

NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD



**TRACK
& FIELD**

2026

**OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
TECHNICAL MANUAL**

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INTRODUCTION

The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee has developed this manual to outline the technical procedures for competition for all rounds in the 2026 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships, and provide case studies of situations that may arise during the course of the Championships. Technical procedures have been developed to provide consistency across Championships competition sites. This manual contains four sections:

- Procedures for administrating the events at the First Round Sites of the Championships.
- Procedures for administrating the events at the Final Site of the Championships.
- Relay policy for the Championships; and
- Case studies, to assist coaches by reviewing and answering questions generated by situations.

This manual should be used in conjunction with the 2026 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Pre-Championships Manual, the 2025/2026 NCAA Track and Field/Cross Country Men's and Women's Rules Book, and NCAA Bylaw 31 of the 2025-26 NCAA Division I Manual, which pertains to the administration of NCAA Championships. These publications will provide information about the general policies governing NCAA Championships. In many instances, technical procedures outlined herein reflect the authorized decision-making afforded to Meet Management through the NCAA Track & Field/Cross Country Rules Book.

Readers should note that the Pre-Championships Manual offers details specific to the declaration process and the administration of the Championships.

Although this manual and the other referenced publications attempt to cover all phases of the Championships, if questions arise prior to the start of the Championships, contact NCAA Championships Manager, Jeff Mlynski. Once the Championships begin, questions related to procedures not covered in this manual should be referred to Meet Management at the respective site.

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QUALIFYING FOR THE NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Qualifying for the Championships

Qualification to the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships is accomplished through a competitor's position on the descending order performance mark list for the current outdoor season, segregated by east and west First Round Sites of the Championships, and prepared solely from the mandatory submission of meet results during the current outdoor season, and adhering to the qualifying regulations for the Championships. For each individual event contested at each of the First Round Sites of the Championships, the top forty-eight (48) declared student-athletes, per gender in each individual event will be accepted into the Championships. For each relay event contested at each of the First Round Sites of the Championships, the top twenty-four (24) declared relay teams, per gender in each relay event will be accepted into the Championships. The stated maximums are absolute and will not be extended as a result of ties.

Any descending order list ties, by declared performance mark, for the last position to be accepted will be resolved by examining, of those tied, the second best valid qualifying performance mark submitted during the current outdoor season, and so on until there is no basis for a performance mark comparison. For a tie not resolved after all available performance mark comparisons, acceptance will be awarded to the competitor(s) who achieved the original tying performance mark later in the season. For a tie still not resolved, acceptance will be awarded to the competitor(s) who achieved the second best valid qualifying meet performance mark later in the season, and so on until there is no basis for date comparison. As a last resort, the tie for the last qualifying position will be decided by the toss of a coin. An example of this tie-breaking procedure is presented in the Case Studies section of this manual.

After acceptance into the Championships in any and all events, compliance with Rule 14-2. "Failure to participate," is required.

2. Qualifying for the Combined Events at the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships

The Decathlon and Heptathlon events are not contested at the First Round Sites of the Championships. Qualification to the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships in these two events is accomplished through a competitor's position on the national descending order performance mark list for the current outdoor season prepared solely from the mandatory submission of meet results during the current outdoor season and adhering to the qualifying regulations for the Championships. The top twenty-four (24) declared student-athletes in each of these two events will be accepted into the Championships for competition at the Final Championships Site. The stated maximums are absolute and will not be extended as a result of ties.

Any descending order list ties, by declared performance mark, for the last position to be accepted in the Decathlon or Heptathlon will be resolved by examining, of those tied, the second best valid qualifying meet performance mark submitted during the outdoor season, and so on until there is no basis for a performance mark comparison. For a tie not resolved after all available performance mark comparisons, acceptance will be awarded to the competitor who achieved the original tying performance mark later in the season. For a tie still not resolved, acceptance will be awarded to the competitor who achieved the second best valid qualifying performance mark later in the season, and so on until there is no basis for date comparison.

Once all of the above tie-breaking methods have been exhausted, ties will be resolved by examining, of those tied, the competitor(s) who has received more points than the other competitor(s) in the greater number of events. If a tie still exists, the competitor(s) with the highest number of points in any one event will win the tie. If still tied, the competitor(s) who have the highest number of points in a second event will win the tie. If a tie still remains, a third event will be examined and so forth until there is no basis for point comparison. As a last

resort, the tie for the last qualifying position will be decided by the toss of a coin.

Declaration for both the Decathlon and Heptathlon is completed during the one and only declaration period, which is prior to the First Round of the Championships.

3. Advancement from First Round Sites of the Championships to the Final Championships Site

The top twelve (12) competitors in each event contested, per gender at each First Round Site of the Championships will advance to the Final Championships Site.

At each First Round Site of the Championships, in each event contested, per gender, **no more than** twelve (12) competitors or twelve (12) relay teams shall advance from either First Round Site of the Championships to the Final Championships Site. **The stated maximums are absolute and will not be extended.**

ADMINISTRATION OF FIRST ROUND SITES OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. General Administration

The administration of the First Round Sites of the Championships is the responsibility of the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee, the NCAA Championships liaisons, the director of athletics of the host institution(s) and Meet Management. They will delegate duties and responsibilities and assign other personnel as necessary to ensure the efficient and effective administration and promotion of each First Round Site of the Championships. The following shall be used for assistance in the capacities indicated:

- a. **Meet Director.** The meet director will be appointed by the director of athletics of the host institution at each First Round Site of the Championships and perform the duties prescribed in Rule 12-3.
- b. **Competition Manager(s).** The NCAA Track & Field Officials Assignor will appoint three competition managers to each of the First Round Sites of the Championships that will include a competition manager for the jumping events, a competition manager for the throwing events, and a competition manager for the track events. Competition managers will oversee review of the competition site, management of the competition, event execution, and have responsibility to make decisions or determinations according to this Technical Manual necessary to protect the integrity of the competition at each First Round Site of the Championships and the qualifying process for the Final Site of the Championships.
- c. **Meet Management.** Meet Management for each First Round Site of the Championships will consist of the meet director of the respective First Round Site of the Championships, the NCAA appointed Site Representative(s) of the respective First Round Site of the Championships and the three Competition Managers at the respective First Round Site of the Championships.
- d. **Meet Medical Doctor.** The official meet medical doctor will be appointed by the host meet director at each First Round Site of the Championships and shall be on site during all aspects of the competition to perform the duties prescribed in Rule 12-19.
- e. **Referee(s).** The NCAA Track and Field Officials Assignor will appoint four referees to each First Round Site of the Championships. If possible, four of the eight appointed referees at the First Round Sites of the Championships will be appointed to the Final Championships Site. Referees have the authority prescribed in Rule 12-4.

A minimum of two (2) referees are required to address and agree on a final decision per Rule 13-7.3.b.1) and the final decision will rest with the referees.

There will be NO jury of appeals.

- f. **Site Representatives.** A site representative(s) will be assigned by the NCAA Division I Track & Field and Cross Country Committee at each First Round Site of the Championships to assist the meet director with the administration of the respective First Round Site of the Championships.

2. Competition Format for the First Round of the Championships

- a. The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee retains its authority to set the competition procedures granted in the Rules. Distribution of competition procedures for the First Round Sites of the Championships, differing from those printed herein will be made no later than packet pick-up at the First Round Sites of the Championships. Tie-breaking procedures outlined in Section 4 and Section 5 of the First Round Sites of the Championships section of this manual will be used where applicable.
- b. The competition at each First Round Site of the Championships will be conducted as a four-day event, with the men's and women's events alternating days throughout the schedule.
- c. The time schedule for the First Round Sites of the Championships will be established by the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee and published on the NCAA.org website.
- d. The events contested at each First Round Site of the Championships will be the 100 Meters, 200 Meters, 400 Meters, 800 Meters, 1500 Meters, 5000 Meters, 10,000 Meters, 100 Hurdles (women), 110 Hurdles (men), 400 Hurdles, 3000 Steeplechase, 4x100 Relay, 4x400 Relay, High Jump, Pole Vault, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put, Discus, Javelin, and Hammer.
- e. In all running events which start in lanes, lanes one (1) through eight (8) will be used in all rounds when one or both First Round Sites of the Championships do not have nine (9) lanes. If both First Round Sites of the Championships have nine (9) legal lanes, lanes two (2) through nine (9) will be used in all rounds. First round running event heats and lanes will be determined as prescribed by Rule 15-12.2.a.
- f. In situations where two or more athletes' **first round** qualifying performances in running events are the same, ties will be treated equally, and assignments will occur randomly amongst tied competitors.
- g. First round flight grouping and order of competition in horizontal field events will be based on declared entry performance marks as prescribed by Rules 13-4.1. and 13-4.2. Ties for the final position within a given flight will be broken by each competitor's next-best seasonal performance mark.
- h. For all events except the High Jump and Javelin, the maximum allowable spike length shall be 7 millimeters (quarter inch). For the High Jump and Javelin, the maximum allowable spike length shall be 9 millimeters (3/8 inch). Allowable spikes will be published in the participant manual for each First Round Site of the Championships.

3. Preferred Lanes

- a. In all rounds after the first round, lanes will be assigned as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a., unless alternate provisions are specified in this Technical Manual.

In the 100 Meters, 100 Hurdles, 110 Hurdles, and 800 Meters the preferred lane order will be as follows:

*If one or both First Round Sites of the Championships has an eight-lane track: 5, 4, 6, 3, 7, 2, 8, 1.

*If both First Round Sites of the Championships have nine-lane tracks: 5, 6, 4, 7, 3, 8, 2, 9.

