DIVISION III
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REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE JUNE 10-11, 2026, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

   - **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

   a. Selection criteria – average time gap.

   (1) Recommendation. That the average time gap from the scoring student-athletes (five) be added to the selection criteria.

   (2) Effective Date. Sept. 1, 2026.

   (3) Rationale. Allowing the data of the average time gap from the five scoring student-athletes will provide more clarity when comparing teams in isolation. Often when the committee is working to select the final at-large teams to the championships field there are limited data (i.e., head-to-head competition, common opponents, etc.), making it hard to compare teams. The average time gap will help the committee draw more context from race results, especially when using the already existing point gap criteria which can be skewed by small or non-competitive race fields.

   (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

   (5) Student-athlete impact. Additional data would allow the committee to have more complete information when evaluating teams for selection.

   b. Cross country regional realignment.

   (1) Recommendation. Approve the following regional alignment changes effective for the 2027 cross country regional championships:

New Region	Institution	Current Region
Region II (Mideast)	Purchase College, SUNY	Region III (Niagara)
	Manhattanville University	Region III (Niagara)
Region III (Niagara)	Clarkson University	Region II (Mideast)
	St. Lawrence University	Region II (Mideast)
	Plattsburgh State University	Region II (Mideast)
	SUNY Canton	Region II (Mideast)

	SUNY Potsdam	Region II (Mideast)
Region IV (Mid-Atlantic)	Allegheny College	Region VI (Great Lakes)
	Cedar Crest College	Metro (women)
	Carlow University	Provisional, Active 2027-28
	DeSales University	Region V (Metro)
	Moravian College	Region V (Metro)
	Muhlenberg College	Region V (Metro)
	Penn State University, Altoona	Region III (Niagara)
Region V (Metro)	New York University	Region III (Niagara)
	Yeshiva University	Region III (Niagara)
	Sarah Lawrence College	Region III (Niagara)
	Pratt Institute	Region III (Niagara)
	Lehman College	Region III (Niagara)
	University of Mount Saint Vincent	Region III (Niagara)
	Hunter College	Region III (Niagara)
	The City College of New York	Region III (Niagara)
	John Jay College of Criminal Justice	Region III (Niagara)
	Penn State University, Brandywine	Provisional, Active 2027-28.
Region VII (South)	Regent	Provisional, Active 2028-29
	Johnson & Wales University Charlotte	Provisional, Active 2028-29
Region X (West)	Azusa Pacific University	Reclassifying, Active 2029-30

(2) Effective Date. Sept. 1, 2027

(3) Rationale. The proposed regional alignment better aligns institutions with their natural sport region and should reduce travel while maintaining a balanced number of institutions in each region.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The change in regional alignments will reduce missed class time by placing institutions more proximate to campus for regional competition.

c. Sarah Lawrence University cross country regional alignment.

(1) Recommendation. That Sarah Lawrence University move from the Niagara Region to the Metro Region for the 2026 regional cross country championships.

(2) Effective Date. Sept. 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. The committee supported a waiver request from Sarah Lawrence University to change from the Niagara Region to the Metro Region. Sarah Lawrence was placed in the Niagara region when cross country moved from eight regions to 10. Since that change, Sarah Lawrence has not competed at a cross country regional due to the travel distance. In the larger review of regional alignments, the committee recommended this change and supports the immediate effective date as requested.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This change will allow Sarah Lawrence student-athletes to compete in the regional cross country championships since the travel will be reduced.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Committee reports**. The Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee approved the report from 2025 annual meeting as presented.

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 2026 championships to be hosted by Carleton College at the Bill Huyck Championships Cross Country Center in Northfield, Minnesota.

   a. **Review of the 2025 championships.** The committee reviewed the 2025 NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships held in Spartanburg, South Carolina and commended Converse College and the University of South Carolina, Upstate on executing successful championships.

   b. **Administration of the 2026 championships.** The committee discussed the upcoming cross country championships to be hosted in Northfield, Minnesota and established race times of 12 p.m. (women) and 1 p.m. (men), which is one hour later than standard due to the possibility of cold weather. 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 2025 championships selections and spent time looking forward to 2026. The committee is requesting an additional data point – average time gap of scoring student-athletes – as a criterion effective for the 2026 championships. (See Action Item 2-a.)

