



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 20-21, 2024, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2024 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. **Track and field officiating.** The committee reviewed a list of recommended key officials for the 2025 NCAA Division I indoor and outdoor track and field championships sites from Milan Donley, NCAA track and field national officials assignor. The committee supported the recommendations as presented by Mr. Donley.
3. **Cross country.**
 - a. **Late declaration fine appeal.** The committee reviewed a letter of appeal from an institution that declared both their men's and women's programs within the late window, which resulted in a \$400 fine per gender. The committee did not feel the appeal warranted an exemption from the fine structure as is detailed within the NCAA cross country prechampionships manual.
 - b. **Regional championship site updates.** Committee members who served as site representatives at regional championship competitions provided updates from each site. Overall, representatives provided a great deal of positive feedback and felt the host sites did a great job working to ensure a high-level experience for the participating institutions. Representatives noted that it is important to continue to ensure coaches understand the clerking process and timeline for making final declarations and substitutions. One member noted that one site did not have an actual clerking tent and clerking was just at a table. Committee members emphasized the importance of ensuring each site has a defined clerking location with an actual tent.
4. **Track and field.**
 - a. **Seeding from outdoor track and field first rounds to final site in track events.** Mark Kostek, NCAA cross country and track and field secretary-rules editor, and Jay Fitzwater, NCAA staff liaison to the NCAA cross country and track and field rules committee, joined the meeting virtually to discuss the proposed seeding method the committee would like to use for seeding the semifinal rounds of the Division I outdoor track and field

championships, as outlined in the committee's [August report](#). Given the unique setup of the NCAA outdoor track and field championship format and structure, one meet occurring at three sites over two weekends, it was recommended that the sport committee submit to the rules committee a waiver to seed as detailed in their August report. Because of the varied weather conditions that can occur at each of the first-round sites, the committee feels strongly that it can lead to disadvantages in the seeding at the finals site and thus believes the outlined seeding method in the August report provides the most equitable and fair seeding for semifinal round track competition at the finals site. The committee will submit a waiver request to the rules committee.

- b. Indoor throws marking material.** The committee agreed to ask that Norfolk State University and the city of Virginia Beach, hosts of the 2025 indoor track and field championships, test the use of cornmeal within the sector during the regular season, to be used as a possible marking material for measuring throws during competition.
- c. Indoor track and field technical manual high jump proposal from USTFCCCA.** The committee voted to adopt the following proposed language from the USTFCCCA for determining high jump opening heights and progressions at the NCAA indoor track and field championships. The committee did make one modification, which is noted below in red.
 - 1) The opening height for each gender will be five centimeters below the lowest declared performance mark of a competitor accepted into the championships.
 - 2) The increment progression for each gender will be at least two increases of five centimeters, followed by increases of either five centimeters or three centimeters as determined by Meet Management.

Note: Meet Management retains its authority to adjust starting heights, and increment progressions due to unforeseen circumstances at the championships. **In addition, the committee may consider other major championship qualification standards when establishing starting heights and progressions but will ultimately be determined by what is in the best interests of the NCAA championships.**

- d. Indoor track and field technical manual pole vault proposal from USTFCCCA.** The committee voted to adopt the below proposed language from the USTFCCCA for determining pole vault opening heights and progressions at the NCAA indoor track and field championships. The committee did make one modification, which is noted below in red.
 - 1) The opening height for each gender will be 15 centimeters below the lowest declared performance mark of a competitor accepted into the championships.

- 2) The increment progressions for each gender at the championships will be: the first two increases will be 15 centimeters, and a possible third increase of 15 centimeters, if determined by Meet Management, followed by two increases of 10 centimeters, and possibly a third increase of 10 centimeters as determined by Meet Management, followed by increases of five centimeters.

Note: Meet Management retains its authority to adjust starting heights, and increment progressions due to unforeseen circumstances at the championships. **In addition, the committee may consider other major championship qualification standards when establishing starting heights and progressions but will ultimately be determined by what is in the best interests of the NCAA championships.**

- e. **Outdoor track and field first rounds technical manual high jump proposal from USTFCCCA.** The committee voted to adopt the below proposed language from the USTFCCCA for determining high jump opening heights and progressions at the NCAA outdoor track and field first rounds.

- 1) The opening height on each high jump pit at each respective first-round site of the championships will be five centimeters below the lowest declared ranked performance mark for each gender at each respective first-round site.
- 2) The increment progression on each high jump pit, for each gender, at each first-round site of the championships will be at least two increases of five centimeters, followed by increases of either five centimeters or three centimeters, as determined by Meet Management.

Note: Meet Management retains its authority to adjust starting heights, and increment raises due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances at first-round sites.

- f. **Outdoor track and field first rounds technical manual pole vault proposal from USTFCCCA.** The committee voted to adopt the below proposed language from the USTFCCCA for determining pole vault opening heights and progressions at the NCAA outdoor track and field first rounds.

- 1) The opening height on each pole vault pit at each respective first-round site of the championships will be 15 centimeters below the lowest declared ranked performance mark for each gender at each respective first-round site.
- 2) The increment progression on each pole vault pit, for each gender, at each first-round site of the championships will be 15 centimeters for the first two increases, and a possible third increase of 15 centimeters, if determined by Meet Management, followed by two increases of 10 centimeters, and possibly a third

increase of 10 centimeters as determined by Meet Management, followed by increases of five centimeters.