In the 200 Meters, 400 Meters, 400 Hurdles, 4x100 Relay, and 4x400 Relay, the preferred lane order will be as follows:

East – University of Kentucky:

- **200m, 400m, 400 Hurdles, 4x100 and 4x400**: 6, 7, 5, 8, 4, 9, 3, 2

West – University of Arkansas:

- **200m, 400m, 400 Hurdles, 4x100 and 4x400**: 6, 7, 5, 8, 4, 9, 3, 2

4. Heats, Flights, Qualifying Procedures and Staggers

The provisions and procedures prescribed in Rule 13 and Rule 15 regarding the formation, grouping, competition order, cancellation, or redrawing of heats or flights will apply in each round at each First Round Site of the Championships unless alternate provisions are specified in this section. Changes to heats or flights, predetermined by declaration, will be made only with Meet Management authorization.

In the case of a tie(s) for the last qualifying position from a first-round to a quarter-final round in any running event, Rule 15-13.4.b. shall apply.

- 1) If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the timer shall re-read the photograph(s) to determine if the original read was correct and if the competitors were in the same heat, the timer shall re-read the photograph to determine if the tie can be broken by the visual finishing positions of the competitors.
 - a. If a tie still exists and enough lanes and/or starting positions are available, all tying competitors will advance.
- 2) If the tie cannot be broken using this method or if the original tying competitors were not in the same heat, the competitor who placed higher within their heat will qualify to the quarter-final round.
- 3) If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the competitor with the best eligible outdoor championship's performance mark (for wind measured events – 4.0 MPS or less) of the current outdoor season prior to the current round of the competition will qualify to the quarter-final round.
- 4) If the tie cannot be broken using this method, the last position to qualify will be resolved by examining, of those tied, the second best valid qualifying performance mark submitted during the current outdoor season, and so on until there is no basis for a performance mark comparison. For a tie not resolved after all available performance mark comparisons, qualification will be awarded to the competitor(s) who achieved the original tying performance mark later in the season. For a tie still not resolved, qualification will be awarded to the competitor(s) who achieved the second best valid qualifying meet performance mark later in the season, and so on until there is no basis for date comparison.
- 5) If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the competitors who are tied will compete in a run-off to break the tie. The run-off for the last qualifying position will be scheduled by the competition manager for track events, within one (1) hour of the completion of the last scheduled track event of the day. If a student-athlete chooses not to participate in the run-off, they will not be subject to Rule 14-2., and the remaining student-athlete with the tying performance will not have to compete in a run-off, and will qualify to the quarter-final round.

a. 100 Meters, 100 Hurdles, 110 Hurdles, 200 Meters, 400 Meters, and 400 Hurdles

- (1) Two (2) rounds will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a first-round and a quarter-final round.

The **first-round** will consist of six (6) heats of eight (8) competitors. Twenty-four (24), the top three (3) from each **first round heat** plus the next best six (6) times from the first-round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the first-round to the quarter-final round.

The **quarter-final round** will consist of three (3) heats of eight (8) competitors. Twelve (12), the top three (3) from each **quarter-final round heat** plus the next best three (3) times from the quarter-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the quarter-final round to the semi-final round at the Final Championships Site.

- (2) **Heat assignments for the first-round** will be determined in accordance with Rule 15-10.1.c. and Rule 15-10.2.a.1).

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the first-round.

Heat assignments for the quarter-final round will be determined based on first-round place and time performance marks in accordance with Rule 15-10.3.a.

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the quarter-final round.

- (3) **Lane assignments for first-round heats** will be assigned by preferred lane as prescribed by Rule 15-12.2.a.2).
- (4) **Lane assignments for the quarter-final round** will be assigned by preferred lane, based on first-round place and time performance marks as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a.1) and Rule 15-12.3.a2).
- (5) Standardized heat-by-heat check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

In the **first-round** of each event, competitors in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **fourth heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **fifth heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **sixth heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

In the **quarter-final round** of each event, competitors in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

b. 800 Meters.

- (1) Two (2) rounds will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a first-round and a quarter-final round.

The **first-round** will consist of six (6) heats of eight (8) competitors. Twenty-four (24), the top three (3) from each **first round heat** plus the next best six (6) times from the first-round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the first-round to the quarter-final round.

The **quarter-final round** will consist of three (3) heats of eight (8) competitors. Twelve (12), the top three (3) from each **quarter-final round heat** plus the next best three (3) times from the quarter-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the quarter-final round to the semi-final round at the Final Championships Site.

- (2) **Heat assignments for the first-round** will be determined in accordance with Rule 15-10.1.c. and Rule 15-10.2.a.1).

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the first-round.

- (3) **Heat assignments for the quarter-final round** will be determined based on first-round place and time performance marks in accordance with Rule 15-10.3.a.

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the quarter-final round.

- (4) **Lane assignments for first-round** heats will be assigned by preferred lane as prescribed by Rule 15-12.2.a.2).

- (5) **Lane assignments for the quarter-final round** will be assigned by preferred lane, based on first-round place and performance marks as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a.1) and Rule 15-12.3.a.2).

- (6) A one-turn staggered start from individual lanes will be used in both the first-round and the quarter-final round.

- (7) Standardized heat-by-heat check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

In the **first-round**, competitors in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **fourth heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **fifth heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **sixth heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

In the **quarter-final round**, competitors in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

c. **1500 Meters**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a first-round and a quarter-final round.

The **first-round** will consist of four (4) heats of twelve (12) competitors. Twenty-four (24), the top five (5) from each **first round heat** plus the next best four (4) times from the first-round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the first-round to the quarter-final round.

The **quarter-final round** will consist of two (2) heats of twelve (12) competitors. Twelve (12), the top five (5) from each **quarter-final round heat** plus the next best two (2) times from the quarter-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the quarter-final round to the semi-final round at the Final Championships Site.

(2) **Heat assignments for the first-round** will be determined in accordance with Rule 15-10.1.d. and Rule 15-10.2.a.1).

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the first-round.

(3) **Heat assignments for the quarter-final round** will be determined based on first-round place and time performance marks in accordance with Rule 15-10.3.a.

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the quarter-final round.

(4) **Starting positions for the first-round** heats will be drawn by lot as prescribed by Rule 15-12.2.a.1).

(5) **Starting positions for the quarter-final round** heats will be drawn by lot as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.b.1).

(6) A single waterfall start will be used in both the first-round and the quarter-final round.

(7) Standardized heat-by-heat check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

In the **first-round**, competitors in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **fourth heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than the published scheduled start time of the event.

In the **quarter-final round**, competitors in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

d. **3000 Steeplechase**

(1) One (1) round will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a quarter-final round.

The **quarter-final round** will consist of three (3) heats of sixteen (16) competitors. Twelve (12), the top three (3) from each **quarter-final round heat** plus the next best three (3) times from the quarter-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the quarter-final round to the semi-final round at the Final Championships Site.

- (2) **Heat assignments for the quarter-final round** will be determined in accordance with Rule 15-10.1.e. and Rule 15-10.2.a.1).

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the quarter-final round.

- (3) **Starting positions for the quarter-final round** heats will be drawn by lot as prescribed by Rule 15-12.2.a.1).

- (4) A single waterfall start will be used in the quarter-final round.

- (5) Standardized heat-by-heat check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

In the **quarter-final round**, competitors in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

e. **5000 Meters**

- (1) One (1) round will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a semi-final round.

The **semi-final round** will consist of two (2) heats of twenty-four (24) competitors. Twelve (12), the top five (5) from each **semi-final round heat** plus the next best two (2) times from the semi-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round at the Final Championships Site.

- (2) **Heat assignments for the semi-final round** will be determined in accordance with Rule 15-10.1.f. and Rule 15-10.2.a.1).

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

- (3) **Starting positions and alley assignments for the semi-final round** heats will be drawn by lot as prescribed by 15-12.2.a.1).

- (4) A two-alley waterfall start will be used, with sixteen (16) competitors assigned to the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and eight (8) competitors assigned to the one-turn staggered waterfall start.

- (5) Standardized heat-by-heat check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

In the **semi-final round**, competitors in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than the published scheduled start time of the event.

f. **10,000 Meters**

(1) One (1) round will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a semi-final round.

The **semi-final round** will consist of one heat of forty-eight (48) competitors. Twelve (12), the top twelve (12) from the **semi-final round heat**, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round at the Final Championships Site.

(2) A two-alley waterfall start will be used. The fastest sixteen (16) competitors, based upon their declared entry performance mark will be assigned to the front row of the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track. The next eight (8) fastest competitors, based upon their declared entry performance mark will be assigned to the front row of the one-turn staggered waterfall start. The next sixteen (16) fastest competitors, based upon their declared entry performance mark will be assigned to the second (2nd) row of the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and the remaining competitors will be assigned to the second (2nd) row of the one-turn staggered waterfall start. There will be no more than sixteen (16) competitors on either row of the main waterfall start and no more than eight (8) competitors on either row of the staggered waterfall start.

(3) **Starting positions and alley assignments for the semi-final round** heat within each row, on each waterfall start, will be assigned by declared entry performance mark. The competitor with the fastest declared entry performance mark will be assigned to starting position one (1) on the main waterfall start. The competitor with the second-fastest (2nd) declared entry performance mark will be assigned to starting position two (2) on the main waterfall start, and so on through the sixteenth (16th) fastest declared entry performance mark. The competitor with the seventeenth (17th) fastest declared entry performance mark will be assigned to starting position one (1) on the front row of the staggered waterfall start. The competitor with the eighteenth (18th) fastest declared entry performance mark will be assigned to starting position two (2) on the front row of the staggered waterfall start and so on through the twenty-fourth (24th) fastest declared entry performance mark.