- **Coaches association regional cross country model.** Representatives of the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association joined the meeting and provided a summary of a regional cross country model being discussed by the USTFCCCA cross country executive committee. The regional model would reduce the number of regional sites to two (Division III currently has 10 regional sites) with multiple races at each site. The two regional sites would consist of 80 teams and 60 individuals, broken down into two races with 40 teams and 30 individuals per race. Teams and individuals could qualify by either automatic qualification or at-large selection based on a set of criteria.

  Generally, the committee did not support the concept as it feels the current 10-reigon model works well. The committee appreciates a fresh look at the cross country championships but believes that moving to two regional sites would drastically increase the travel costs to participate in regionals and is unsure what problem a two-region system is trying to solve. The committee would entertain more conversation on the concept but is largely satisfied with the current regional qualifying system.

d. Sport region review. The committee reviewed the breakdown of the current 10 region structure and are proposing regional changes that would be effective with the 2027 cross country regional championships. (See Action Item 2-b.)

- **Sarah Lawrence University cross country regional waiver request.** The committee supported Sarah Lawrence's request to move from Region III (Niagara) to Region V (Metro) effective for the 2026 championships. (See Action Item 2-c.)

e. 2026 regional hosts. The committee reviewed the list of regional hosts for the 2026 championships and discussed the timing of host planning calls.

f. 2027 and 2028 regional hosts. The committee discussed the next two years of regional hosts and how to better solicit bids in to remain two years out to allow institutions to plan travel and accommodations more in advance.

4. Indoor track and field.

a. Review of the 2026 championships. The committee discussed key takeaways from the 2026 championship hosted by the Southern Athletic Association and the City of Birmingham and commended them on a well-executed championship.

b. Administration of the 2027 championships. The committee discussed the 2027 indoor track and field championships that will be hosted by Whitworth University and Spokane Sports at The Podium in Spokane, Washington. NCAA staff shared previous indoor track schedules with the hosts and will work together to finalize the schedule based on the facility

setup. A site visit is planned for June 22-24, and the committee can discuss next steps at that time.

c. **Selection process.** The committee reviewed its indoor track and field selection process and made no changes for the 2026-27 academic year.

d. **Qualifying criteria.** The committee reviewed its qualifying criteria and made no changes for the 2026-27 academic year.

5. **Outdoor track and field.**

a. **Review of the 2026 outdoor track and field championships.** The committee recapped the 2026 championships hosted by the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse and the tremendous job they did hosting the championships. La Crosse was extremely prepared in all aspects of the championship and received praise while on site and also in the post-championship surveys. The committee would strongly encourage Wisconsin-La Crosse to bid on future Division III track and field championships.

- **Misconduct and failure to adhere to policies and procedures.** The committee discussed incidents from the 2026 championships that fit the criteria of failure to adhere to policies and procedures and voted to issue fines according to the current structure.

b. **Administration of 2027 championships.** The committee reviewed the 2025 outdoor track and field schedule when SPIRE hosted and discussed adjustments to be considered. Most significantly, the committee discussed improvements that SPIRE has committed to before the upcoming championships, including a new throws cage, a new javelin runway and restriping the track. NCAA staff will plan a site visit for the fall when the updates should be finalized.

c. **Selections process.** The committee reviewed the selections process and made no changes for 2027. The committee noted that it has recommended an increase to the outdoor track and field championships field size from 22 participants per event to 24 participants per event. If approved with the budget requests for FY27-FY28, the increase will be effective for the 2027 championships.

d. **Qualifying criteria.** The committee reviewed its qualifying criteria and made no changes for the 2026-27 academic year.

