

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JUNE 11-12, 2025, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Cross country qualifying window.**

- a. Recommendation. That a one-year exception be granted so that the qualifying window for the 2025 Division III Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships begin nine weeks before the national championships.
- b. Effective date. September 1, 2025. (The exception is for one year, after which the committee will evaluate the impact before considering a permanent change.)
- c. Rationale. Currently the cross country qualifying window begins eight weeks before the national championships with results from competitions within that timeframe being included in the selections data. For the past several years, the coaching body (USTFCCCA) has been discussing its desire to extend the qualifying window to include results from contests nine weeks before the national championships, extending the window by one week. Those who advocate for a change in the qualifying window argue that cross country typically operates on an every-two-weeks racing cycle, and including results nine weeks before the championships would mean that results start to count eight weeks before regionals, timing up with the every-two-weeks racing cycle leading into the regional weekend.

Over the last few years the committee has discussed this coaches association proposal to extend the qualifying window and has been hesitant to propose any changes because there have been other variables at play (i.e., the change from eight to 10 regions in 2020; extending the qualifying window from seven weeks to the current eight; and including more data on the board for teams "on-deck" during selections). The committee also wanted to see a few years of stability before considering a change. The committee also feels that more data is only helpful if it is good data, and more data could force greater subjectivity when selecting at-large teams.

Another factor in the 2025 cross country qualifying window is that the pre-nationals meet is being hosted on Saturday, September 20 – nine weeks before the national

championships. The pre-nationals meet is an opportunity for Division III institutions to preview the course before the national championships. It is also an opportunity for teams to compete against out-of-region competition to add comparative data to their resumes. Allowing an exception to the qualifying window for the 2025 championships would allow the pre-nationals meet to count toward selection data while also allowing the committee to evaluate a year of selecting at-large teams to evaluate if a more permanent change to the qualifying window would be beneficial.

- d. Estimated budget impact. No impact on the championships budget. It could impact an institution's budget if it had not planned to travel to pre-nationals due to the results not being considered in selection data but which may opt to travel to the meet if it is countable.
- e. Student-athlete impact.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Committee reports.** The Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee approved the report from last year's annual meeting and its March 2025 meeting.
2. **Committee timeline.** The committee reviewed and tentatively approved the timeline for the coming year. The dates on the schedule will be confirmed with hosts and subsequently with the committee.
3. **Cross country.** The committee began early planning discussions for the 2025 championships to be hosted by Converse University at the Milliken Research Center in Spartanburg, South Carolina.
 - a. **Administration of the 2024 championships.** The committee reviewed the 2024 championships and commended Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on a successful execution of the championships. The hosts were attentive to details and provided a quality student-athlete experience. The committee discussed the survey feedback and made notes for when the championships are back in Terre Haute in 2027.
 - b. **Administration of the 2025 championships.** The committee discussed the upcoming cross country championships to be hosted in Spartanburg, South Carolina and established race times of 10 a.m. (men) and 11 a.m. (women), which is one hour earlier than standard due to the possibility of heat. The committee also confirmed that it will provide an additional student-athlete gift in lieu of a banquet.

- c. **Review of selection process.** The committee discussed the 2024 championships selections and spent time looking forward to 2025.
- d. **Sport region review.** The committee reviewed its current 10 region structure and discussed a few potential changes that might make sense to some of its alignments. The committee has asked staff to locate the plotted map of the regions so it can do a more wholistic assessment of its regional alignment before considering any changes. The committee also discussed its membership and is tracking on reclassifying and provisional members.
- e. **Regional hosts.** The committee reviewed the list of regional hosts for the 2025 championships and discussed the timing of host planning calls.
- f. **2026 and 2027 regional hosts.** The committee discussed the next two years of regional bids and those that are still outstanding. Cross country regionals are difficult to secure too far in advance, and the committee would like to continue to work with the coaches association to get ahead in this process as much as possible.
- g. **Cross country qualifying window.** The committee discussed the cross country qualifying window (see action item) and is requesting a one-year exception to allow results beginning nine weeks before the national championships to count in selection data to better understand its impact.

4. Indoor track and field.

- a. **Administration of the 2025 championships.** The committee discussed key takeaways from the 2025 championship and commended Nazareth University and Visit Rochester on hosting an excellent championship.
- b. **Administration of the 2026 championships.** The committee reviewed its schedule from the 2023 indoor track and field championships in Birmingham and looked to make adjustments for 2026. The committee will share the schedule with the host for feedback and then make the schedule available to the membership.
- c. **Selection process.** The committee reviewed its indoor track and field selection process and made no changes for the 2025-26 academic year.

5. Outdoor track and field.

- a. **2025 championships administration.** The committee recapped the 2025 championships hosted by the North Coast Athletic Conference, the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and Spire Academy in Geneva, Ohio. The committee commended the hosts for their

execution of the championships and discussed needs relative to the 2027 championships back at Spire Academy.

- b. Administration of 2026 championships.** The committee reviewed the schedule from the last time the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse hosted (2018). The committee made several changes to the schedule and will make it available to the membership once the host has reviewed and given feedback.
 - c. Selections process.** The committee reviewed its outdoor track and field selection process and made no changes for the 2025-26 academic year. The committee did discuss its desire to see the financial impact of increasing the men's and women's outdoor track and field field size to 24 per event (remaining at 16 relays) so that it can make a recommendation for next budget cycle (FY27-FY28).
- 6. Final qualifier meets.** The committee reviewed the indoor and outdoor track and field final qualifier meet guidelines and made no changes to the criteria, noting the dates will be updated to reflect 2026 dates. The committee will continue to request that hosts notify the NCAA in order for an updated list to be made available on NCAA.org. The committee discussed the timeline for host institutions to notify the NCAA of their intent to host indoor or outdoor final qualifying meets and determined that a minimum of two weeks' notice is required.
- 7. USTFCCCA proposals.**
- Track and field.** The committee reviewed the following proposals from the coaches association specific to track and field: 1) relay reimbursement; 2) injury/illness reimbursement; 3) limiting ceremonial interruptions; and 4) live streaming. The committee appreciates the requests and will look for additional feedback from its membership for the priority order of the items as some have a budget impact, and the committee will need to communicate the priorities to the Division III Championships Committee.
- 8. Governance updates.** Bill Regan, managing director of Division III Governance, provided updates that will be in place beginning in 2025-26.

Committee Chair: Jessica Cooper, Grove City College
Staff Liaison: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, championships

Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 11-12, 2025, meeting
Attendees:
Kennadi Bouyer, Pacific Lutheran University.

Jessica Cooper, Grove City College.
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.
Ayanna Tweedy, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Margaret Gaines-Hornberger and Bill Regan.