Note: Meet Management retains its authority to adjust starting heights, and increment raises due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances at each first-round site.

g. Outdoor track and field championships technical manual high jump proposal from USTFCCCA. The committee voted to adopt the below proposed language from the USTFCCCA for determining high jump opening heights and progressions at the NCAA outdoor track and field championships. The committee did make one modification, which is noted below in red.

- 1) The opening height for each gender will be five centimeters below the lowest seasonal best performance mark, including performance marks at the first-round sites of the championships, by a qualifier for the finals site.
- 2) The increment progression for each gender will be at least two increases of five centimeters, followed by increases of either five centimeters or three centimeters, as determined by Meet Management.

Note: Meet Management retains its authority to adjust starting heights, and increment raises due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances at the finals site. **In addition, the committee may consider other major championship qualification standards when establishing starting heights and progressions but will ultimately be determined by what is in the best interests of the NCAA championships.**

h. Outdoor track and field championships technical manual pole vault proposal from USTFCCCA. The committee voted to adopt the below proposed language from the USTFCCCA for determining pole vault opening heights and progressions at the NCAA outdoor track and field championships. The committee did make one modification, which is noted below in red.

- 1) The opening height for each gender will be 15 centimeters below the lowest seasonal best performance mark, including performance marks at the first-round sites of the championships, declared by a qualifier for the finals site.
- 2) The increment progression for each gender at the finals site of the championships will be 15 centimeters for the first two increases, and a possible third increase of 15 centimeters, if determined by Meet Management, followed by two increases of 10 centimeters, and possibly a third increase of 10 centimeters as determined by Meet Management, followed by increases of five centimeters.

Note: Meet Management retains its authority to adjust starting heights, and increment raises due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances at the finals site. **In addition, the committee may consider other major championship qualification standards when establishing starting heights and progressions but will ultimately be determined by what is in the best interests of the NCAA championships.**

- i. **Proposal to conduct all long throws (discus, hammer and javelin) at the outdoor track and field first rounds in four flights of 12 as opposed to the current three flights of 16.** The committee voted to support a proposal from the USTFCCA track and field executive committee to now conduct all long throws competitions at the NCAA outdoor track and field first rounds in four flights of 12.
- j. **Use of alternating lanes in NCAA championship combined event hurdle races.** The committee confirmed the current language in the indoor and outdoor technical manuals to continue using every other lane in combined event hurdle races.
- k. **2026 outdoor track and field west first rounds.** The committee discussed the status and impact of facility renovations and redesign at the currently awarded site at Sacramento State. The committee has received updates from Sacramento and is gathering additional information as they explore their options for conducting a successful first-round competition in May of 2026.
- l. **2025 outdoor track and field East and West first rounds competition schedules.** The committee reviewed drafts of the East and West first-round competition schedules and approved the drafts pending feedback from the host sites at the University of North Florida and Texas A&M University, College Station, to ensure there are no facility-related concerns.
- m. **2025 outdoor track and field championships schedule.** The committee reviewed a draft of the finals site competition schedule and will share it with host University of Oregon for facility-related feedback and will finalize times once the ESPN broadcast windows are known.
- n. **DVSPORT video review.** The committee discussed various enhancements to video review at both the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. This includes the consideration of continued use of additional 4x100 relay exchange zone cameras, use of athlete review monitors at both the indoor and outdoor final site for the horizontal jumps, the addition of a second camera on the horizontal jumps boards so that the board official can be moved away from the board to make the call, and the use of red light and green light towers for the indication of fair or fouled attempts in the horizontal jumps. Recognizing that all these options are not able to be implemented within the current budget, the committee has asked to explore cost implementation with DVSPORT based on the committee's priorities among the previous listed items.

- o. Indoor track and field broadcast and format.** The committee briefly discussed if a change in the current date formula for the Division I indoor track and field championships may lead to the possibility of live linear broadcast coverage (Example: Monday/Tuesday championships as opposed to current Friday/Saturday championships). The committee asked NCAA staff to explore with NCAA broadcast team members for further feedback from ESPN.

The committee also briefly discussed the presented idea of a possible three-day indoor track and field championships format instead of the current two-day format, noting some of the challenges experienced with the number of events and various facility constraints. However, recognizing there would be significant cost implications, the committee did not pursue conversation further at this time.

- p. Discussion about track and field and cross country in the changing landscape of college athletics.** The committee spent time talking about the changing landscape of college athletics and the impact it may have on collegiate cross country and track and field. The committee discussed collaboratively the importance of these collegiate sports on campus, to the health and long-term sustainability of the sports at a higher level, and to the overall experience and opportunities being made available for a diverse representation of young men and women from all over the globe. The committee noted the importance of continuing to advocate and fight for protecting opportunities and experiences for these sports and student-athletes, both on campus and within the entirety of the intercollegiate landscape.

Committee Chair: Karina Handeland, University of Portland, West Coast Conference
Staff Liaison: Jeff Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee November 20-21, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Ritchie Beene, Alabama State University.	
Cody Brousek, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Jason Drake, California State University, Fresno.	
Emily Fulton, Virginia Military Institute.	
Asha Gibson-Smith, Austin Peay State University.	
Sean Graham, American University.	
Karina Handeland, University of Portland.	
Shirelle Jackson, University of Miami (Florida).	
Funmi Jimoh, Rice University.	

Connie Price-Smith, University of Mississippi.
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University.
Dave Smith, Oklahoma State University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Mark Kostek, NCAA Cross Country and Track and Field Secretary-Rules Editor.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Jeff Mlynski.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Demetria Young and Jay Fitzwater.