



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JUNE 15-16, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Committee.

- a. **2025-26 committee chair.** The Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee confirmed the re-appointment of Karina Handeland, senior associate athletic director at the University of Portland, as chair of the committee for 2025-26. Ms. Handeland has shown great leadership and passion in her current role as chair of the committee during the 2024-25 academic year.
- b. **Subcommittee assignments.** The committee reviewed and designated subcommittee assignments for the 2025-26 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 2025-26 academic year.

2. United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). Sam Seemes, CEO of USTFCCCA, joined the committee meeting to discuss ways to elevate track and field and cross country. The group expressed that now is a time to show how these sports add value to athletics departments and enhance school brands by demonstrating what they do well and how they can be presented in consumable ways.

During the discussion several ideas emerged, including exploring how to place more value on regular-season competition in cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field. Additional ideas discussed included exploring a possible date change to the NCAA indoor track and field championships schedule that is more attractive for linear broadcast dates and windows, evaluating a three-day indoor track and field championships format, and considering scoring deeper than eight places at the track and field national championships (to as many as 24 places).

To further explore the ideas related to cross country, the committee formed a cross country working group to review the current championship format and qualifying structure.

3. USTFCCCA indoor track and field first round proposal. As was the case in 2024, the committee again elected to table this proposal given the evolving environment of intercollegiate athletics and the current financial constraints.

4. **NCAA academic and membership affairs update.** Jejuan Bowser of the NCAA academic and membership affairs staff joined the committee virtually to introduce himself and offer his availability in the future if there is anything the committee needed.
5. **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 goals for cross country that it had agreed to form a working group to review the current championship qualifying structure.

Members noted that for indoor track and field it was important to explore ways to elevate the in-venue production, push host sites to include more championship branding in the local airport and city, invite local youth to attend championship sessions during less attended times, and also explore more frequent collaborative efforts with USATF and the USOPC. Lastly, the committee noted evaluating the current date formula and working with NCAA broadcast staff and partners to see if a date change could lead to possible linear broadcast coverage.

For outdoor track and field members emphasized, like indoor track and field, inviting local youth to attend championship sessions or days during less attended times and also exploring ways to more frequently collaborate with USATF and the USOPC.

6. **2028-31 championship bid specs.** The committee reviewed and made minor edits to the bid specifications for all rounds of the Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country, Indoor Track and Field and Outdoor Track and Field Championships.
7. **Playing rules.** Members received an update on highly discussed rules and current rule proposals from NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Secretary-Rules Editor Mark Kostek. Additionally, the sport committee shared with Mr. Kostek its desire for the NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee to explore allowing scoring deeper than eight places in scored competitions, possibly as deep as 24, which is the number of individuals and relays per event at the NCAA outdoor track and field championships. The committee also shared its desire for review of the round-by-round protest windows, asking for instead of the six protest windows per field event to have two – one after the preliminary rounds and one after the finals of the field events. The committee noted difficulties with coaches and staffs being able to coach their athletes in competition while also having to file protests. Lastly, the committee shared its support of eliminating the maximum number of athletes allowed in a steeplechase race and instead allow meet management the flexibility when determining the field sizes allowed in each race.
8. **Officials.** The committee expressed a desire for a developed evaluation process for officials to ensure the best officials are working NCAA championship events. This will be shared with NCAA National Officials Assignor Milan Donley for consideration on process and possible development.
9. **DirectAthletics/TFRRS.** The committee discussed the DirectAthletics meet entry system and TFRRS, the official results reporting system for NCAA competitions. The committee acknowledged their great customer service and continued support of the NCAA. The committee

wants to continue working with DirectAthletics on ways to continue to evolve and provide even greater support for track and field and cross country.

10. DVsport video review. The committee briefly discussed the NCAA video review system provided by DVsport at the NCAA track and field championships. No concerns were raised, and members noted the high level of professionalism and quality of service provided.

11. Track and field qualifying criteria. The committee reviewed the 2024-25 qualifying criteria. The committee discussed a proposal to reduce the minimum number of events to count toward qualifying, but the committee elected not to change the minimums for indoor or outdoor track and field. The committee noted that limiting the number of events further promotes mark chasing and reduces focus on team competition.

The committee discussed the possibility that the "minimum number of events" be required to have a collegian in each event, rather than just being "open" to collegians but ultimately elected to leave the language as is. Committee members noted that they want events like the Millrose Games and other high-level competitions that showcase collegians to still count toward NCAA qualifying.

