



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
JUNE 22-23, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Legislative Items.**
 - **Playing and Practice Seasons – Nonchampionship Segment Travel – Eliminate Ground Transportation Restriction – Cross Country Only Programs.**
 - (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Oversight Committee recommends the NCAA Division I Cabinet amend Division I Proposal No. 2026-29 to extend the application to cross country programs that do not sponsor indoor or outdoor track and field.
 - (2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2026.
 - (3) Rationale. Institutions are best positioned to make decisions surrounding competition-related transportation during both the championship and nonchampionship segments. Local autonomy will allow institutions to make decisions to promote the well-being of student-athletes and promote additional flexibility during the nonchampionship segment. Further, this proposal would not amend the prohibition on missed class time for nonchampionship segment competition.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. Dependent on institutional decision-making.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Dependent on institutional decision-making.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Report of the May 6, 2026, meeting.** The oversight committee approved the report of its May 6, 2026, meeting.
2. **Legislative items.**
 - a. **Recruiting – Time Period for Off-Campus Contact – Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country.**
 - (1) Action. The committee introduced legislation into the October 2026 legislative cycle, in men's and women's cross country and track and field, to

permit off-campus recruiting contact with an individual (or an individual's family) on or after June 15 at the conclusion of the individual's sophomore year in high school.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. In track and field and cross country, Division I countable coaches' best opportunity to recruit off campus occurs after the conclusion of the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships and the beginning of the subsequent academic year, which includes for some coaches, preseason cross country. Aligning the start date for when countable coaches may begin having off-campus contact with the date after which telephone calls to prospective student-athletes may begin, optimizes for the time of year when coaches are not actively involved in tactical and technical skill instruction of their current student-athletes and premier prospective student-athlete competitions occur.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. Coaches may already attend and evaluate prospective student-athletes at competitions during this time, this proposal would simply allow for in-person recruiting conversations to also occur provided the individual is eligible to receive phone calls.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Recruiting – Notification of Transfer – Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field.

- (1) Action. The committee introduced legislation into the October 2026 legislative cycle, to amend the undergraduate notification-of-transfer windows in men's and women's cross country and track and field to require all undergraduate cross country or track and field student-athletes to initiate the notification-of-transfer process during either a 15-day period that begins the Monday immediately following the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships or a 10-day period that begins the Monday immediately following the conclusion of the NCAA Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, track and field and cross country student-athletes have more individual notification of transfer windows and total days than any other sport. Maintaining a fall and spring transfer window that open after the conclusion of the cross country and outdoor track and field championships, respectively, promotes roster stability during the championship seasons, while still affording student-athletes on track and

field and/or cross country rosters two opportunities to initiate the notification of transfer process during each calendar year.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Playing and Practice Seasons – Maximum Dates of Competition Limitations During the Nonchampionship Segment – Multiday Meet Exception – Cross Country Without Indoor or Outdoor Track and Field.

(1) Action. The committee introduced legislation into the October 2026 legislative cycle to permit an institution that sponsors cross country but not indoor or outdoor track and field to count a multiday meet during the nonchampionship segment as a single date of competition for purposes of institutional and individual maximum contest limitations.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Currently, institutions that operate cross country only programs are limited to five dates of competition during the nonchampionship segment. If a student-athlete competes in multiple distance events that are conducted on different days at the same track and field meet, each day where competition occurs counts towards the student-athlete's limit of five nonchampionship dates of competition. Allowing competition associated with the same multiday meet to count as one date of competition for purposes of nonchampionship segment contest limitations provides more opportunities for student-athletes at institutions with cross country only programs.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes on cross country only programs will have five meaningful opportunities to compete during the nonchampionship segment.

3. 2026-27 Cross Country and Track recruiting calendar update. The committee approved changes to its 2026-27 recruiting calendar, eliminating the evaluation period previously designated to occur from Aug. 1-21. This previously designated evaluation period will now be considered part of the ongoing contact period that begins after the conclusion of the NCAA Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships. These updates, now codified in Bylaw 13.17.14.2.2, will be incorporated into the forthcoming color recruiting calendar published annually for cross country and track and field.

4. Countable competition to meet sports sponsorship minimums in indoor and outdoor track and field. The committee continued to discuss the rules required to count

competitions toward minimum sports sponsorship requirements for Division I indoor and outdoor track and field. The committee suggested the current application required to count student-athletes competing at different meets over the same weekend toward the minimum contest requirements (Bylaw 20.9.6.3.4.1) may not be widely understood and supported publishing interpretative guidance to ensure a consistent application across Division I. The committee will receive an update once the guidance is made available and determine whether additional legislative changes should be pursued at that time.

