

U. S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association
Division II General Session
Tuesday, December 18, 2012

President Marlon Brink call to order at pm 4:18pm ET.

Introduction of Officers

Brink introduced current officers: Gary Gardner, Vice President; Lisa Klingshirn Secretary; Patty Vavra, Past President; and Conference Representatives.

Approval of 2011 Convention Minutes

Motion: Aaron Russell
Second: Patty Vavra
Motion passed unopposed

Committee Reports

Polls (Marlon Brink) – Usually handled by 2nd VP (currently vacant). Looking 1 per gender per region; those raters would submit national ranking to Tom Lewis of national office. Also looking at moving to top 25, rather than 35 to make it more manageable and to more effectively generate an accurate poll.

Nominations (Patty Vavra) – Committee members include Aaron Russell and Rick Hammer. Slate will be President-Gary Gardner; 1st VP-Scott Lorek; 2nd VP-Mark Misch, Slate will come forward for selection and vote on Thursday.

Joplin Initiative. Patty Vavra thanked the group and Aaron Russell for their efforts.

Old Business

Fall Festival. Brink communicated that the proposal approved at the 2011 convention to hold the cross country championships on its traditional Saturday before Thanksgiving during Fall Festival years was supported by the NCAA II Track & Field Committee, but defeated by the NCAA II Championships Committee. The Executive Committee is looking at bringing forward a new proposal.

Regional Coaches Meetings. Brink communicated that the proposal approved at the 2011 convention to allow the Regional Cross Country Meet Director to schedule the coaches meeting on the traditional evening before or the morning of the meet was defeated by the NCAA II Track & Field Committee. The meeting is to remain on the Friday before competition.

Recall Starters. Brink communicated that the proposal approved at the 2011 convention which would require two additional starters to be located at the 150-200m from the start line was approved as a rule change and will be effective 2013-2014.

Starting Boxes. Brink communicated that the proposal approved at the 2011 convention to publicize the starting box assignments prior to the regional and national championships was approved by the NCAA II Track & Field Committee for the national championships only and was enacted at the 2012 championships.

Regional Entry Period. Brink communicated that the proposal approved at the 2011 convention that changed the Regional entry period to open 12 days prior to the regionals and to remain open for 3 days was approved by the NCAA II Track & Field Committee and was enacted with the 2012 cross country season. Katie Holmes of the NCAA mentioned to the Executive Committee that they may open the window one day earlier, on Sunday.

Joplin Initiative. \$28,500 was raised and donated during the 2012 cross country season by more than 40 NCAA II cross country programs to the Joplin Initiative. Donations are still being accepted.

New Business

Addition of a Recall Starter.

The Board of Directors discussed request of adding an additional recall starter behind the starting line, near the middle as the recall starter currently located at the end of the start line, even elevated, may not see a runner go down in the middle of the field. This is still in discussion with the Executive Committee.

Standardized Timing Company at NCAA Championships.

A proposal dealing with the NCAA hiring a standardized timing company is in discussion with the Executive Committee.

Video Coverage of NCAA Championships.

The video coverage of the recent NCAA championships was lacking in quality. A proposal with guidelines to provide better video coverage is in discussion with the Executive Committee.

75th Anniversary of NCAA Cross Country in 2014.

A committee has been formed to discuss DI, DII, and DIII Championships at one site. Mark Misch of UC-Colorado Springs stated that this date is also a fall sports festival year (which coaches are seemingly against); however it does provide a lot of opportunities for us: all championships in one place with a lot of tremendous athletes in same place should provide great coverage; it promotes the sport; there are a lot of positives. Marlon Brink stated that nothing had been set as to format; there has been some discussion of possibly running men and women on separate days. Charles Ryan, Academy of Art stated that the Executive Committee could not come up with any negatives associated with this.. it will put cross country on a bigger stage and give better exposure. As show of hands was taken help provide the Executive Committee with some feedback. 67 for; 1 against.

