

2026-27 NCAA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

This document outlines the criteria that all track and field meets must follow in order for marks to count towards qualifying for the NCAA national championships. Information in this document is relevant for all indoor and outdoor track and field meets and events unless otherwise noted. If a meet/event does not follow the criteria, the NCAA Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committees have the authority to remove results from the performance lists. Coaches can report any meets or events that do not follow the criteria outlined below by following the Guidelines for Reporting Qualifying Criteria Violations, which are available on the NCAA.org divisional sport landing pages for indoor and outdoor track and field.

1. Qualifying Period. A qualifying mark for entry into national championships, including first round meets for Division I outdoor track and field, must be made between the following dates:

Indoor

Division I – December 1 or the preceding Friday if December 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, through the second Sunday prior to the national championships. (Exceptions: A combined event competition beginning on November 30, or the preceding Thursday if December 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday; and conference championships concluding by 5 p.m. Eastern time the second Monday prior to the national championships, will fall within the qualifying window. Note, all results for conference championships concluding on the second Monday prior to the national championship must be posted to [TFRRS](#) by the 5 p.m. Eastern time deadline)

Division II – December 1, if it falls on a Friday. If not, then the Friday preceding December 1 through the second Sunday prior to the national championships.

Division III – December 1 through the Saturday prior to the national championships.

Outdoor

Division I – March 1 through the second Sunday prior to the start of first-round competition. (Exception: Conference championships concluding by 5 p.m. Eastern time the second Monday prior to the first-round competition fall within the qualifying window. Note, all results for conference championships concluding on the second Monday prior to the first-round competition must be posted to [TFRRS](#) by the 5 p.m. Eastern time deadline)

Division II – The third Thursday in February through the second Sunday prior to the national championships.

Division III – March 1 through the Thursday prior to the national championships.

2. Rules. Qualifying marks must be made in a scheduled collegiate or open track and field meet conducted under the NCAA Rules of Competition or an open track and field competition conducted under the competition rules of the NCAA, USATF or World Athletics.
3. Manual Timing. Marks will not be accepted in any events where manual timing (MT) is used.
4. Meet Management. Marks will **not** be acceptable if:
 - a. Contestants or spectators are asked to officiate;
 - b. Official results are not preserved and available for inspection (i.e., retain finish images and field-event results through conclusion of the season) *Note: Finish images and field-event results may be requested by the championship committee for the verification of performance;
 - c. Combined-events only competition in which fewer than six eligible student-athletes per gender start or all participants are from the same team. Combined-event only competition must have at a minimum two different institutions, or an institution and at least one unattached athlete not affiliated with the participating school;
 - d. Enroute times are used or if intermediate times are taken from a longer race (e.g., 800 Meters during 1,000 Meters);
 - e. More than one race is contested concurrently (e.g., 3,000 Meters and 5,000 Meters contested together);

- f. Wind readings are not recorded in the 100 Meters, 200 Meters, 100- and 110-Meter Hurdles, and Long/Triple Jump with a gauge specific for that event and where wind readings exceed 4.0 meters per second. This is only applicable to combined events when a submission is used for an individual open event;
 - g. Contestants are given a second opportunity to compete in the same event(s) within the same meet, unless it is in accordance with the normal established advancement procedure;
 - h. Trials and finals of the dash and hurdles are not contested at the same distance;
 - i. Competitors run any turn on indoor tracks that are 400 Meters or longer;
 - j. Meets are held on outdoor tracks that are longer than 400 Meters or in lanes where the radius is greater than 50 Meters;
 - k. All events are not held at the main venue, unless institutions request a waiver, and are granted a waiver, to hold events elsewhere by petitioning the appropriate divisional chair and NCAA liaison;
 - l. The facility does not have the proper survey or certification for all track and field event facilities, including temporary facilities (e.g. raised runways) for both indoor and outdoor facilities. Any modification to a facility would require a new survey or certification.
5. Minimum Number of Institutions and Student-Athletes. Marks will only be accepted for qualifying in meets as follows:

Division I – For scoring meets, at least two four-year institutions each with a minimum of 14 eligible student-athletes per gender per institution must compete. For non-scoring meets, at least two four-year institutions with a minimum of two total student-athletes per gender (minimum of one student-athlete per institution) must compete.

Division II - For scoring meets, at least two four-year institutions each with a minimum of 10 eligible student-athletes per gender per institution must compete. For non-scoring meets, at least two four-year institutions with a minimum of two total student-athletes per gender (minimum of one student-athlete per institution) must compete.

Division III – For scoring meets, at least two two-year or four-year institutions each with a minimum of 10 eligible student-athletes per gender per institution must compete. For non-scoring meets, at least two two-year or four-year institutions with a minimum of two total student-athletes per gender (minimum of one student-athlete per institution) must compete.

Exception:

- Marks achieved by a student-athlete at their respective country's official national championship event. These national championship events must meet all additional NCAA qualifying criteria, except for the minimum number of events for marks to count towards NCAA qualifying. Additionally, participating student-athletes must compete as a representative of their institution and compete in their institutional uniform. It will be the responsibility of the participating institution(s) to work with the governing body to ensure all NCAA results reporting requirements are followed and results are uploaded to TFRRS, with TFRRS ID(s) for the student-athlete(s), for those marks to count towards NCAA qualification.

6. Minimum Number of Events. Marks will only be accepted for qualifying in meets where a minimum of five events are open to collegiate student-athletes for indoor track and field, per gender, and 10 events are open to collegiate student-athletes for outdoor track and field, per gender. Additionally, the three divisional committees have elected to allow the use of mixed gender relays to count as an event, for each gender, toward the required event minimums. Multiple groupings, sections or divisions of any event distance or discipline is a single event. (Refer to 4-c for combined event only competition.)

