



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S  
CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
APRIL 8, 2020, TELECONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

**a. Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Division II Bylaw 20.10.3.3 – Division Membership – Sports Sponsorship – Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship – Reduce Cross Country Minimum Contest Requirement and Eliminate Ability to Count Regional Qualifying Meets Toward Sports Sponsorship.**

(1) Recommendation. In cross country, eliminate the exception that allows regional qualifying meets to count toward the minimum contest requirement for sports sponsorship, and consequently, reduce the required number of minimum contests required for sports sponsorship from five to four.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2021.

(3) Rationale. Current legislation provides cross country with an exception to count regional qualifying meets, which are NCAA postseason events, when calculating the minimum contest requirement for sport sponsorship. This allows for the possibility of an institution to participate in NCAA postseason, while subsequently failing to meet sports sponsorship (e.g. a team enters the regional qualifying meet having already completed four events but fails to complete the race at regional qualifying). The proposed changes eliminate this possibility by requiring institutions to compete in four contests and meet sport sponsorship requirements prior to competing in any NCAA postseason event. This proposal also aligns cross country with indoor and outdoor track and field minimum contest requirements for sport sponsorship.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Minimum course length for minimum contest requirements and selections.**

(1) Recommendation. That the minimum course length of 6,000 meters for men and 4,000 meters for women for championship minimum contest requirements be eliminated to align the minimum distance requirement with the distances required for sport sponsorship as outlined in the NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Rules.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. The minimum distance requirements of 6,000 meters for men and 4,000 for women for championship qualification has created a good deal of confusion for coaches and administrators when trying to determine what the requirements are for sport sponsorship and championship qualification. Aligning sport sponsorship minimums and championship qualification minimums with the distances outlined in the rulebook will eliminate confusion and the need to update requirements in multiple documents should requirements change in the future.

Importantly, most regular-season cross country meets already run distances above both the sport sponsorship and the current championship qualification minimum distances, so the committee does not believe eliminating the 4,000 meters and 6,000 meters distance requirements will change current meet schedules. It is also important to note this proposal was initially presented to the Division II Cross Country Committee and strongly supported by the Division II Cross Country Coaches Connection group.

The committee would also like to note that for championship at-large selections, the committee will continue to still only use results from meets that have a minimum distance of 5,000 meters for women and 7,000 meters for men.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Committee chair.** Alex Eaton, associate athletics director and senior woman administrator at the University of Southern Indiana, was voted committee chair for 2020-21.
- 2. Change in number of championship automatic qualifiers.** The committee reviewed a proposal from the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association to reduce the number of automatic qualifiers from each region from three to two. This would increase the total number of at-large selections to 18 without changing the overall number of teams selected to the championship. The committee is interested in exploring this possibility since two AQs per region was the original proposal when the current cross country selection process was proposed in 2016; however, the committee would like to do more research on how this would affect the current selection process and gather more information on the best way to move this request forward.
- 3. Selection information.** The committee also reviewed a proposal from the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association to publish information on the rationale behind at-large bids following selections. The committee discussed the concept and feels as though more education on the selection criteria is necessary rather than posting

information following selections. Therefore, the committee has asked NCAA staff to work with the coaches association to see if a mock selection and/or selection criteria educational session can be conducted at the coaches convention every few years.

*Committee Chair: Lee Glenn, University of North Georgia*  
*Staff Liaison: Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Committee April 8, 2020, Teleconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Chris Bradford, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.	
Jared Bruggeman, Missouri Southern State University.	
Leigh Cordes, Lubbock Christian University.	
Kevin Curtin, Bentley University.	
Alex Eaton, University of Southern Indiana.	
Lee Glenn, University of North Georgia.	
Dawn Makofski, University of Montevallo.	
Andy Young, Millersville University of Pennsylvania.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances.	
Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances.	
Michael Woo, Academic and Membership Affairs.	