

NCAA Division II Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association  
General Membership Meeting  
2008 National Convention – Phoenix, Arizona  
December 16, 2008

The meeting was convened by Mike Mead, Cross Country President, at 2:15 p.m.

I. Opening Remarks

- a. Schedule of events reviewed; coaches need to consider restructuring proposal as well as be involved in voting session on Wednesday
- b. Mike Rohl will serve as parliamentarian for meetings
- c. Video conference with NCCA regarding workings of sub- and sports committees
- d. USTF President Doug Logan will address the membership
- e. Patty Vavra, Missouri Southern, incoming President

**MOTION: (Chris Asher) That the 2007 Convention minutes be accepted.**

**SECOND (Patty Vavra)**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

II. 2008 Cross Country Regional Report

- a. Need for procedures to deal with an issue like occurred at the West Region championship meet as well as possible weather-related issues

III. NCAA Issues – Cross Country

- a. Cross country field expansion for teams and individuals
- b. 2010 next budget cycle; need to make proposal now
- c. From a 2006-07 report, in previous 5 years 30 women's and 27 men's teams have joined Division II
  - i. **Proposal #1:** Increase the number of teams and individuals to 26 teams and 3 individuals (maintaining top 5 provision)
  - ii. **Proposal #2:** Increase the number of teams to 27 teams (maintaining top 5 provision)
  - iii. **Proposal #3:** Add 2 individuals per region
    1. Discussion – need to address that strong regions leave top athletes at home under current system
    2. Currently permitted 184 qualifiers; proportionality with Division I would give us 209
    3. How would we determine which regions get the additional teams?
    4. Division I and III advance approximately 1 team for every 10; for Division II this would mean 27 teams

**MOTION (Bob DeVries) That the NCAA increase the number of teams and individuals to 26 teams and 3 individuals (maintaining top 5 provision)**

**SECOND (Doug Watts)**

**MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND**

5. Additional discussion – All Region athletes should be at nationals

6. Most difficult to qualify as an individual; consider a concrete number of individuals; often these individuals could earn All-America
7. Qualifying on a third team may get a top athlete All-America
8. Straw vote taken on proposals:
  - a. Proposal 1 – 46 in favor
  - b. Proposal 2 – 2 in favor
  - c. Proposal 3 – 9 in favor
- d. Proposal to change the at-large selection for cross country championship (presented by TJ Garlatz)
  - i. Current system has a benefit as there is no committee making a decision
  - ii. Need to preserve objectivity; does top 8 finish truly determine depth of a region for the current or following year?
  - iii. Propose that each region still get 2 teams but remaining 8 teams will be determined by looking at results after the top team from each region is removed from the national results; true depth of regions will be revealed

**MOTION: (Mike Friess) To present TJ's proposal to the General Membership for consideration.**

**SECOND (Adam Ward)**

**MOTION PASSED (45 in favor; 7 opposed; 1 abstention)**

The meeting was recessed for a break at 4:30 p.m. and reconvened at 4:45 by Chris Asher, Track and Field President.

- IV. Eligibility Center (presented by Glenn Terry)
  - a. Suggestions to facilitate clearance:
    - i. Has the S-A attended more than 1 high school?
    - ii. Has the S-A failed any classes?
    - iii. Has the S-A taken any on-line classes?
    - iv. Encourage S-A to register early (junior year) and complete amateur status questions
    - v. Division II worksheet in "Guide for the College Bound Athlete"
    - vi. Register S-A on IRL
    - vii. SAT/ACT code = 9999 so that scores are sent directly without fee
    - viii. Best scores are used from multiple tests
    - ix. Attempt to educate guidance counselors on approved core courses
    - x. Early Certification Waiver for Division II: 1000 SAT or 85 ACT; 3.0 core GPA in 12 courses (3 English, 2 Math, 2 Science, 2 additional of previous 3; 2 Social Science; 3 additional) = certification in senior year prior to final transcript
    - xi. Participation in competition with prize money can trigger a violation even if S-A did not receive money
    - xii. Beginning August 1, 2013, 16 core courses required for Division II
- V. Executive Committee officers introduced; nominated Aaron Russell for Track and Field Secretary
- VI. NCAA Issues – Track and Field
  - a. Restrictions on red shirts competing as open athletes; clarification needed
    - i. NCAA interprets no coaching; no use of university-owned equipment
    - ii. NCAA rule book states implements approved for use by all athletes are allowable, with permission

