



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 21, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- **2025 format and qualifying survey results.** The committee reviewed results from a survey distributed in July regarding the national championship format and qualifying criteria to head coaches, athletics directors, and conference commissioners sponsoring Division II cross country [Attachment]. Based on the feedback received, the committee has determined that the championship format will remain unchanged with eight regional sites. The number of automatic qualifiers will remain at three for the 2025–26 season; however, the committee continues to discuss potential changes, with any adjustments taking effect beginning with the 2026–27 season. The committee also reviewed feedback on the quality of regional meets and will continue discussing improvements to meet management and the overall student-athlete experience, with areas of emphasis including live results, course markings, announcers and sound system, streaming, and volunteer support. Any requests for budget increases to support these enhancements must align with the Division II 2027–30 triennial budget cycle.

*Committee Chair:* Sage Fowler, Southern Arkansas University  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Committee August 21, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jack Brunecz, King University.	
Sage Fowler, Southern Arkansas University.	
Pete Gratien, Daemen University.	
Elizabeth Hoge, Ashland University.	
Andrew Huber, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Michael Rosolino, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.	
Katelyn Smith, Adams State University.	
<b>NCAA Staff in Attendance:</b>	
Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.	



*2025 Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country National Championship Format  
and Qualifying Criteria Survey Results – Administrators*

**Methods**

- The purpose of this survey was the Division II Cross Country Committee is requesting feedback from the membership on qualifying criteria and championships format to determine a new format and qualifying criteria for the Division II Men's and Women's National Championship.
- The survey was designed to take no more than 10 minutes and was administered online through the Qualtrics survey software.
- The survey was open from July 7 to August 8, 2025.

**1. Please identify your role:**

Role	Percent	Count
Athletics Director	92%	123
Conference Commissioner	8%	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>134</b>

**Regional Meet Improvements****2. Which of the following options would most improve the quality of the regional cross country meets?**

*Please rank the options below in order of improvement quality.*

Statement	Percent	Count
Require hosts to contract a timing company that can provide live results while the race is occurring.	76%	93
Increase course markings, particularly at the start and finish lines	66%	81
Require hosts to have an announcer and sound system giving information prior, during and after the race.	62%	75
Implement qualifying standards for teams (not all-comers meet)	58%	71
Live streaming	55%	67
Increase signage and photo opportunities in and around the course	47%	57
Increase volunteers at the start line and on the course	37%	45
Videoboard with live results	37%	45
Require a stage for awards	14%	17
Require a team hospitality area	7%	9

*Note. Percentages represent the number of respondents who ranked an option anywhere in their top five choices.*

**Qualifying Format****3. The Division II Cross Country Committee is considering several formats for qualifying to the final site.**

*Please rank the following options in order from your favorite option to your least favorite option.*

Statement	1	2	3	4	5	Count
No change to the current format or automatic advancement process (i.e., eight all-comer regional sites, one final site with three teams and two individuals advancing per region).	35%	29%	13%	15%	7%	82
No change to the current format (i.e., eight all-comer regional sites and one final site), but change the automatic advancement to two teams and two individuals per region. The remaining 18 teams and 16 individuals would be selected at-large.	31%	29%	16%	9%	16%	82
Two regional sites, with 40 teams each selected to participate in the regional meets. Automatic qualification would be granted to teams who win their conference and the field would be filled by at-large teams based on selection criteria. The top 14 from each regional site would advance to the final site with six additional teams chosen at-large. The top 12 individuals not on an advancing team from each region would advance to the final site.	21%	5%	10%	9%	56%	82

Question 3 CONTINUED

Statement	1	2	3	4	5	Count
Four all-comer regional sites (i.e., super regions), with the top five teams and top four individuals automatically advancing to the final site. The remaining 14 teams and eight individuals would be selected at-large.	7%	15%	23%	43%	12%	82
Six all-comer regional sites, retaining the all-comer with the top three teams and top three individuals automatically advancing to the final site. The remaining sixteen teams and six individuals would be selected at-large. Regions would be based on geography and some conferences may have membership split across regions.	6%	22%	38%	26%	9%	82

