

U. S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association
Division II Cross Country Session
Tuesday, December 13, 2011

President Marlon Brink call to order at 4:50pm CT.

Approval of 2010 Convention Minutes

Motion: Patty Vavra

Second: Gary Gardner

Motion passed unopposed

Committee Reports

Polls (Michael Fries) – 2001 went smoothly. With the expansion of field size, the committee wants the national ranking to go to 35 deep (there was some discussion for 25), but 35 will be deeper than the 32-team field and it will provide recognition to more teams.

Old Business

Championships at Altitude. Brink communicated that the proposal to prohibit cross country championships from being held above an elevation of 3500 ft was rejected by the DII Track & Field Committee in September 2010. The motion was changed to prohibit championships at or above altitude at 2010 convention was also rejected.

Field Expansion. Brink communicated that the proposal to increase field size at the NCAA Championships to 32 teams and 24 individuals (via one additional team and one additional individual per region) for 248 athletes per gender has been approved, effective 2012 championships.

Regional Awards from NCAA. Brink communicated that the proposal approved at the 2010 convention which would provide NCAA awards to the winning team (coaching staff and athletes) was currently with the NCAA Division II Championship Committee.

New Business

1.03H Bylaw Change. Executive Committee amended 1.03H to match wording of the association's bylaws: To provide assistance to ***and meet the needs of*** people who make up the athletic community of Division II cross country.

Proposal: To allow the regional meet director in cooperation with the NCAA Track & Field Committee, to schedule its mandatory coaches meeting on the traditional evening before the championships OR the morning of the meet. (Doug Watts) Discussion: Doug Watts provided rationale that the meeting the evening prior affects team dinners, bus travel. Meet procedures, packet pick-up, etc can easily be handled on the morning of the meet.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Aaron Russell

Second: Mike Rohl

Motion passed unopposed

Proposal: During Fall Festival years, the NCAA Cross Country Championships will be held at the host city during the championship's traditional weekend of the Saturday before Thanksgiving. (Mike Mead) Mike Mead provided rationale that the increased numbers in DII Cross Country Championships will make it more difficult for host cities to provide affordable hotel accommodations and facilities (we had solo opening ceremony and crowded closing ceremony in 2010 in Louisville); the later date is in conflict with the "Life in the Balance" philosophy; and possibly more "D-II friendly cities" might be able to host over several weeks. Aaron Russell added that the late festival date runs into the start of indoor track & field season.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Bob Heller

Second: Jen Michaels

Motion passed unopposed

Proposal: Teams finishing 1-32 at the NCAA Cross Country Championships score according to the current Learfield Cup structure. Teams 33-64 score 25 points each for non-national qualifying teams based on team finishing in the top 8 in each regional championship. (Jeremy Croy) Discussion: Gary Gardner stated that this brings the cross country numbers in line with other sports in the number of teams that score for the Learfield Cup as other sports score 64 teams and we currently score 24. This can raise the profile of our sport within one's athletic department. Bryan Harmon added that this will help get equal representation among team. In track & field if a point is scored at the national meet, the school receives points – possibly 70+ teams can score for their institution. Mike Mead added that it may help more institutions to attend regional championships as many athletic directors put a lot of weight on the Learfield Cup.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Patty Vavra

Second: Ken Flint

Motion passed unopposed

Proposal: Publication and publicizing of box assignments for the regional and national meets prior to the first course inspection period. Rationale: Evaluating a team's assigned starting position is a crucial aspect of rehearsing and preparing for the race during the course inspection period. Publishing box assignments in advance of this period or making those assignments available at the start of the first course inspection period would permit teams to prepare for their starting position assignment as part of their regular course inspection. Discussion: Gary Gardner stated that this would be easy to do as a host. Kirk Pederson stated that there would be plenty of time to do this at national meet. What about at regional with declaration period (declaration at site) and if there is a tight start line, boxes may be drawn after declaration? Marlon Brink responded that there may be empty boxes but this benefits the competing teams.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Damon Martin

Second: Pee Wee Haskell

Motion passed unopposed

Proposal: Shorten the regional entry period to 12 days (at midnight CT) before the first regional championship. Rationale: Many teams enter their squad for Regionals in the early weeks of the season, with no late declaration period to demonstrate their intent to compete at the Regional Championships. Each year, several teams that entered the meet do not compete, or compete only with individual athletes rather than a full team. This makes it particularly difficult for the Regional meet directors to prepare for the meet, resulting in empty starting boxes and prepared packets that are not picked up. Cross country should borrow from the model of Track & Field, with a greatly reduce window to enter the meet and an entry process inwhich an entry is a declaration to compete. Dissscussion: Ken Flint clarified that this date is the Tuesday following conference championship weekend and each team still declares 10 athletes and substitutions will be allowed.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Jen Michael