5. **Decentralization Review – Bylaw 17.** The committee received an update on the initial feedback on its playing and practice season rules that it was asked to provide to the Division I Cabinet as a part of the division's broader decentralization efforts. The committee noted it will continue to assist in efforts to streamline and simplify playing and practice seasons rules in a manner that promotes the longevity and continued investment in cross country and track and field.
6. **Age-based eligibility model.** The committee received an update on the age-based eligibility recommendations to be considered by the Division I Cabinet at its June 23-24 meeting. The committee provided input on continued areas for education and resources needed to assist the membership in applying the new age-based eligibility rules should they be adopted.
7. **Track and field championship qualifying criteria.** The committee reviewed the indoor and outdoor track and field qualifying criteria in preparation for the 2026-27 season. The committee elected to add a note that institutions must compete in institutional uniforms when entered and competing as a representative of the institution. This includes when competing at an individual country's national championship. Marks will not count for NCAA qualifying if student-athlete is not entered as a representative of the institution and competing in their institutional uniform.

The committee also elected to deny a request to allow enroute times for qualifying and deny a request for marks to count when only one collegian is entered in a meet (excluding national championships).

8. **Cross country working group update.** The committee received an update on progress the working group made over the winter, including exploration of adding policies and requirements that incentivize regional competition and add more value to the regular season. The following are being considered for possible implementation in advance of the 2027 cross country season.
 - a. Issuing a penalty for a loss during the selection process. This would include assessing a negative point to every team under consideration that an institution has lost to during the NCAA championship qualifying window that has not been selected to the NCAA championships. NCAA regional championship competition would be excluded from this policy.

- b. Restricting the number of at-large points that can be earned at any one competition to three at-large points.
- c. Allowing at-large points to be earned only against teams in the top 15 at any one competition.

The committee plans to focus on this topic further during the next few months in an effort to make decisions, as previously mentioned, for implementation in advance of the 2027 cross country season.

- 9. **New scoring system ideas for track and field.** The committee continued to review and discuss ideas for increased and deeper scoring at the NCAA championships. Ultimately the committee voted to support the submission to the playing rules subcommittee both a 16-place scoring model option for indoor track and field, along with at 16-place and 24-place scoring system model option for outdoor track and field that if supported they would plan to implement for the 2027 indoor and outdoor track and field championships. In addition, the committee recommended adopting a round-by-round scoring model that would award points to athletes who advance from one round to the next that if adopted could be implemented and used at the 2027 NCAA Division I outdoor track and field championships beginning at the East and West first rounds.
- 10. **Elimination of altitude conversions and track size/indexing conversions.** In discussions about conversions, the committee expressed concerns that the current system has shortcomings, can at times be used in ways that create unintended advantages in the qualification process, and may ultimately have a negative impact on the sport. After discussion and review of feedback and proposals they have received, they voted to eliminate both altitude conversions for indoor and outdoor track and field, along with track size conversions for indoor track and field effective for the 2026-27 academic year.

As it relates to altitude conversions, the committee noted that 1) altitude impacts every individual differently, yet a uniform standard conversion is being applied, 2) conversions are not applied for other conditions such as heat, humidity, etc., and 3) nowhere else in any other level of the sport are altitude conversions being used.

When it comes to track size and indexing conversions for indoor track and field the committee noted 1) every track is different yet uniform conversions are applied based on the track type, 2) there is no true science being applied, 3) there is now more access to 200m banked tracks than ever, 4) every track impacts individuals differently based on their biomechanics, and 5) again, like altitude conversions, no other level of the sport is using track size/indexing conversions.

- 11. **Playing rules review and report.** The committee received a brief update from Mark Kostek, NCAA track and field and cross country secretary-rules editor, about rules and topics currently being discussed and on the docket for discussion at the DI track and field rules subcommittee and DII and DIII rules committee meetings the week of June 29.

12. **Officials.** While Milan Donley, national officials assignor, was unable to attend the meeting, the committee did spend a brief time discussing officiating related items. One item included discussion on the notification process and timeline for checking athletes' shoes post event. It was noted that often the time taken to check shoes impacts the ability for athletes to do victory laps and impacts the timeline process for awards and such.

The committee was also notified that the officials and competition manager application process for 2027 will open in July, with selections to be completed by Mr. Donley by Christmastime.

13. **DirectAthletics/TFRRS.** The committee reviewed and discussed the partnership with DirectAthletics/TFRRS as the official NCAA championship meet entry system and results reporting site for cross country and track and field. Overall, the committee expressed positive feedback and appreciation for the support and capabilities provided by DirectAthletics.