Exception:

- Refer to item 5 exception.

7. Unattached Student-Athletes. Institutions may not submit marks for NCAA qualification for student-athletes who are not "representing the institution", as defined by NCAA at the time the mark was achieved, i.e., "unattached student-

athletes”. In order for marks to count toward NCAA championship qualifying, student-athletes must be entered as a representative of the institution and compete in their institutional uniform.

8. Relay Criteria. Only student-athletes eligible for national championships (NCAA Bylaw 14) may be used. Additional criteria for relays include:

- a. Relay split times shall not be accepted for individual events;
- b. In relay races, the names of four student-athletes who ran a qualifying time shall be entered. In the final declaration, these four student-athletes must be designated as the team;
- c. Qualification for the distance medley relay must be contested in the following order: 1,200, 400, 800, and 1,600 meters; or 1,320, 440, 880, and 1,760 yards.

9. Indoor Meet Procedures:

- a. Qualifying marks must be made using an indoor facility except for the weight throw, which may be conducted outdoors;
- b. Qualifying marks at 55 Meters will only be accepted from facilities unable to be configured for the 60 Meters or originally configured for the 55 Meters only;
- c. Qualifying standards in oval events may not be met on banked tracks of more than 220 yards;
- d. **Hydraulic Tracks**: Prior to the meet, facilities must designate if the meet will be conducted on a properly surveyed and marked flat or banked track. The configuration of the track will be positioned, either flat or banked in accordance with the rules, must be clearly communicated to all participating institutions and stated in all pre-meet materials. (**Meet hosts shall also ensure, and have documentation on hand, that the track is appropriately surveyed and marked for the track position in which the meet is to be conducted. The track must stay in the designated and appropriately surveyed position for the duration of the meet. The degree of the bank may NOT be changed on an event-by-event basis*);
- e. **Final Qualifying Meet Applications – Division III Only**: Institutions wanting to host an indoor meet, other than a conference meet, in the final week of the qualifying window (Monday through Saturday) should notify the NCAA of their intent to host a meet so an accurate list of opportunities can be posted and available to the membership.

10. Outdoor Meet Procedures:

- a. Qualifying standards must be competed in meters, except for the 400- and 1,600- meters relays, and the 1,500 meter;
- b. Qualifying marks in all divisions must be made using an outdoor facility, except that the high jump and/or pole vault may be moved indoors for safety reasons by a decision of the competition’s meet management;
- c. **Final Qualifying Meet Applications – Division III only**. Institutions wanting to host an outdoor meet, other than a conference meet, in the final week of the qualifying window (Monday through Thursday) should notify the NCAA of their intent to host a meet so an accurate list of opportunities can be posted and available to the membership.

Additional Notes:

11. Adjustments to performances in specific events, for (a) the type of indoor facility and (b) altitude, shall be determined by the appropriate divisional NCAA Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committees. Indoor facility adjustments apply to all oval running events for DII and DIII only. Altitude adjustments shall not apply to running events used in combined event scoring for DII and DIII. The Division I committee has elected to eliminate the use of indoor/outdoor altitude conversions and indoor track indexing/size conversions for all NCAA championship qualifying marks. Altitude and indoor track indexing/size converted marks will NOT be allowed for Division I championship qualifying.

12. Marks achieved by student-athletes in a combined event competition will be allowed to count toward open event qualification, even if the student-athlete does not finish the entire combined event competition.

13. Below are the permissible event conversions for NCAA indoor track and field. The Standardized Track Event Conversion Factors will be used to convert times for the non-championship events listed below to determine what the corresponding times would be for the respective championship events. The Standardized Track Event Conversion Factors can be found online at www.NCAA.org (NCAA.org, Division I/II/III, Championships, Indoor Track and Field, Links/Resources).

55 Meters to 60 Meters*

55 Meter Hurdles to 60 Meter Hurdles*

Mile Relay to 4x400 Meter Relay

Distance Medley Relay (yards) to Distance Medley Relay (metric)

*See note above in 9-b regarding when it is permissible to contest the 55 Meters and 55 Meter Hurdles

14. Below are the permissible event conversions for NCAA outdoor track and field. The Standardized Track Event Conversion Factors will be used to convert times for the non-championship events listed below to determine what the corresponding times would be for the respective championship events. The Standardized Track Event Conversion Factors can be found online at www.NCAA.org (NCAA.org, Division I/II/III, Championships, Indoor Track and Field, Links/Resources).

Mile to 1500 Meters

4x110 Yard Relay to 4x100 Meter Relay

Mile Relay to 4x400 Meter Relay

15. **Division I fine for failure to follow NCAA qualifying criteria.** The NCAA Division I track and field and cross country championships sub-committee has elected to implement a fine of up to \$1500 for meet hosts that fail to follow NCAA championship qualifying criteria.

For any questions regarding the qualifying criteria, please contact the NCAA liaison or committee chair for your respective division.

Division I

NCAA Liaison, Jeff Mlynski (jmlynski@ncaa.org)

Committee Chair, Karina Handeland (handelan@up.edu)

Division II

NCAA Liaison, **TBD**

Committee Chair, Tabitha Bemis (tabitha.bemis@sru.edu)

Division III

NCAA Liaison, Laura Peterson-Mlynski (lpeterson@ncaa.org)

Committee Chair, Josh Henry (jhenry2@carthage.edu)