



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 12-14, 2024, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. 2023 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.
- 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 2024 championships to be hosted by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology at LaVerne Gibson Championships Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Indiana.
  - a. Administration of the 2023 championships.** The committee reviewed the 2023 championships and commended Dickinson College and Visit Cumberland Valley on a successful execution of the championships. The hosts were attentive to details and provided a quality student-athlete experience.
  - b. Review of selection process.** The committee discussed the 2023 championships selections and spent time looking forward to 2024. The committee discussed the selections preparation call and the need for an introductory mock selection call to see the system, discuss the criteria and discuss critical outcomes that may impact selections when the time comes.
  - c. Regional hosts.** The committee reviewed the list of regional hosts for the 2024 championships and discussed the timing of host planning calls.
- 4. Indoor track and field.**
  - a. Administration of the 2024 championships.** The committee discussed key takeaways from the 2024 championship as it begins planning for the 2025 championships at Nazareth University in Rochester, New York, at the Golisano Training Center.
  - b. Selection process.** The committee reviewed its indoor track and field selection process and made no changes for the 2024-25 academic year.

- c. **Technical manual.** The committee reviewed the tech manual from the 2024 championships and will make modifications as necessary for the 2025 championships.
    - d. **Indoor championships schedule of events.** The committee reviewed a proposed schedule for the 2025 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. **2024 championships administration.** The committee recapped the 2024 championships hosted by Coastal Carolina University and Visit Myrtle Beach in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The committee commended the hosts for their execution of the championships, and then turned its attention to the 2025 championships that will take place at SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio.
  - b. **Selections process.** The committee reviewed its outdoor track and field selection process and made no changes for the 2024-25 academic year.
  - c. **Outdoor championships schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the schedule from the last time SPIRE hosted (2022). The committee discussed the change that was implemented in Myrtle Beach to have one distance final on each day of the championship (e.g., 10,000 meters, Thursday; steeplechase, Friday; 5,000 meters, Saturday) and will keep that schedule in place for the 2025 championships.
- 6. **Manuals.** The committee discussed the manuals published for each of the championships and noted 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 notify the NCAA in order for an updated list to be made available on NCAA.org. The committee discussed if final qualifier meets should continue to be permissible given the tight turnaround to selections and other challenges that present themselves. At this time the committee still feels that final qualifier meets offer valuable competition opportunities for student-athletes and will not make any changes.
- 8. **USTFCCCA proposals.**
  - a. **Cross Country.**
    - (1) **Individual qualifier box assignments at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships.** The committee reconsidered 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. The committee still believes that all qualified individuals deserve a spot on the starting line.

- (2) Cross country qualification window.** The committee discussed but ultimately decided not to recommend amending the late-season performance criterion for at large selections to include results from nine weeks prior to selections. The current late-season performance criterion includes data from eight weeks prior to selections, including regionals. The committee discussed the fact that there is limited inter-regional competition in the early weeks and that data are critical when comparing the final teams selected in the championships. This proposal would not solve that issue.

The committee also discussed the fact that the qualifying window has changed several times in recent years and the inclusion of regional data for selections was first implemented for the 2021 championships. The committee also noted that the 2021 cross country season was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Team rosters were impacted at any given point in the season due to illness and teams competed very minimally. Both factors inclined the committee to not make a change to the qualifying window at this time to allow for more data sets to be compared before making an impactful change.

The committee also noted that the proposal was not overwhelmingly supported by coaches in attendance at the USTFCCCA Convention.

- (3) Regional and national championship entry deadline.** The committee reconsidered the request to move the regional entry deadline to Monday at 11:59 p.m. prior to regionals from the current deadline of Sunday at 11:59 p.m. prior to regionals. The committee extended the deadline last year (effective for the 2023 championships) from 5 p.m. Eastern time to 11:59 p.m. Eastern time to allow coaches additional time to determine their roster(s). The committee discussed the logistics of regionals week and the need to keep the deadline on Sunday to ensure that all the tasks leading up to the races can be executed efficiently.

**b. Track and Field.**

- (1) Coaches' box access.** The committee did not support the request to provide an all-access credential to head coaches that would be in addition to the event sticker(s) currently provided to coaches that permits one coach per institution into the coaching box for each field event for which they have a qualified student-athlete competing. The committee feels that the current allowance is adequate, and flexibility is already provided through additional event stickers when necessary.

**(2) Indoor track and field – field size increase.** The committee discussed the proposal to increase the men's and women's indoor track and field field size to 24 student-athletes per event (not including relays). The committee discussed several factors that an increased field size would impact, specifically in the distance events which would now require a prelim in the 3,000 and 5,000 meter events. While a waiver of that rule could be requested from the rules committee, the track and field and cross country committee expressed concern over the safety risks of 24 student-athletes on the track at once and the impact on the integrity of the competition.

Field events would not be greatly impacted outside of the increased time to complete each event, but logistically increasing each flight by two student-athletes would not have a significant impact on meet management.

Division III is currently in year one of a two-year budget cycle, therefore, this request could not be made for new dollars at this time. The committee will continue to discuss this request and submit a recommendation at the appropriate time should it choose to act.

**(3) Outdoor track and field – field size increase.** The committee supports the concept of increasing the outdoor track and field field size to 24 student-athletes per event (no impact on relays). The committee discussed how an increase of two student-athletes per event would not impact the conduct of any of the events (i.e., necessitating a preliminary round to be contested in an event in which one is currently not contested) and would allow for even heats in laned races. Currently, heats are run as one heat of eight and two heats of seven.

Similar to the indoor track and field request, the committee cannot request an item with a budget impact until the next budget cycle but will intend to do so when that opportunity is available.

**9. 2026-2028 championships bid cycle.** The committee reviewed submitted bids for cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 championships and made recommendations to be reviewed by the Division III Championships Committee this fall. Future hosts will be announced on October 2.

**10. Governance updates.** NCAA staff provided updates that will be in place beginning in 2024-25. The most significant item for cross country and track and field is a per diem increase to \$135 per member of the official travel party. Additional per diem increases are planned as follows: \$140 in 2025-26; \$145 in 2026-27; and \$150 in 2027-28.

*Staff Liaison: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, championships*

<b>Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 14-16, 2024, meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Jessica Cooper, Grove City College.
Jon D'Ottavio, Moravian University.
Josh Henry, Carthage College.
Jackie Nicholson, Rochester Institute of Technology.
David Nicholson, Eastern Connecticut State University.
Ayanna Tweedy, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.
Joel Williams, Tufts University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.
Lauren Brownrigg, Pacific University (Oregon).
<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.