The competitor with the twenty-fifth (25th) fastest declared entry performance mark will be assigned to starting position one (1) on the second (2nd) row of the main waterfall start. The competitor with the twenty-sixth (26th) fastest declared entry performance mark will be assigned to starting position two (2) on the second (2nd) row of the main waterfall start and so on through the fortieth (40th) fastest declared entry performance mark. The competitor with the forty-first (41st) fastest declared entry performance mark will be assigned to starting position one (1) on the second (2nd) row of the staggered waterfall start. The competitor with the forty-second (42nd) fastest declared entry performance mark will be assigned to starting position two (2) on the second (2nd) row of the staggered waterfall start and so on through the forty-eighth (48th) fastest declared entry performance mark.

(4) Standardized check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

In the **semi-final round**, competitors must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

g. **4x100 Relay and 4x400 Relay**

(1) One (1) round will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a quarter-final round.

The **quarter-final round** will consist of three (3) heats of eight (8) relay teams. Twelve (12), the top three (3) relay teams from each **quarter-final round heat** plus the next best three (3) relay team times from the quarter-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the quarter-final round to the semi-final round at the Final Championships Site.

Heat assignments for the quarter-final round will be determined in accordance with Rule 15-10.1.c. and Rule 15-10.2.a.1).

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the quarter-final round.

(2) **Lane assignments for quarter-final round** heats will be assigned by preferred lane as prescribed by Rule 15-12.2.a.2.

(3) Standardized heat-by-heat check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

In the **quarter-final round**, teams in the **first heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Teams in the **second heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Teams in the **third heat** must check-in with the clerk no later than five (5) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

h. **Long Jump and Triple Jump**

(1) One (1) round will be contested in both the Long Jump and Triple Jump at each First Round Site of the Championships, a first-round.

The **first-round** of the Long Jump and Triple Jump, at each First Round Site of the Championships, will consist of four (4) flights of twelve (12) competitors. The competitors with the twelve (12) best performance marks from the first-round, after tie breaking, using Rule 13-5.6. will qualify from the first-round of the Long Jump and Triple Jump at each First Round Site of the Championships to the semi-final round at the Final Championships Site.

Each competitor will be allowed three (3) attempts in the first-round.

(2) Flight assignments in the first round will be determined from the declared ranked descending order list of performance marks in both the Long Jump and Triple Jump events at each First Round Site of the Championships.

Competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked thirty-seventh (37th) through forty-eighth (48th) will be assigned to flight one (1), competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked twenty-fifth (25th) through thirty-sixth (36th) will be assigned to flight two (2), competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked thirteenth (13th) through twenty-fourth

(24th) will be assigned to flight three (3), and competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked first (1st) through twelfth (12th) will be assigned to flight four (4).

Flights one (1) and two (2) of both the Long Jump and Triple Jump will be contested simultaneously on two (2) separate, but similar competition venues followed by flights three (3) and four (4) which will be contested simultaneously.

- (3) The competition order within each flight of each event in the first-round will be drawn by lot.
- (4) Standardized flight-by-flight check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

Each flight in the first-round will be allowed a thirty (30) minute flight-specific warm-up period.

In the Long Jump and Triple Jump, **flights one (1) and two (2)** must check-in with the clerk no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight one (1) and flight two (2) competitors will be escorted by clerks to their assigned competition area forty (40) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

Flights three (3) and four (4) must check-in with the clerk no later than forty (40) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight three (3) and flight four (4) competitors will be escorted by clerks to their assigned competition area forty-five (45) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

**Note: Meet Management at each respective NCAA First Round Site of the Championships will allow for the consideration of long jump and triple jump runway extensions to occur, in consultation with the host institution, if the venue has the capabilities and it can be accommodated in a safe manner.*

i. **Discus, Hammer, and Javelin**

- (1) One (1) round will be contested in the Discus, Hammer and Javelin at each First Round Site of the Championship, a first-round.

The **first-round** of the Discus, Hammer and Javelin at each First Round Site of the Championships, will consist of four (4) flights of twelve (12) competitors. The competitors with the twelve (12) best performance marks from the first-round, after tie breaking using Rule 13-5.6., will qualify from the first-round of the Discus, Hammer and Javelin at each First Round Site of the Championships to the semi- final round at the Final Championships Site.

Each competitor will be allowed three (3) attempts in the first-round.

- (2) Flight assignments in the first-round will be determined from the declared ranked descending order list of performance marks in the Discus, Hammer and Javelin events at each First Round Site of the Championships.

Competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked thirty-seventh (37th) through forty-eighth (48th) will be assigned to flight one (1), competitors with

declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked twenty-fifth (25th) through thirty-sixth (36th) will be assigned to flight two (2), competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked thirteenth (13th) through twenty-fourth (24th) will be assigned to flight three (3), and competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked first (1st) through twelfth (12th) will be assigned to flight four (4).

- (3) The competition order within each flight of each event in the first-round will be drawn by lot.
- (4) Standardized flight-by-flight check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

Each flight in the first round will be allowed a thirty (30) minute flight-specific warm-up period.

In the Discus, Hammer, and Javelin, **flight one (1)** must check-in with the clerk not later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight one (1) competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area forty (40) minutes prior to the published scheduled start of the event.

Flight two (2) must check-in with the clerk not later than twenty (20) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight two (2) competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area twenty (25) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

Flight three (3) must check-in with the clerk not later than one (1) hour and twenty-five (25) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight three (3) competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

Flight four (4) must check-in with the clerk not later than two (2) hours and thirty minutes (30) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight four (4) competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area two (2) hours and thirty-five (35) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

j. **Shot Put**

- (1) One (1) round will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a first-round.

The **first-round** at each site will consist of four (4) flights of twelve (12) competitors. The competitors with the twelve (12) best performance marks from the first-round, after tie breaking using Rule 13-5.6., will qualify from the first-round of the Shot Put at each First Round Site of the Championships to the semi-final round at the Final Championships Site.

Each competitor will be allowed three (3) attempts in the first-round.

- (2) Flight assignments in the first round will be determined from the declared ranked descending order list of performance marks in the Shot Put for each First Round Site of the Championships.

Competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked thirty-

seventh (37th) through forty-eighth (48th) will be assigned to flight one (1), competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked twenty-fifth (25th) through thirty-sixth (36th) will be assigned to flight two (2), competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked thirteenth (13th) through twenty-fourth (24th) will be assigned to flight three (3), and competitors with declared ranked descending order list performance marks ranked first (1st) through twelfth (12th) will be assigned to flight four (4).

Flights one (1) and two (2) of the Shot Put will be contested simultaneously on two (2) separate, but similar competition venues followed by flights three (3) and four (4) which will be contested simultaneously.

- (3) The competition order within each flight in the first round will be drawn by lot.
- (4) Standardized flight-by-flight check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

Each flight in the first round will be allowed a thirty (30) minute flight-specific warm-up period.

In the Shot Put, **flights one (1) and two (2)** must check-in with the clerk not later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight one (1) and flight two (2) competitors will be escorted by clerks to their assigned competition area forty (40) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

Flights three (3) and four (4) must check-in with the clerk not later than fifteen (15) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight three (3) and flight four (4) competitors will be escorted by clerks to their assigned competition area twenty (20) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

k. High Jump

- (1) One (1) round will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a semi-final round.

The **semi-final round** at each First Round Site of the Championships will consist of two (2) flights of twenty-four (24) competitors. The competitors with the twelve (12) best performance marks from the semi-final round, after tie breaking using Rule 13-5.7.a. and Rule 13-5.7.b. and possibly a jump-off (Rule 13-5.7.c), will qualify from the semi-final round at each First Round Site of the Championships to the final round at the Final Championships Site.

- (2) Flight assignments in the semi-final round will be determined from the declared ranked descending order list of performance marks in the High Jump, working alternately from left to right and right to left.

If this process results in two (2) or more competitors from the same institution and gender assigned to two different flights, affected competitors will be swapped either left to right or right to left in order to assign all competitors from the same institution and gender to the same flight. If an institution not only has competitors in both flights, but has more competitors in one flight than the other, the competitor(s) from the flight with the least number of competitors from that institution will be moved to the flight containing the most

competitors from that institution, by moving competitors originally assigned to a flight either left to right or right to left to maintain a balanced number of competitors in each flight. When swapping a competitor, the individual will be swapped with a competitor with the same seed mark, or as similar a seed mark as possible, as long as it does not impact competitors from the same institution.

- (3) Flights one (1) and two (2) of the High Jump will be contested simultaneously on two (2) separate, but similar competition venues.
- (4) The competition order within each flight will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.
- (5) The competition will begin in both jumping pits at the same time and at the same starting height.

The raising of the bar to a new height will occur in both jumping pits simultaneously, using the same increment raise on both jumping pits.

- (6) Overall competition will continue until all competitors have attempted and completed their attempts for at least one (1) bar height and there are twelve (12) or fewer competitors remaining in the competition, counting both jumping pits.

The 'one-hour' time limit indicated in Rule 16-1.6.c.1). will be in effect.

- (7) Standardized check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

Each flight will be allowed a one (1) hour warm-up period.

Flight one (1) and flight two (2) competitors must check-in with the clerk not later than one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight one (1) and flight two (2) competitors will be escorted by clerks to their assigned competition area one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

- (8) 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.
- (9) 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 (5) centimeters, followed by increases of either five (5) centimeters or three (3) 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.

I. **Pole Vault**

- (1) One (1) round will be contested at each First Round Site of the Championships, a semi-final round.

The **semi-final round** at each First Round Site of the Championships will consist of two (2) flights of twenty-four (24) competitors. The competitors with the twelve (12) best

performance marks from the semi-final round, after tie breaking using Rule 13-5.7.a. and Rule 13-5.7.b. and possibly a jump-off (13.5.7.c), will qualify from the semi-final round at each First Round Site of the Championships to the final round at the Final Championships Site.

