ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

   a. Bylaw 20.9.7.2 Scheduling Requirements – Men’s Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, and Bylaw 20.9.7.3.2 – Multiteam Events – Individual Sports, which states that two-thirds of competition must be Division I institutions for Division I men’s and women’s cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field for the competition to count toward sport sponsorship.

   (1) Recommendation. Move men’s and women’s cross country, women’s indoor track and field and women’s outdoor track and field to bylaw 20.9.7.2 with men’s indoor and outdoor track and field. Also, eliminate the two-thirds requirement as stated in Bylaw 20.9.7.3.2 for Division I cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field for both men and women and replace the two-thirds requirement with language that states if two Division I institutions are represented in any multiteam competition, then the Division I scheduling requirement is satisfied.

   (2) Effective date. August 1, 2018.

   (3) Rationale. Bylaw 20.9.7.3.2 is currently having significant impact on meets across all three sports, especially indoor track and field where there are limited facilities. Evidence suggests that Division II and Division III schools are being denied access to meets so that Division I host institutions do not risk falling short of meeting the two-thirds rule as required by sport sponsorship.

   Additionally, institutions have been provided guidance and interpretations that allow them to circumvent the two-thirds rule by splitting out scoring at meets; having Division I scored separate from all non-Division I institutions even though Division I and non-Division I institutions are competing head-to-head in each event. The process of breaking out the scoring into two separate sets of results is counterproductive and cumbersome, and often stressful on host institutions and contracted timing and results companies, all just so they can satisfy on paper the regulation in Bylaw 20.9.7.3.2. The process of breaking out results separately by divisions when the student-athletes have competed head-to-head in various events diminishes true head-to-head competition regardless of what division competitors are representing.
By moving both men’s and women’s cross country, women’s indoor track and field and women’s outdoor track and field to Bylaw 20.9.7.2 with men’s indoor and outdoor track and field, and by eliminating the two-thirds rule, there would be greater consistency across all three sports as there would no longer be confusion amongst the sponsorship requirements, which currently differ for men and women in indoor and outdoor track and field. Currently, as stated in Bylaw 20.9.7.2, men are required in indoor and outdoor track and field to have 50 percent of their competitions meet the Division I scheduling requirement, while women must have 100 percent of their competitions meet the Division I scheduling requirement. This causes great confusion amongst coaches, most of whom coach both the men’s and women’s programs, as they are trying to build their schedules and determine where they are sending their student-athletes to compete.

Finally, it should also be noted that in track and field, ultimately it is the athlete’s mark and/or time that determines success and ability to qualify to the championships. Whether the competitors are Division I, Division II or Division III does not impact the end result.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None. If anything, this would help institutions across all three divisions save money on travel, as they may not be required to travel as far to meets.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** This recommendation protects opportunities for student-athletes.

**b. Revision of Bylaws 20.9.6.3.3, 20.9.6.3 and 20.9.6.3.7 – Counting multiteam events in individual sports, and minimum contests and participant requirements for sport sponsorship.**

(1) **Recommendation.** Disallow counting multiteam competitions as more than one competition for sport sponsorship as is currently outlined in Bylaw 20.9.6.3.3, and lower the minimum number of contest requirements for sport sponsorship as is detailed in Bylaw 20.9.6.3 in cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field.

The new recommended number of contests for each sport would be as follows:

i. **Men’s and women’s cross country:** Four minimum contests with five participants.
ii. **Men’s and women’s indoor track and field**: Four minimum contests with 14 participants.

iii. **Men’s and women’s outdoor track and field**: Four minimum contests with 14 participants.

Based on the above, the committee would then also recommend an update to Bylaw 20.9.6.3.7 – Indoor Track and Field and Outdoor Track and Field, to allow a member institution to receive credit for sponsoring both indoor and outdoor track and field provided its team participates in at least eight indoor and outdoor meets during the year, including at least three indoor and three outdoor meets.

(2) **Effective date.** August 1, 2018.

(3) **Rationale.** Currently, institutions are able to count two or three contests when they only had to compete once. In other words, one large competition can be reported as two or three smaller competitions, so an institution can gain another countable competition, or two, toward sport sponsorship. Essentially, an institution could compete at two separate competitions with 14 student-athletes during the outdoor track and field season and count each of those competitions as three contests, and meet the minimum requirements for sport sponsorship.

