 10k to 8k and moving the women's championship distance from 6k to 8k. The committee noted this would align men and women at the same distance and also noted that the men do not usually run the 10k distance until the NCAA regional championships. The committee also informally considered mandating that the NCAA championship distance for men and women be run in all races within the qualifying window for the race to count toward NCAA championship qualification. The committee took no action but agreed to continue discussing these topics in future meetings.

## **7. Indoor track and field championships review.**

- a. The committee reviewed the championship surveys and discussed some areas of concern, most notably that the PA announcements were hard to understand, that there needs to be better field event coaching boxes, and that there should be more parking availability for teams.
- b. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures and made no adjustments for 2018-19.
- c. The committee reviewed the indoor track and field technical manual and noted only one update at this time. The committee will add a case study regarding how and when relays may be scratched due to medically related issues.
- d. The committee reviewed a tentative competition schedule for the 2019 indoor track and field championships in Birmingham. The committee made some minor tweaks to the schedule and will share it with the hosts at the Birmingham CrossPlex for further

consideration and feedback, particularly regarding potential facility constraints, prior to releasing the final schedule for publication.

## **8. Outdoor track and field preliminary rounds and championships review.**

- a. The committee reviewed the East and West preliminary rounds, noting the difficulties that occur in scheduling and weather delays when a host site does not have an exterior long throws area. Additionally, the committee noted that both sites did a great job of using lap counters, especially during the 10,000 meters. The committee, however, would like to continue using timing chips as a backup to the lap counters.

Lastly, the committee reviewed the FloTrack web stream and felt that this provided a great option for consistent coverage at the two sites. They noted that although this is a paid platform, FloTrack provided coverage that may not have otherwise been offered for these preliminary rounds of the championships.

- b. The committee reviewed the finals site competition, specifically noting the great job Oregon has done over the last six years administering the championships. The committee continued to stress the importance with executing the championship trophy presentation in the live broadcast window and the ability to continue effective communication among the running referee, protest table and television, especially when the national championship team is determined on the final running event of the day.
- c. The committee reviewed the current timeline and process as outlined in the outdoor track and field pre-championships manual. Members noted the positive feedback with releasing the start lists the Friday prior to the championships. The committee has decided to continue with this timeline with the exception of the heptathlon and decathlon. Since the medical scratch deadline for the heptathlon and decathlon is not until the Sunday prior to the championships, committee members have elected to not release the heptathlon and decathlon start lists until the Monday of championship week in case they receive any medical scratches prior to the deadline.
- d. The committee voted to support allowing marks obtained at the preliminary rounds of the outdoor track and field championships to count as official outdoor track and field championship records. Currently, only marks obtained at the finals site are allowed to count for NCAA championship records. NCAA staff will consult with the NCAA statistics staff to explore whether this is feasible.
- e. The committee reviewed the outdoor track and field technical manual and noted only one update at this time. The committee will add a case study regarding how and when relays may be scratched due to medically related issues. Additionally, the committee discussed

preferred lanes for the East and West preliminary sites and chose to continue allowing the host to share their recommendation for the preferred lanes at their facility.

- f. The committee reviewed a tentative schedule for the national championships in 2019 in Austin, Texas. The committee made a couple minor adjustments and will share the schedule with host officials at the University of Texas at Austin, for feedback on any potential facility constraints. Once feedback is received, the schedule will be shared with ESPN for their final recommendations.
- g. The committee reviewed the structure of the outdoor East and West preliminary round, noting its desire to maintain the field size of 48 in all individual events and 24 in all relay events. Committee members did, however, express their desire to further explore expanding the preliminary rounds from a three-day meet to a four-day meet. This would allow them to implement the same format currently used at the finals site, with the men competing on days one and three and the women competing on days two and four. This would also shorten the competition schedule each day, allowing for greater flexibility when inclement weather occurs, which has created significant challenges in recent years. Committee members agreed to discuss this concept further and asked staff to research cost implications for the NCAA and host institutions.
- h. The committee voted unanimously to change the name of the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Preliminary Rounds to the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field First Rounds. The committee noted this is more commonly used language within track and field and seems to better suit and identify this round of competition. NCAA staff will consult with the NCAA branding staff to explore possible next steps and feasibility.

*Committee Chair: Angie Lansing, Indiana State University*

*Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 10-11, 2018, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Trey Clark, Lamar University.	
Milan Donley, University of Kansas.	
Andy Eggerth, Kennesaw State University.	
Herman Frazier, Syracuse University.	
Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference.	
Nicole Harvey, University of Central Florida.	
Angie Lansing, Indiana State University.	
Julie Levesque, University of Texas at El Paso.	

Wendy McFarlane-Smith, University of Delaware.
Sharlene Milwood-Lee, Farleigh Dickinson University.
Mike Nelson, Marquette University.
Ben Paxton, Winthrop University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
None.