(2) Flight assignments in the semi-final round will be determined from the declared ranked descending order list of performance marks in the Pole Vault, working alternately from left to right and right to left.

If this process results in two (2) or more competitors from the same institution and gender assigned to two different flights, affected competitors will be swapped either left to right or right to left in order to assign all competitors from the same institution and gender to the same flight. If an institution not only has competitors in both flights, but has more competitors in one flight than the other, the competitor(s) from the flight with the least number of competitors from that institution will be moved to the flight containing the most competitors from that institution, by moving competitors originally assigned to a flight either left to right or right to left to maintain a balanced number of competitors in each flight. When swapping a competitor, the individual will be swapped with a competitor with the same seed mark, or as similar a seed mark as possible, as long as it does not impact competitors from the same institution.

(3) Flights one (1) and two (2) of the Pole Vault will be contested simultaneously on two (2) separate, but similar competition venues.

(4) The competition order within each flight will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

(5) The competition will begin in both jumping pits at the same time and at the same starting height.

The raising of the bar to a new height will occur in both jumping pits simultaneously, using the same increment raise on both jumping pits.

(6) Overall competition will continue until all competitors have attempted and completed their trials for at least one (1) bar height and there are twelve (12) or fewer competitors remaining in the competition, counting both jumping pits.

The 'one-hour' time limit indicated in Rule 16-1.6.c.1) will be in effect.

(7) Standardized check-in times will be applied at both First Round Sites of the Championships, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Participant Manual developed for each First Round Site of the Championships.

Each flight will be allowed a one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minute warm-up period.

Flight one (1) and flight two (2) competitors must check-in with the clerk not later than one (1) hour and thirty-five (35) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight one (1) and flight two (2) competitors will be escorted by clerks to their assigned competition area one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

(8) The opening height on each pole vault pit at each respective first-round site of the championships will be fifteen (15) centimeters below the lowest declared ranked performance mark for each gender at each respective first-round site.

(9) The increment progression on each pole vault pit, for each gender, at each first-round site of the championships will be fifteen (15) centimeters for the first two increases, and a possible third increase of fifteen (15) centimeters, if determined by Meet Management, followed by two increases of ten (10) centimeters, and possibly a third increase of ten (10) centimeters as determined by Meet Management, followed by increases of five (5) 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.

5. Breaking Ties for Qualifying Positions from First Round Sites of the Championships to Final Championships Site

- a. Track Events – In the case of a tie by reported performance mark for the final qualifying position from a First Round Site of the Championships to the Final Championships Site that would increase the number of qualifiers above twelve (12), Rule 15-14.3. will apply.
 - 1) If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the timer shall re-read the photograph(s) to determine if the original read was correct and if the competitors were in the same heat, the timer shall re-read the photograph to determine if the tie can be broken by the visual finishing positions of the competitors.
 - 2) If the tie cannot be broken using this method or if the original tying competitors were not in the same heat, the competitor who placed higher within their heat will qualify to the Final Round Site.
 - 3) If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the competitor with the best eligible outdoor championship's performance mark (for wind measured events – 4.0 MPS or less) of the current outdoor season prior to the current round of the competition will qualify to the Final Championships Site.
 - 4) If the tie cannot be broken using this method, the last position to qualify will be resolved by examining, of those tied, the second best valid qualifying meet performance mark submitted during the current outdoor season, and so on until there is no basis for a performance mark comparison. For a tie not resolved after all available performance mark comparisons, qualification will be awarded to the competitor(s) who achieved the original tying performance mark later in the season. For a tie still not resolved, qualification will be awarded to the competitor(s) who achieved the second best valid qualifying meet performance mark later in the season, and so on until there is no basis for date comparison.
 - 5) If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the competitors who are tied will compete in a run-off to break the tie. The run-off for the last qualifying position will be scheduled by the competition manager for track events, within one (1) hour of the completion of the last scheduled track event of the day. If a student- athlete chooses not to participate in the run-off, they will not be subject to Rule 14-2., and the remaining student-athlete with the tying performance mark will not have to compete in a run-off, and will qualify to the Final Championships Site.

Discus, Hammer, Javelin, Long Jump, Shot Put and Triple Jump – In the case of a tie by best performance mark for the final qualifying position from a First Round Site of the Championships to the Final Championships Site that would increase the number of qualifiers above twelve (12), the tie will be broken using the procedure outlined in Rule 13-5.6., next best effort in the competition. If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the competitors who are tied will each make one additional attempt and so on until the tie is broken in order to obtain a distinct twelfth (12th) place.

High Jump and Pole Vault – In the case of a tie by place for the final qualifying position from

a First Round Site of the Championships to the Final Championships Site that would increase the number of qualifiers above twelve (12), the tie will be broken using the jump-off procedure outlined in Rule 13-5.7.a, Rule 13-5.7.b, and Rule 13-5.7.c, normally applied to tie breaking for first (1st) place. This jump-off will continue until the tie is broken in order to obtain a distinct twelfth (12th) place.

6. Coaching Box/Area.

A coaching box/area, outside the area of competition, will be established for each field event. At each First Round Site of the Championships, the respective competition manager for jumping events and the competition manager for throwing events in conjunction with the meet director will determine the location of the respective events coaching box/area. Only one (1) coach per athlete in the respective field event with proper credentials may access a coaching box/area.

ADMINISTRATION OF FINAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SITE

1. General Administration

The information in the section of this Technical Manual under the heading Administration of First Round Sites of the Championships – General Administration is also applicable, where appropriate, to the Final Championships Site.

- a. **Meet Director**. The meet director will be appointed by the director of athletics of the host institution at Final Championships Site.
- b. **Competition Manager(s)**. The NCAA Track & Field Officials Assignor will appoint three competition managers to the Final Championships Site that will include a competition manager for the jumping events, a competition manager for the throwing events, and a competition manager for the track events. Competition managers will oversee review of the competition site, management of the competition, event execution, and have responsibility to make decisions or determinations according to this Technical Manual necessary to protect the integrity of the competition at the Final Championships Site.
- c. **Meet Management**. Meet Management for the Final Championships Site will consist of the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships Subcommittee Chair, the NCAA Championships Manager, the administrator members of the NCAA Division I Track & Field and Cross Country Committee and the three Competition Managers at the Final Championships Site.
- d. **Meet Medical Doctor**. The official meet medical doctor will be appointed by the host meet director at the Final Championships Site and shall be on site during all aspects of the competition to perform the duties prescribed in Rule 12-19.
- e. **Referee(s)**. The NCAA Track & Field Officials Assignor will appoint four referees to the Final Championships Site. These four referee appointments will consist of four referees from the First Round Sites of the Championships unless extenuating circumstances occur. Referees have the authority prescribed in Rule 12-4.

A minimum of two (2) referees are required to address and agree on a final decision per Rule 13-7.3.b.1) and the final decision will rest with the referees.

There will be NO jury of appeal.

2. Competition Format for Final Championships Site

- a. The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee retains its authority to set the competition procedures granted in the Rules. Distribution of competition procedures for the Final Championships Site, differing from those printed herein, will be made no later than packet pick-up for First Round Sites of the Championships.
- b. The Final Championships Site is conducted as a four-day event, with the men's and women's events alternating days throughout the schedule.
- c. The time schedule for the Final Championships Site will be established by the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee and published on the NCAA.org website.

- d. Prior to the start of the Championships, questions related to procedures not covered in this manual should be referred to the NCAA Championships Manager, Jeff Mlynki, at the NCAA National Office. Once the Championships begin, questions related to procedures not covered in this manual should be referred to Meet Management for the Final Championships Site.
- e. For all events except the High Jump and Javelin, the maximum allowable spike length shall be seven (7) millimeters (1/4 inch). For the High Jump and Javelin, the maximum allowable spike length shall be nine (9) millimeters (3/8 inch).

Allowable spikes will be published in the Participant Manual for the Final Championships Site. See Rule 14-4.5. regarding measuring of spike length.

3. Preferred Lanes

- a. In the 100 Meters, 100 Hurdles, 110 Hurdles, and 800 Meters, the preferred lane order will be: 5, 6, 4, 7, 3, 8, 2, 9, 1.

In the 200 Meters, 400 Meters, 400 Hurdles, 4x100 Relay, and 4x400 Relay, the preferred lane order will be: 6, 7, 5, 8, 4, 9, 3, 2, 1.

4. Heats, Flights, Procedures

- a. In the case of a tie(s) for the last qualifying position from a semi-final round to a final round in any track event, Rule 15-13.3. shall apply.
 - 1) If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the timer shall re-read the photograph(s) to determine if the original read was correct and if the competitors were in the same heat, the timer shall re-read the photograph to determine if the tie can be broken by the visual finishing positions of the competitors.
 - a. If a tie still exists and enough lanes or starting positions are available, all tying competitors will advance.
 - 2) If a tie cannot be broken using this method, the competitor(s) who are tied will compete in a run-off to break the tie. The run-off for the last qualifying position will be scheduled by the competition manager for track events within one (1) hour of the completion of the last scheduled track event of the day. If a student-athlete chooses not to participate in the run-off, they will not be subject to Rule 14-2., and the remaining student-athlete with the tying performance mark will not have to compete in a run-off, and will qualify to the Final Round.

b. 100 Meters, 100 Hurdles, 110 Hurdles

- (1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final round and a final round.

The **semi-final round** will consist of three (3) heats of eight (8) competitors. Nine (9), the top two (2) from each **semi-final round heat** plus the next best three (3) times from the semi-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of nine (9) competitors.

