



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 17-19, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**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 2020-21 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 2020-21 academic year.
- c. The committee confirmed the re-appointment of Milan Donley, administrator at the University of Kansas, as chair of the committee for 2020-21. 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 chair of the committee over the past year.

**2. Strategic plans.**

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

Members noted that for cross country it was important to add to the short-term review the current clerking and check-in process at the regional and national championships. Additionally, including female announcers at the NCAA cross country championships should continue to be explored.

The diversity of announcers also should be considered for the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. In addition, the committee noted the need for continued long-term review and evaluation of the format of the outdoor track and field preliminary rounds.

**3. Championship bids for 2022-26.**

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The committee reviewed bids submitted for the 2022-26 cycle for the final sites for cross country, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, and the preliminary rounds of the outdoor track and field championships. The committee will submit its recommendations for the Competition Oversight Committee to consider.

Additionally, the committee noted the decision to delay awarding cross country regional sites for the time being, as further consideration is given to the restructuring of the regional cross country championship format.

**4. Elimination of 2020-21 championship banquets.** The committee was reminded of the decision to eliminate championship banquets as a cost savings measure for the cross country and indoor track and field championship during the upcoming academic year.

**5. Cross country.**

- a. The committee discussed the upcoming 2020 fall season and began potential contingencies that may need to be implemented with regards to selections criteria and the qualifying window for cross country. While the conversation was productive, no changes were determined regarding the qualifying window or selection criteria for the cross country championships at this time.
- b. The committee continued discussing the directive from the Division I Championships Finance Review Working Group to explore a cross country regional qualifying model with fewer sites and fewer participants for potential implementation as early as 2022. The committee noted the concerns from numerous conference coaching bodies with the proposed five-region, 80-team model aligned by conference. The committee noted that competitive equity, increased travel costs to sponsoring institutions, increased missed class time, increased competition – which is detrimental to cross country athletes who compete across three sports and three seasons – and the impact of consolidating altitude schools with non-altitude schools within the concept were among concerns expressed.

Given this feedback and the charge from the working group, the committee discussed alternative models and began exploring a concept that they wish to be shared for membership feedback before sharing as a proposal to the working group and the Competition Oversight Committee.

Committee members began formulating this new concept based on the feedback received and because they feel they have exhausted the options to identify an at-large selection process that is fair, trusted, equitable and financially feasible for the cross country regional championships. The newly discussed concept would implement qualifying criteria/standards to be eligible to compete at the NCAA cross country regional championships and would be modeled as follows:

**(1) Five-site model with eight regions.**

- Two sites (West and Mountain) would each consist of only one of the eight regions with one men's race and one women's race. One item to note here is that this would keep altitude schools together in one region and would prevent the West Coast/non-altitude schools from going to altitude or across regional lines (increasing travel).
- Three sites (Midwest/South/Northeast) would each consist of two of the eight regions and would have two men's races and two women's races at each site since technically two regions would be competing there.

**(2) Develop qualifying criteria/standards to earn entry into the regional championships.** *(This develops qualifying requirements while also reducing the number of competitors at the regional championships.)*

- Require schools to have at least a .500 record with a minimum number of total opponents during the regular season (the total number of opponents needs to be reviewed further to determine the right number, but if for example 40 opponents were required, no team with less than a 20-20 record could earn access to the regional championships), and;
- Teams would be required to finish in the top two-thirds of their conference.
  - If a team finishes in the top two-thirds of its conference but does not have a .500 record it could not go to the regional championships.
  - If a team has a .500 record but does not finish in the top two-thirds of its conference, it could not go to the regional championships.
  - Teams that win their conference earn an automatic bid to the regional championships even if they do not have a .500 record.
- Individual student-athletes are not able to qualify to the regional championships if they do not finish in the top 25 of their conference meet.

While the committee does not feel this concept is better than the current nine-region model that is being used, members do feel this is the best concept they could devise that addresses qualifying standards, fewer sites and fewer participants as requested by the Division I Championships Finance Review Working Group.

The committee will continue to explore and consider additional details.

- c. The committee discussed the championships at Indiana State, noting the first-class and outstanding job the university did in hosting and executing the event. Special note was given to the ability of the Indiana State staff and convention and visitors bureau staff to address and maintain the course despite the wet conditions.
- d. The committee discussed clerking for future championships and recommended having a line at clerking that is solely dedicated to chip and bib return. Additionally, in preparation for 2020 the committee noted that special exceptions may need to be made regarding how

clerking is handled given the current COVID-19 situation. The committee is considering options that allow for coaches to check in their athletes online or require just one member of the coaching staff to report to clerking to check in athletes rather than having the entire team report.

- e. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures in the pre-championships manual and noted the following updates that will be made:
  - 1) Update language to allow teams to earn at-large points for beating a team that starts as team but does not finish as a team. Updates will be made to A-team/B-team language, adjusting the language from individuals that “finish” to “start or/declare for” the regular season race. Wins over DNF teams will also count in common opponents’ comparison during the selection process.
  - 2) The timeline for a team to notify the NCAA committee if a team or individual chooses to not compete at the cross country national championships will be adjusted from 9 p.m. Eastern to noon Eastern on selection Saturday. This allows adequate time for adjustments to be made to the NCAA championship selection show and announcements.
- f. The committee was informed that its recommendation to select North Alabama and the city of Huntsville as the site of the 2021 Cross Country South Regional was approved by the Competition Oversight Committee.
- g. The committee visited a proposal from the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) to adjust the number of entries allowed for the NCAA cross country regional and national championships from 12 to 14. Given the current state with COVID-19 and the possible restrictions that will be put into place on number of competitors, the committee chose to table this proposal at the current time.

## **6. Indoor track and field.**

- a. The committee commended the staff at the University of New Mexico for their fluidity in handling the continued changes and discussions that occurred as the ultimate decision was made to cancel the 2020 Indoor Track and Field championships due to COVID-19.
- b. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and did not make any adjustments for 2020-21.
- c. The committee discussed the indoor track and field technical manual and noted the adjustment that will need to be made for 2021 at the University of Arkansas to use dual shot put rings in the combined events.

- d. The committee reviewed and ultimately supported a proposal from the USTFCCCA to allow institutions to use their own weight throw implements at the NCAA indoor track and field championships as long as they pass inspection. Additionally, the NCAA equipment supplier for track and field, Gill Athletics, will still provide select pool implements.

**7. Outdoor track and field.**

- a. The committee expressed its gratitude to the University of Kentucky, the University of Kansas and the University of Texas at Austin for their planning and preparation leading up to the outdoor track and field preliminary and national championships prior to the decision that was made to cancel all spring NCAA championship events.
- b. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and did not make any adjustments for 2020-21.
- c. The committee discussed the outdoor track and field technical manual and noted the change that will be made for 2021 to allow for heat assignments in the semifinal rounds of the 100 meters, 100 hurdles, 110 hurdles, 200 meters, 400 meters, 400 hurdles, 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay at the final site to be random draws based on place at the preliminary championships rather than assignment by place and 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 June 17-19, 2020, Videoconference</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Trey Clark, Lamar University.
Abbie Day, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
Milan Donley, University of Kansas.
Elvis Forde, Temple University
Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference.
Amy Horst, Loyola University Maryland.
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>
Jennifer Lawlor, Monmouth University.

<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>
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.