ACTION ITEM

1. Nonlegislative item.

   • Update to cross country championships selection criteria.

   (1) **Recommendation.** That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve adding language to allow for additional at-large individual qualifiers to the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championship field when a region has less than the four allowable automatic individual qualifiers. The selection language currently states, “The committee will select two at-large individuals by identifying the highest non-qualifying individual finishers at the regional meets. All individual at-large qualifiers must finish in the top 25 within their region meet.” The request would be to change this language to the following:

   The committee will select two at-large individuals by identifying the highest non-qualifying individual finishers at the regional meets. All individual at-large qualifiers must finish in the top 25 within their region meet. In cases where regions have less than four automatic individual qualifiers meet the required selection criteria, the committee will add individual at-large qualifiers to maintain the maximum number of 255 participants per gender. The next selected at-large individual(s) would be the next highest non-qualifying individual finishers among the regional meets. Any additional at-large individuals selected must finish in the top 25 of their regional meet.

   (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2017.

   (3) **Rationale.** This allows for the Division I Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committee to maximize the field size at 255 participants and fill any open spot with an additional at-large individual qualifier rather than leaving a spot vacant. The committee experienced this situation during the 2016 championship selections and learned that the recommended resolution was applied the last time this happened in 2006.

   (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None, as the recommendation maintains the maximum field size.
(5) **Student-athlete impact.** The recommendation allows participants to be added to the championship field while still maintaining the maximum field size, ensuring that the most student-athletes gain a championship experience.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Cross Country.**
   
   - The committee reviewed the cross country selection criteria and noted the following:
     
     a. The committee is pleased with the Competition Oversight Committee’s approval in spring 2016 to change the word “may” to “will” in selection item 3c, which gives greater consideration to head-to-head competition conducted closest to the regional championships. The committee noted the word “will” puts more emphasis on the head-to-head competition between teams rather than deferring to common opponents.
     
     b. Initially the committee was concerned whether the selection criteria needed to define “later in the season” and if it was fair to weigh a head-to-head victory that occurred on Friday more than a head-to-head victory that occurred on Saturday. However, the committee noted that there is no need to define “later in the season” by a single day of competition when looking at head-to-head results because, given the nature of cross country, no teams will compete head-to-head more than once in a weekend.
     
     c. The committee also decided it would be important to look at adding language to the selection criteria that more specifically defines what to do in situations where there are multiple team ties in head-to-head competition and against common opponents. The committee will further explore and develop proposed language in the coming months.

2. **Indoor track and field championships, outdoor track and field east and west preliminary rounds and outdoor track and field championship schedule of events.**
   
   - The committee reviewed competition schedules for the 2017 NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track and Field Championships, the outdoor track and field east and west preliminary rounds, and the 2017 NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Championships. The committee approved tentative schedules to share with each host institution and ESPN for feedback. Once final feedback has been received from ESPN and each host institution the committee will make one final review before releasing the official competition schedule for each event.

3. **Outdoor track and field technical manual.** Committee members reviewed the outdoor track and field technical manual. The updated manual will be released in January.
4. Implementation of new relay policy at indoor and outdoor track and field championships.

- The committee reviewed the new relay rule that was approved and added to the 2017 and 2018 Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book. Given the change that the institution now owns the mark and there is no longer a requirement for a certain number of the original qualifying members to run on the relay, the committee has created a championship policy to address the number of alternates that each institution can name during packet pick-up at the championships. Each relay card will consist of the four original members that were a part of the qualifying team. However, each institution will also be allowed to name up to four alternates by no later than the close of packet pick-up. Additionally, any other student-athlete who is competing in another event at the championship is considered a substitute and is eligible as a replacement on the relay team. No other student-athlete other than those on the original qualifying team, those listed as an alternate or those already in the meet in another event may run on the relay.

- The committee also noted that for outdoor track and field, institutions will be allowed to name four alternates at the preliminary rounds before the close of packet pick-up and then will be allowed to name four new alternates at the final site before the close of packet pick-up. The alternates named at the preliminary rounds do not need to be the same alternates named at the final site.

- Committee members also noted that under the new relay rule the championship travel reimbursement policy will remain the same. The four members who actually compete and earn a qualifying position will be the only individuals for which NCAA championship travel reimbursement will be provided. NCAA travel reimbursement will not be provided to alternates, even if they compete in the championship.

- Committee members decided that initial check-in for all relay teams will be no later than 20 minutes before their scheduled relay event for both indoor and outdoor track and field championships. All teams must be checked in by this time and will be escorted to final staging by the clerk. All relay teams must leave for final staging as a group in accordance with the clerk’s directive. Any final changes or replacements to the relay may occur up until five minutes before the published start time of the event. No changes will be allowed later than five minutes before the published start time of the relay event.

Committee Chair: Angie Lansing, Indiana State University, Missouri Valley Conference
Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
Trey Clark, Lamar University; Southland Conference.
Andy Eggerth, Kennesaw State University; Atlantic Sun Conference.
Herman Frazier, Syracuse University; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference.
Nicole Harvey, University of Central Florida; American Athletic Conference.
Angie Lansing, Indiana State University; Missouri Valley Conference.
Julie Levesque, University of Texas at El Paso; Conference USA.
Wendy McFarlane-Smith, University of Delaware; Colonial Athletic Conference.
Sharlene Milwood-Lee, Farleigh Dickinson University; Northeast Conference.
Ben Paxton, Winthrop University; Big South Conference.
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University; Big 12 Conference.
Matt Utesch, Lehigh University; Patriot League

Absentees:
None.

Guests in Attendance:
Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA.

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.