



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 2, 2020, TELECONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Change the definition of an A Team and B Team in cross country.**
  - a. Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve changing the definition of an A Team and a B Team to be based on the individuals who start a race for an institution, rather than those who finish a race for an institution, in order to give credit (at-large points) during the selection process to institutions for beating teams during the qualifying window that start as a team but do not finish as a team.
  - b. Effective date. August 1, 2020.
  - c. Rationale. Per the NCAA Cross Country and Track and Field Rule Book, it is a requirement for teams that start as teams but do not finish as teams to be listed in alphabetical order at the end of the results as DNF. The committee also recognizes that in some cases, teams may try and manipulate the system by having athletes who are running poorly drop out of a race in order to prevent teams from earning at-large points (wins) against them when it comes time for the selection of at-large teams to the NCAA championships. With the addition of live results and live split points that show how a team is doing in competition it now helps coaches even more to assess team scores prior to the finish of a race. The committee believes that implementing this rule helps protect the integrity of competition and ensures teams are putting forth an honest effort in competition.
  - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
  - e. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation protects the integrity of competition.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Negative component for a loss in cross country.** The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee discussed possibly implementing a negative component for a loss in cross country and using both wins and losses data as criteria for selections. Currently, teams are credited only for their good wins and not penalized for a bad loss. The committee feels that penalizing teams for bad losses may possibly deter teams from chasing at-large selection points at some of the meets that are perceived to dictate at-large selection points, if they know they may be penalized for their losses. The committee chose to delay any action on the matter at this time and seek further feedback through the cross country executive committee of the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.
- 2. Scratch from NCAA cross country national championships.** The committee voted to adjust the deadline notification for an athlete who will not compete at the national championships for whatever reason, including medical, from 9 p.m. Eastern time on the Saturday of cross country selections to noon Eastern time on the Saturday of selections. The committee felt it was important for this deadline to be moved prior to the 5 p.m. Eastern time selection announcement to accommodate any changes in time for the selection show.
- 3. Seeding from the outdoor track and field preliminary rounds to the final site of the outdoor track and field championships.** Based on allowances within the NCAA Cross Country and Track and Field Rule Book, the committee voted to seed from the outdoor track and field preliminary-round sites to the final site based on place only, not time. The committee recognizes that due to the different weather conditions and nonsynchronous competition that can impact each preliminary-round site that the most equitable thing is to seed strictly on place finish and not use time.

*Committee Chair: Milan Donley, University of Kansas, Big 12 Conference*  
*Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee January 2, 2020, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Trey Clark, Lamar University.	
Abbie Day, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.	
Milan Donley, University of Kansas.	
Elvis Forde, Temple University.	
Amy Horst, Loyola University Maryland.	
Jennifer Lawlor, Monmouth University.	

Ervin Lewis, University of North Florida.
Wendy McFarlane-Smith, University of Delaware.
Sharlene Milwood-Lee, Farleigh Dickinson University.
Ryan Orner, Xavier University
TJ Shelton, The Ohio State University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
None.