

Proposal Draft

PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS – TRACK AND FIELD, INDOOR/OUTDOOR -- PRESEASON PRACTICE AND FIRST CONTEST -- CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT

Intent: To amend the Track and Field, Indoor/Outdoor playing and practice season as follows: (a) to establish the first Monday in the month of October as the first permissible practice date for in-season activities; (b) to define the length of an institution's playing season in indoor and outdoor track and field to the period of time between the start of preseason practice and the end of the regular playing season; (c) to establish the first Monday in the month of October as the first permissible date for outside competition in indoor and outdoor track and field.

Rationale: This proposal allows for all of the schools to have a common start date. Currently there are many different start dates for the Universities based on how the current day structure is counted. This proposal promotes a common sense approach to calculating the track and field, indoor/outdoor playing and practice season by eliminating the need to count days within the traditional 144-day or 156-day structure by providing a common start date for all institutions. This proposal does not alter the out-of-season practice opportunities for student-athletes; rather it only alters the calculation of the in-season portion of the playing and practice season. This proposal would not impact budgets as all schools will be in full time session by Oct. 1. There will be no additional class time missed as all schools start actual competitions in December therefore schedules will not need to be adjusted.

A. Bylaws: Amend 17.23.1, as follows:

“17.23.1 Length of Playing Season. The length of an institution's playing season in indoor and outdoor track and field shall be limited to the following:

(a) Indoor Track and Field. An institution that sponsors only indoor or outdoor track and field (but not both) or does not participate in the minimum number of contests with at least the minimum number of participants required to count both indoor and outdoor track and field in meeting division membership requirements is limited to **the period of time between the start of preseason practice (see Bylaw 17.23.2) and the end of the regular playing season (see Bylaw 17.23.4). (See Bylaw 17.23.3 for restrictions on first contest date.)** ~~a 144-day season for indoor and outdoor track and field combined, which may consist of two segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and which may exclude only required off days per Bylaw 17.1.6.4 and official vacation, holiday and final examination periods during which no practice or competition shall occur.~~

(b) Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field. An institution that sponsors both indoor and outdoor track and field and participates in at least the minimum number of contests with at least the minimum number of participants required to count both sports in meeting division membership requirements is limited to **the period of time between the start of preseason practice (see Bylaw 17.23.2) and the end of the regular playing season (see Bylaw 17.23.4). (See Bylaw 17.23.3 for restrictions on first contest date.)** ~~a 156-day season for indoor and outdoor track and field combined, which may consist of two segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and which may exclude only required off days per Bylaw 17.1.6.4 and official vacation, holiday and final examination periods during which no practice or competition shall occur.”~~

B. Bylaws: Amend 17.23.2, as follows:

“17.23.2 Preseason Practice. A member institution shall not commence practice sessions in indoor and outdoor track and field prior to **the first Monday in the month of October** ~~September 7 or the institution's first day of classes for the fall term, whichever is earlier.~~”

C. Bylaws: Amend 17.23.3, as follows:

“17.23.3 First Date of Competition. A member institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (meet or practice meet) with outside competition in indoor and outdoor track and field prior to **the first Monday in the month of October** ~~September 7 or the institution's first day of classes for the fall term, whichever is earlier.~~”

[The rest of Bylaw 17.23 remains unchanged.]