



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 15, 2025, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **2026 outdoor track and field West first round.**

(1) Recommendation. Relocate the 2026 outdoor track and field West first round from Sacramento to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The committee discussed relocating the West first round currently slated to be held in Sacramento due to facility changes to the venue that will impact Sacramento's ability to host. The committee reviewed bids from other institutions that bid on this event for 2026 and contacted them to determine their availability and interest. The University of Arkansas was among the institutions to confirm their interest and willingness to host. Accordingly, the committee formally recommends relocating the event to Arkansas since the venue originally scheduled to host in Sacramento will not be able to do so.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The University of Arkansas has hosted this event and numerous other high-level competitions over the years. Relocating this event will ensure a high-level championship experience within a great venue for track and field.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

**1. Approval of recent reports.** The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee approved the October and November committee reports as written.

**2. Appeal of denied waiver request.** The committee reviewed an institution's appeal of a waiver the committee had previously denied to host throwing events at a venue different from the one at which the main competition is being conducted. The committee based its denial on protecting the integrity of competition and maintaining what is truly a "track and field" meet. The committee felt that this request could be accommodated through other means such as schedule modifications or conducting competition on a different day at the main venue.

The committee did note that they would explore a possible adjustment to the minimum events required per the track and field qualifying criteria, in order for marks to count toward championships qualification, during their summer annual meetings.

3. **Outdoor track and field competition manager recommendations.** The committee approved a list of recommended outdoor track and field competition managers from Milan Donley, national officials assignor, for the three sites of the NCAA outdoor track and field championships this spring. NCAA staff will notify approved competition managers to secure their commitment in the coming weeks.
4. **Thermal devices for spot checking throws at the indoor track and field championships.** The committee agreed to explore using a thermal device for spot checking where implements land during competition at the NCAA indoor track and field championships. The committee feels strongly that this device will allow for greater accuracy and measuring of the throws during competition.
5. **Outdoor track and field final site announcers.** The committee approved the third and final announcer for invitation to the Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Oregon. Official invitations will be sent to the three selected announcers in the coming weeks.
6. **Outdoor track and field ESPN broadcast windows.** The committee reviewed the list of recommended broadcast time slots from ESPN for the outdoor track and field championships in Oregon and confirmed the times from the options presented to the committee to be shared back with ESPN.
7. **Outdoor track and field first round competition schedules.** The committee made one adjustment to the original draft schedule based on impact of lights in a particular field event area at one of the two sites for the first rounds. The committee has approved the remainder of the schedule and will post the final schedule for each site in the coming weeks.

*Committee Chair:* Karina Handeland, University of Portland, West Coast Conference  
*Staff Liaison:* Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee January 15, 2025, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Ritchie Beene, Alabama State University.	
Cody Brousek, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Jason Drake, California State University, Fresno.	

Emily Fulton, Virginia Military Institute.
Asha Gibson-Smith, Austin Peay State University.
Sean Graham, American University.
Karina Handeland, University of Portland.
Funmi Jimoh, Rice University.
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Shirelle Jackson, University of Miami (Florida).
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Jeff Mlynski.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Demetria Young.