



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE
JUNE 14-16, 2022, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Men's outdoor track and field championships field size.**
 - a. Recommendation. That the men's track and field championships field size be increased from 20 to 22 participants per event.
 - b. Effective date. 2023 championships.
 - c. Rationale. Currently, there is a discrepancy between the outdoor men's and women's championships field sizes, as 22 women and 20 men per event (excluding relays which accept 16 for both genders) are selected to the championship. The current field sizes equate to an access ratio of 1:20 for the men and 1:17 for the women. While both access ratios fit within the legislated range of 1:16 to 1:24 for individual/team sports, the committee advocates an equal number of student-athletes per event per gender. Based on 2018-19 sport sponsorship data (the most recent complete data set available), having 22 qualifiers for both the men and the women would equate to access ratios of 1:18.5 for the men and 1:17 for the women.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. \$101,500.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. Increasing the men's field size to 22 student-athletes per event will provide an equal number of championship opportunities for the men compared to the women.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2021 annual report.** The Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee approved the report from last year's annual meeting as presented.
- 2. Committee business.** 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 2021 NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships were held in Louisville, Kentucky, after being canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee began early planning discussions for the 2022 championships to be hosted by Olivet College and the Greater Lansing Sports Commission in Lansing, Michigan. Focus areas for the upcoming championship included the return of a banquet, course logistics and the on-site schedule.
 - a. **Administration of the 2021 championships.** The committee reviewed the 2021 championships and commended the Louisville Sports Commission on a successful execution of the championships amid the lingering impacts of COVID-19. The entire host staff paid careful attention to detail that delivered a quality student-athlete experience.
 - b. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the submitted evaluations noting key themes and areas for improvement.
 - c. **Review of selection process.** The 2021 championships was the first opportunity for the committee to use the late-season performance criteria that had been modified to be effective for the canceled 2020 championships. The committee felt that the addition of regional data to the selection information was beneficial and provided additional data points when selecting teams to the championship field.
 - d. **Regional hosts.** The committee reviewed the list of regional hosts for the 2022 championships and discussed the timing of host planning calls. Hosts for the 2023 and 2024 regional sites will be determined this fall.
 - e. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the 2021-22 sport sponsorship and noted a few edits. The 2022-23 list will be finalized early in the fall and updated accordingly.
4. **Indoor track and field.**
 - a. **Administration of the 2022 championships.** The 2022 NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships resumed after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. The committee discussed key takeaways from the 2022 championship as it begins planning for the 2023 championships that will return to CrossPlex in Birmingham, Alabama.
 - b. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the championship evaluations and noted key themes brought up throughout. The committee appreciates the feedback provided but encourages more participants to complete the survey so that it has more comprehensive feedback for evaluating and planning purposes.

- c. **Selection process.** The committee reviewed its indoor track and field selection process and made no changes for the 2022-23 academic year.
- d. **Technical manual.** The committee reviewed the tech manual from the 2022 championships and will make modifications as necessary for the 2023 championships.
- e. **Indoor championships schedule of events.** The committee reviewed a proposed schedule for the 2023 championships. NCAA staff will work with the host staff to confirm a few logistical questions before finalizing and publishing the schedule.

5. Outdoor track and field.

- a. **2022 championships administration.** The committee recapped the 2022 championships hosted by the University of Mount Union, the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio. The committee commended the hosts for their execution of the championships, but mostly turned its attention to the 2023 championships. The 2023 championships site is unique with its facility layout. The committee reviewed the schedule and will have it posted early so coaches can consider the location of the throws facility in relation to the track when considering potential doubles for student-athletes.
- b. **Championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the championship evaluations and noted key themes brought up throughout.
- c. **Selections process.** The committee reviewed its outdoor track and field selection process and recommended an increase in the men's field size to 22 student-athletes per event (not inclusive of relays; men and women both select 16 teams per relay) to match the women's field size (see the Action Item above). Increasing the men's field size would bring the access ratios for both men and women more in line with each other and provide consistency across the championships.
- d. **Technical manual.** The committee reviewed the tech manual from the 2022 championships and noted several updates should the men's field size be increased. The committee also expressed a desire for the technical manual to become an appendix of the participant manual (for both indoor and outdoor track and field). The committee feels that there is a lot of information communicated to the membership as it is preparing for the championships and having more information in one place would hopefully cut down on information being missed or having inconsistencies in materials. Staff will work to incorporate the two manuals together for the upcoming championships.
- e. **Outdoor championships schedule of events.** The committee reviewed a proposed schedule for the 2023 championships with the host. The committee hopes to have a finalized schedule published earlier in the fall to allow coaches to review as the facility has

a unique setup for its throws venue in relation to the track. The committee wants coaches to be fully aware of the timing and location of events so they can make informed decisions when considering a student-athlete's championship schedule and their ability to execute multiple events if selected.