Members also discussed possibly mandating that a minimum of two institutions be required in each event at a meet but did not take action at this time.

Lastly, the committee voted to implement a fine structure for meet hosts that violate NCAA qualifying criteria. Violators will be fined up to \$1,500 for not following NCAA qualifying regulations.

12. Cross country.

a. 2024 cross country championships. The committee discussed the championships at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, noting the great course, venue, and city along with the tremendous support of university staff. Members noted that there is great pride and a full commitment from the Wisconsin staff in ensuring a high-level championship experience for student-athletes and fans. One item the committee highlighted for improvement was greater security and staffing in and around the team camp area and finish line chute, as parents and other non-credentialed individuals were making their ways into these spaces.

b. Timelines and selection procedures for 2025-26. The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and made no adjustments for 2025-26.

c. Broadcast review. The committee supplied positive feedback and expressed continued excitement on the coverage and support ESPN and the USTFCCA provide for the cross country broadcast. Members continue to feel this has elevated the championship exposure and experience for both the student-athletes and fans.

13. Indoor track and field.

- a. **2025 championships.** The committee reviewed participant survey results and feedback and discussed their overall experience at the 2025 indoor track and field championships. The committee noted the venue size and layout provides great space for team camp and ancillary parts of the championships (e.g., student-athlete hospitality, general warm-up, etc.). The committee did note that ideally in the future it would be nice to have some additional track surface lanes rolled out in the general warm-up area adjacent to team camp. While there was a ton of space with carpeted tiles in this area, the lack of actual track surface limited what types of warm-ups can occur in this space. Additionally, the committee noted that the muffled in-venue PA speakers and limited abilities with the video board impacted the overall in-venue presentation and experience. Lastly, members noted that additional volunteers are needed in the future, particularly at packet pickup, to efficiently and effectively execute the event. These items have been relayed to the host for their consideration.
- b. **Timelines and selection procedures for 2025-26.** The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and made no adjustments for 2025-26.
- c. **Technical manual.** The committee discussed the indoor track and field technical manual and elected to add clarifying language on heat order for the 60m, 60 hurdles, 200m and 400m. The committee will add language that heat order for the 60m and 60 hurdles will be random since there are place and time qualifiers in these two events. However, since the 200m and 400m advancers are on time only, the committee has elected that these heats will be conducted from slow to fast.
- d. **2026 NCAA indoor track and field competition schedule.** Committee members discussed the current schedule format that has all the men's and women's running events and some field events split into separate sessions. After discussion, the committee elected to eliminate the gendered session format and return to the pre-Covid schedule format with men's and women's competition integrated.

14. Outdoor track and field.

- a. **2025 outdoor track and field first rounds.** The committee discussed the first rounds at the University of North Florida and Texas A&M University, College Station. Members complimented the hosts' hard work and expressed gratitude for their support at both championship sites. Weather issues had to be navigated at North Florida, which 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. Of specific note at Texas A&M was with participating athletes having the inability to access the main grandstands to sit with and see parents, family or friends who came to support them. This has been relayed to Texas A&M host management staff for future considerations. Additionally, committee members noted in general that consideration should be given to the timing of the high jump competition, especially at venues

where the approach may bleed onto the track. If approaches bleed onto the track, consideration needs to be given to starting the event earlier to avoid overlap with track events, or the high jump competition must be effectively marshaled by officials once track events begin. With this, the committee confirmed its desire to keep a minimum of an hour time gap between the start of the high jump and triple jump competitions. Overall, committee members had high remarks for both the support and execution by host staffs at North Florida and Texas A&M.

- b. 2025 outdoor track and field championships.** Committee members commended the University of Oregon for a great championship event. Committee members made specific mention of the great venue, tremendous city support, the great execution of in-venue production staff, and the overall attention to detail by the entire host staff. The committee noted in advance of the 2026 championships to reconsider the timing of packet pickup. This year the packet pickup window was extended from a four-hour window to a six-hour window, starting two hours earlier. The committee felt this produced too much dead time in the middle of the day and that a four-hour window is more appropriate, noting a preference to return to the 12-4 p.m. time slot that has been typically used. The later four-hour window allows more time for teams arriving that day to make it to packet pickup before it closes. The committee also asked NCAA staff to reach out to Oregon and the city of Eugene to explore new apartments being built as a possible housing option for teams during the championships. Additionally, the committee will continue to work closely with Oregon and other event personnel to review the competition schedule and placement of the discus competition within the schedule in effort to ensure safety and student-athlete experience are paramount. Lastly, the committee greatly appreciated the improvements to hammer throw seating, but members noted that there is still a strong spectator turnout for this event that could warrant even more seating. The committee will ask Oregon to continue exploring additional options in this regard.
- c. Timelines and selection procedures for 2025-26.** The committee reviewed the championship timelines and selection procedures as outlined in the pre-championships manual and made no adjustments for 2025-26.
- d. Technical manual.** The committee reviewed the outdoor track and field technical manual and specifically discussed tiebreakers when determining lane preferences for first-round competition. The committee elected that any ties would be treated equally, as was done for 2025, and assignment would occur randomly in situations in which athletes' first-round qualifying performances are the same.