- (2) **Heat assignments** for the **semi-final round** will be determined based on quarter-final round place performance marks and finish time from each First Round site. However, finish times will only be used to rank place performances from within a First Round site competition, i.e., comparing East performances to East performances and West performances to West

performances. Once ranked, semi-final qualifiers from the West First Rounds will be seeded into heats in reverse order to those from the East First Rounds. See chart as follows:

Seed	Semifinal A	Seed	Semifinal B	Seed	Semifinal C
1	Fastest Winner, West	2	Second Fastest Winner, West	3	Slowest Winner, West
6	Slowest 2nd Place, West	5	Second Fastest 2nd Place, West	4	Fastest 2nd Place, West
7	Fastest 3rd place, West	8	Second Fastest 3d Place, West	9	Slowest 3rd Place, West
12	Slowest q, West	11	Second Fastest q, West	10	Fastest q West
10	Fastest q, East	11	Second Fastest q, East	12	Slowest q, East
9	Slowest Third Place, East	8	Second Fastest 3rd Place, East	7	Fastest 3rd Place, East
4	Fastest 2nd Place, East	5	Second Fastest 2nd Place, East	6	Slowest 2nd Place, East
3	Slowest Winner East	2	Second Fastest Winner, East	1	Fastest Winner, East

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

- (3) **Lane assignments for the semi-final round** will be assigned by preferred lane, based on the above chart. Preferred lane assignments in semifinal B will be random amongst each of the four groupings (e.g., each of the 2 seeds, the second fastest winner from the East First Rounds and the second fastest winner from the West First Rounds, will have equal opportunity to be placed in either of the top two preferred lanes).
- (4) **Lane assignments for the final round** will be assigned by preferred lane, based on semi-final round place and time performance marks as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a..
- (5) Standardized check-in times and heat-by-heat final report times will be applied, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in and final report times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Final Championships Site Participant Manual.

Competitors must check-in no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the event start time for each round.

In the **semi-final round** of each event, competitors in the **first heat** must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must report back to the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must report back to the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

In the **final round** of each event, competitors must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

c. 200 Meters, 400 Meters, 400 Hurdles, 4x100 Relay, and 4x400 Relay

- (1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final round and a final round.

The **semi-final round** will consist of three (3) heats of eight (8) competitors. Nine (9), the top two (2) from each **semi-final round heat** plus the next best three (3) times from the semi-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of nine (9) competitors.

(2) **Heat assignments** for the **semi-final round** will be determined based on quarter-final round place performance marks and finish time from each First Round site. However, finish times will only be used to rank place performances from within a First Round site competition, i.e., comparing East performances to East performances and West performances to West performances. Once ranked, semi-final qualifiers from the West First Rounds will be seeded into heats in reverse order to those from the East First Rounds. See chart as follows.

Seed	Semifinal A	Seed	Semifinal B	Seed	Semifinal C
1	Fastest Winner, West	2	Second Fastest Winner, West	3	Slowest Winner, West
6	Slowest 2nd Place, West	5	Second Fastest 2nd Place, West	4	Fastest 2nd Place, West
7	Fastest 3rd place, West	8	Second Fastest 3d Place, West	9	Slowest 3rd Place, West
12	Slowest q, West	11	Second Fastest q, West	10	Fastest q West
10	Fastest q, East	11	Second Fastest q, East	12	Slowest q, East
9	Slowest Third Place, East	8	Second Fastest 3rd Place, East	7	Fastest 3rd Place, East
4	Fastest 2nd Place, East	5	Second Fastest 2nd Place, East	6	Slowest 2nd Place, East
3	Slowest Winner East	2	Second Fastest Winner, East	1	Fastest Winner, East

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

(3) **Lane assignments** for the **semi-final round** will be assigned by preferred lane, based on the above chart. Preferred lane assignments in semifinal B will be random amongst each of the four groupings (e.g., each of the 2 seeds, the second fastest winner from the East First Rounds and the second fastest winner from the West First Rounds, will have equal opportunity to be placed in either of the top two preferred lanes).

(4) **Lane assignments for the final round** will be assigned by preferred lane, based on semi-final round place and time performance marks as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a..

(5) Standardized check-in times and heat-by-heat final report times will be applied, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in and final report times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Final Championships Site Participant Manual.

Competitors must check-in no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the event start time for each round.

In the **semi-final round** of each event, competitors in the **first heat** must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must report back to the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must report back to the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

In the **final round** of each event, competitors must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

d. **800 Meters**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final round and a final round.

The **semi-final round** will consist of three (3) heats of eight (8) competitors. Nine (9), the top two (2) from each **semi-final round heat** plus the next best three (3) times from the

semi-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of nine (9) competitors.

(2) **Heat assignments** for the **semi-final round** will be determined based on quarter-final round place performance marks and finish time from each First Round site. However, finish times will only be used to rank place performances from within a First Round site competition, i.e., comparing East performances to East performances and West performances to West performances. Once ranked, semi-final qualifiers from the West First Rounds will be seeded into heats in reverse order to those from the East First Rounds. See chart as follows:

Seed	Semifinal A	Seed	Semifinal B	Seed	Semifinal C
1	Fastest Winner, West	2	Second Fastest Winner, West	3	Slowest Winner, West
6	Slowest 2nd Place, West	5	Second Fastest 2nd Place, West	4	Fastest 2nd Place, West
7	Fastest 3rd place, West	8	Second Fastest 3d Place, West	9	Slowest 3rd Place, West
12	Slowest q, West	11	Second Fastest q, West	10	Fastest q West
10	Fastest q, East	11	Second Fastest q, East	12	Slowest q, East
9	Slowest Third Place, East	8	Second Fastest 3rd Place, East	7	Fastest 3rd Place, East
4	Fastest 2nd Place, East	5	Second Fastest 2nd Place, East	6	Slowest 2nd Place, East
3	Slowest Winner East	2	Second Fastest Winner, East	1	Fastest Winner, East

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

(3) **Lane assignments** for the **semi-final round** will be assigned by preferred lane, based on the above chart. Preferred lane assignments in semifinal B will be random amongst each of the four groupings (e.g., each of the 2 seeds, the second fastest winner from the East First Rounds and the second fastest winner from the West First Rounds, will have equal opportunity to be placed in either of the top two preferred lanes).

(4) **Lane assignments for the final round** will be assigned by preferred lane, based on semi-final round place and time performance marks as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a..

(5) A one-turn staggered start from individual lanes will be used in the semi-final round and the final round.

(6) Standardized check-in times and heat-by-heat final report times will be applied, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in and final report times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Final Championships Site Participant Manual.

Competitors must check-in no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the event start time for each round.

In the **semi-final round**, competitors in the **first heat** must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must report back to the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **third heat** must report back to the clerk no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

In the **final round**, competitors must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

e. **1500 Meters**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final round and a final round.

The **semi-final round** will consist of two (2) heats of twelve (12) competitors. Twelve (12), the top five (5) from each **semi-final round heat** plus the next best two (2) times from the semi-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of twelve (12) competitors.

(2) **Heat assignments** for the **semi-final round** will be determined based on quarter-final round place performance marks and finish time from each First Round site. However, finish times will only be used to rank place performances from within a First Round site competition, i.e., comparing East performances to East performances and West performances to West performances. Once ranked, semi-final qualifiers from the West First Rounds will be seeded into heats in reverse order to those from the East First Rounds. See chart as follows:

Seed	Semifinal A	Seed	Semifinal B
1	Fastest Winner, West	2	Slowest Winner West
4	Slowest 2nd Place, West	3	Fastest 2nd Place, West
5	Fastest 3rd Place, West	6	Slowest 3rd Place, West
8	Slowest 4th Place, West	7	Fastest 4th Place, West
9	Fastest 5th Place, West	10	Slowest 5th Place, West
12	Slowest q, West	11	Fastest q, West
11	Fastest q, East	12	Slowest q East
10	Slowest 5th Place, East	9	Fastest 5th Place, East
7	Fastest 4th Place, East	8	Slowest 4th Place, East
6	Slowest 3rd Place, East	5	Fastest, 3rd Place, East
3	Fastest 2nd Place, East	4	Slowest, 2nd Place, East
2	Slowest Winner, East	1	Fastest Winner, East

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

(3) **Starting positions in the semi-final round** heats will be drawn by lot (15-12.3.a.3).

(4) **Starting positions in the final round** will be drawn by lot. (15-12.3.a.3).

(5) A single waterfall start will be used in the semi-final round and the final round.

(6) Standardized check-in times and heat-by-heat final report times will be applied, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in and final report times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Final Championships Site Participant Manual.

Competitors must check-in no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the event start time for each round.

In the **semi-final** round, competitors in the **first heat** must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors in the **second heat** must report back to the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

In the **final round**, competitors must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

f. **3000 Steeplechase**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final round and a final round.

The **semi-final round** will consist of two (2) heats of twelve (12) competitors. Twelve (12), the top five (5) from each **semi-final round heat** plus the next best two (2) times from the semi-final round, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of twelve (12) competitors.

(2) **Heat assignments** for the **semi-final round** will be determined based on quarter-final round place performance marks and finish time from each First Round site. However, finish times will only be used to rank place performances from within a First Round site competition, i.e., comparing East performances to East performances and West performances to West performances. Once ranked, semi-final qualifiers from the West First Rounds will be seeded into heats in reverse order to those from the East First Rounds. See chart as follows:

Seed	Semifinal A	Seed	Semifinal B
1	Fastest Winner, West	2	Second Fastest Winner, West
4	Fastest 2nd Place, West	3	Slowest Winner, West
5	Second Fastest 2nd place, West	6	Slowest 2nd Place, West
8	Second Fastest 3rd Place, West	7	Fastest 3rd Place, West
9	Slowest 3rd Place, West	10	Fastest q, West
12	Slowest q, West	11	Second Fastest q, West
11	Second Fastest q, East	12	Slowest q, East
10	Fastest q, East	9	Slowest 3rd Place, East
7	Fastest 3rd Place, East	8	Second Fastest 3rd Place, East
6	Slowest 2nd Place, East	5	Second Fastest 2nd Place, East
3	Slowest Winner, East	4	Fastest 2nd Place, East
2	Second Fastest Winner, East	1	Fastest Winner, East

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

(3) **Starting positions in the semi-final round** heats will be drawn by lot. (15-12.3.a.3).

