



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 12-14, 2024, MEETING

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

**1. Committee.**

- a. **2024-25 committee chair.** The Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee confirmed the appointment of Karina Handeland, senior associate athletic director at the University of Portland, as chair of the committee for 2024-25. Ms. Handeland has shown great leadership, passion and enthusiasm for cross country and track and field throughout her first year on the committee. Ms. Handeland will assume the role as chair on September 1, 2024.
- b. **Subcommittee assignments.** The committee reviewed and designated subcommittee assignments for the 2024-25 academic year for cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field.
- c. **Calendar.** The committee reviewed championships travel and monthly teleconference dates for the 2024-25 academic 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 under the short-term goals for cross country that it was important to continue to emphasize the growth and importance of linear coverage at the national championships and continue to push and strongly encourage regional hosts to stream the regional championships, while also promoting broadcast and streaming coverage through social channels. In addition, the members of the committee felt it was important to add to the long-term goals exploration of aligning with other industry meetings and events, such as Running USA and Road Runners Club of America, to help promote the sport and strengthen relationships within the sport.

Members noted that for indoor track and field it was important to explore in the short-term opportunities to increase the fan experience at the indoor track and field championships, like what was done in Oregon for the outdoor track and field championships in 2024. This includes having a DJ during the championships, having fan interactive areas that include face painters, balloon artists, ping pong, bib making stations, etcetera, along with opportunities for fans to be incorporated into social and digital initiatives. Additionally, the committee stressed exploring ways to grow viewership and continuing to review the schedule format for the championships.

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For outdoor track and field members emphasized the continued importance of restating their support for protecting the championship format, notably the established first-round competitions. In addition, they noted their support of the 100m wheelchair championships being held at the NCAA outdoor track and field championships, citing the numerous positive feedback received during the 2024 championships.

Lastly, for all three sports the committee noted the importance of focusing on the continued exploration and development of diverse announcers.

3. **2026-28 championship bids.** The committee reviewed bids for all rounds of the Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country, Indoor Track and Field and Outdoor Track and Field Championships. The committee finalized recommendations for the Division I Competition Oversight Committee to review and approve.
4. **Playing rules.** Members reiterated their support for numerous rules discussed during the divisional joint meetings and noted in the joint report, including alignment with World Athletics shoe rules and the elimination of the word "consecutive" when it comes to lane line stepping allowance.
5. **Officials.** The committee emphasized the need to continue investing in officiating, including working with NCAA National Officials Assignor Milan Donley on growing the referee pool, more thorough and thoughtful programming surrounding officials' education, and the establishment of an official's code of conduct.

The committee reemphasized the positive impact of implementing the three competition manager positions at each site during the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. Committee members recommended contacting staff within USA Track and Field regarding recommendations on individuals who may serve as good competition managers, as the committee looks to grow the pool of individuals to be assigned to these positions.

6. **DirectAthletics/TFRRS.** The committee met with Dave Stelnik of DirectAthletics to discuss the DirectAthletics meet entry system and TFRRS, the official results reporting system for NCAA competitions. Overall, the committee is satisfied with both DirectAthletics and TFRRS.

In addition, the committee reviewed the cross country selection process and system with Mr. Stelnik and felt strongly that the current process as outlined works well and that no changes are necessary.

Lastly, the committee discussed exploring ways to possibly include athlete pronunciations within the roster registration component of DirectAthletics and will share this with DirectAthletics for review.

7. **DVsport video review.** The committee continues to support including athlete review stations in the horizontal jumps as was implemented at all three sites of the outdoor track and field championships in 2024. The committee also supports implementing this in the horizontal

jumping events during the 2025 indoor track and field championships and exploring further ways to include athlete review stations for the throwing events at the indoor track and field championships, and all rounds of the outdoor track and field championships.

NCAA staff will continue working with DVsport on these items and review whether the budget supports continued exploration and implementation.

8. **Indoor track and field championships qualifying window.** The committee voted to update the indoor track and field championships qualifying window to be reflected as follows. This will allow for more flexibility with the pentathlon competition which is only conducted over one day.

*Division I – December 1 or the preceding Friday if December 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, through the second Sunday prior to the national championships. (Exceptions: A combined event competition ~~concluding December 1~~, beginning on November 30th, or the preceding Thursday ~~Friday~~ if December 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday; and conference championships concluding by 5 p.m. Eastern time the second Monday prior to the national championships, will fall within the qualifying window. Note, all results for conference championships concluding on the second Monday prior to the national championship must be posted to TFRRS by the 5 p.m. Eastern time deadline)*

9. **Cross country.**

- a. **2023 cross country championships.** The committee discussed the championships at the University of Virginia, commending the host institution for the high level of support across the administration and university. The committee applauded the university staff for their hard work and dedication to making the championship a top-notch and memorable event, noting the tremendous fan and student-athlete experience. One item the committee highlighted was the attention to detail paid by the university staff, which included having a spokesperson on each fan shuttle who talked to fans about the course, the championships and important locations around the venue. The committee feels strongly that any host site using fan shuttles should implement this in an effort to elevate the fan experience.
- b. **Timelines for 2024-25.** The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and made no adjustments for 2024-25.
- c. **Broadcast review.** The committee continues to be excited about the coverage and support ESPN and the USTFCCA provide during the cross country broadcast. Members feel this has continued to elevate the championship exposure and experience for both the student-athletes and fans.

The committee did note that the ESPN red hat and race starter need to rehearse the start to ensure voice volume and procedures are flawless, as to not impact a potential false start or jeopardized start to the race. The committee also discussed the current policy that requires

athletes to be on the line three minutes prior to the start of the race with no further runouts, to allow the ESPN gator camera to drive across the start and then stop and highlight teams and individuals in the broadcast. The committee noted that this enhances the broadcast and exposure of the athletes and that the three-minute policy should not be shortened.

