

**The Westin La Cantera Resort
San Antonio, TX
Division III Business Meeting Minutes
Monday - Tuesday, December 11 - 12, 2006**

CROSS COUNTRY:

Call to Order: President, John Zupanc, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM CST. In doing so he stated there was a relatively long and very important agenda of items to be introduced and discussed with voting to take place the next day (Tuesday, December 12).

1) USTFCCCA Regional Athlete and Coach of the Year

MOTION: All regions shall vote for the USTFCCCA Athlete and Coach of the Year awards between Saturday afternoon and a noon Monday deadline.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that some regions use voting while other regions designate the winning athlete and winning coach as the awardees. Consistency of the awards process was desired.

SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

2) Recognize 45 All-Americans

MOTION: Recognize the top forty-five (45) as All Americans #1 through #15 receiving NCAA Plaques and #16 through #45 with USTFCCCA plaques.

RATIONALE: With the additional athletes competing in the NCAA Cross Country Championships increase the number of All-Americans in number or as percentage.

DISCUSSION: Overall number of participants across the country in NCAA Division III cross country are up to approximately 4500 per gender. Strong sentiment was expressed for retaining only 35 All-Americans. Evidence seemed to suggest that the increased field size did NOT increase the talent pool and that 35th place now is still equivalent to 35th place historically.

SECONDED: MOTION DEFEATED BY VOICE VOTE

3) Combined NCAA Divisions I, II, and III Cross Country Championship

President Zupanc announced that a group is looking at the possibility of all three NCAA Divisional Cross Country Championships competing at one site beginning in 2009 with Divisions II and III racing on Saturday and Division I racing on Monday. This announcement brought more unanswerable questions than discussion, but nothing more evolved from the announcement. The sentiment seemed to suggest retaining a separate championship for NCAA Division III.

4) Regional Championship Earlier One Week

MOTION: Move the date of the Regional Cross Country Championships one week earlier (which would have been Saturday, November 4, 2006).

RATIONALE: Keep the season the same as Division I and II. The handful of teams and individuals that advance would have an extra week to recover and prepare for the national meet. A shorter season (1 week) can help keep/foster the interest for the remaining teams and individuals that don't qualify, the season tends to be long, mentally and physically burnout). If we want the sport to grow, especially at colleges/universities with smaller enrollments, we want to keep their interest versus just having them run for the sake of running an extra two weeks after conference.

DISCUSSION: The Regional Championship is optional. Cross Country is already a short season. Having a group of athletes done one month earlier than athletes competing at Nationals would require two separate training plans because of the timing of the peak.

SECONDED: MOTION DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

5) Revision of USTFCCCA Cross Country Bylaws

President Zupanc then mentioned that the Cross Country Coaches Association Constitution and By-Laws were in need of revision. He affirmed the appointment of the following coaches as a committee to revise the Constitution and By-Laws:

Constitution and By-Laws Committee:

Jason Maus, Ohio Northern University

Robert Shankman, Rhodes College

Laura Finkes, Ohio Wesleyan University

6) NCAA Cross Country Championship-Team Selection

Josh Payne, Chair of the NCAA Division III TF/CC Rules Subcommittee, was granted the floor to speak regarding the Cross Country team selection process instituted for the first time in 2006. Everything seemed to go quite smoothly as he stated the committee had the teams selected within a two hour period via conference phone call on Sunday evening, November 19, 2006.

Several questions arose as a result of the selection process. The committee would prefer to have the results from the last three meets recorded on the forms that are sent prior to the selection date. Josh also reported that he and the committee had

been asked to consider increasing the cap size from five to six teams per region. An unofficial (straw) vote of the coaches present seemed to favor increasing the cap size from five to six per region. There was some interest in eliminating the cap altogether.

Josh assured the coaches that the weekly polls were NOT utilized as the committee made the selection.

Election of Officers

Central Region Men's Representative

With the retirement of Bill Terriquez at Carleton College the Central Region was in need of a Men's Cross Country Regional Representative. Paul Schmaedeke, of Hamline University was nominated and elected to take on these responsibilities

2nd Vice President for the Division III Cross Country Coaches Association.