(4) **Starting positions in the final round** will be drawn by lot. (15-12.3.a.3).

(5) A single waterfall start will be used in the semi-final round and the final round.

(6) Standardized check-in times and heat-by-heat final report times will be applied, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in and final report times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Final Championships Site Participant Manual.

Competitors must check-in no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the event start time for each round.

In the **semi-final** round, competitors in the **first heat** must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

Competitors in the **second heat** must report back to the clerk no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

In the **final round**, competitors must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

g. 5000 Meters

(1) One (1) round will be contested, a final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of twenty-four (24) competitors in the 5000 Meters.

- (2) **Alley assignments in the final round** will be determined based on semi-final round place and time performance marks from first round sites as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a.
- (3) **Starting positions in the final round** will be drawn by lot in the 5000 Meters prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a.3.
- (4) A two-alley waterfall start will be used in the 5000 Meters, with sixteen (16) competitors assigned to the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and the remaining eight (8) competitors assigned to the one-turn staggered waterfall start.
- (5) Standardized check-in times and final report times will be applied, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in and final report times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Final Championships Site Participant Manual.

Competitors must check-in no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the event start time.

In the **final round**, competitors must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

h. 10,000 Meters

(1) One (1) round will be contested, a final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of twenty-four (24) competitors in the 10,000 Meters.

- (2) **Alley assignments in the final round** will be determined based on semi-final round place from first round sites as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a.
- (3) **Starting positions in the final round** will be drawn by lot in the 10,000 Meters as prescribed by Rule 15-12.3.a.3.
- (4) A two-alley waterfall start will be used in the 10,000 Meters, with sixteen (16) competitors assigned to the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and the remaining eight (8) competitors assigned to the one-turn staggered waterfall start.
- (5) Standardized check-in times and final report times will be applied, as detailed below. The site-specific check-in and final report times, based on the event schedule, will be included in the Final Championships Site Participant Manual.

Competitors must check-in no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the event start time.

In the **final round**, competitors must report back to the clerk no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

i. **Long Jump and Triple Jump**

(1) One (1) competition will be contested in each event, with a semi-final round and a sequential final round in each event.

The **semi-final round** of each event will consist of two (2) flights of twelve (12) competitors. The competitors with the nine (9) best performance marks in the semi-final round, after tie-breaking using Rule 13-5.6., will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

Each competitor will be allowed three (3) attempts in the semi-final round.

(2) Scoring is determined per Rule 13-2.7., by all performance marks achieved during the semi-final round and final round in the competition.

(3) Flight assignments for the **semi-final round** will be determined by a competitor's placing at each First Round Site of the Championships. Competitors placing seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) at each First Round Site of the Championships will be assigned to flight one (1) and competitors placing first (1st) through sixth (6th) at each First Round Site of the Championships will be assigned to flight two (2).

Flights one (1) and two (2) of each event will be contested simultaneously on two (2) separate, but similar competition venues.

(4) The competition order within each flight will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

In the **final round**, qualifiers will compete on the same runway which they competed on during the semi-final round per Rule 13-4.2. and compete in reverse order of performance from the semi-final round.

(5) Competitors in **flight one (1) and flight two (2)** of the Long Jump and Triple Jump must check in with the clerk no later than fifty (50) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of each event. Flight one (1) and flight two (2) competitors will be escorted by clerks to their assigned competition area fifty (50) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

Flights will be allowed a thirty (30) minute warm-up period.

The **final round** will start a maximum of ten (10) minutes after the completion of the last attempt in the semi-final round.

**Note: Meet Management at the Final Site of the Championships will allow for the consideration of long jump and triple jump runway extensions to occur, in consultation with the host institution, if the venue has the capabilities and it can be accommodated in a safe manner.*

j. **Shot Put**

(1) One (1) competition will be contested, with a semi-final round and a sequential final round.

The **semi-final round** will consist of two (2) flights of twelve (12) competitors. The competitors with the nine (9) best performance marks in the semi-final round, after tie breaking using Rule 13-5.6., will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

Each competitor will be allowed three (3) attempts in the semi-final round.

- (2) Scoring is determined per Rule 13-2.7., by all performance marks achieved during the semi-final round and final round in the competition.
- (3) Flight assignments for the semi-final round will be determined from a competitor's placing at each First Round Site of the Championships. Competitors placing seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) at each First Round Site of the Championships will be assigned to flight one (1) and competitors placing first (1st) through sixth (6th) at each First Round Site of the Championships will be assigned to flight two (2).

Flights one (1) and two (2) will be contested simultaneously on two (2) separate, but similar competition venues.

- (4) The competition order within each flight will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

The **final round** of the Shot Put will be conducted on one (1) pre-determined circle, which will be the same circle used for flight two (2) in the semi-final round of the Shot Put.

Qualifiers will compete in reverse order of performance from the semi-final round in one (1) section.

- (5) Competitors in **flight one (1) and flight two (2)** of the Shot Put must check in with the clerk no later than fifty (50) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Flight one (1) and flight two (2) competitors will be escorted by clerks to their assigned competition area fifty (50) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

Flights will be allowed a thirty (30) minute warm-up period.

The **final round** will start a maximum of ten (10) minutes after the completion of the last attempt in the semi-final round.

k. Discus, Hammer and Javelin

- (1) One (1) competition will be contested in each event, with a semi-final round and a sequential final round.

The **semi-final round** of the Discus, Hammer, and Javelin will each consist of two (2) flights of twelve (12) competitors. The competitors with the nine (9) best performance marks in the semi-final round, after tie breaking using Rule 13-5.6., will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

Each competitor will be allowed three (3) attempts in the semi-final round.

- (2) Scoring is determined per Rule 13-2.7., by all performance marks achieved during the semi-final round and final round in the competition.
- (3) Flight assignments for the semi-final round will be determined by a competitor's placing at each First Round Site of the Championships. Competitors placing seventh (7th) through

twelfth (12th) at each First Round Site of the Championships will be assigned to flight one (1) and competitors placing first (1st) through sixth (6th) at each First Round Site of the Championships will be assigned to flight two (2).

The competition order within each flight will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

In the **final round**, qualifiers will compete in reverse order of performance from the semi-final round in one (1) section.

Competitors in **flight one (1)** of the Discus, Hammer, and Javelin, must check-in with the clerk no later than fifty (50) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of each event. Flight one (1) competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area fifty (50) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

Competitors in **flight two (2)** of the Discus, Hammer, and Javelin, must check-in with the clerk a minimum of twenty (20) minutes after the published scheduled start time of each event. Flight two (2) competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area twenty (20) minutes after the published scheduled start time of the event.

Each flight will be allowed a thirty (30) minute flight-specific warm-up period.

The **final round** will start a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of the last attempt in the semi-final round.

NOTE: Flight one (1) competitors that have a best semi-final round performance mark ranked within the top nine (9) performance marks after the completion of the second (2nd) round of throws in flight two (2), will be escorted by a clerk after the completion of the second (2nd) round of flight two (2) back to the competition area for possible competition in the final round if their performance mark from the semi-final round remains ranked within the top nine (9) performance marks after completion of flight two (2) competition in the semi-final round.

I. High Jump

(1) One (1) round will be contested, a final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of twenty-four (24) competitors on a single jumping pit.

(2) The competition order will be drawn by lot in the final round.

(3) Competitors in the High Jump must check in with the clerk no later than one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

High Jump competitors will be allowed a one (1) hour warm-up period.

The 'one-hour' time limit indicated in Rule 16-1.6.c. will be in effect.

(4) 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.

(5) 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 inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances at the finals site. In addition, Meet Management may consider other major championship qualification standards when establishing starting heights and progressions but starting heights and progressions will ultimately be determined by what is in the best interest of the NCAA championships.

m. Pole Vault

- (1) One (1) round will be contested, a final round.

The **final round** will consist of one (1) section of twenty-four (24) competitors on a single jumping pit.

- (2) The competition order will be drawn by lot in the final round.

- (3) Competitors in the Pole Vault must check in with the clerk no later than one (1) hour and thirty-five (35) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area one (1) hour and thirty-five (35) minutes prior to the published scheduled start of the event.

Pole Vault competitors will be allowed a one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minute warm-up period.

The 'one-hour' time limit indicated in Rule 16-1.6.c. will be in effect.

- (4) 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.
- (5) 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 progressions due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances at the finals site. In addition, Meet Management may consider other major championship qualification standards when establishing starting heights and progressions but starting heights and progressions will ultimately be determined by what is in the best interest of the NCAA championships.

n. Combined Events – Decathlon and Heptathlon

The Decathlon and Heptathlon order of events will be as indicated in Rule 13-1.5.a. and Rule 13-1.5.c.

Decathlon and Heptathlon competitors must check in with the clerk no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of their respective Decathlon or Heptathlon first event of the day.

Competitors in the Decathlon and Heptathlon will be allowed a thirty (30) minute warm-up on the track prior to the start of their respective first event of the day.

Any descending order list ties, by mark, for the last position in any seeded section of an event within the Decathlon or Heptathlon will be resolved by examining, of those tied, the second-best valid performance mark achieved during the current outdoor season in that respective Decathlon or Heptathlon event, and so on until there is no basis for a performance mark comparison. For a tie not resolved after all available performance mark comparisons, placement in a section will be awarded to the competitor who achieved the original tying performance mark later in the season. For a tie still not resolved, placement in a section or flight will be awarded to the competitor who achieved the second-best valid meet performance mark later in the season, and so on until there is no basis for date comparison. As a last resort, the tie will be decided by the toss of a coin.