14. **2025 cross country championships.** Committee members briefly discussed the highlights and successes of the 2025 championships hosted in Columbia, MO. They commended the hard work of the University of Missouri staff and the City of Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau and Sports Commission.

The committee did note that the ESPN broadcast would benefit from the use of a steady camera on the back of the lead gator. This feedback will be shared with NCAA broadcast staff for future consideration.

15. **2026 indoor track and field championships.** Committee members reviewed participant survey results and discussed highlights, successes, and noted the hard work of host staff in the execution of the 2026 indoor track and field championships hosted in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Additionally, the committee reviewed areas where adjustments and improvements can be made in advance of returning to Arkansas for the 2027 indoor track and field championships. Items for consideration include additional volunteers across the board, but most notably for the awards area, better participant hospitality space, reviewing team camp set up by throws space where fans were encroaching on that space, a better defined and designated space for athletes competing in the throws, and review of crowd flow and crowd control measures around the venue. In addition, the committee asked to provide feedback to ESPN on talent, notably talent that elevates the championship experience for viewers through excitement, knowledge, and preparation. These items will be discussed in the planning process leading up to the 2027 championships.

16. **2026 Outdoor track and field championships.** Committee members discussed the operations and execution of the outdoor track and field first rounds and championships and were very complimentary and appreciative of the hosting execution and hard work of the three host sites at the University of Kentucky, the University of Arkansas and the University of Oregon. The record-breaking performances were acknowledged, which included one world record, one American record, nine collegiate records and 12 NCAA championship records.

The committee also discussed a few areas where improvements could be made, including exploration of hurdle assigned lanes at the finals site during practice, continued review of the scheduling of discus and possible facility adjustments that would allow the event to be conducted later in the schedule at the finals site, and review of coaches boxes along the home stretch in Oregon that includes monitoring of coaches standing and who specifically can access that area to not negatively impact the fans who have purchased reserved seating in that area.

Additionally, the committee discussed the support of the ESPN broadcast. Like indoors, the committee asked that feedback be provided to ESPN on talent and emphasizing talent that elevate the championship experience for viewers through excitement, knowledge and preparation. Additionally, it was noted that continued discussion needs to occur with ESPN and the in-venue staff to ensure things are staying on schedule during the Wednesday and Thursday competition days at the final site. The committee also asked to continue discussion on the inclusion of announcers for each of the live ESPN field event streams at the finals site. Lastly, the committee noted that emphasis should be placed on the announcers at first-round sites being prepared to tell more of the story in each event with focus on not just the top couple finishers but knowing more about athletes outside the top two and how their performances play into the qualification to the finals site.

17. **Indoor and outdoor track and field technical manuals.** The committee elected to make minor updates to the indoor and outdoor track and field manuals. For both the indoor and outdoor manual, the elected to remove the language “due to unforeseen circumstances” from the note in the manual when they are deciding on the increments for the high jump and pole vault. The committee wants to be able to have latitude to make decisions for what is the best interest of the championships when it comes to deciding progressions, not just in certain circumstances.

In addition, for the outdoor track and field technical manual, the committee elected to randomize the starting positions by row/line in the 10,000m at the East and West first rounds, rather than by straight declared entry performance.

Committee Chair: Karina Handeland, University of Portland; West Coast Conference.
Staff Liaisons: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances and Jejuan Bowser and Emily Capehart, Governance and Member Services.

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Oversight Committee June 22-23, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Lindsey Anderson, Weber State University; Big Sky Conference.	
Ritchie Beene, Alabama State University.	
Chris Brock, Princeton University; Ivy League.	

Cody Brousek, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Big Ten Conference.
Pam Bruzina, Faculty Athletics Representative Association.
Rhiannon Davies, Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee.
Darren Gauson, University of New Mexico; Mountain West Conference.
Karina Handeland, University of Portland.
Shirelle Jackson, University of Miami, Florida; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Mark Kostek, NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Secretary-Rules Editor.
Gary Martin, Student-athlete from University of Virginia.
Jahi McDonald, Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee.
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi; Southeastern Conference.
Taylor Sanderson, University of Memphis.
Sam Seemes, United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University; Big 12 Conference.
Molly Sullivan, Butler University; Big East Conference.
Absentees:
Milan Donley, NCAA Track and Field National Officials Assignor.
Sean Graham, American University.
Terren Peterson, Student-athlete from University of South Florida.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Jejuan Bowser, Emily Capehart, and Jeff Mlynski.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:
Jay Fitzwater and Micaela Kapsalis.