The floor was opened for nominations for 2nd Vice President of the Cross Country Coaches Association. The following were nominated:

Jason Maus, Ohio Northern University

Brett Witt, Carthage College

Kathy Lanese, Case Western Reserve University

Bethany Brewster, Edgewood College

During the voting on Tuesday, December 12, it was decided to have a primary election with all four nominees followed by a final election between the two receiving the most votes in the primary.

Kathy Lanese was elected to the office of 2nd Vice President.

Adjournment: On Monday, December 11 the Cross Country portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM CST in time for the Taste of Texas Barbeque scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM.

Reconvene: On Tuesday, December 12, the meeting reconvened with President Brian Cole calling the meeting to order at 8:00 AM CST.

Presentations

2) NCAA Championships Travel

Juanita Sheely, the NCAA Travel Manager promptly distributed a document entitled "NCAA Championships Travel" Division III- Things You Should Know. She then spoke to and answered questions regarding travel to the NCAA Championships. She concluded her remarks by announcing beginning in 2006-07 the per diem has been increased to \$75.00 per day.

3) NCAA Track & Field/Cross Country New Rules Highlights

Bob Podkaminer, the NCAA Secretary/Rules Editor presented a rules review and clarification, with reasons and rationale for most of the rule changes in the 2007 Rule Book. Bob spent a majority of his time with hammer, discus, and weight throw cage changes, and the new "Failure to Participate" rule, which formerly was the "Honest Effort Rule". Bob then surprised most everyone in the room when he noted the 2007 Rule Book Rule 4, Article 6, b. that now allows an athlete (competitor) to protest a mark.

4) Para Olympics

President Cole then relinquished the floor to one of our own, Troy Engle, formerly the coach at Occidental College, now with the USOC as the Director of Para Olympic Athletics (Track & Field). Troy attended the convention to briefly meet with each division asking for help with the "Para Olympians". He asked for two favors; 1) the possibility of providing training time for these athletes on our facilities, and most importantly, 2) to help identifying possible Para Olympic athletes. Troy can be reached via email at: troy.engle@usoc.org should you have questions.

The remainder of the meeting was spent with voting on the motions and Election of Officers for both Track & Field and Cross Country issues, the results of which are noted and listed above with the various motions.

Although Division III had times and meeting rooms (2:30-4:00 PM & 5:30-6:30 PM for Cross Country and 12:45 -2:15 PM & 4:15 to 5:15 PM for Track & Field) on Wednesday, December 13, it was deemed that the USTFCCCA Division III Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Associations had covered all of the agenda items and elections.

President Brian Cole, who had served as the Division III President from 2004 through 2006, presented the President's gavel to Barbara Hartwig of University of Rochester, who will serve as the Division III Track & Field President through the conclusion of the 2009 Convention.

Likewise, John Zupanc, who had served as the Division III Cross Country Coaches President since 2005 presented the President's gavel to Jim Pennington of Springfield College, who will serve as the NCAA Division III Cross Country President until the conclusion of the 2008 Convention.

It should be noted three members of the Division III Rules Subcommittee were in attendance at the Convention: Josh Payne, Hanover College (Chair), Jennifer Potter, Ithaca College, and Chuck Wilcoxon, Principia College. Also in attendance was the NCAA Division III Track & Field/Cross Country Liaison Kristin Steckmesser.

Please know how important it is to have these people attending the Convention. The NCAA Division III Cross Country and Track & Field Coaches are very appreciative and grateful that you would take the time to attend and listen to the discussions of the coaches at the Convention. The NCAA Division III has been particularly "blessed" to have the subcommittee members we have had during the past three years. That group certainly 'raised the bar' for future committee members.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS:

A synopsis of the 2006 Convention in San Antonio:

Division III had over ninety (90) Coaches in attendance, which is the most the Division has ever had.

The presentations on Legal Liabilities, NCAA Travel, Rules Interpretation, and Para Olympics were valuable, informational and very educational.

I would very strongly recommend that every Division III Coach of Track & Field and Cross Country make an effort to attend the 2008 Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Thornton, Secretary
Edited by: Garrick Larson