100 Meters

- (1) The **Decathlon 100 Meters** will consist of three (3) sections of eight (8) competitors. Section assignments will be on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon 100 Meters as verified by TFRRS. The competitors with the eight (8) fastest performance marks will be assigned to a section, the next eight (8) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, and the remaining eight (8) competitors assigned to the remaining section.
- (2) Lane assignments will be assigned as prescribed by Rule 15-12.4 by preferred lane based on the competitor's seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon 100 Meters.
- (3) Section order will be drawn by lot.

100/110 Hurdles

- (1) The **Heptathlon 100 Hurdles** and **Decathlon 110 Hurdles** will each consist of six (6) sections of four (4) competitors using alternate lanes 2, 4, 6, 8. Hurdles will be set in all nine (9) lanes.
- (2) Section assignment in the **Decathlon 110 Hurdles** will be assigned on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon 110 Hurdles, as verified by TFRRS. The competitors with the four (4) fastest performance marks will be assigned to a section, the next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, the next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, the next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, the next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, and the remaining four (4) competitors assigned to the remaining section.

Lane assignments will be assigned as prescribed by Rule 15-12.4 by preferred lane based on the competitor's seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon 110 Hurdles.

Section order will be drawn by lot.

- (3) Sections in the **Heptathlon 100 Hurdles** will be assigned on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Heptathlon 100 Hurdles, as verified by TFRRS. The competitors with the four (4) fastest performance marks will be assigned to a section, the next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, the next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, the next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, the

next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, the next four (4) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, and the remaining four (4) competitors assigned to the remaining section.

Lane assignments will be assigned as prescribed by Rule 15-12.4 by preferred lane based on the competitor's seasonal best performance mark in a Heptathlon 100 Hurdles.

Section order will be drawn by lot.

200 Meters

- (1) The **Heptathlon 200 Meters** will consist of three (3) sections of eight (8) competitors. Section assignment will be on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Heptathlon 200 Meters, as verified by TFRRS. The competitors with the eight (8) fastest performance marks will be assigned to a section, the next eight (8) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, and the remaining eight (8) competitors assigned to the remaining section.
- (2) Lane assignments will be assigned as prescribed by Rule 15-12.4 by preferred lane based on the competitor's seasonal best performance mark in a Heptathlon 200 Meters.

Section order will be drawn by lot.

400 Meters

- (1) The **Decathlon 400 Meters** will consist of three (3) sections of eight (8) competitors. Section assignment will be on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon 400 Meters, as verified by TFRRS. The competitors with the eight (8) fastest performance marks will be assigned to a section, the next eight (8) competitors with the fastest performance marks assigned to a section, and the remaining eight (8) competitors assigned to the remaining section.
- (2) Lane assignments will be assigned as prescribed by Rule 15-12.4 by preferred lane based on the competitor's seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon 400 Meters.

Section order will be drawn by lot.

800 Meters

- (1) The **Heptathlon 800 Meters** will consist of two (2) sections. The competitors with the top twelve (12) scores after completion of the Heptathlon Javelin will be assigned to the second (2nd) section, and the remaining competitors will be assigned to the first (1st) section.
- (2) A two (2) alley waterfall start will be used.

Starting positions and alley assignments will be drawn by lot as prescribed by Rule 15-12.4. In each section, two-thirds of the competitors will be assigned to the main waterfall start, and the remaining one-third of the competitors will be assigned to the staggered waterfall start (Rule 15-1.7.d).

1500 Meters

- (1) The **Decathlon 1500 Meters** will consist of one (1) section of the competitors remaining in the competition after completion of the Decathlon Javelin.

- (2) A single waterfall start will be used.
- (3) Starting positions will be drawn by lot, as prescribed by Rule 15-12.4.

Long Jump

- (1) The **Decathlon Long Jump and Heptathlon Long Jump** will each consist of two (2) sections of twelve (12) competitors conducted simultaneously on separate, but similar competition venues.
- (2) Section assignment in the **Decathlon Long Jump** will be on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon Long Jump as verified by TFRRS. Competitors with the twelve (12) best performance marks will be assigned to section one (1) and a jumping pit, and the remaining competitors will be assigned to section two (2) and a jumping pit.
- (3) Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.
- (4) Section assignment in the **Heptathlon Long Jump** will be on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Heptathlon Long Jump as verified by TFRRS. Competitors with the twelve (12) best performance marks will be assigned to section one (1) and a jumping pit, and the remaining competitors will be assigned to section two (2) and a jumping pit.
- (5) Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.

Discus

- (1) The **Decathlon Discus** will consist of two (2) sequential sections of twelve (12) competitors.
- (2) Section one (1) of the Decathlon Discus will consist of the top twelve (12) decathletes based on their seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon Pole Vault competition, as verified by TFRRS. Section two (2) of the Decathlon Discus will consist of the remaining twelve (12) competitors.

Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.

- (3) The second (2nd) section of the Decathlon Discus will be allowed a thirty (30) minute warm-up period, which may be shortened upon agreement of the competitors in the section.

Javelin

- (1) The **Decathlon Javelin** will consist of two (2) sequential sections of twelve (12) competitors.
- (2) Section one (1) of the Decathlon Javelin will consist of the competitors from section one (1) of the Decathlon Pole Vault. Section two (2) of the Decathlon Javelin will consist of the competitors from section two (2) of the Decathlon Pole Vault.

Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.

- (3) The second (2nd) section of the Decathlon Javelin will be allowed a thirty (30) minute warm-up period, which may be shortened upon agreement of the competitors in the section.

(4) The **Heptathlon Javelin** will consist of two (2) sequential sections of twelve (12) competitors.

Section assignment and competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.

(5) The second (2nd) section of the Heptathlon Javelin will be allowed a thirty (30) minute warm-up period, which may be shortened upon agreement of the competitors in the section.

Shot Put

(1) The **Decathlon Shot Put and Heptathlon Shot Put** will each consist of two (2) sections of twelve (12) competitors conducted simultaneously on separate, but similar, competition venues.

(2) Section one (1) of the **Decathlon Shot Put** will consist of the top twelve (12) Decathletes based on their seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon High Jump competition, as verified by TFRRS. Section two (2) of the Decathlon Shot Put will consist of the remaining twelve (12) competitors.

Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.

(3) Section one (1) of the **Heptathlon Shot Put** will consist of the top twelve (12) Heptathletes based on their seasonal best performance mark in a Heptathlon High Jump competition, as verified by TFRRS. Section two (2) of the Heptathlon Shot Put will consist of the remaining twelve (12) competitors.

Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.

High Jump

(1) The **Decathlon High Jump and Heptathlon High Jump** will each consist of two (2) sections of twelve (12) competitors conducted simultaneously on separate, but similar, competition venues.

(2) Sections in the **Decathlon High Jump** will be assigned on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon High Jump competition, as verified by TFRRS. Competitors with the twelve (12) best performance marks will be assigned to section one (1) and a jumping pit, and the remaining competitors will be assigned to section two (2) and a jumping pit.

Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.

NOTE: Those competitors previously assigned to section one (1) of the Decathlon Shot Put will be the twelve (12) competitors with the twelve (12) best Decathlon High Jump performance marks.

(3) Sections in the **Heptathlon High Jump** will be assigned on the basis of qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Heptathlon High Jump competition, as verified by TFRRS. Competitors with the twelve (12) best performance marks will be assigned to section one (1) and a jumping pit, and the remaining twelve (12) competitors will be assigned to section two (2) and a jumping pit.

Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.

NOTE: *Those competitors assigned to section one (1) of the Heptathlon Shot Put will be the twelve (12) competitors with the twelve (12) best Heptathlon High Jump performance marks.*

- (4) The Decathlon High Jump and Heptathlon High Jump each will pass one (1cm) centimeter above the meet record. The current meet record in the Heptathlon High Jump is **1.89m**. The current meet record in the Decathlon High Jump is **2.18m**.

Pole Vault

- (1) The **Decathlon Pole Vault** will consist of two (2) sections of twelve (12) competitors conducted simultaneously on separate, but similar, competition venues.

Section assignment will be on the basis of a qualifiers' seasonal best performance mark in a Decathlon Pole Vault competition, as verified by TFRRS. The competitors with the top twelve (12) best performance marks will be assigned to section one (1) and a jumping pit, and the remaining twelve (12) competitors will be assigned to section two (2) and a jumping pit.

NOTE: *Those competitors previously assigned to section one (1) of the Decathlon Discus will be the twelve (12) competitors with the twelve (12) best Decathlon Pole Vault performances and be assigned to section one (1) of the Decathlon Pole Vault.*

- (2) Competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.
- (3) The Decathlon Pole Vault will pass one (1 cm) centimeter above the current Decathlon Pole Vault meet record of **5.40m**.

o. Coaching Box/Area.

A coaching box/area, outside the area of competition, will be established for each field event. At the Final Championships Site, the respective competition manager for the jumping events and the competition manager for throwing events in conjunction with the meet director will determine the location of the respective events coaching box/area. Only one (1) coach per athlete in the respective field event with proper credentials may access a coaching box/area.

