



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JUNE 12-13, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Committee.

- a. The Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee reviewed and designated subcommittee assignments for the 2019-20 academic year for cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field.
- b. The committee reviewed championships travel and monthly teleconference dates for the 2019-20 academic year.
- c. The committee confirmed the appointment of Milan Donley, administrator at the University of Kansas, as chair of the committee for 2019-20. Mr. Donley is the director of the Kansas Relays, has a wealth of cross country and track and field knowledge and has displayed great leadership as a committee member.

2. Cross country.

- a. The committee discussed the championships in Madison, Wisconsin, noting that overall, the championships were a great success. The outstanding commitment and organization by the Wisconsin staff, the great crowd turnout and the tremendous competition were of special mention.
- b. The committee discussed and elected to move forward with the use of bib timing tags instead of shoe chips for the 2019 championships at Indiana State University.
- c. The committee briefly discussed the date formula for the national championships and agreed to collect feedback about exploring the possibility of moving the championships back two days to Monday instead of Saturday.
- d. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures and made no adjustments for 2019-20.

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- e. The committee noted the current vacancy that exists for the 2021 south cross country regional and the desire to seek interest from member institutions in the south that may be interested in hosting the regional championship event.
- f. The committee reviewed timing and results bids for the NCAA cross country championships and selected a vendor.
- g. The committee visited a recommendation from Sam Seemes of the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) to mandate that DNF's in cross country be recorded in all final results that are uploaded to the official NCAA cross country results reporting site, www.TFRRS.org. The Division I committee, along with the Division II and Division III committees, supported this recommendation and will include the following as a new requirement in the cross country results reporting policies:

The three divisional committees with oversight of NCAA cross country have elected to require that meet hosts include DNF's in the results for all NCAA cross country competitions. If teams have a student-athlete that starts a race, but does not finish, the committee is requiring that meet hosts ensure that their timing and results company is updating results to reflect DNF's prior to uploading the results to the official NCAA results reporting site, www.TFRRS.org. A method being recommended by the committee is to have clerking onsite and establish a deadline by when participating institutions must scratch student-athletes that will not run. The assumption would then be that any student-athlete not scratched, and who does not finish with a time, is a presumed DNF in the final results. Note that failure to comply with this policy may result in a fine to the host institution for improper results reporting.

- h. The committee talked at length about formulating questions for a survey to the NCAA Division I cross country coaching constituency in mid-August that seeks input to help inform the committee's review of the current cross country regional championship structure, as well as men's and women's race distances both during the regular season and at the NCAA regionals and national championships.

3. Indoor track and field.

- a. The committee reviewed the championship surveys and noted that one of the primary concerns seemed to be the options in equipment available in the designated weight room. Other weight room options will be explored in advance of returning to Birmingham in 2022. Additionally, the committee noted that there were some officiating concerns and asked that they be relayed to the NCAA national officials assignor.
- b. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and made one adjustment for 2019-20. The committee

elected to move the timeline for all results reporting to 5 p.m. ET two Mondays prior to the national championships. However, the only competition that could occur on that Monday would be conference championships. This extended deadline allows for all other meets, outside of conference championships, that occurred over that last weekend to have a little more time to get their results uploaded to the NCAA official results reporting site, www.TFRRS.org.

- c. The committee reviewed the indoor track and field technical manual and a recommendation from Sam Seemes at USTFCCCA to reduce the number of advancers in the final of the mile from 10 to eight. The committee opposed this recommendation and chose to leave the number of advancers in the mile at 10.

The one update the committee did make was a revision to the case study on medical scratches from individual events and the allowance of those athletes to return as alternates on the relay if they are later deemed healthy. The revised case study is as follows:

SITUATION: *An institution scratches a student-athlete in an open event prior to the medical scratch deadline but would like to bring the student-athlete back as a possible alternate in the relay. Is this permissible?*

RULING: *Yes, only if the student-athlete has seen the onsite championship doctor and has been cleared to medically return to competition on the relay. Note that a medical scratch prior to the medical scratch deadline disqualifies a student-athlete from competing in ALL open events.*

- d. The committee reviewed a tentative competition schedule for the 2020 indoor track and field championships in Albuquerque. The committee made some minor tweaks to the schedule including a decision to accept a proposal from USTFCCCA to not run the 200m races and 5000m races back to back but instead split them up on the schedule to change the tempo of the meet. Instead the men's 5000m will be run, followed by the men's 200m and then the women's 5000m followed by the women's 200m. The tentative schedule will be shared with the host at the University of New Mexico for further consideration and feedback, particularly regarding potential facility constraints, prior to releasing the final schedule for publication.