The committee did vote to adjust the National Anthem from about eight minutes prior to the first race to 25 minutes. This will reduce interference with athlete preparation and runouts at the start line in the final minutes leading up to the race.

- d. **Clerking at NCAA regional and national championships.** The committee voted to adopt a new policy surrounding clerking/check-in requirements the morning of the regional and national championship races. The committee has elected to eliminate the need for institutions to clerk/check-in the morning of the race if they declared down to their final seven at packet pickup, or if they are not running as a team and only contesting individuals in the championship event(s). The committee did note that institutions would be required to clerk/check-in the morning of the races if they did not declare down to a final seven at packet pickup, have a change to their seven athletes that were declared at packet pickup (in which they would need to following the timelines for changes as outlined in the championship manuals), or have athletes (team or individual) that will not start and are scratching from the championship. This policy will go into effect for the 2024 regional and national championships.

## **10. Indoor track and field.**

- a. **2024 championships.** The committee commended Boston College, the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and New Balance for the great collaborative execution of the 2024 indoor track and field championships, noting the sold-out crowds that came out to support the event. The committee noted specifically the efforts the hosts made to go above and beyond to find a feasible solution to the weight throw competition after learning of some concerns at a conference championship held at the venue in the two weeks leading up to the NCAA championships. The staff thought outside the box to find a solution that made the execution of the event safe and memorable for the participants. Members did note that the host needs to find a more long-term solution for the weight throw competition, and there needs to be a more focused effort on the in-venue production, including music and energetic content during breaks in action. Members also noted that if returning to this venue in the future for the NCAA championships, a better crowd flow plan is needed in and around the protest and awards area.
- b. **Timelines for 2024-25.** The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and made no adjustments for 2024-25.
- c. **Technical manual.** The committee discussed the indoor track and field technical manual and did not make any adjustments for 2024-25.

## 11. Outdoor track and field.

- a. **Misconduct.** The committee reviewed a misconduct situation surrounding an institution and elected to issue a private reprimand and financial penalty.
- b. **2024 outdoor track and field first rounds.** The committee discussed the first rounds at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and the University of Kentucky. Members complimented the hosts' hard work and expressed gratitude for their support at both championship sites. Both sites had to navigate weather issues and both worked collaboratively with a local meteorologist, NCAA site representatives, competition managers and NCAA staff to actively address and communicate necessary schedule adjustments to the participating institutions. Overall, committee members had high remarks for both the support and execution by host staffs at Arkansas and Kentucky.
- c. **2024 outdoor track and field championships.** Committee members commended the University of Oregon for a great championship event, noting the hard work of the host staff and volunteers in the overall execution of the event. The committee noted in advance of the 2025 championships that a few adjustments will be made to some of the policies surrounding the championships. This includes eliminating practice on Thursday and Friday morning at Hayward Field, as there was an extremely limited number of individuals who even participated in these open practice hours. Lane Community College will still be open as a practice location on these days. In addition, the committee has elected to allow for one athletic trainer and one coach to have access to the combined event rest area under the stadium during decathlon and heptathlon competitions. Members also noted that for the 2025 championships the better flight in the shot put will be moved to the east ring and the better flight in the long jump and triple jump will be moved to the west runway. Lastly, the committee noted that during the combined event victory lap, only the winner should take the victory lap, not all the participants in the combined event competition. The committee felt this took away from the attention of other events on the track and was a distraction particularly during the women's 10,000m final.
- d. **Practice procedures at the first rounds.** The committee felt the adjustments made to the practice schedule at this year's first round competitions went well. Members have elected to continue with the formatted practice schedule while making one adjustment to long throws practice. For the 2025 first rounds, long throws practices will be divided into windows based on gender to help minimize the numbers practicing on those facilities at a given time.
- e. **Timelines for 2024-25.** The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and made no adjustments for 2024-25.
- f. **Technical manual.** The committee reviewed the outdoor track and field technical manual and specifically discussed the check-in and final report time adjustments made for the 2024 first-round events to mimic the finals site. Given the first rounds are larger than the finals site

and have more flights and heats, the committee has elected to return to the check-in and report times used during the 2023 first rounds for the 2025 first-round events.

Lastly, the committee discussed the seeding procedures used in running events, from the first rounds into semifinals at the finals site. The committee will review this further during an upcoming monthly call to explore likely adjustments to the seeding procedures.

**12. USTFCCCA indoor track and field first round proposal.** The committee elected to table this until 2025 for further review and discussion.

**13. Para-College Inclusion Project 100m wheelchair championships.** The committee was excited about the successful inclusion of the 100m men's and women's wheelchair championships during the NCAA outdoor track and field championships. The feedback received from the USOPC and the wheelchair athletes was extremely positive. The committee reiterated its support for including this event again in 2025. The committee will continue working with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee on the details, operations and timing of this event to ensure its inclusion does not negatively impact the experience of any of the NCAA championship competitors.

**14. Future meeting dates.** The committee will conduct its 2025 annual meeting June 15-17.

*Committee Chair:* Blake Boldon, Drake University, Missouri Valley Conference  
*Staff Liaison:* Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 12-14, 2024, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Ritchie Beene, Alabama State University.	
Blake Boldon, Drake University.	
Cody Brousek, University of Nebraska.	
Jason Drake, California State University, Fresno.	
Emily Fulton, Virginia Military Institute.	
Asha Gibson-Smith, Austin Peay State University.	
Sydney Griffin, United States Military Academy.	
Karina Handeland, University of Portland.	
Kerri Inman, Manhattan College.	
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University.	
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Dave Stelnik, DirectAthletics/FloSports.	

<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Demetria Young, Championships and Alliances.