Multiple issues have arisen given the current ability for institutions to count a single competition as more than one contest. First, the NCAA track and field results reporting system (TFRRS) that is used for tracking marks for championship qualification cannot accept multiple sets of results (i.e., double duals) from the same competition. If results were allowed to be reported in this manner it would then credit student-athletes with the same mark more than once. This is important during championship selections when student-athletes’ second-, third- and fourth-best marks are used to break ties. Additionally, because multiteam competitions can count as more than one contest, the committee does not have a way to track whether institutions have met the requirements of sport sponsorship to be eligible for the championships as is detailed in Bylaw 18.4.2.2-e. Secondly, the process of allowing a multiteam competition to count as more than one competition, much like the two-thirds rule discussed in Legislative Item 1a, is cumbersome for host institution meet directors and timing/results companies. Meet managers, who are often event operations personnel with limited to no knowledge of NCAA bylaws, are now expected to know NCAA bylaws in addition to normal competition rules. The committee feels hosts should not be responsible for detailing out several sets of different results so institutions can fulfill legislated sponsorship requirements.
In disallowing institutions the ability to count multiteam competitions as more than one competition and lowering the number of contest requirements, the integrity of competition is maintained. Institutions will be held to a high standard as they would be required in each season to participate at a minimum three separate competitions (if they sponsor both indoor and outdoor) or four separate competitions if they sponsor only indoor or outdoor track and field.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. These changes protect competitive opportunities for student-athletes.

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 2017-18 academic year for cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field.

   b. The committee re-appointed current chair Angie Lansing, senior associate athletics director/senior woman administrator at Indiana State University. Ms. Lansing, who is now in her final year on the committee, has shown great leadership and has a wealth of knowledge in cross country and track and field.

2. Rules proposals and review. The committee reviewed several rules in the 2017 and 2018 Cross Country and Track and Field Rules book discussing the following concerns to share with the rules committee.

   a. Members expressed concern about the timing and implementation of changes to Rule 4-3.1 regarding uniforms that was passed in June 2016. The rule, which states all student-athletes, in all event disciplines, must wear uniforms clearly indicating through color, logo, and combination of all outer garments that the individuals are from the same team, was approved and passed at a time when uniforms had already been ordered for the upcoming academic year. Additionally, committee members noted that flexibility may occasionally be necessary for different-sized athletes, such as throwers, who may not fit in what is provided from the apparel manufacturer, and for whom alternate options can sometimes be challenging to match with other team uniforms.

   Members also are concerned about the rule’s enforcement. The committee feels strongly that this rule does not justify disqualification, as a uniform violation does not provide any sort of competitive advantage. In sports like basketball, teams would not be required to
forfeit the game because of a uniform violation. The committee hopes that the rules committee can review this rule and better clarify appropriate action that can be taken, such as a financial penalty that can be assessed by the games committee.

Lastly, the committee recommends that single-piece body suits be allowed to be one solid color and not be required to have the bottom portion match the shorts of other teammates in other events. For example, if all other teammates are wearing a red top with black shorts, the student-athletes wearing a one-piece body suit should be allowed to match only the tops of their teammates, which in this case would be red.

b. The committee would also like to recommend an amendment to Rule 3-2-q regarding the timeline for deciding the direction of a running event due to wind. Members recommend that the games committee be given more freedom to make that decision closer to the start of the event. With constantly changing wind patterns, sometimes deciding a half hour prior to an event can be difficult. Members believe that a half hour should be used as a recommended timeline for making a decision, but the games committee can be given flexibility inside that half hour to change the direction of the event as long as meet management can do what is necessary to prepare for the event within a shortened timeframe.

c. The committee recommends adding the word “adhere” to Rule 5-8.4 when referencing the tape or suitable material that is allowed to be placed on the track for exchange zone markings. The committee feels this helps ensure that the material remains stationary and cannot be blown by wind or kicked into another lane by a competitor.

d. The committee also recommends that the games committee be provided flexibility in determining the protest period detailed in Rule 4-1.15-a for competition, inclusive of an event-by-event basis. Specifically, the committee would like flexibility when it comes to deciding the timeframe for the last event on a given day of competition. The committee feels that at the end of the meet, when there is only one event being contested, that any necessary protests can be filed within a much shorter timeframe, thus allowing for the final results and team champion to be recognized in a more expedited timeframe.

3. Protest fees at cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field championships.

- The committee voted to raise the protest fee from $50 to $100 starting with the 2017-18 academic year. The committee feels the current fee is too low, and that coaches often protest just to protest since the fee is so minimal.
4. Officials review.

- The committee noted that officials continue to struggle with executing the 5-alive in the pole vault and high jump competitions at NCAA championship events. The committee will ask the new officials assignor, once hired, to help educate and train officials how to effectively execute this procedure.

5. Cross country regional and national championship review.

a. The committee began to discuss start times for 2017 regionals, noting the need to remain flexible with the start times for regionals in southern regions where the temperatures may be warmer.

b. The committee wants to explore whether footage from the regional championships can be compiled into a highlight video that could then be played at the banquet during the national championships.

c. The committee reviewed the protest window that was implemented in 2016 and elected to leave it as is for 2017. There will be two protest windows at the regional and national championships; one will be 15 minutes after the results are posted for the women’s race and the other will be 15 minutes after the results are posted for the men’s race.

d. The committee discussed the web stream of the 2016 national championships and noted the importance of ensuring the gator camera is working effectively. This is one of the most important cameras in following the lead runners, and the committee emphasized the importance of making sure it is tested and working properly to provide the best coverage possible. Additionally, the committee discussed possibly using drones for covering the championships, though members acknowledged that NCAA policy currently prohibits such use.

