



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I AND III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEES, NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK
AND FIELD COMMITTEE, AND THE NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS
COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JUNE 12, 2024, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and introductions.** NCAA staff welcomed the committees and guests to the meeting.
2. **Rules updates, proposals, etc..** Mark Kostek, the NCAA track and field and cross country secretary-rules editor, and Jack Hoyt, NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee Chair, joined the committees to provide an update on proposed rule changes and provided an opportunity for committee members to ask questions and provide feedback.
 - a. **World Athletics and USTAF rules.** All three divisional sport committees shared their support for the adoption of the World Athletics shoe rule and the elimination of the word consecutive in the NCAA rule book when it comes to lane line stepping allowance.
 - b. **Heptathlon and Decathlon.** The committees were updated on the review that would be taking place to possibly modify the time allowance for the completion of these events from two consecutive days to 48 hours.
 - c. **Weight throw.** The committee was updated on discussions taking place on possible rule changes surrounding the weight throw, including the review of bottomless bags, handle measurements, and the process for impounding weights and them remaining under the control of the officials at all times during competition. The Division II committee expressed concerns with impounding implements during the regular season, noting smaller institutions could struggle to have enough volunteers and/or officials to oversee the implements.
 - d. **Indoor track and field rule on 200m and 400m when there are 20 or more competitors.** The committees shared their feedback and support on the rules committee considering the elimination of the rule that requires rounds to be run in the indoor 200m and 400m when there are 20 or more competitors.
 - e. **Seeding into preferred lanes in first rounds.** The committees were updated on a proposal received to consider allowing seeding into preferred lanes in first round competition.

3. **DirectAthletics.** Dave Stelnik of DirectAthletics/FloSports attended the joint divisional meetings and shared a year-in-review presentation with the committee.
4. **Equal race distances survey discussion – cross country.** The three divisional sport committees discussed the idea of a cross country race distances survey and were unanimously opposed to surveying the student-athletes and membership on this topic. The committees noted that for two consecutive years all three committees were unanimously opposed to the idea of considering changes to men’s and women’s race distances in cross country. The committees noted that the idea of surveying without support from the oversight committees and bodies is in complete contradiction to the governance model and calls into question their roles and responsibilities. The committee noted that surveying student-athletes on rules related items is not common practice, poses several accuracy challenges and that polling would be required every couple of years given student-athlete turnover. The committees reiterated their stance in opposition to changes, as has been noted over the previous two years, highlighting that we should not be discussing the idea of lowering the men’s distance to equalize men’s and women’s distances. It was noted in particular that at the 2023 NCAA Division I Men’s Cross Country Championships that during the men’s 10-kilometer race, 117 athletes were 2:37.1 or faster at 1,000 meters which is world record pace for 10,000 meters on the track. Lowering the men’s distance would lead to safety concerns and competition integrity as it relates to density of the runners. Further, there has not been a desire expressed from coaches, administrators or student-athletes in all three divisions to increase the women’s distance.

The committees continue to review and consider all factors when it comes to the structure and conduct of competition including race distances and the context of race density and spread, recruitment and interest. The committees will continue to monitor this topic if anything changes but noted that there is no interest to support exploring this topic further at this point in time.

5. **Consideration of a joint location for DI, DII and DIII cross country championships.** The committees briefly discussed the idea of a joint cross country championship but did not have much interest in considering it at this time. The committees noted concerns with identifying a large enough city with a championship quality course, concerns with egress in and out of the venue with fans coming and going based on timing of each divisional championship, as well as concerns on who would race last and the integrity of course conditions if there is bad weather.
6. **Officiating – track and field.**
 - a. **NCAA rules test.** The committees were updated on the development of an NCAA officials rules related test being developed by Milan Donley, NCAA national officials assignor, and Mark Kostek, track and field secretary rules editor. Milan and Mark plan to

have a finalized test for implementation through the USA Track & Field officials certification portal by no later than September 1, 2024.

