



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
MARCH 5-6, 2024, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2024 indoor track and field championships.** The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee reviewed and verified start lists and determined opening bar heights and progressions for the vertical jumps. The committee also prepared a list of last-minute notes and details to be included in the coaches' packets.
2. **DirectAthletics.** The committee met with Dave Stelnik of DirectAthletics and received updates on how the declarations process, selections process and the results reporting process went throughout the indoor track and field season.
3. **Outdoor track and field.**
 - a. **Competition schedule feedback.** The committee reviewed competition schedule feedback from the 2024 outdoor track and field first-round hosts and finalized the meet schedules for the first-round competitions in May.
 - b. **USTFCCCA updates.** Sam Seemes, Executive Director of the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA), presented proposed first-round practice schedules on behalf of the USTFCCCA. Proposed schedules included practice by gender, field event practice times segmented by competition flight, along with track dedicated times and lanes by event. The committee supported the proposals in concept but noted concerns with some of the long throwing events based on venue constraints, as well as concerns with segmented flight-specific practice times given schools with multiple athletes in an event, but in different flights, would have to attend different practice sessions.
 - c. **Combined event hurdles.** The committee discussed the idea of using all lanes in the combined event hurdle races rather than every other lane at the NCAA outdoor track and field championships. The committee noted this is what is done at the highest level of the sport and the student-athletes competing at NCAA championships are top-tier athletes. The committee asked for this item to be forwarded on to the track and field executive committee within the USTFCCCA for discussion and feedback.

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

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- d. **Preferred lanes concept.** The committee discussed a USTFCCCA proposal that would assign preferred lanes when seeding the first rounds of competition at the NCAA outdoor track and field East and West first rounds. The committee noted its support as long as marks achieved under this proposed process would still be accepted for World Athletics purposes.

3. Indoor track and field.

- a. **Weight throw.** Committee members discussed the weight throw and agreed to propose a change to the rules committee that would require implements to stay under control of the officials at all times once checked in and throughout competition. Student-athletes would not be allowed to take weight implements between attempts to where they are sitting, and officials would keep them under their control and observation. This along with re-certification of weight throw implements after championship warm-up will be added to the indoor technical manual moving forward.
 - b. **Combined event hurdles.** As with outdoor track and field, the committee discussed the idea of using all lanes in the combined event hurdle races rather than every other lane at the NCAA indoor track and field championships. The committee noted this is what is done at the highest level of our sport and the student-athletes competing at NCAA championships are top-tier athletes. The committee asked for this item to be forwarded on to the track and field executive committee within the USTFCCCA for discussion and feedback.
 - c. **Tiebreaking procedures.** The committee agreed to provide greater clarity within the indoor track and field technical manual detailing that all event ties for all places will be broken for seeding purposes.
 - d. **200m and 400m.** The committee voted to recommend to the rules committee that for indoor track and field during the 200m and/or 400m events and when advancing on time that participants do not have to run semifinal rounds if there are more than 20 competitors. The committee noted that the rule as currently stated is not in the student-athletes' best interests and unnecessarily lengthens the competition.
 - e. **Preferred lanes concept.** As with outdoor track and field, the committee discussed a USTFCCCA proposal that would assign preferred lanes when seeding the first rounds of competition at the NCAA indoor track and field championships. The committee noted its support as long as marks achieved under this proposed process would still be accepted for World Athletics purposes.
- ### 4. Cross country race distance survey.
- The committee discussed its frustration with the decision to explore surveying men's and women's cross country programs on the topic of race distances. The committee noted that all three divisional committees with cross country oversight have

unanimously voted down the idea of changing the NCAA men's and women's cross country championship race distances twice in the last two years. The committee is frustrated that despite the opposition from the three sport committees, a survey is being explored. Members also noted that if a survey were to be distributed, it should only go to women's cross country programs, since the request to survey is coming from a small contingency advocating on behalf of women's cross country. Additionally, members noted that men's cross country programs should not be asked about the women's race distance and vice versa. The committee noted that men's basketball programs would never be surveyed about women's basketball and vice versa. Ultimately, the committee elected to write a letter to NCAA staff expressing its opposition to a survey noting the numerous prior meetings during which this topic was opposed.

5. **Track and field officials.** The committee was updated on a proposal from the USTFCCCA regarding the number of officials needed on an event-by-event basis and ensuring consistency in assignment to those events at all three divisional championships. Milan Donley, the NCAA track and field national officials assignor, is working to recommend the number of officials needed per event at the NCAA championships. This document will be shared with all three committees during their June joint annual meeting.

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 March 5-6, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
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 State Military Academy.	
Karina Handeland, University of Portland.	
Kerri Inman, Manhattan College.	
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.	
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University.	
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Sam Seemes, United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.	

Dave Stelnik, DirectAthletics.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Demetria Young, Championships and Alliances.