Second: Andy Young

Motion passed unopposed

Proposal: Results reporting procedure following the regional and national championships. Posting the results at the regional and national cross country championships online within 30 minutes of them becoming official. Rationale: Bob Heller explained the rationale that this will help with the publicity of our sport. Marlon Brink announced that a subcommittee of Patty Vavra, Mike Hillyard, and Andy Young has been formed to discuss this item and develop a list of requirements for timing, broadcasting, scoreboard, etc. so that the championships are conducted in a first-class manner with timely and accurate results reporting.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Bob Heller

Second: Pat Ponder

Motion passed unopposed

Proposal: Propose that the National Championships add two additional recall officials. Rationale: Patty Vavra explained that an original proposal was made to add an elaborate light system in the event that the race needed to be recalled. The executive committee felt that two additional recall officials are sufficient to recall a race of any size and much more cost efficient.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Gary Gardner

Second: Gary Towne

Motion passed unopposed

Proposal: Propose that all ties be broken at NCAA regional and national championships. Ken Flint explained that ties are only broken for championship advancement. The current tie break procedure could be used to break all ties. The executive committee discussed this and is in favor of breaking all ties.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Ray Hoffman
Second: Gary Gardner
Motion passed unopposed

The proposal submission process will have wording change. This will be reflected in handbook online.

**U. S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association
Division II Cross Country Session
Wednesday, December 14, 2011**

President Marlon Brink call to order at 3:45pm CT.

2012 Championships – Patty Vavra gave an update on the 2012 championships to be hosted by Missouri Southern. Tornado did not affect campus and course. There will be no problem with hotel or restaurants.

Katie Holmes, NCAA & Kirk Pederson, NCAA Track & Field Committee addressed group:

- I. Possibility of moving banquet to Friday and awards ceremony at course. Jen Michaels liked the awards done on course. Gary Towne spoke about former athletes loving Saturday night banquet. Mike Rohl stated that teams would not be able to depart on Saturday night even if banquet was on Friday and awards immediately after race. Ken Flint stated that awards could be given immediately after race and at a Saturday night banquet.
- II. Teams who finished in top 8 at nationals and are affected by regional re-alignment – the additional qualification spot will follow the team.
- III. Increased numbers will present growing pains with starting line, banquet facilities.
- IV. There are committee openings in the Central and South regions.
- V. There will also be rules committee openings this spring
- VI. Mike Rohl expressed concern over host sites and the poor weather that the athletes have endured in recent national championships. This is a student-athlete welfare and student-athlete experience issue.
- VII. Katie stated that timing with video board will be addressed for the future. Looking at taking bids.
- VIII. Katie is aware of lack of quality in webstreaming. This is being addressed internally.

Straw Vote on Banquet – A straw vote was taken as to preference on date of championship banquet: (1) Thursday – 4; (2) Friday – 26; (3) – Saturday – 37.

Patty Vavra made motion to adjourn meeting.

Second by Bob Heller.

Meeting adjourned at 4:16pm CT.

**U. S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association
Division II Cross Country Voting
Thursday, December 15, 2011 – 9:15am CT**

1. Accept the amendment of bylaw 1.03H to match the wording of the association's bylaws
 - To provide assistance to AND MEET THE NEEDS OF the body of people who make up the athletic community of Division II track & field

Accept: 73 Reject: 0 Abstain: 1

2. To allow the regional cross country meet director, in cooperation with the NCAA Track & Field Committee, to schedule the mandatory coaches meeting on the traditional evening before the championships OR the morning of the meet.

Accept: 118 Reject: 12 Abstain: 4

3. During Fall Festival years, the NCAA Cross Country Championships will be held at the host city during the championship's traditional weekend of the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Accept: 129 Reject: 4 Abstain: 2

4. Teams finishing 1-32 at the NCAA Cross Country Championships score according to the current Learfield Cup structure. Teams 33-64 score 25 points each for non-national qualifying teams based on team finishing in the top 8 in each regional championship.

Accept: 83 Reject: 5 Abstain: 2

5. Publication and publicizing of box assignments for the regional and national meets prior to the first course inspection period.

Accept: 114 Reject: 5 Abstain: 2

6. Shorten the regional entry period to 12 days (at midnight CT) before the first regional championship.

Accept: 117 Reject: 2 Abstain: 0

7. Results reporting procedure following the regional and national championships. Posting the results at the regional and national cross country championships online within 30 minutes of them becoming official.

Accept: 119 Reject: 4 Abstain: 0