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 2023 dates. The committee will continue to request that hosts submit the completed paperwork to the NCAA in order to for an updated list to be made available on NCAA.org. A formal final qualifier meet approval will remain unnecessary.

7. USTFCCA proposals.

a. Packet pick-up. The committee did not support the request to provide two separate packet pick-up opportunities at the cross country championships. The committee has not seen an inability of teams to be present during the designated timeframe and believes that the change to conduct the coaches meetings virtually before arriving on site has drastically reduced the time commitment required for packet pick-up. The committee also discussed the volunteer need for pack pick-up and the added stress of needing to staff two separate pick-up windows.

b. Coaches meeting. The committee supports the recommendation that all mandatory coaches meetings be held virtually for cross country, and indoor and outdoor track and field. Coaches meetings will be held early the week of the championships before teams need to start traveling to the respective sites.

c. Selection criteria – already in the field. The committee discussed the request to define “teams already in the championship field” as “any team that has already been selected through the automatic or at-large process into the championships” and will seek further clarification from the coaches association as the current understanding of this selection criteria is consistent with the committee's current procedures.

d. Qualifying criteria. The committee did not support the request to revise the late-season performance window to effectively start one week later than currently. The committee feels that a team must still run well enough at regionals to make it onto the board for consideration and seeing more data – even early in the season – is always beneficial.

e. Awards – top 40. The committee considered the request that awards be given to the top 40 place finishers; currently mini-trophies are awarded only to the top 15. While the committee agrees that awarding only 15 mini-trophies is too few, it also feels that 40 may be too many. The committee will request data on the number of mini-trophies given at other individual/team championships to see whether cross country awards are consistent.

NCAA staff noted that a request for additional dollars to increase any additional awards could not be made until the next budget cycle (requests would be made to the Division III Championships Committee in February 2024 with potential implementation for the 2024 championships).

- f. Participant medallions.** The committee agrees that participant medallions should be given to each member of the squad size consistent with other team sports that provide a medallion for the entire squad size regardless of the amount of participation. NCAA staff will research to determine why qualified teams are provided only seven participant medallions when eight is the established squad size.
 - g. Live timing – regionals.** The committee understands the desire for all regional meets to have live scoring and feels that it is standard practice for most meets. Because live scoring is almost always standard practice the committee did not want to make it a requirement that could preclude potential hosts from bidding as regional bids are already difficult to procure. However, the desire to have live scoring at regional sites will be a point of emphasis on regional host calls.
 - h. Regional host bids.** The committee appreciates the desire to prioritize regional institutional bids rather than local sport organization bids when selecting regional sites and agrees that sometimes it appears that institutions have a more vested interest in providing a quality student-athlete experience. However, local sport organizations are very capable of staging regional meets and submitting high quality bids. The committee concluded their discussion by emphasizing the general lack of regional cross country bids received for consideration and encourages more institutions to submit bids for consideration.
 - i. Track and field implements.** The committee supports the recommendation to request that two of each house implement be provided for the championships. Having two house implements at each discipline would help speed up the warm-up and competition times. It would also be beneficial to have a back-up when an implement gets caught or does not pass inspection. Since the number of implements supplied is a function of the current equipment supplier contract NCAA staff will seek guidance internally to determine the possibility of additional implements being provided.
- 8. Future championship dates and sites.** The committee reviewed a document highlighting the cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field championship sites through the 2025-26 academic year.
- 9. Governance update.** NCAA staff provided an update to the committee on current topics including: 1) NCAA staffing update; 2) an overview of the new NCAA constitution; 3) budget update; 4) potential 2023 Convention legislation; 5) name, image and likeness; and 6) transgender student-athlete participation.

Committee Chair: Mike Howard, Plattsburgh State University of New York
Staff Liaison: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, championships

Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 14-16, 2022, meeting
Attendees:
Marlee Berg Haryasz, Westfield State University.
Greg Cooper, Pennsylvania State University, the Behrend College.
Dara Ford, Otterbein University.
Mike Howard, Plattsburgh State University of New York.
Amy Maier, Buena Vista University.
Kevin Reid, University of La Verne.
Josh Schroeder, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
Jessica Smith, Grove City College.
Katie Stanford, Covenant College.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Louise McCleary, Paige Newman, Nancy O'Hara.