



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 14-15, 2023, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

**1. Committee.**

- a. **Subcommittee assignments.** The Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee reviewed and designated subcommittee assignments for the 2023-24 academic year for cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field.
- b. **Calendar.** The committee reviewed championships travel and monthly teleconference dates for the 2023-24 academic year.
- c. **2023-24 committee chair.** The committee confirmed the appointment of Blake Boldon, senior associate athletics director/Franklin P. Johnson Director of the Drake Relays and director of cross country and track and field at Drake University, as chair of the committee for 2023-24. Mr. Boldon will be entering his final year on the committee and has displayed great leadership and knowledge within the sports of cross country and track and field throughout his time on the committee. Mr. Boldon will assume the role as chair on September 1, 2023.

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 indoor and outdoor track and field it was important to continue to emphasize the importance of officiating in terms of recruitment, education and a well-developed evaluation process by the national officials assignor. For all three sports the committee noted the importance of focusing on the continued exploration and development of diverse announcers, as well as continued emphasis on the growth and strategy surrounding social and digital media efforts within the sports.

3. **Review of timing and results bids for indoor and outdoor track and field championships.** The committee received presentations from the timing and results companies that bid on the services for the Division I indoor and outdoor track and field championship events beginning in 2024. The committee had the opportunity to ask questions during the presentations and review all bid materials submitted by each company prior to making their final recommendation. NCAA staff will work with the purchasing and procurement group to finalize the agreement with the selected vendor in the weeks ahead.

---

N a t i o n a l   C o l l e g i a t e   A t h l e t i c   A s s o c i a t i o n

*Supporting student-athlete success on the field, in the classroom and for life*

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

4. **Playing rules.** The committee discussed various rules, including the rule on how to call javelin flats but took no action. Additionally, the committee talked about honest effort and an athlete that participates in more than one event but does not appear to put forth a bona fide effort in one event in order to save energy and be more prepared for a second, third, etcetera event. Currently there is no longer a rule within the rule book on honest effort, so an athlete that starts and finishes an event has satisfied the rule. The committee will ask the playing rules committee and United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) executive committee to further discuss honest effort in order to determine whether changes should be recommended.
5. **Officials.** As was noted under the strategic plan section of this report, the committee emphasized the need for continued investment into officiating, including more thorough and thoughtful programming surrounding officials' education and evaluations.

The committee discussed the positive impact of implementing the three new competition manager positions at each site during the outdoor track and field championships. Committee members noted that there needs to be improved communication between the competition managers and the referees as well as marshals on items that impact competition with everyone working together toward the same outcome. There will be continued efforts to fine tune the competition manager roles and responsibilities as these positions are implemented again in 2024 for both the indoor and outdoor track and field championship events.

Additionally, the committee noted the importance of our national officials assignor and secretary-rules editor for track and field using the NCAA Track and Field officiating hub, RefQuest, to provide and post monthly points of emphasis on rules and officiating related procedures.

Lastly, the committee noted that the combined event referee at the championship sites should be shifted and used to support the field event referee during combined event competition breaks or when the combined event competitions are concluded for the day.

This feedback has been sent to Milan Donley, the NCAA track and field national officials assignor.

6. **DVsport video review.** The committee discussed allowing ESPN to use DVsport video feeds in the live broadcast and allowing field event athletes to review DVsport video at the site of their event. The committee unanimously supported both items and sent them to the secretary-rules editor to ensure there is nothing within the rules that would prohibit these allowances.
7. **Cross country.**
  - a. **Adoption of cross country sponsorship legislation in order to be eligible for the NCAA cross country national championships.** The committee was reminded of the adoption of legislation effective August 1 that requires teams to meet the sponsorship minimums in order to be eligible to compete at the NCAA cross country national championships.

- b. Cross country field expansion.** The committee received an update on the possible addition of a 32<sup>nd</sup> team to the men's and women's field at the cross country championships. While adding a 32<sup>nd</sup> team has been approved in concept by the Division I Competition Oversight Committee, the financial approval has not yet been finalized. Accordingly, the field will remain at 31 teams until the necessary funding approval is received.
- c. 2022 cross country championships.** The committee discussed the championships at Oklahoma State, commending the host staff and volunteers for their hard work and the great condition of the course surface and enhancements made to the venue since Oklahoma State last hosted in March of 2021. Committee members noted, however, that several teams encountered issues with the tent vendor used for team tents, which will need to be addressed if the championships return to Oklahoma State in the future.
- d. Timelines for 2023-24.** The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and made no adjustments for 2023-24.
- e. Broadcast review.** The committee continues to be excited about the coverage and support provided by ESPN and USTFCCCA on the cross country broadcast. Members feel this has elevated the championship and experience for both the student-athletes and fans. The continued enhancements with timing and results as well as various camera angles, which include drones and lead gator cams along with stationary cameras, make this a top-tier cross country broadcast.

