



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 21, 2024, and JANUARY 9, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCES**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. 2026 and 2027 Midwest Region host.**

(1) Recommendation. That the University of Wisconsin-Parkside serve as the Midwest Region host for the 2026 and 2027 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. In reviewing sites for the 2026 and 2027 regionals, the committee noted that there were no bids submitted for the Midwest Region. Following the bids closing, Wisconsin-Parkside asked to submit a bid for both years. The committee noted Wisconsin-Parkside has hosted multiple times previously and has done a great job.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Cross country selection procedures.**

(1) Recommendation. Modify the cross country selection criteria so that head-to-head competition has more weight when selecting at-large teams. A head-to-head win would count as a 1.5 win, whereas second tier comparisons would count as a 1 win.

(2) Effective date. 2025 selections.

(3) Rationale. The current selection criteria count head-to-head wins as equal to a second-tier comparison with common opponents. The committee feels that head-to-head should mean more than comparisons to common opponents.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2024 survey results.** The committee noted comments citing the need for hosting improvements at the regional level.
2. **2024 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the report from its 2024 annual meeting.
3. **Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed the strategic plan and agreed to add short- and long-term goals to enhance the student-athlete experience at both the regionals and finals site,
4. **Preview of 2025 hosts.** The committee reviewed the 2025 hosts and noted that West Texas A&M no longer has a cross country course on its campus. Staff has been in contact with the institution's senior associate athletics director of facilities and event management, who noted that the institution is currently considering two other courses off campus and will let the cross country committee know by the end of February if either is feasible.
5. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee noted that distances of 3,000 meters for the women and 4,000 meters for the men are required for sport sponsorship. For championship selection, a minimum of four contests are required with a minimum of five participants in each contest at a minimum distance of 5,000 meters for the women and 7,000 meters for the men. The committee reiterated that regionals cannot be included in the four contests. The committee also noted programs that are transitioning to a new conference or division and those that have been dropped.
6. **Championship format.** The committee talked at length about the current regional format and how to improve hosting at regional sites and realigning regions.
7. **Timing company review.** The committee felt that Leone Timing has done an excellent job timing for the national championship. The committee did raise the question if hip numbers are needed at the national championship. Timing companies for the regional meets dictate what is needed in terms of bib and hip numbers based on the system and process they use.
8. **Policy review.**
  - a. **Entry policy.** The committee noted the continued challenges with the current entry policy for regional championships even with the new policy to enter the entire roster. This was partly due to the manuals not being updated properly and partly because coaches still do not understand how to enter their rosters and declare them for regionals and the national championship. The committee talked about the possibility of training how to enter rosters along with education on how the committee selects teams to the championship.
  - b. **Declaration timeline.** The committee voted to keep the declaration timeline and require coaches to declare their athletes the Friday prior to race day.

- c. **Late entries.** The committee noted the late entry fine of \$1,500 per gender reduced the number of late entries from previous years.
- d. **Credentials.** The committee noted that many teams chose to bring additional athletes to the national championship in case of injury or illness or in the case of an individual qualifier, an additional athlete of the same gender if the coach is of an opposite gender. The committee voted that three additional credentials would be supplied to each team to cover those additional athletes. For individuals who qualify for the national championship the committee will provide one additional coaches credential and one team personnel credential.
9. **Manuals review.** The committee and championship manager are aware of misinformation or missing information from the host operations manual. The committee will be taking time this summer to improve the host operations manual. The committee is working on also adding an appendix to the host operations manual with a minimum list of items needed to host regionals.
10. **Committee composition.** The committee reviewed its current composition and noted the terms expiring at the end of August. The committee also appointed Michael Rosolino, head coach at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, as chair for 2025-26.

*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 November 21, 2024, and January 9, 2025, Videoconferences	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jack Brunecz, King University.	
Zach Emerson, Franklin Pierce University.	
Sage Fowler, Southern Arkansas University.	
Elizabeth Hoge, Ashland University.	
Andrew Huber, West Chester University.	
Michael Rosolino, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.	
Katelyn Smith, Adams State University.	
<b>Guests:</b>	
Kim Duyst, NCAA Coaches Connector.	
<b>NCAA Staff in Attendance:</b>	
Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.	