- b. Clarification needed: Points of Emphasis – Misconduct. “To bring greater credibility to the meet entry process, the intentional reporting of false marks for entry purposes is now clearly classified as misconduct. Meet directors must publish entry marks in advance of the competition.” Page 153 “Marks will not be acceptable if they are set in meets or events: Where the competitor was entered with a false entry performance in a competition which had a non-speculative entry mark requirement.”
  - i. Lou Andreadis, Rules Committee representative, commented:
    1. Want to get away from false marks; coaches lying on meet entries; attempting to get coaches to be more realistic on entries
    2. Meet management must declare standards for entry marks for all to see
    3. Meet management may challenge entry; may still be put in meet but with no time
    4. Attempting to get meet directors to allow projected times or PRs
    5. Discuss page 153 with Bob Podkaminer during rules presentation
- c. 4 x 800 at outdoor championship (discussion led by Dennis Weber)
  - i. Looking a ways to enhance the meet and add athletes who might not get to nationals as an individual
  - ii. Growing high school event
  - iii. If passed by NCAA, not effective until at least 2011
    1. Questions posed:
      - a. How many teams accepted?
      - b. What standard?
      - c. What effect will this have on participation numbers for individuals?
- d. Number of competitions
  - i. Division II -Individual limited to 18 dates of competition; in multiple day meets each day counts as a day of competition
  - ii. Division III – allowed four 2-day meets that count as 1 day of competition
  - iii. Division I – 2-day meets count as 1 day; if a meet goes 3 days and individual competes all 3 days, counts as 2 days of competition
  - iv. Division II rule from 1991;needs to be in line with other divisions to benefit S-A’s
  - v. Committee of Chris Asher, Aaron Russell and Mike Friess (**ask Aaron for other member**) formed to investigate

VII. Doug Logan, new CEO of USATF

- a. Collaboration between us needed; “stupid” to have parted
- b. “We’re going to take the rearview mirrors off the bus.”
- c. Custodian of the sport
- d. Return track and field to major sport status in the US
- e. Will mobilize the best minds in the sport
- f. Here to listen and to learn
- g. Re-examine decisions made in the past
- h. Conduct business “without taint”
- i. Adamant about right and wrong
  - i. Comments by Dave Harris
    1. Our membership has grown tremendously after separation

2. "We've found our place"
3. What place does USATF have now?
- ii. Response by Logan
  1. Not threatened by separate organization
  2. Not here to replace or to be adversarial
  3. "Shame on us" for not previously meeting the coaches' needs
  4. Coaches are an integral part of the sport
  5. How can we work together?

VIII. Exploratory Committee – Proposed Restructuring (presented by Dave Harris, Patty Vavra and Chris Asher)

- a. Structure: Executive Director, Board of Directors, separate Executive Committees for cross country and track and field, two representatives from each conference (needed by June)
- b. Conference representatives can provide better/larger role than the current system of 16 regional representatives
  - i. 22 conference representatives and cross country Executive Committee
  - ii. 22 conference representatives on track and field Executive Committee
  - iii. 1 representative on each committee for the independents
  - iv. More grass roots involvement
  - v. Direct voice to conference commissions
  - vi. NCAA does its business through conference commissioners
  - vii. Cross country and track and field representatives should be different people
  - viii. Representatives need to attend convention
- c. Board of Directors acts on Division-wide issues
- d. Executive Director the "point person" for issues that affect division-wide in both sports
  - i. Concerns from the floor:
    1. Too many people to get the job done?
    2. Is representation fair when conferences do not have the same number of schools?
  - ii. Responses to concerns:
    1. Separate boards can better concentrate on each sport's needs and concerns
    2. Difficult to conduct business now with regional reps who are far-flung and don't always know others throughout the conferences within their region
    3. Each conference best knows its own business
    4. Can potentially increase the participation of women and people of color in the governing of business
    5. Current conference calls are effective in conducting business
    6. Work is underway to mesh bylaws with new structure
    7. Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve this restructuring

IX. NCAA Committee

- a. Opening comments by Dave Harris: Addressed history of the women's 3k removal; meeting last night to discuss issue; taking up this issue again is for another time and through another venue; no one will say where the "buck stops"; communication was not good; misses Jackie Carpenter; there was formerly mutual respect and good

communication; we've had 4 liaisons in 4 or 5 years and many different sub-committee heads which is not good; the 16 women who participated in the 3k in 2007 were just as good as any others in the meet; personally and as a membership a good friend in Damon Martin has been lost over this issue; there does not need to be an equal number of events between men and women; "We" are the NCAA and we voted last year to retain the 3k; wants to work toward consensus without back-room secrets; looking forward to working with new liaison; coaches need to be proactive to ensure that our issues get due process; officers have learned and grown from this experience; they must represent the organization rather than their own interests; putting faith in coaches on the sub committee to represent coaches' interests.

- b. Committee: Sylvia Barnier, Maisha Palmer and Lou Andreadis
  - i. Role of Sport Committee
    1. Administer national championships
      - a. Develop qualifying procedures
      - b. Approve competition sites for regional and national competitions
      - c. Selection of participants
      - d. Determine championship format
    2. Manuals and Handbooks
      - a. Policies and procedures
    3. Rules
      - a. Jointly with Division I and III sport committees
  - ii. Committee Appointments
    1. Peer and self nomination
      - a. Nominations are still be; see "Governance" page on NCAA website
    2. Selection Committee
    3. Championship Committee
    4. Management Council
    5. 2009 and 2010 vacancies: South and Atlantic representatives needed
  - iii. Selection Process
    1. Qualifying window
      - a. Indoor: December 1<sup>st</sup> if it falls on a Friday; if not then the Friday preceding December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday prior to the national championship
      - b. Outdoor: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in February through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday prior to national championship
    2. Standards
      - a. "tweaked" each year
    3. Proof of performance
    4. Declarations
    5. Minimum contest and participation verification form (2 years schools can be in a meet that counts)
  - iv. Selections for Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
    1. Indoor Championships
      - a. 200 participants selected per gender
      - b. Minimum numbers in each event
        - i. 12 in individual events