Moving the NCAA Cross Country Championship Banquet to Friday.

A proposal to move the Cross Country Championship banquet to Friday evening is being considered by the Executive Committee... Jen Michaels stated reasons for her proposal: the travel distance to the airport may be significant and with an early morning flight would be better and safer to drive to airport after the race; we can still have nice pre-race banquet where athletes dress up and get pictures; presentation of awards on-course with fans and parents present makes for better experience; post-race culture has gotten out of control and presents liability and this can reduce some of this. Marlon Brink stated that when Katie Holmes of the NCAA met with the Executive Committee, she says they are open to suggestions. Mark Misch of UC-Colorado Springs voiced his support of the proposal; Gary Towne of Chico State stated that he sees both sides; however, the experience with the current format has been enjoyable and banquet gives great setting for top four teams to receive trophy in a formal setting, it is unique to our division. A show of hands was taken to provide feedback to the Executive Committee: for/against proposal: 45 for; 13 against

Proposal: That the Learfield Cup award points to non-national qualifying teams finishing 6th-8th place at the regional championships in addition to its current structure. (Currently, teams finishing 1-32 at the national championships and non-qualifying teams finishing in the top 5 at the regional championships receive points). This will be brought forward by the Executive Committee.

Other New Business

Mike Mead... in his region there were teams did not show and boxes were re-drawn just prior to the meet. He would like us to re-visit the publicizing of starting boxes for the region championships.

Motion to adjourn: Aaron Russell

Second: Charles Ryan

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm ET

**U. S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association
Division II General Session
Wednesday, December 19, 2012**

President Marlon Brink call to order at 3:04pm ET.

Katie Holmes, NCAA & Scott Groom, NCAA Track & Field Committee addressed group:

- I. All sites for next year's regional and national championships have been selected and are posted online. The national site at Spokane will be the same as in 2011 with some minor adjustments due to increased field size.
- II. The NCAA has no set night for the banquet. Division III is Friday night and Division I is on Thursday night; both race on Saturday.
- III. Increase numbers went well and Missouri Southern did a good job of hosting.
- IV. Damon Martin asked about 75th anniversary in 2014 and possible opportunity for having a "cross country festival" of all divisions. Katie Holmes responded that Sam Seemes has started some discussions with the NCAA; and the NCAA would like to see support from the coaches. Katie does not have a feel for what the NCAA reaction will be at this time.
- V. Marlon Brink asked about how to simplify the bid application for regional hosts. Katie responded that the bid process is under evaluation, but does not see any major changes. There is a page online for general policies for hosting any championships and forms for specific sports. Katie is willing to talk to any potential hosts.

Bob Podkaminer addressed the group on new track & field and cross country rules.

New Business

Proposal: The Fall Festival to be concluded the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. Pete Mazzone of the Executive provide the rationale that (1) the NCAA would have more options for venues due to lesser possibility of inclement weather; and (2) it supports "Life in Balance" as student-athletes would be able to be home for the Thanksgiving holiday and most institutions are in are going into exam week shortly after Thanksgiving weekend. Jen Michel added that the majority of cross country runners will lose two weeks of their track season as most are 3-sport athletes, Mike Mead added that the impact is greater in the number of cross country athletes who are affected as 32 teams are in the cross country championships and the other sports have a lesser number of teams involved in the Festival. Katie Holmes of the NCAA asked the group to keep in mind that while the cross country coaches are in support of this; other sports are affected; but all rationale is helpful.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Gary Gardner

Second: Mark Misch

Proposal: That the NCAA contracts a standardized timing company for the national championships who can meet the following minimum requirements:

- Chip timing (either 2 chips or bib chip)
- Finish Lynx camera with at least one Finish Lynx back-up camera
- Mat for split timing at at least one location approximately mid-point of course
- Double check chip results vs. Finish Lynx images before posting unofficial results
- Have interfacing capabilities with a video board
- Have capabilities to download from Direct Athletics to assign numbers
- Compilation of bib number, hip number, and chip packets and provide to meet management