4. Outdoor track and field.

- a. The committee reviewed the East and West preliminary rounds, noting the superior jobs done by the hosts at both sites.
- b. The committee reviewed the finals site competition, noting several areas where special attention should be focused in advance of 2020, including a re-evaluation of athlete flow,

warm-up space and track surface availability, and parking control. The committee overall was very pleased with the execution of the championships and the job done by the University of Texas staff.

- c. The committee reviewed the current timeline and selection process as outlined in the outdoor track and field pre-championships manual and made one adjustment for 2019-20. The committee elected to move the timeline for all results reporting to 5 p.m. ET two Mondays prior to the east and west preliminary championships. However, the only competition that could occur on that Monday would be conference championships. This extended deadline allows for all other meets, outside of conference championships, that occurred over that last weekend to have a little more time to get their results uploaded to the NCAA official results reporting site, www.TFRRS.org.
- d. The committee reviewed the outdoor track and field technical manual and revised the case study on medical scratches from individual events and the allowance of those athletes to return as alternates on the relay if they are later deemed healthy. The revised case study is as follows:

SITUATION: *An institution scratches a student-athlete in an open event prior to the medical scratch deadline but would like to bring the student-athlete back as a possible alternate in the relay. Is this permissible?*

RULING: *Yes, only if the student-athlete has seen the onsite championship doctor and has been cleared to medically return to competition on the relay. Note that a medical scratch prior to the medical scratch deadline disqualifies a student-athlete from competing in ALL open events.*

Additionally, the committee reviewed language on tie-break procedures in running events for the 12th and last qualifying spot from the preliminary rounds to the final site. The committee tentatively approved tie-break procedures that are being shared with the secretary-rules editor for review prior to approval.

- e. The committee reviewed tentative schedules for the 2020 East and West Preliminary championships at the University of Kentucky and the University of Kansas. At the request of USTFCCCA, the committee has elected to start the running events earlier than in the past. The running events on Thursday and Friday will start at 2 p.m. local time and on Saturday at 5 p.m. local time. The 10,000m races, however, will still remain at a later time on Thursday and will be scheduled for 9 and 9:40 p.m. local time. The committee will share the schedules with host officials at each institution for feedback on any potential facility constraints prior to releasing the final schedule for publication.

5. Relay change policy. The committee reviewed the current policy that allows teams to make changes up until five minutes prior to the published start time of a relay event and noted the difficulties with those changes being communicated to the NCAA data specialist, timing, in-venue PA announcers and television. The committee has asked to explore with the NCAA data specialist possible options to streamline communication on changes including the possibility of changes being entered into some sort of system right at the clerking area.

6. Strategic plans.

The committee began formulating strategic plans for the cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field championships.

For the cross country championships, the committee noted review of the current regional system and race distance as an important item in the immediate future. Committee members also noted that an important goal is to continue to try and enhance the student-athlete experience throughout the postseason both at the regional championships and the national championships. Lastly, the committee wants the championships to be back on television as it was many years ago and have all regional races covered on some broadcast or streaming platform. The committee believes that reviewing the championship date formula could help in the efforts to possibly return to live television.

For both the indoor and outdoor track and field championships, the committee stressed the importance of officiating, both in recruitment and education, as an item of immediate importance. Additionally, the committee believes enhancing the fan experience, notably youth engagement and interaction, as an important aspect at the championships and something that needs to be a goal in the immediate future. To that point the committee feels possibly providing community engagement opportunities for student-athletes with youth could help create long-term fans of the sport. Also, maximizing attendance and ticket sales is another committee goal, as well as evaluating how to possibly get the indoor track and field championships covered live on television. Finally, as in cross country, it is important to continue to try and enhance the student-athlete experience throughout the postseason, including the preliminary rounds and national championship sites.

Committee Chair: Julie Levesque, University of Texas at El Paso, Conference USA
Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 12-13, 2019, Meeting
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Attendees:

Trey Clark, Lamar University.

Milan Donley, University of Kansas.
Herman Frazier, Syracuse University.
Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference.
Amy Horst, Loyola University Maryland.
Jennifer Lawlor, Monmouth University.
Julie Levesque, University of Texas at El Paso.
Ervin Lewis, University of North Florida.
Wendy McFarlane-Smith, University of Delaware.
Sharlene Milwood-Lee, Farleigh Dickinson University.
Mike Nelson, Marquette University.
TJ Shelton, The Ohio State University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.