6. **Final qualifier meets.** The committee discussed final qualifier meets, specifically their timing relative to selections to the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. Final qualifier meets currently are permitted up until the day before selections. The timing can be challenging

for many reasons, including ensuring results are correct by the next morning for declarations and a compressed schedule to book championships travel. Moving the meets to conclude a week before selections would minimize the rush to finalize results and would allow more time to book travel and also allow recovery time leading into the championships. There has been more of an appetite to modify indoor final qualifier meets since indoor meets are not typically impacted by weather in the same way as outdoor track can be. The committee was not ready to make any changes at this time but would like the conversation to continue within the membership.

7. **Future championship dates and sites.** The committee reviewed the upcoming championship dates and sites through 2027-28.

8. **USTFCCCA proposals.**

   a. **Awards.** The committee did not support the coaches association's proposal that seeks to provide mini-trophies to all members of a relay team, including any alternates who participated in a preliminary or final round of a relay at the championships. The committee feels that it is an institutional responsibility to provide additional awards to alternates. The awards provided to relay teams are consistent across all three divisions.

   b. **Regional date change.** The committee discussed pros and cons of adjusting cross country regionals to be two weeks prior to the championships as opposed to the current format with only one week. While a two-week interval would allow for more rest and additional time to book travel, the committee discussed the impacts it could have on conference championships, inter-regional competitions and other established races. With coaches being expected to retain larger rosters the committee discussed potential challenges in retaining student-athletes if their season ends after conference (if the institution chooses not to participate at regionals) or after regionals and the increased time to remain engaged without scheduled competition. Ultimately the committee did not support the change, but that is more so due to conversations it feels needs to be had before making such an impactful decision.

   c. **Region I (East) name change.** The committee supported the proposal to change the nomenclature of Region I (East) to Region I (Northeast).

   d. **Hurdle warm-ups.** The committee discussed the request to ensure adequate hurdle warm-ups prior to each heat at the championships and took no action as it is currently an item discussed annually with the officials on site and has not been an issue recently. The committee will continue to emphasize this ahead of each championship and will take action if it becomes an issue.

e. **Credentialing and reimbursable participants.** The committee did not support the request to distribute additional credentials to teams participating at the championships. The current policy permits up to four credentials per institution, per team qualified equating to a maximum of eight credentials if it qualifies both men's and women's student-athletes to the championships. Credentials, both for coaches and student-athletes, have been observed to be misused at championships recently with participants requesting additional credentials and giving them to teams needing more or accessing spaces with the incorrect credential. Beginning with the 2027 track championships, the committee will require teams to submit names to receive coaching credentials and will require that individual to pick up their credential in person. This process is currently used for other championships, and the committee aims to cut down on credential misuse.

   The committee also discussed the request to increase the travel party number to match the increased credential limits proposal. The committee understands that the travel party number does not always coincide with the number of event coaches a team brings to the championships but is not in a position to propose any changes with a budget impact until the next budget cycle. The committee is not opposed to exploring to what extent this proposal would increase travel parties but also would prefer to add dollars where they are directly impacting the student-athletes (e.g., increased field size, direct student-athlete enhancements).

9. **Governance updates.** Bill Regan, managing director of Division III governance and member services, provided updates to the committee leading into the 2026-27 academic year.

10. **2028-29 through 2030-21 championships bid process.** Staff provided an overview of the upcoming championships bid cycle and when the committee will need to review future championships hosts for the impacted championships.

Committee Chair: *Josh Henry, Carthage College*
Staff Liaison: *Laura Peterson-Mlynski, championships*

Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee June 10-11, 2026, Meeting
Attendees:
Reava Potter, St. Mary's College of Maryland
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.
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.
Absentees:
Kennadi Carlisle, Pacific Lutheran University.
Guests in Attendance:
Ryan Chapman, Bethany Dannely, Erika Maker, Mike Wilson.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Margaret Gaines-Hornberger; Bill Regan.