## **8. Indoor track and field.**

- a. 2023 championships.** The committee acknowledged the hard work of the host staff at this year's championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Members did, however, note that the host could have used more operational staffing support and volunteers. Members also felt that seating capacity was lower in the venue than is preferred and would encourage adding seating if the championships were to return to New Mexico in the future.
- b. Timelines for 2023-24.** The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and did not make any adjustments for 2023-24 other than to rephrase the wording in the manual referencing the medical scratch deadline to just say "scratch deadline." The committee noted that a scratch after declarations will remain all encompassing, and a scratch from one event is a scratch from all events, but noted there are times that scratches occur that are not medically related (e.g., family emergency, eligibility issue, etc.).
- c. Technical manual.** The committee discussed the indoor track and field technical manual and did not make any adjustments for 2023-24.
- d. University of Maine indoor track conversion.** The committee received a proposal to adjust the conversion received on the University of Maine's 191 meter banked indoor track from a

banked track conversion to an undersized track conversion. The committee voted unanimously to deny this request. The committee noted that banked tracks provide an advantage while undersized tracks provide a disadvantage, with a banked track providing a greater running ease, than the undersized detracting from performance.

## **9. Outdoor track and field.**

- a. **First rounds.** The committee discussed the first rounds at the University of North Florida and Sacramento State, along with the finals at the University of Texas. Members complimented the hosts' hard work and expressed gratitude for their support at all three championship sites. The committee noted the importance of ensuring adequate operational support staff and volunteers at all three sites. With the sheer size of these championships and so many moving parts, it requires a high level of staffing and volunteers to support the championships at the highest level. The committee also emphasized the importance of ensuring venues are up to championship caliber and expectations from a competition and presentation standpoint with venues fully prepared prior to the first practice session.

Members also noted that for the first round, the practice schedule should be re-examined to determine whether specific practice times can be identified that are more similar to the finals site with slotted practice times solely for men, solely for women and combined practice session for both men and women. The first rounds include a significant number of athletes, so exploring ways to minimize numbers during practice at any given time should be further considered.

- b. **Did not starts (DNS) at first rounds.** The committee reviewed a proposal from a coach asking for the allowance of schools with the first two athletes out of the first rounds, the 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> athletes on the descending order list, to be allowed to be brought to the first-round sites in case an athlete in a specific event decides not to start an event and scratches after the NCAA published deadline for medical scratches. The committee was adamantly against this proposal as it impacts the administration of the championships on too many levels, including re-seeding, requiring additional credentials and practice time, on an already crowded competition venue, for athletes that may never compete, just to name a few. The committee noted the purpose of the deadline is essential to ensuring efficient administration and execution of the event with minimal disruptive impact to the participants.
- c. **Scratches after first-round competition and prior to the national championships.** The committee received another proposal from a coach asking for the allowance of adding the first athlete out at the first rounds to be advanced to the national championships if an athlete has to scratch for whatever reason between the first rounds and start of the championships. The committee took no action on this proposal, noting it is in direct conflict with Rule 13-2.3 on page 132 of the 2023 and 2024 NCAA Track & Field/Cross Country Rule Book.
- d. **Timelines for 2023-24.** The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and did not make any adjustments for 2023-24 other than to rephrase the wording in the manual referencing the medical

scratch deadline to just say "scratch deadline." The committee noted that a scratch after declarations will remain all encompassing, and a scratch from one event is a scratch from all events, but noted there are times that scratches occur that are not medically related (e.g. family emergency, eligibility issue, etc.).

- e. **Technical manual.** The committee reviewed the outdoor track and field technical manual and specifically mentioned adjustments on how the high jump and pole vault flights are determined and then adjusted to have athletes from the same school on the same pits. The committee plans to share proposed modified language with the USTFCCCA executive committee for feedback.

The committee also reviewed a recommendation from a coach to randomize the starting positions in the 10,000m races at the first rounds rather than lining them up one through 48 based on their qualifying performances. The committee discussed and elected to take no action.

Lastly, the committee discussed the seeding procedures used from the first rounds to the finals site. The committee plans to further discuss and possibly share revised procedures with the USTFCCCA executive committee for feedback.

- 10. Para-College Inclusion Project.** The committee reviewed a proposal from the Para-College Inclusion Project team to host the men's and women's 100m wheelchair championships in conjunction with the 2024 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon. The committee elected to support this initiative for 2024. The committee will continue to work with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee on the details, operations and timing of this to ensure the inclusion of this event does not negatively impact the experience of any of the NCAA championship competitors.

- 11. Future meeting dates.** The committee will conduct its 2024 annual meeting June 12-14.

*Committee Chair: Ervin Lewis, University of North Florida, Atlantic Sun Conference*  
*Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 14-15, 2023, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jay Arther, Indiana University, Bloomington.	
Blake Boldon, Drake University.	
Jason Drake, California State University, Fresno.	
Elvis Forde, Temple University.	
Kerri Gallagher, Manhattan College.	
Shawn Green, University of New Hampshire.	
Sydney Griffin, United States Military Academy.	

Ervin Lewis, University of North Florida.
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.
Matt Roe, Butler University.
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University.
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<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>
Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.