Lastly, the committee noted a typo in the 2025 technical manual as it related to heptathlon and decathlon seeding. The current rule noted in the technical manual will be updated to reflect the correct rule citation for 2026, Rule 15-11.4.

- 15. Indoor and outdoor track and field credential policy.** The committee elected to allow for the purchase of one additional manager AND one additional administrator credential per gender program at the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. The current policy only allows

for teams to purchase one manager **OR** one administrator credential. This will provide greater flexibility to institutions, allowing one additional credential for a single gender program or two for a combined gender program.

The committee also elected to update the language for medical credentials to simplify the identification of the credential. Rather than the current language stating that each institutional gendered program is allowed to purchase an additional athletic trainer or massage therapist credential, the committee will update the language to say that each institutional gendered program is allowed to purchase one additional "team medical" credential at the cost of an all-session ticket. This general terminology provides more simple clarification and allows teams to cover their appropriate medical needs as they see fit (athletic trainer, massage therapist, chiropractor, etcetera).

Additionally, any reference to volunteer coaches will be struck from credential language. No changes will be made to the quantity of coaching credentials allowed, but there will no longer be a volunteer designator on any of the allowed coaching credentials.

Lastly, the committee noted that non-authorized individuals such as agents and third-party NIL groups were being found in credentialed areas at NCAA championships. The committee noted that schools that pass or use institution provided credentials for these individuals will be found in violation of the NCAA misconduct policy in future years.

- 16. Track and field championship format proposal.** The committee reviewed a proposal from a coach outlining a recommendation on reformatting the indoor and outdoor track and field championship. The committee reviewed the proposal but took no action, noting that it will continue to have a more holistic review and discussion on championship format in the future.
- 17. Competition managers.** The committee received reports from individuals who served in competition manager roles during the 2025 NCAA indoor and outdoor track and field championships. The committee again noted the positive addition of these positions in recent years and complimented the support of the individuals selected. Members also noted that a new, more formal, application process will be rolled out this July for those interested in applying to be considered for these roles at all rounds of the 2026 NCAA indoor and outdoor track and field championships.
- 18. Protest countdown clock within live results.** The committee briefly discussed including a protest countdown clock within live results but ultimately decided to not pursue it at this time. Members noted that the new round-by-round protest rule makes that difficult and confusing to know what round a specific protest window applied to. The committee elected to continue with the current process and have hard copy results delivered to and time stamped at the protest table where the protest officials can monitor the specific protest windows.
- 19. Para-College Inclusion Project 100m wheelchair championships.** The committee was once again excited about the successful inclusion of the 100m men's and women's wheelchair championships during the NCAA outdoor track and field championships. The committee

reiterated its support for including this event again in 2026 with a couple of notes. First, the committee noted that with the time change to move the wheelchair event closer to the start of NCAA running events, that there needs to be a more organized approach to when the wheelchair athletes are able to do their pre-race lap around the track in coordination with the triple jumpers warming up along the homestretch. This is very manageable and just needs to be more clearly communicated with event officials and marshals. Additionally, members noted that during the men's race, the school affiliations were inadvertently left off the videoboard start lists. This was corrected for the women's race, and the host will be sure that school affiliations are noted on in-venue start lists for 2026. The committee will continue working with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee on the details and operations of this event for inclusion during the 2026 championships.

20. Future annual meeting dates. The committee will conduct its 2026 annual meeting on site in Eugene, Oregon, on June 14 and 15 at the conclusion of the 2026 outdoor track and field championships.

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

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 15-16, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Ritchie Beene, Alabama State University.	
Funmi Blakemore, Rice 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.	
Shirelle Jackson, University of Miami (Florida).	
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.	
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University.	
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA and Mark Kostek, NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Secretary-Rules Editor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Demetria Young and Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances. Jejuan Bowser, Academic and Membership Affairs.