- ii. 10 in combined events
    - iii. 8 relays
  - 2. Outdoor Championships
    - a. 310 participants selected per gender
    - b. Minimum numbers in each event
      - i. 16 in individual events
      - ii. 12 in combined events
      - iii. 10 relays
  - 3. Automatic Qualifications
    - a. Standards
  - 4. Descending Order Lists of Declared Athletes
    - a. Begin with 12, 10 and 8 indoors; 16, 12 and 10 outdoors
    - b. Ties
    - c. Athletes already in meet
  - 5. Committee determines the event(s) to receive an additional entry when cap does not allow an increase in all events
    - a. Consideration of strength and depth of field
    - b. Resources available such as scoring tables
    - c. Other information the committee deems necessary for selections
- v. Communication
  - 1. Coaches Association
    - a. Recommendations
    - b. Proposals
  - 2. NCAA Division II Track and Field Committee
  - 3. NCAA Championships Manager

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

NCAA Division II Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association  
General Membership Meeting – Cross Country  
2008 National Convention – Phoenix, Arizona  
December 17, 2008

The meeting was convened by Mike Mead, Cross Country President, at 10:00 a.m.

- I. USA Triathlon
  - a. Looking for athletes
  - b. Will donate to your program if your athlete is successful
- II. National Scholastic Sports Foundation – Mike Byrnes
  - a. Offering a post-season cross country meet for historically Black colleges that aren't advancing to regionals or nationals
    - i. Provide a "championship caliber" meet experience for these teams
- III. "Building a Nationally Competitive NCAA Distance Program" – Queens University of Charlotte, [www.queensathletics.com](http://www.queensathletics.com)
  - a. Find talent where it is
  - b. Find value beyond performance
    - i. Build season around core values, i.e. honor, compassions, performance, faith, attitude, effort, etc.
  - c. Take a serious approach to alcohol use
    - i. Educate athletes to positive and negative effects
    - ii. Athletes need to decide if they will drink or not drink
    - iii. Assist athletes in determining a personal policy about alcohol
  - d. Excess heat = longer recovery time
  - e. Always ask why/learn from both success and failure
  - f. Look at training if athletes routinely "blow up" at championship meets
  - g. Recommend routine blood testing
  - h. Prevent illnesses with common sense precautions
  - i. Training should resemble a diamond, not the typical pyramid approach of piling on the miles early and then tapering dramatically
  - j. There is no "magic" or extra good feeling at the end of the season; racing still hurts
  - k. Book for sale, *Take the Lead*. Available at [www.AmericanDistanceProject.org](http://www.AmericanDistanceProject.org)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

NCAA Division II Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association  
General Membership Meeting-Voting Session on Cross Country Issues  
2008 National Convention – Phoenix, Arizona  
December 18, 2008

The meeting was convened by Mike Mead, Cross Country President, at 8:50 a.m.

The General Membership was informed that the following motion was passed by the Executive Committee:

**MOTION: That the Track & Field Committee investigate and develop a set of procedures to resolve an issue like occurred at the 2008 West Region Cross Country Championship**

Voting procedures were reviewed and the following motions on cross country issues were presented to the General Membership for vote.

**MOTION: That the Executive Committee recommends that the Sub Committee consider the following amendment to the cross country qualifying procedure:**

**Step 1: Remove the top team from each of the eight current regions from the national meet results. This will leave sixteen teams remaining.**

**Step 2: The top eight teams remaining after performing step 1 earn an additional qualifying spot for their region for the following year's national championships.**

**MOTION PASSED (78 in favor, 12 opposed, 2 abstentions)**

**MOTION: To increase the number of teams and individuals qualifying for the national championship to 26 teams and 3 individuals (maintaining top 5 provision)**

**MOTION PASSED (85 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions)**

**MOTION: To increase the number of individuals awarded All America to the top 40 finishers and remove language concerning U.S. citizenship.**

**MOTION PASSED (83 in favor, 9 opposed, 2 abstentions)**

**MOTION: To eliminate the \$150 membership fee for cross country only programs since the bylaws state single sport programs pay \$200 membership fee.**

**MOTION PASSED (57 in favor, 11 opposed, 21 abstentions)**

**MOTION: To amend the criteria for cross country individual All Academic to include freshmen and transfers, effective immediately.**

**MOTION PASSED (87 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstentions)**

**MOTION: To amend the criteria for cross country team All Academic by removing the 50% participation clause and including all athletes on competition roster.**

**MOTION PASSED (65 in favor, 19 opposed, 2 abstentions)**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.