

REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JAN. 7, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Cross country qualifying window.**

a. Recommendation. That the qualifying window for the 2026 Division III Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships begin nine (9) weeks prior to the national championships.

b. Effective Date. September 1, 2026.

c. Rationale. The Division III Championships Committee approved a one-year pilot that expanded the cross country qualifying window to include competition results beginning nine (9) weeks prior to the national championships effective for the 2025-26 academic year. The cross country committee is requesting that one additional year be approved (2026-27) so that it can review two years of data and the impact of the expanded data on selections.

Prior to the 2025 Division III Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships the cross country qualifying window began eight (8) weeks prior to the national championships with results from competitions within that timeframe being included in the selections data. The Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee requested the pilot last year based on a recommendation from the coaching body (USTFCCCA) to explore including more data for selections. Rationale from the coaching body is largely based on teams competing every other weekend during the season and a desire to include all competition in selections consideration.

d. Estimated budget impact. No impact on the championships budget. The committee realizes that it could impact institutional budgets if an institution would change its schedule based on an expanded window; however, most instances would not include a schedule change but would allow for the results to be considered from a meet the team is already attending.

e. Student-athlete impact. Expanding the qualifying window will allow more student-athletes results to be taken into consideration during the selections process.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Cross country countable qualifying window.** The committee is requesting that one additional pilot year be approved for the committee to evaluate how the additional data impacts team selections. After a second year of data (if approved) the committee may consider requesting a permanent change to its selection criteria moving forward. (See Action Item.)
2. **Cross country regionals.** The committee reviewed the currently approved regional hosts for 2026 and noted those regions that are still vacant. The committee discussed potential leads to fill the vacancies and strategies for soliciting interest in regional hosts for future years.
3. **Indoor track and field championships.** The committee reviewed its tentative on-site schedule for the 2026 Division III Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships in Birmingham, Alabama.
4. **Outdoor track and field – championships field size.** The committee received an update that its request to expand the men's and women's outdoor field size from 22 to 24 student-athletes per event is on track and will be considered by the Division III Championships Committee during its initial budget review in February. If approved, the field size increase would be effective for the 2027 outdoor track and field championships. A final decision will be communicated after the division's final budget is approved this summer.
5. **Outdoor track and field – future championships.** The committee discussed the 2025 outdoor track and field championships relative to the host repeating in 2027 and noted facility concerns it would like to see addressed prior to returning.
6. **Coaches convention proposals.** The committee reviewed the proposals reviewed at the 2025 USTFCCCA convention in Dallas, Texas. The committee discussed the voting outcomes and will discuss further once the approved proposals are received from the coaches association.
7. **Standardization of officials at championships.** The committee discussed a correspondence requesting that all officiating positions be standardized across all divisional track and field championships. The committee acknowledged the proposal and asked staff to facilitate a conversation with the Divisions I and II track and field committees, as well as the national coordinator of officials. The Division III committee is open to discussion but would like to have a better understanding of the changes before making any possible changes.

Committee Chair: *Josh Henry, Carthage College*

Staff Liaison: *Laura Peterson-Mlynski, championships*

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Women's Track and Field and Cross

Country Committee

January 7, 2026

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| Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee |
| Jan. 7, 2026, videoconference. |

Attendees:

Kennadi Carlisle, Pacific Lutheran University.

Jon D'Ottavio, Moravian University.

Josh Henry, Carthage College.

Jason Linders, Gordon College.

Andrew Marrocco, Shenandoah University.

Jackie Nicholson, Rochester Institute of Technology.

David Nicholson, Eastern Connecticut State University.

Reava Potter, St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.

Kiana Verdugo-Maday, Alma College.

Absentees:

None.

Guests in Attendance:

None.

NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:

Laura Peterson-Mlynski.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Margaret Gaines-Hornberger.