- b. RefQuest.** The committees received an update on the continued growth and use of the RefQuest platform which is utilized as the hub for NCAA track and field officiating and NCAA championship registration for officials across all three divisions.
 - c. Official's code of conduct.** The committees discussed the topic of an official's code of conduct and asked for exploration on what typical penalties are across other NCAA sports for officials who break the code of conduct.
 - d. Competition managers.** The Division I committee shared positive feedback on year two of the implementation of competition managers at the Division I Track and Field Championships. The Division II and Division III committees will continue to discuss and consider for future implementation given there are budgetary implications.
- 7. DVSPORT – track and field video review.** The committees discussed DVSPORT and their performance during the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. The committees continued to praise DVSPORT for their flexibility and willingness to accommodate onsite, along with the quality of work provided at the championships.
- 8. Artificial pistol.** The committees discussed the use of artificial pistols for the championships. The committees took no action on exploring the use of an artificial pistol, stating issues with the sound and them not being used consistently during the regular season. The committees felt that there needs to be greater use of artificial pistols during the regular season before they could even consider implementing them for use at the NCAA championships.
- 9. DII indoor track and field conversions/indexing updating.** The committees were updated on the decision by Division II to adopt a new indexing formula. The new formula will have a specific indexing for every meter, so indexing will be specific to each track rather than each track falling into a specific range. The Division II committee will submit a formal proposal for approval by the Division II Championships Committee.
- 10. Track and field qualifying criteria review.**
 - a. Review of criteria.** The committees reviewed the qualifying criteria and did not elect to make any changes to the criteria for the 2024-25 season.
 - b. Guidelines for reporting violations.** The committees reviewed the current guidelines for reporting violations and made no changes.
- 11. Gill Athletics.** The committee reviewed the Gill gifts that were ordered this year for both coaches and student-athletes and offered suggestions for possible future gifts provided by the NCAA official equipment supplier.

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Committee Chairs: *Blake Boldon, Drake University.*
 Joe Wassink, Limestone University.
 Jessica Cooper, Grove City College
 Sage Fowler, Southern Arkansas University

Staff Liaison: *Donisha Carter, Championships and Alliances*
 Ashley Jenkins, Championships and Alliances
 Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
 Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I and III Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committees, NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Track and Field Committee, and the NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Committee June 12, 2024, Joint Meeting
Attendees:
Danielle Anderson, Lone Star Conference.
Ritchie Beene, Alabama State University.
Tabitha Bemis, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.
Blake Boldon, Drake University.
Cody Brousek, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
Jason Bryan, Catawba College.
Jessica Cooper, Grove City College.
Tina Davis-Fernandes, California State University, Los Angeles.
Jonathan D’Ottavio, Moravian University.
Shane Drahota, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
Jason Drake, California State University, Fresno.
Zach Emerson, Franklin Pierce University.
Sage Fowler, Southern Arkansas University
Emily Fulton, Virginia Military Institute.
Asha Gibson-Smith, Austin Peay State University.
Sydney Griffin, United States Military Academy.
Karina Handeland, University of Portland.
Josh Henry, Carthage College.
Elizabeth Hoge, Ashland University.
Andrew Huber, West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Kerri Inman, Manhattan College.
Randi Lydum, Western Oregon University
David Nicholson, Eastern Connecticut State University.

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Katie Rees, Adelphi University.
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University.
Katelyn Smith, Adams State University
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University.
Ayanna Tweedy, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.
Joe Wassink, Limestone University.
Austin Weyant, Lynn University.
Joel Williams, Tufts University.
Absentees:
Lauren Brownrigg, Pacific University (Oregon).
Milan Donley, National Officials' Assignor for Track and Field.
Jackie Nicholson, Rochester Institute of Technology.
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.
Mike Rosolino, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Guests in Attendance:
Jack Hoyt, Azusa Pacific University.
Mark Kostek, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Dave Stelnik, DirectAthletics/FloSports.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Donisha Carter, Championships and Alliances.
Ashley Jenkins, Championships and Alliances.
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Margaret Gaines, Dallas Woods, Demetria Young.