



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 16, 2023, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2023 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 discussed items from the course walkthrough and prepared last-minute notes to be included in the team packets.
2. **NCAA cross country and track and field championship logo review.** The committee reviewed and offered feedback on the cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field championship logos, which are being designed as part of a brand refresh for the 2024-25 NCAA championship season.
3. **Track and field officiating.** The committee reviewed a list of recommended key officials for the 2024 NCAA Division I indoor and outdoor track and field championships sites from Milan Donley, NCAA track and field national officials assignor. The committee compiled feedback that will be shared with Mr. Donley before the final announcement of selected officials in late December.

In addition, the committee reviewed a recommendation from Mr. Donley to consider consistency in the key officials positions across all three divisions. The committee generally supported the recommendations but acknowledged further discussion must occur with the Division II and Division III committees to ensure their support before final action can be taken.

The committee did support Mr. Donley's recommendation to title the two head clerks as Men's Clerk and Women's Clerk rather than Head Clerk and Line Clerk. The committee recognizes that these two clerks will still work together very closely, but it helps to better delineate the workload between these two individuals.

The committee also reviewed a list of recommended additional key officials to be added to the first-round sites of the outdoor track and field championships. The committee supported adding the head umpire as a key official position at the outdoor track and field first rounds. Budgetary impact information will be gathered so that additional funding support can be requested to add this position as a key official at the two first-round sites.

4. **Cross country.**

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- a. **Regional championship site updates.** Committee members who served as site representatives at regional championship competitions provided updates from each site. Representatives provided a great deal of positive feedback. Representatives did note that sites need to ensure they have adequate coverage with PA systems, courses with sprinkler heads need to be filled, hosts need to ensure good internet and wifi connectivity for results, make sure there is a good parking plan especially to accommodate large team buses, and make sure the courses are measured appropriately with a wheel to ensure the courses meet the required championship course lengths.
- b. **Cross country regional championship practice times.** The committee discussed start times for Thursday regional practices and voted to implement a policy that the course be available for practice starting no later than the corresponding time of the first race on Friday.
- c. **Policy on regional courses that are short.** The committee briefly discussed looking to implement a policy on courses that are short and that do not meet the championship men's and women's race distances. The committee elected to add this to the agenda for its June annual meeting.
- d. **Regional entry deadline.** The committee voted to update the language in the NCAA pre-championships manual, regional participant manuals, and cross country results reporting memo to state following the 5 p.m. deadline for late entries at regionals that "entries officially close at this time."
- e. **Clerking at regionals and nationals.** The committee briefly discussed the idea of eliminating the need for teams to check-in the morning of the race if they have an individual qualifier or if a team declares down to seven during packet pickup the day prior to the championship races. The committee elected to add this item to the June annual meeting agenda for further discussion.
- f. **Late packet pickup at cross country regionals.** The committee voted unanimously to add a late packet pickup window the morning of the regional championship races for teams that are not able to attend the scheduled packet pickup window the day prior to the regional championships. The committee noted that some institutions are close enough to the regional championship sites that they decide not to travel over until the morning of the races.
- g. **Regional and championship on-time and late entry deadlines.** The committee voted to have the on-time and late-entry deadlines added to the overall schedule of events noted within each of the regional participant manuals.

4. Track and field.

- a. **Outdoor track and field championship awards presentations.** The committee discussed the awards format for the championship finals site and elected to return to the same model used in 2022. All individual athlete awards on Wednesday and Thursday will be presented in-stadium during competition. All individual and team awards on Friday and Saturday will be presented during a post-championship awards celebration following the conclusion of the 4x400m relay and presentation of the team championship trophy on ESPN.

The committee also noted wanting to encourage teams to bring institutional flags to the championships to hand out to their athletes who win individual or relay events so they can celebrate in the moment of victory, much like is seen in an Olympic setting with athletes draping themselves with their country's flag.

- b. **Men's and women's National Collegiate Wheelchair 100m Championship.** At the request of the USPOC, the committee discussed the timing of the implementation of the men's and women's National Collegiate Wheelchair 100m Championship events that the committee approved being included at the NCAA championships during its June 2023 meeting. Committee members reiterated that they felt it was a great opportunity to help showcase these two events but wanted to be sure they did not overlap with any NCAA championship events so as not to take away from the NCAA student-athletes' experience and moments. The committee re-affirmed that these two events should take place on Friday and Saturday, respectively, prior to the start of the first field event competition each day, the open high jump, and approximately 40 minutes prior to the 4x100m relay.

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 November 16, 2023, 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.	
Sydney Griffin, United States Military Academy.	
Karina Handeland, University of Portland.	
Kerri Inman, Manhattan College.	
Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.	
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University.	
Absentees:	

Ervin Lewis, University of North Florida.
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University.
Guests in Attendance:
Sam Seemes, CEO United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.