



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MARCH 11, 2026, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2026 indoor track and field championships.** The championship subcommittee reviewed and verified start lists and determined opening bar heights and progressions for the vertical jumps. The subcommittee also prepared a list of last-minute notes and details to be included in the coaches' packets.
2. **Introduction of new committee member.** The committee was introduced to the newest committee member, Lindsey Anderson, head women's track and field and cross country coach at Weber State University. Ms. Anderson fills the success seat currently held by the Big Sky Conference after it was vacated by a committee member who left his institution.
3. **Report of the Feb. 6, 2026, meeting.** The oversight committee approved the report of its Feb. 6, 2026, meeting.
4. **Outdoor track and field championships travel update.** As a cost savings measure, the oversight committee was informed of the decision to only travel championship subcommittee members to the NCAA outdoor track and field championships this upcoming June.
5. **Virtual summer annual meeting.** As an additional cost savings measure, the oversight committee was informed that its June annual meeting will be conducted virtually. The committee elected to adjust the dates of the meeting to occur virtually on June 22 and 23.
6. **2026-27 championship sub-chair assignments.** The committee considered members that may be interested in serving in a championship sub-chair role for the 2026-27 championships. Molly Sullivan of Butler volunteered to serve as the sub-chair for the 2026 cross country championships and Taylor Sanderson of Memphis volunteered to serve as the sub-chair for the 2027 indoor track and field championships. The sub-chair for the 2027 outdoor track and field championships will be identified at a later date.
7. **2026 NCAA outdoor track and field championships competition schedule.** The committee made final tweaks to the outdoor track and field national championships schedule and approved the schedule for public release and posting.

8. **Frequency of foreign tours proposal.** In preparation for the Cabinet's April 14-15 review of Proposal No. 2026-8 (Playing and Practice Seasons – Foreign Tour – Time Lapse Between Tours – Basketball – Once per Year), which would eliminate the once-in-four-years timing limitation and permit an institution to take a foreign tour once per year, the oversight committee discussed whether the proposal should apply to cross country and track and field. The committee has no formal position on the proposal applying to cross country and track and field, noting the existing legislation is not currently an impediment in these sports due to the infrequency of foreign tours in cross country and track and field.
9. **Division I Cabinet update.** The committee received an update on the action recommended by the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee that was recommended to apply to all sports by the Division I Cabinet (Proposal No. [2026-10](#)). The committee discussed the potential applications stemming from the proposed changes and will continue to receive updates as the Cabinet conversations progress.
10. **Fall and spring transfer windows.** The oversight committee continued to discuss the timing and duration of the cross country and track and field transfer windows available toward the conclusion of the fall and spring terms. The committee discussed support for consolidating the two windows that respectively occur at these junctures in favor of a one period of time during the late-spring and one period at midyear that could accommodate any student-athlete on a cross country or track and field roster. The committee continued to express preference for the windows to occur after the conclusion of the Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships and the Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships, respectively. The committee will continue to discuss these issues and potentially propose further changes during a future meeting.
11. **Cross country.**
 - a. **First permissible preseason practice blanket waiver.** The committee approved a blanket waiver to permit preseason practice sessions in cross country to begin on Aug. 10, 2026. Issuance of the blanket waiver will provide Division I institutions with adequate time to plan for the 2026 cross country season until a legislative solution is identified, noting the committee intends to propose legislation to amend the formula used to determine the first permissible preseason practice date in cross country in the near future.
 - b. **Working group update.** The committee received an update on changes being considered by the cross country working group for possible submission to the Division I Track and Field and Cross Country Sport Oversight Committee for future adoption. The working group is looking to add more value to regular season competitions and incentivize more regional competitions.

Adjustments being considered include the following:

- i. A penalty for a loss during the selection process. This would include a negative one point being applied to every team under consideration that an institution has lost to that has not been selected to the championship.
- ii. Consideration of allowing an institution to score no more than three at-large points during any one regular season competition.
- iii. Consideration of not allowing at-large points to be earned against anyone at a meet that is outside the top 15 teams.

The working group will look to convene one more time before considering formal recommendations to the sport oversight committee.

- c. **Review of 2025 championships survey results.** The committee reviewed feedback and comments from participants of the 2025 cross country regional and national championship competitions.
 - d. **Proposal to change team tie break rules.** The committee voted in support of recommending to the cross country and track and field playing rules subcommittee to change the team tiebreaker rule in cross country to go to the sixth runner to break team ties. Additionally, the committee recommended that if only one of the tied teams has more than five runners finish, the team with a sixth runner would win the tie break, and if both teams only have five runners finish, the teams will end in a tie. This proposal will be submitted to the playing rules subcommittee for further review and consideration.
12. **Potential new outdoor track and field scoring system.** The oversight committee received an overview of a proposed new scoring system for the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships from committee member Sam Seemes, CEO of the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The proposal would put value on round-by-round advancement, earning advancing athletes' points for each time they advance from one round to the next starting with the first round of each event at the East and West outdoor track and field first rounds. Athletes advancing to the final round would earn points similar to what is currently being done with either an eight place (10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1) or nine place scoring (10-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1) model. All points from all rounds will be added to the final team score totals. The committee will continue to discuss this concept for consideration at future meetings.
13. **Altitude and track size conversions.** The committee began to discuss current track and field conversions for both altitude and track size. This included consideration of the elimination of altitude conversions based on discussion and a proposal submitted by a coach within the NCAA Division I membership. The committee will continue discussion on the topic of conversions, including the possible elimination of conversion(s), within the sport of track and field at future meetings.

14. **NCAA track and field championship competition managers.** The committee considered a recommendation to give full authority to the NCAA national officials assignor in selecting the competition managers for each of the NCAA Division I indoor and outdoor track and field championships sites. Ultimately the committee felt the current process of the national assignor recommending folks to the committee for approval works well and they elected to take no action on this proposal.

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

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Oversight Committee March 11, 2026, Meeting
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.
Sean Graham, American University.
Karina Handeland, University of Portland.
Shirelle Jackson, University of Miami, Florida; Atlantic Coast Conference.
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.
Gary Martin, Student-athlete from University of Virginia.
Mark Kostek, NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Secretary-Rules Editor.
Terren Peterson, Student-athlete from University of South Florida.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Jejuan Bowser, Connor Bush, Emily Capehart and Jeff Mlynski.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:
Jay Fitzwater and Demetria Young.