*Note. Percentages represent the number of individuals who placed the respective option with that rank (e.g., 33% of respondents indicated 'No change to the current format or automatic advancement process' as their top-ranked option).*

**Race Distance**

**4. What is your preferred championship race distance for women?**

Statement	Percent	Count
6k	72%	63
5k	20%	17
8k	7%	6
10k	1%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>87</b>

**5. What is your preferred championship race distance for men?**

Statement	Percent	Count
10k	54%	47
8k	43%	37
6k	2%	2
5k	1%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>87</b>



*2025 Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country National Championship Format  
and Qualifying Criteria Survey Results - Coaches*

**Methods**

- The purpose of this survey was the Division II Cross Country Committee is requesting feedback from the membership on qualifying criteria and championships format to determine a new format and qualifying criteria for the Division II Men's and Women's National Championship.
- The survey was designed to take no more than 10 minutes and was administered online through the Qualtrics survey software.
- The survey was open from July 7 to August 8, 2025.

**1. Please identify your role:**

Role	Percent	Count
Both Men's and Women's Head Coach	76%	189
Women's head Coach	13%	33
Men's Head Coach	10%	26
<b>Total</b>		<b>248</b>

**Regional Meet Improvements**

**2. Which of the following options would most improve the quality of the regional cross country meets? Please rank the options below in order of improvement quality.**

Statement	Percent	Count
Require hosts to contract a timing company that can provide live results while the race is occurring.	86%	186
Live streaming	74%	161
Require hosts to have an announcer and sound system giving information prior, during and after the race.	63%	136
Videoboard with live results	59%	127
Increase course markings, particularly at the start and finish lines	58%	125
Implement qualifying standards for teams (not all-comers meet)	45%	98
Increase signage and photo opportunities in and around the course	40%	87
Increase volunteers at the start line and on the course	28%	61
Require a stage for awards	19%	41
Require a recovery tent	16%	35
Require a team hospitality area	13%	28

*Note. Percentages represent the number of respondents who ranked an option anywhere in their top five choices.*

**Qualifying Format**

**3. The Division II Cross Country Committee is considering several formats for qualifying to the final site. Please rank the following options in order from your favorite option to your least favorite option.**

Statement	1	2	3	4	5	Count
No change to the current format or automatic advancement process (i.e., eight all-comer regional sites, one final site with three teams and two individuals advancing per region).	31%	30%	11%	12%	16%	179
Two regional sites, with 40 teams each selected to participate in the regional meets. Automatic qualification would be granted to teams who win their conference and the field would be filled by at-large teams based on selection criteria. The top 14 from each regional site would advance to the final site with six additional teams chosen at-large. The top 12 individuals not on an advancing team from each region would advance to the final site.	31%	6%	10%	10%	44%	179
No change to the current format (i.e., eight all-comer regional sites and one final site), but change the automatic advancement to two teams and two individuals per region. The remaining 18 teams and 16 individuals would be selected at-large.	21%	32%	12%	16%	18%	179
Four all-comer regional sites (i.e., super regions), with the top five teams and top four individuals automatically advancing to the final site. The remaining 14 teams and eight individuals would be selected at-large.	9%	17%	24%	39%	12%	179
Six all-comer regional sites, retaining the all-comer with the top three teams and top three individuals automatically advancing to the final site. The remaining sixteen teams and six individuals would be selected at-large. Regions would be based on geography and some conferences may have membership split across regions.	8%	15%	44%	24%	10%	179

## Race Distance

### 4. What is your preferred championship race distance for women?

Statement	Percent	Count
6k	72%	127
5k	15%	27
8k	11%	20
10k	2%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>177</b>

### 5. What is your preferred championship race distance for men?

Statement	Percent	Count
8k	58%	102
10k	40%	70
6k	2%	3
5k	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>175</b>