



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 20, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Nonlegislative items.**

- 1. Modified field size for the 2021 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Preliminary rounds.**

- a. Recommendation. The committee unanimously recommends that the field size for the East and West Preliminary round sites be reduced from 48 per individual event to 32 per individual event with relay events remaining at 24 institutions per event. This would reduce the overall championship field by a total of 1,152 (576 per site) – a one-third reduction.
- b. Effective date. Immediately, and only for the 2021 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field East and West Preliminary championships.
- c. Rationale. The committee noted that the preliminary championship rounds are an important and integral part of the championship format. They believe this adjustment helps address COVID-19 concerns that are associated with large number of participants while also being more fiscally responsible both to the NCAA and participating institutions, and overall protecting the integrity of the championships and providing student-athlete opportunities. Additionally, the smaller field sizes would allow the meet operations to be conducted in a much more manageable way to ensure physical distancing throughout the course of competition while also allowing greater flexibility within the development of the schedule of events to aid in this effort.
- d. Estimated budget impact. The recommendation should result in a positive budget impact to both the NCAA (e.g., hosting expenses, COVID testing, etc.) and member institutions (e.g., travel, pre-competition COVID testing, etc.).
- e. Student-athlete impact. The committee believes the recommendation provides the best opportunity to conduct the preliminary rounds safely and in a fiscally responsible manner while protecting the integrity of the student-athlete experience.

- 2. Revised participant announcement date for the 2020 Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships.**

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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- a. Recommendation. That the participant announcement date for the 2020 Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships be moved from Saturday, March 6 to Sunday, March 7.
- b. Effective date. Immediately.
- c. Rationale. Currently, the cross country selections are scheduled for Saturday, March 6. With completely new selection criteria, and the elimination of regional competition, which means no automatic qualifiers advancing from regionals as has been the case in the past, it is likely that selections on Saturday, March 6 will be much lengthier and require greater committee deliberation, especially with so many conference meets scheduled for Friday, March 5.

To provide adequate time to review and discuss selections without feeling pressured to meet a Saturday deadline for the buildout and execution of the selection show on the same day, committee members would prefer the actual announcement and selection show not occur until Sunday, March 7. Also, in years past it has been common to begin developing the selection show even before the committee begins its deliberations since 18 of the 31 men's teams and 18 of the 31 women's teams were known due to their automatic qualification from the regional championships. This year, the 62 competing teams (31 per gender) will not be known for the selection show buildout until after the committee meets.

The move to announce on Sunday would still be one full day earlier than in normal years when the championship is conducted in November. Usually there are seven days from selections to the championship, and a Sunday announcement this year would provide eight total days between selections and the championships.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation helps ensure a less rushed selection show and provides the committee with more time to thoroughly review and discuss individual and team selections, which prioritizes the student-athlete experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **None.**

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

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee January 20, 2021, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Blake Boldon, Drake University.	
Abbie Day, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.	
Milan Donley, University of Kansas.	
Jason Drake, California State University, Fresno.	
Elvis Forde, Temple University.	
Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference.	
Amy Horst, Loyola University Maryland.	
Jennifer Lawlor, Monmouth University.	
Ervin Lewis, University of North Florida.	
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.	
Matt Roe, Butler University.	
TJ Shelton, The Ohio State University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.	