



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 20-21, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Legislative items.**

- 1. Remove Bylaw 20.9.6.3.3.2 from the NCAA Division I Manual and add cross country to Bylaw 18.4.2.2e.**

- a. Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve removing Bylaw 20.9.6.3.3.2, which allows NCAA cross country regional championships to count as a competition toward achieving sport sponsorship minimums, and add cross country to Bylaw 18.4.2.2e, which will require teams to meet sport sponsorship minimums to be eligible to compete in the NCAA cross country regional championships.
- b. Effective date. August 1, 2021, applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2021.
- c. Rationale. The committee recognizes that some institutions claim to sponsor cross country without fully meeting sport sponsorship requirements. The committee believes that schools who truly sponsor the sport should be rewarded with being eligible for NCAA postseason competition. Even under the current bylaw that allows for teams to use the NCAA regional championships as a counter toward sponsorship minimums, the committee recognizes that still some institutions may not be meeting the sponsorship requirements and qualifying student-athletes to the national championship, which in turn takes away an opportunity from a school or individual whose institution is fully sponsoring the sport.

The committee also noted that removing Bylaw 20.9.6.3.3.2 and adding cross country to Bylaw 18.4.2.2e adds consistency across the sports of cross country, and indoor and outdoor track and field, which are all very interwoven sport programs with many of the same student-athletes and coaches.

- d. Estimated budget impact. Zero, with the exception of schools that were not meeting sponsorship requirements and will be required to travel to additional regular-season competitions to meet the sponsorship minimums and championship eligibility requirements.

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- e. Student-athlete impact. This would ensure that the institutions that are fully sponsoring the sport are providing the best experience for their student-athletes and ensure that student-athletes who are a part of those programs are given the best possibilities of qualifying to the NCAA postseason.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2019 cross country championships**. The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee reviewed the schedule and assignments for the week. In addition, members prepared last-minute notes to be included in the team packets.
2. **Track and field officials positions restructure and fee increase proposal**. The committee heard from Nathan Smurdon, NCAA Track and Field National Officials Assignor, on a proposal for restructuring officials positions and adjusting the pay structure for officials. After meeting with Nathan and hearing the work he is doing to elevate officiating in collegiate track and field, the committee agreed that his recommended restructuring and adjusted officials pay levels are necessary.

The committee supports categorizing officials into three tiers instead of the current two based on job function and responsibility. The three tiers would be paid at varying amounts; tier one at \$200/day of competition (currently paid at \$222/day), tier two at \$100/day of competition (currently paid at \$50/day) and tier three at \$75/day of competition (currently paid at \$50/day). Tier one officials would still continue to receive a daily per diem of \$45, single-bedded rooms and travel expenses to and from the championships. Tiers two and three officials would continue to have housing (double-bedded rooms) provided at the championships.

The committee acknowledged that the tier one officials would receive a decrease in pay, but members noted the gap between tier one and tier two has grown significantly in the last several years with the annual officials' pay increase that has been allotted. The sense is this decrease would not be viewed negatively, as those dollars are being reallocated to the tiers two and three officials who have previously been underpaid.

The committee also noted that many of the officials are working long days and at the NCAA championships they are working for multiple days, and a higher pay is important to ensuring recruitment and retention of the best officials to work Division I championship events and provide a fair and equitable experience for the student-athletes. The committee also recognizes that track is unlike any other sport from a standpoint of the number of officials that work a meet. About 75 officials are required to execute the indoor track and field championships and about 85 are necessary for the outdoor championships. These large numbers are among the known reasons for the large gap in track and field officials fees compared to their counterparts in other sports.

Due to the restructuring of positions and pay, the committee will request in the next budget cycle an additional \$2,666 in officiating fees for indoor track and field and an additional \$19,770 in fees for outdoor track and field (\$12,726 for the preliminary-round sites and \$7,044 for the final site). In addition to these fees, the committee will request an increase in travel, per diem and hotel for three additional tier one officials for outdoor track and field. These adjustments include the addition of head marshals as tier one officials at the two outdoor track and field preliminary-round sites, whose primary jobs are to ensure safety of all competition areas, and the addition of second field event referee at the final site. It has been noted with the number of field events that occur simultaneously and the expansive footprint of the field events that two field event referees are important to ensuring better coverage of all the field events. The additional per diem would total \$652.50, the travel would total \$1,500 and the hotel would total \$2,340.

- 3. Cross country regional format and race distances survey.** The committee spent significant time reviewing and discussing the survey sent to the coaching body in August regarding review of the cross country regional format and race distances.

When reviewing the survey responses the committee noted the following items as being consistently mentioned in the regional review section of the survey: hotels/accommodations, streaming coverage, technology (live results, video boards), ensuring best teams qualify to the final site, quality courses (cross country dedicated courses when possible), cost and distance of travel to the regional site, head-to-head competition, student-athlete experience (championship feel), value placed on the regular season, negative consequence for a loss (win/loss record), and multiple first-round sites. In addition, a majority felt that not everyone should be allowed to compete at the first round.

After reviewing this information, the committee began discussing the regional model and exploring a qualifying system that includes multiple regional sites. The committee began looking at a qualifying process that moves from an "all-comers" format to a system that encompasses conference automatic qualifiers and an at-large selection process to the regional championships. The committee wants to maintain both a team and individual qualifying component. The committee plans to continue to review and discuss the regional format model over the course of the next year.

As for the race distance review, the committee did not have a strong enough desire at this point, based on the survey feedback, to change anything so it chose to table the discussion for the time being.

- 4. Indoor track and field championship competition schedule.** The committee reviewed a final version of the indoor track and field championship schedule and unanimously voted, due to the venue setup in Albuquerque, to use only one ring in the combined events shot put. With

the exception of this one update, the committee approved the schedule for final publication and release.

Committee Chair: Milan Donley, University of Kansas, Big 12 Conference
Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee November 20-21, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Trey Clark, Lamar University.	
Abbie Day, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.	
Milan Donley, University of Kansas.	
Elvis Forde, Temple University.	
Sean Harris, Pac-12 Conference.	
Amy Horst, Loyola University Maryland.	
Jennifer Lawlor, Monmouth University.	
Ervin Lewis, University of North Florida.	
Wendy McFarlane-Smith, University of Delaware.	
Sharlene Milwood-Lee, Farleigh Dickinson University.	
Ryan Orner, Xavier University	
TJ Shelton, The Ohio State University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Nathan Smurdon, NCAA Track and Field National Officials Assignor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.	