RELAY PERSONNEL AND PERFORMANCE POLICY

1. Each institution will declare a maximum of one (1) relay team for each relay event for their respective First Round Site of the Championships from those on the qualified descending order list. That declared relay team's performance will be used for selection and seeding purposes. All other relay teams on the descending order list from that institution must be scratched.
2. All relay alternates must be declared separately and not later than the close of packet pick-up at the First Round Sites of the Championships. At the Final Championships Site, the relay alternates are those named and declared during packet pick-up at the Final Championships Site. A relay alternate is a student-athlete not already in the competition at the First Round Sites of the Championships in any event or in the Decathlon or Heptathlon Competition at the Final Championships Site. Please see Rule 15-8.2. for further information on relay replacement policies.
3. The four members of the relay team who actually competed at the First Round Site of the Championships and earned a Final Championships Site qualifying position will be the relay team for that institution at the Final Championships Site and will be the only individuals for which NCAA Championships travel reimbursement will be provided. NCAA travel reimbursement will not be provided to relay alternates, even if they compete in the championships.
4. An athlete on a declared relay, who is replaced with a relay alternate or substitute, may still compete in any event(s) in which they had previously been accepted into the championships.

CASE STUDIES

Breaking a tie for the last accepted position into the Championships.

SITUATION 1: After declaration, forty-five (45) are declared for the West First Round Site of the Championships in the Men's 100 Meters with a mark of 10.48 or better. Six (6) additional are declared with a best descending order list mark of 10.49. Will all six (6) be accepted into the West First Round Site of the Championships?

RULING: No. Only forty-eight (48), total, will be accepted into the West First Round Site of the Championships. That means, only three (3) of the tying six (6) will be accepted. The second (2nd) best valid qualifying meet performance mark submitted through the mandatory meet result reporting system will be examined for each of the six (6). Assume the second (2nd) best meet submissions are 10.51, 10.56, 10.57, 10.56, 10.51 and 10.63. The two (2) individuals with the second (2nd) best of 10.51 are accepted, and the tie breaking procedure continues, but only involves the two (2) individuals with submissions of 10.56. If one (1) of those had a third (3rd) valid qualifying submission, and the other did not, acceptance will be awarded to the competitor who achieved the original tying mark later in the season.

SITUATION 2: After declaration, forty-four (44) are declared for the West First Round Site of the Championships in the Women's High Jump with a mark of 1.78 or better. No one has a submitted best meet mark of 1.77. Two (2) are declared with a submitted best meet mark of 1.76. Fifteen (15) additional are declared with a best descending order list mark of 1.75. Will all fifteen (15) be accepted into the West First Round Site of the Championships?

RULING: No. Only forty-eight (48), total, will be accepted into the West First Round Site of the Championships. That means, only two (2) of the tying fifteen (15) will be accepted. The second (2nd) best valid qualifying meet performance mark submitted through the mandatory meet result reporting system will be examined for each of the fifteen (15). Assume that after examining the third (3rd) best qualifying meet performance mark submitted, three (3) still remain tied and there are no other available marks to compare. This mark is the last used as tie-breaking for comparative purposes. The performance date of their original mark that created the tie is then examined to determine who achieved the mark later in the season, in order to determine which two (2) are accepted into the West First Round Site of the Championships. If a tie still exists, it is resolved by examining the performance date of the second (2nd) mark and, if needed, the third (3rd) mark in order to eliminate one (1). If the examination of the performance date of the third (3rd) mark does not result in a break of the tie, the tie for the last qualifying position will be decided by the toss of a coin.

Injury/Medical Situations.

SITUATION 1: A student-athlete declared on the final regular-season descending-order list has a nagging injury. The coach, after declaring the student-athlete into the Championships and after the medical scratch deadline, decides that student-athlete could use the rest instead of competing; therefore, the coach does not send the student-athlete to start their event at the First Round Site of the Championships. Can the student-athlete advance to the Final Championships Site?

RULING: No, however, it is possible for the institution to have the athlete return as a possible substitute or alternate for a relay at the Final Championships Site and the institution must follow the proper medical procedures as outlined in Rule 12-19.

SITUATION 2: A student-athlete declared on the final regular-season national descending-order list has a nagging injury. Knowing that they must compete in the First Round of the Championships to have any opportunity to advance to the Final Championships Site, the student-athlete makes the effort to compete at their respective First Round Site of the Championships but does not finish in the top twelve in their event.

Can the student-athlete advance to the Final Championships Site as an at-large student-athlete, using their best regular-season performance?

RULING: No. Advancement from the First Round of the Championships is only through qualifying in that individual event or events. There is no at-large pool for selection to the Final Championships Site.

SITUATION 3: A student-athlete on the final regular-season national descending-order list has an injury. The coach does NOT declare the student-athlete into the Championships and the student-athlete does not compete. Can the student-athlete, in any way, compete at the Final Championships Site?

RULING: Yes, but only as a listed relay alternate on a qualifying institution's relay team.

SITUATION 4: An institution scratches a student-athlete for medical reasons in an individual event prior to the post-declaration medical scratch deadline but would like to bring the student-athlete back as a possible alternate in the relay. Is this permissible?

RULING: Yes, but only if the institution can provide a medical note stating rationale for why they cannot compete in a certain individual event but are able to compete in a relay event. (e.g. medical reason does not allow them to jump in the long jump, but they are medically able to run).

Note, that a scratch prior to the post-declaration medical scratch deadline disqualifies a student-athlete from competing in ALL individual events.

Relay Situations.

SITUATION 1: Of the four student-athletes listed on the Championships declaration form for the 4x100 or 4x400 Relay, three have injuries that prevent them from competing at the First Round Site of the Championships. The coach knows the relay team cannot advance to the Final Championships Site if they do not compete and qualify at their respective First Round Site of the Championships. Can the coach use other student-athletes to fill the spots on the relay?

RULING: Yes, since the institution owns the mark, the team can use any eligible student-athlete from the institution's team roster as long as they are already competing in the First Round of the Championships, or were listed as alternates on the teams relay card during packet pick-up at their respective First Round Site of the Championships, or a Decathlon/Heptathlon student-athlete who has been previously accepted into the Championships for competition at the Final Championships Site. The four individuals, who formed the relay team at the First Round Site of the Championships, will become the team for purposes of advancement to the Final Championships Site.

SITUATION 2: A coach uses two alternates on his qualifying 4x100 Relay in the quarter-final round of the First Round of the Championships, and the team advances to the Final Championships Site. What team members are declared for the Final Championships Site? Who are the relay team members for the Final Championships Site?

RULING: The four student-athletes who actually ran and qualified in the quarter-final round of the event are the advancing relay team to the Final Championships Site. At the Final Championships Site, the alternates are any eligible student-athletes named and declared during packet pick-up at the Final Championships Site. In addition, a substitute pool of anyone who is already in the Championships, originating with the First Round Sites of the Championships, is available for use on the relay.

SITUATION 3: Of the four qualifying student-athletes for the Final Championships Site in the 4x100 or 4x400 Relay, three sustain injuries after the relay team has qualified. Can the coach use other student-athletes to fill the three spots on the relay at the Final Championships Site?

RULING: Yes. The coach can use any eligible student-athlete listed as an alternate on the team's relay card during packet pick-up at the Final Championships Site. In addition, a substitute pool of anyone who is already in the Championships, originating with the First Round Sites of the Championships, is available for use on the relay.

Failure to Participate in an Event.

SITUATION 1: A student-athlete highly ranked on the final regular-season descending-order list, competes in the first round of the 1500 Meters and advances to the quarter-final round. After the first round, the student-athlete (or coach) believes they have fulfilled the requirement of competing and decides not to run in the next round of the 1500 Meters. Can the student-athlete advance to the Final Championships Site?

RULING: No, the student-athlete cannot advance to the Final Championships Site.

SITUATION 2: A student-athlete who is entered in more than one event willfully abandons or withdraws from at least one of those events. What procedure exists for the student-athlete to return to competition in another event?

RULING: The student-athlete must follow the procedure as outlined in Rule 12-19. in order to determine the possibility of returning to competition. This procedure includes application of the failure to participate rule (Rule 14-2.a.b.c.d.e.f.).

Field Events / Combined Events.

SITUATION 1: A student-athlete is declared in the Long Jump, High Jump, and Heptathlon. During competition at a First Round Site of the Championships, the student-athlete fails to qualify in the Long Jump, which was on the first day of competition. The student-athlete fails to participate in the High Jump, which is on the second day of competition. Is the student-athlete able to participate in the Heptathlon, which is contested only at the Final Championships Site?

RULING: No. The rules governing 'failure to participate', therefore disqualification from further competition in the Championships, apply. The multiple rounds, even though at different sites and about a week apart, are all part of the Championships. There is only one declaration for the entire Championships. The multiple rounds and qualifying procedures are for the entire Championships. 'Failure to Participate' and the penalties associated with it are applicable for the entire Championships.

SITUATION 2: A student-athlete is declared in the Long Jump and Heptathlon. During the competition at a First Round Site of the Championships, the student-athlete qualifies in the Long Jump. During the period of time between the conclusion of the First Round of the Championships and the Final Championships, the committee receives notification, before the deadline for medical scratches, that the qualifier is a medical scratch in the Long Jump. Is the student-athlete still able to compete in the Heptathlon?

RULING: No. A medical scratch is all-inclusive. There is no event selectivity. The same would also occur for a scratch from the Heptathlon, even though the event was not contested during the first round.

Advancement.

SITUATION: Following the conclusion of competition at each First Round Site of the Championships, the qualifying list for the Men's 100 Meters for the Final Championships Site shows twenty-four (24) student-athletes. These are the top twelve (12) from each of the two First Round Sites of the Championships. During the period of time between the conclusion of the First Round of the Championships and the Final Championships, the committee receives notification, before the deadline for medical scratches, that a qualifier is a medical scratch and therefore will not be competing at the Final Championships Site. How is this position as a qualifier to the Final Championships Site filled?

RULING: The position vacated by any type of scratch is not filled. For events contested at the First Round Sites of the Championships, only those who earn a position at the Final Championships Site through a qualifying round, are eligible to compete at the Final Championships Site and cannot be replaced. This provision is not applicable to the Decathlon and Heptathlon since these events are not contested at the First Round Sites of the Championships.