



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
MARCH 5-7, 2019, MEETING AND APRIL 26, 2019 TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Nonlegislative items.**

- 1. Move from a three-day Outdoor Track and Field Preliminary round to a four-day Outdoor Track and Field Preliminary round.**

- a. Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve adjusting the format of the Division I Outdoor Track and Field East and West Preliminary rounds from a three-day meet to a four-day meet to mimic the format of the final site competition. Genders would alternate competition days with one gender competing on days one and three and the other gender competing on days two and four. The committee notes that there is a budgetary impact and would ask for the concept to be approved pending funding availability.
- b. Effective date. August 1, 2021, or as soon as funding is available.
- c. Rationale. A four-day preliminary championship format provides a great number of benefits. Spreading out the competition and having genders alternate competition days helps alleviate heavy congestion and safety concerns that occur on both practice days and during warm-up on competition days since both genders, with 48 student-athletes per event, are trying to share the same space and facilities.

Also, since competition days would now be shortened during a four-day format, opportunity for practices can be offered at the facility each morning. The shortened competition days also provide greater flexibility when dealing with weather delays. Weather delays have been common during these preliminary championships, and due to the jam-packed schedules with events starting as early as noon each day and lasting until late evening, there is little flexibility to effectively make adjustments. This further taxes meet management, officials, participants and coaches who need to be at the venue for an even more extended period each day.

In addition, as was noted when the format was changed for the final site competition several years ago, a great majority of men's and women's programs are combined. By adjusting to a four-day format, coaches can now focus on one gender each day, providing a higher level of coaching since they are able to focus on one specific gender each day.

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Finally, from a promotional aspect, each gender can have their own days with sole focus and attention on them without one gender feeling overshadowed by the other gender. The shortened daily schedules also make it more appealing for spectators and media to attend.

- d. Estimated budget impact. Approximately \$53,390 (\$26,695/site). Costs include meet operations (e.g. timing/results, video review, etc.), officials fees, hotel accommodations, per diem and an increase in the host stipend (\$5,000/site).

Additionally, there will be some increase in additional institutional expense for extra day of accommodations.

- e. Student-athlete impact. As previously mentioned, each gender would enjoy more focused coverage. The format also could help student-athletes perform at a higher level since they would now have a day to recover and coaches would be focusing on only one gender each day. It would ensure equal days of rest from the preliminary rounds to the final site. Currently, the men have one less day of rest compared to the women since they begin competition at the final site one day earlier.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2019 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. **Cross country.**

- a. During its March meeting the committee voted to put forth a recommendation to the Competition Oversight Committee to change the men's cross country championship race distance from 10k to 8k.

The committee noted that currently teams are not running the 10k distance during regular-season competition or at their conference championships. All regular-season races and conference championships run the 8k distance. The committee would like for there to be consistency throughout the entirety of the season.

Additionally, the committee would like to mandate that the NCAA championship distance be run during all regular-season and conference championships in order for those competitions to count toward NCAA championship at-large qualification. The committee feels that mandating the current 10k distance being run throughout the regular season and

conference championships could be a student-athlete welfare concern, as the 10k distance is more likely to have an adverse impact on the student-athlete as compared to multiple races at the 8k distance

If the Competition Oversight Committee were to approve changing the men's championship distance from 10k to 8k, the committee will elect to mandate that the championship distance of 8k for men and 6k for women must be run during the qualifying window in order for institutions to earn points toward at-large qualification to the NCAA championships.

However, after subsequent discussion during an April 26, 2019, teleconference the committee decided to delay this entire recommendation. The committee has decided to seek additional feedback and will work to develop a survey to be sent out to the membership in the months ahead.

- b. The committee reviewed a proposal from the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association to eliminate the top 25 regional placing requirement in order for individual student-athletes to qualify from the regional championships to the national championships. The committee discussed and noted that this was reviewed and voted on following the 2016 cross country championships. The committee voted unanimously to maintain the current selection policy put into place at that time. That policy is as follows:

From each NCAA regional meet, the first four student-athletes not on a qualifying team will be automatic qualifiers to the NCAA championships meet. All individual automatic qualifiers must finish in the top 25 within their region.

The committee will also select two at-large individuals by identifying the highest non-qualifying individual finishers at the regional meets. All individual at-large qualifiers must finish in the top 25 within their region meet. In cases where regions have less than four automatic individual qualifiers meet the required selection criteria, the committee will add individual at-large qualifiers to maintain the maximum number of 255 participants per gender. The next selected at-large individual(s) would be the next highest non-qualifying individual finishers among the regional meets. Any additional at-large individuals selected must finish in the top 25 of their regional meet.

- c. The committee continued discussing the current Division I Cross Country Championships nine region system and agreed to consider ways to potentially improve the current system as well as explore other possible formats. The committee identified the following four areas regarding the regional championships to explore:
 - (1) Qualifying vs. open to any sponsoring Division I institution.
 - (2) Review how one or two meets can control at-large qualification points.

- (3) Perceived size and competitive disparity among regions.
- (4) Regional course discrepancies.

Additionally, the committee plans to consider surveying coaches regarding the NCAA Cross Country Regional Championships format.

- d. The committee elected to allow a maximum of 12 student-athlete credentials for each institution that qualifies to the championships as a team. Currently, teams are allowed at the initial point of championships declaration to declare 12 student-athletes. However, for the number of credentials distributed on site, the policy has allowed for only eight credentials. The committee noted this provides consistency with the number of student-athletes who are allowed to be declared as part of the championships roster and gives coaches the freedom and ability to warm-up their entire roster of student-athletes before deciding which seven runners will compete in the championship race.
- 3. Eagle Eye live throws review.** The committee discussed the current video review process for throwing events at the indoor and outdoor track and field championships and noted that a chip system is still being used, which can delay the review process. The committee would like to explore the cost associated with live video review for the throws, which would allow officials to do instantaneous review at the competition site. NCAA staff will explore costs knowing that this would require a budget request to the Competition Oversight Committee.
- 4. United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) indoor preliminary round proposal.** Sam Seemes from USTFCCCA again presented the proposal for adding an east and west preliminary round for the NCAA indoor track and field championships. This topic remains on the committee's radar and was discussed thoroughly at the 2018 June annual meeting. At that time the committee weighed the pros and cons and noted a 50/50 split on the topic within the coaching body and the estimated \$163,000 cost to the NCAA, as well as additional costs to the host institutions. The committee will continue to track on this topic.

Committee Chair: Julie Levesque, University of Texas at El Paso, Conference USA
Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

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| NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee March 5-7, 2019, Meeting and April 26, 2019 Teleconference |
| Attendees: |
| Trey Clark, Lamar University. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| Milan Donley, University of Kansas. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| Herman Frazier, Syracuse University. (March 5-7 and April 26) |

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| Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference. (April 26) |
| Amy Horst, Loyola University Maryland. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| Jennifer Lawlor, Monmouth University. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| Julie Levesque, University of Texas at El Paso. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| Ervin Lewis, University of North Florida. (March 5-7) |
| Wendy McFarlane-Smith, University of Delaware; Colonial Athletic Conference. (March 5-7) |
| Sharlene Milwood-Lee, Farleigh Dickinson University; Northeast Conference. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| Mike Nelson, Marquette University, Big East Conference. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| TJ Shelton, The Ohio State University. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| Absentees: |
| None. |
| Guests in Attendance: |
| Sam Seemes, USTFCCCA. (March 5-7) |
| NCAA Staff Support in Attendance: |
| Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances. (March 5-7 and April 26) |
| Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance: |
| None. |