MEMORANDUM

November 5, 2026

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country Head Coaches
FROM: Mark Kostek, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country

SUBJECT: NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country Rules Correction Memo.

Correction - 2025-2026 NCAA Rules Book Cross Country Rule 21-7.2

It was brought to our attention that Rule 21-7.2 was an error that occurred in the 2025-2026 NCAA rulebook's final printing.

Indoor Rule 5-7.3 or Outdoor Rule 13-7.3 was inadvertently added to the Cross Country part of the rulebook. The correct rule that shall be enforced comes from the 2023-2024 rulebook. It reads as follows:

Rule 21-7.1 Protests/Disqualifications/ Appeals

ARTICLE 1 a. Protests relating to singular matters that develop during the conduct of the race should be made at once and shall not be later than 15 minutes after the results have been announced or posted. All implicated coaches must be notified of a tendered protest or any disqualification.

b. Any such protest may be immediate and oral by a competitor or a competitor's coach in order to protect and preserve the conduct of the competition, but must be appropriately filed as a written protest.

c. The referee shall review the protest or report leading to a disqualification and shall render a decision after determining and considering available evidence. Evidence specifically excluded is all visual material, except that produced:

1) For public broadcast, public streaming or public video board presentation.

2) By an organization specifically employed for the purpose of providing video review.

3) In conjunction with officiating an event.

4) For official photo-timing.

5) As additional official video designated by the games committee before the meet.

d. Results revised because of a protest or disqualification shall be posted and announced. Coaches of competitors affected by any referee's decision shall be notified.

e. Protests relating to Rules 22-3.1 and 22-3.2 shall not interrupt an event, nor result in a disqualification once the event begins.

In summary, only one referee is required for a cross country meet. Cross Country does not require a jury of appeal, however it remains an option for meet management to assign.

MK:jf

cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Track and Field Rules Committee
Selected NCAA staff members