



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 14-16, 2023, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2022 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 committee began early planning discussions for the 2023 championships to be hosted by Dickinson College at Big Spring High School in Newville, Pennsylvania.
  - a. **Administration of the 2022 championships.** The committee reviewed the 2022 championships and commended Olivet College [*now Olivet University*] and the Greater Lansing Sports Commission on a successful execution of the championships in spite of challenging weather. The entire host staff paid careful attention to detail that delivered a quality student-athlete experience including the return of a banquet function for the first time post-COVID.
  - b. **Review of selection process.** The committee discussed the 2022 championships selections and spent time looking forward to 2023. The committee discussed implementing additional calls at critical points in the season (e.g., the week after conference meets) to discuss results and make notes of critical outcomes that could impact selections. The committee also would like to see the mock selection conducted earlier to allow a bit more time to get familiar with the software.
  - c. **Regional hosts.** The committee reviewed the list of regional hosts for the 2023 championships and discussed the timing of host planning calls.
4. **Indoor track and field.**
  - a. **Administration of the 2023 championships.** The committee discussed key takeaways from the 2023 championship as it begins planning for the 2024 championships that will be hosted by Dickinson College at Big Spring High School in Newville, Pennsylvania.

- b. **Selection process.** The committee reviewed its indoor track and field selection process and made no changes for the 2023-24 academic year.
  - c. **Technical manual.** The committee reviewed the tech manual from the 2023 championships and will make modifications as necessary for the 2024 championships.
  - d. **Indoor championships schedule of events.** The committee reviewed a proposed schedule for the 2024 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. **2023 championships administration.** The committee recapped the 2023 championships hosted by St. John Fisher University and Visit Rochester in Rochester, New York. The committee commended the hosts for their execution of the championships, and then turned its attention to the 2024 championships.
  - b. **Selections process.** The committee reviewed its outdoor track and field selection process noting that the 2023 Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championships was the first championship with the men's field size increased to 22 student-athletes per event (not including relays). The committee was pleased to implement the increased field size providing equitable championships opportunities to both the men and the women.
  - c. **Outdoor championships schedule of events.** The committee drafted a proposed schedule for the 2024 championships to review with the host. The committee hopes to have a finalized schedule published this fall.
- 6. **Manuals.** The committee discussed the manuals published for each of the championships and made notes for changes to be made for the coming year.
- 7. **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 2024 dates. The committee will continue to request that hosts submit the completed paperwork to the NCAA in order for an updated list to be made available on NCAA.org. A formal final qualifier meet approval will remain unnecessary.
- 8. **USTFCCCA proposals.**
  - a. **Cross Country.**

- (1) Declaration process – allow 14 to be declared and not redeclare after regionals.**  
The committee discussed this proposal to allow an institution to declare 14 individual student-athlete to be eligible for regionals and that the student-athletes would not need to be redeclared prior to the selections. The committee ultimately landed on keeping the number of declared student-athletes at 10; however, it also will only require a team to redeclare its student-athletes for nationals if it would like to make changes to the 10 student-athletes declared for regionals.
- (2) Entry deadline and time for the NCAA Division III Cross Country Regional Qualifying Meets.** The committee considered the proposal that requested the regional entry deadline be moved from 5 p.m. Eastern time Sunday prior to regionals to 8 p.m. Eastern time Monday prior to the meet. The committee extended the deadline to 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday prior to regionals, which should still allow coaches to meet with their student-athletes and assess readiness for competition.
- (3) Bib numbers at NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships.** The committee considered the proposal to have two different sets of colored bib numbers issued to student-athletes at the championships to distinguish which student-athletes are competing as a part of a team and, therefore, count in team scoring. The committee believes there is merit to this visual aid and will implement team bib numbers being shaded in a color. The name bibs will remain the same for all student-athletes.
- (4) Check-in time frames for teams and individuals.** The committee discussed the request to have the check-in window open for both genders at the same time, with each gender still closing 20 minutes prior to the start of their specific race. The committee confirmed that this practice was implemented for the 2022 cross country season and will remain a standard practice.
- (5) Individual qualifier box assignments at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships.** The committee considered the proposal to designate one individual qualifier starting box for each of the 10 cross country regions on the starting line at the national championship and ultimately did not support the concept. While the committee understands that there may be a perceived advantage to being lined up next to a box of individuals, it is unfair to the qualified individuals to be placed behind others in the start boxes.
- (6) Substituting a declared student-athlete prior to race start due to an injury.** The committee discussed the proposal that would allow for a student-athlete to be substituted after the final clerking has closed 20 minutes before the start of the

respective race if a student-athlete is injured at the last minute during the final stages of warm-up. The committee understands the possibility of injury in the final stages of warm-up, a substitution at such a late stage is logistically challenging from several aspects of the process.

**b. Track and Field.**

- **Increase in non-athlete travel party for the indoor and outdoor track and field championships.** The committee reviewed this request and agreed with the rationale arguing that the number of non-athletes permitted in the official travel party is not adequate and should be increased. Track and field is unique from other sports in that it has so many specific disciplines with individualized coaches for each. The current travel party limits do not account for a head coach and, possibly, an event coach. An event-specific coach is important, especially at the national championships.

An increase in the number of non-athletes in the travel party would also help to alleviate some of the situations when a male-lead program qualifies a female student-athlete (or a female-led program qualifies a male student-athlete) and, currently, there is no additional financial support to allow an additional female staff member to travel with the male coach and female student-athlete (or vice-versa). The committee felt it would be very prudent to increase the non-athlete travel party to eliminate these scenarios whenever possible.

NCAA staff will begin working with accounting and the travel department on the budget impact and a formal recommendation to the Division III Championships Committee will follow.

**9. 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.

**10. Timing RFP.** The committee reviewed the submitted timing RFPs and selected a timing company for the indoor and outdoor track and field championships through the 2028 championships.

**11. Other business.**

- **Protest fees.** The committee discussed the protest process at length and still feels it is adequate. The only change that will be implemented will be increasing the protest fee to \$100 per protest.

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

<b>Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 14-16, 2023, meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Cameia Alexander, Virginia Wesleyan University.
Lauren Brownrigg, Pacific University (Oregon).
Greg Cooper, Pennsylvania State University, the Behrend College.
Mike Howard, Plattsburgh State University of New York.
Amy Maier, Buena Vista University.
Josh Schroeder, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
Jessica Smith, Grove City College.
Logan Stroman, Widener University.
Ayanna Tweedy, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.
Joel Williams, Tufts University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:</b>
Laura Peterson-Mlynski.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Margaret Gaines-Hornberger.