e. The committee reviewed the regional championships surveys and noted the following: (1) several sites could use better PA systems, (2) there were shortages of port-o-lets and replenishment of toilet paper, (3) more lines are needed for clerking (at least four at each site), (4) no school logos should be painted on the course, and (5) a couple timing companies were slow in producing final results. All efforts will be made to improve upon these areas in advance of the 2017 regionals.

f. The committee reviewed the championships survey and noted the positive feedback pertaining to the fireworks during the awards ceremony, the pizza provided to the teams by Pizza Hut, the family tent space, and the drummers that played during the races. The committee also acknowledged the negative feedback pertaining to the banquet, the choppy
g. Lastly, the committee discussed timing and results and noted its preference to ensure that unofficial team results are being displayed in real time on both the video board and web stream. Members acknowledge that scoring and placing can change as the head timer reviews final results, but releasing results as “unofficial” allows participants, coaches and spectators to begin to have an idea of the individual and team standings.

6. Indoor track and field championships review.

a. The committee reviewed the championship surveys and discussed some areas in which adjustments can be made to improve in 2018. The committee recommended a more simplified menu of chicken and pasta with a gluten-free option at the banquet. Additionally, the 2018 host should plan to provide more food to accommodate a larger attendance. The committee noted in the surveys that improvements need to be made to the PA system, and the site lines on the infield were obstructed by people and unused equipment. There also is a need for a more clearly identified coaching box directly behind the throws cage.

b. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures and made no adjustments for 2017-18.

c. The committee reviewed the indoor track and field technical manual and made only one significant change at this time. The committee elected to add language stating that consideration will be given to other major championship qualification standards when setting progressions in the high jump and pole vault, but ultimately will determine progressions that are in the best interests of the NCAA championships.

d. The committee reviewed the competition schedule from the 2017 championships and noted the following changes for 2018:

1) Move the pentathlon 800m and heptathlon 1000m back into the broadcast window. These will be the first events each day in the live broadcast window.

2) Have the men’s running events go first in 2018 followed by the women.

3) Move both triple jumps up 15 minutes so in case they run long they do not impact the end of the meet on day two.
7. **Outdoor track and field preliminary rounds and championships review.**

   a. The committee reviewed the East and West preliminary rounds and noted areas where a few adjustments could be made to improve the championship experience. First, the committee noted it is crucial to ensure there are adequate volunteers and a smooth flow for packet pickup. Additionally, the clerking process and location for check-in should be reviewed and more detailed guidelines should be provided in the participant manual. Lastly, members noted that if possible, more sufficient seating should be provided in additional event sites located outside the track, such as the long throws.

   b. The committee reviewed the finals site competition, specifically the current pass list policy and the awards format.

   The committee voted to continue supporting the current pass list policy detailed in the participant manual. Teams with 25 or more ticket requests on a given day will still be required to staff an individual at the ticketing table for an outlined window of time during each day of the championships.

   The committee also decided to tweak the awards format moving forward for 2018. The committee has elected to present all event finals on the day they are contested immediately following the last 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 decided to push the medical scratch deadline from 5 p.m. Eastern the Sunday before the preliminary championships to 2 p.m. Eastern on the Monday prior to the preliminary championships.

   d. The committee reviewed the outdoor track and field technical manual and made only one significant change at this time. The committee elected to add language stating that consideration will be given to other major championship qualification standards when setting progressions in the high jump and pole vault at the finals site, but ultimately will determine progressions that are in the best interests of the NCAA championships.

8. **Late check-in policy and repercussion at cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field championships.**

   - The committee voted to add policy language regarding student-athletes and teams that check in late for events at the cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field championships. Moving forward teams that check in late and not in accordance with the times stated and outlined in the participant manual will jeopardize participation in their event, will have a letter sent to their institutional athletics director and will have a financial fine assessed for failing to abide by championship policies.
Committee Chair: Angie Lansing, Indiana State University, Missouri Valley Conference
Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

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<tr>
<td>Trey Clark, Lamar University; Southland Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Eggerth, Kennesaw State University; Atlantic Sun Conference.</td>
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<td>Herman Frazier, Syracuse University; Atlantic Coast Conference.</td>
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<td>Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference.</td>
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<td>Nicole Harvey, University of Central Florida; American Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Angie Lansing, Indiana State University; Missouri Valley Conference.</td>
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<td>Julie Levesque, University of Texas at El Paso; Conference USA.</td>
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<td>Wendy McFarlane-Smith, University of Delaware; Colonial Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharlene Milwood-Lee, Farleigh Dickinson University; Northeast Conference.</td>
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<td>Ben Paxton, Winthrop University; Big South Conference.</td>
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<td>Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University; Big 12 Conference.</td>
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<td>Matt Utesch, Lehigh University; Patriot League.</td>
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<td>Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA.</td>
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<td>Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Anjellica Rospond, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Jerry Vaughn, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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