Patty Vavra of the Executive Committee provide that rationale that we are looking to have some continuity with a timing company and hopefully avoid any issues as seen at NCAA I and III championships that past year. A question was asked about having mats at every mile marker. Katie Holmes of the NCAA stated that too many mats can be confusing with difference race distances and course with shorter loops and overlapping. Bob Podkaminer recommended not including items in proposals that may become obsolete in the future or are not inclusive of potential future technology.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Gary Gardner

Second: Jen Michel

Proposal: That the NCAA provide internet coverage that will provide the same quality of coverage as in Division I and meet the following minimum requirements:

- Camera on the lead vehicle
- Cameras at at least two stationary points mid-course
- Camera positioned at the finish line to provide continuous coverage from the first finisher through the remainder of the field

Gary Towne of the Executive Committee stated that we need to send a message to the powers above that the video coverage of the championships this past year was not acceptable, can be better, and provided guidelines for what is expected.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Jonathon Breithbarth

Second: Pete Mazzone

Proposal: That the Division II coaches are in support of a 75th Anniversary Championships in which multiple divisions compete at the same location in 2014.

Steve Piccuci of the Executive Committee stated that there are many positives to this idea and we need to show our support of this initiative in writing.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Jonathon Breithbarth

Second: Jen Michel

Proposal: To move the Cross Country Championships Banquet to the Friday evening before the competition.

Mark Misch of the Executive Committee provide the rationale that (1) it creates more possibilities in departure times after the meet; (2) the awards can be done on-course just after the race with family and fans present; and (3) it curbs potential complications of idle student-athletes sitting around. A question was asked about the time the banquet would be held on Friday evening. Misch answered that no specific time is attached to this proposal as the host site may need some flexibility in securing a facility, but we would like to see a similar time frame and similar length of banquet as in the past. Jen Michel offered additional rationale in support of the proposal in that with the increased number of student-athletes who now qualify for the championship it may be less burdensome on the host site in securing a large enough facility as family and friends would most likely not seek banquet tickets as the awards are done on-course.

Gary Towne voiced his opposition to the proposal. He states that it is about the student-athlete and he has spoken to some of his former student-athletes and their feedback was surprise and disappointment. He feels the athletes like to receive their awards in a formal setting.

Katie Holmes of the NCAA mentioned that she has spoken to the Spokane host about the possibility of moving the banquet to Friday night (they have already secured a site for Saturday night) and they are looking into it. If the proposal passes and is adopted by the NCAA it may not become effective for the 2013 championships.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Mark Misch

Second: Mike Mead

Proposal: That the Learfield Cup award points to non-national qualifying teams finishing 6th – 8th place at the regional championships in addition to its current structure. (Currently, teams finishing 1-32 at the national championships and non-qualifying teams finishing in the top 5 at regional championships receive points). Marlon Brink stated that we discussed this proposal at yesterday's general session.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Gary Gardner

Second: Damon Martin

Proposal: That the NCAA have all regional championship participant manuals approved and available to coaches by Sept. 15 and the national championship participant manual approved and available by Oct. 1.

Gary Gardner of the Executive Committee stated that this will allow sufficient time to make hotel and travel arrangements.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Patty Vavra

Second: Jen Michel

Proposal: That institutions who are not eligible to compete in NCAA post-season competition not be permitted to compete in the regional championships.

Gary Towne of the Executive Committee stated that there seemed to be some miscommunication in regard to teams who are provisional members of the NCAA as to whether or not they are allowed to compete and/or score in the regional championships. The rationale of not allowing such institutions not to compete is that it changes the race dynamics of both teams and individuals trying to qualify for the national championships. He added that a team and/or individual can dominate the race and finish first, but not “win”, and not qualify for the national meet which adds confusion to public following.

Motion to bring the proposal to a vote: Pete Mazzone
Second: Gary Towne

Gary Towne spoke briefly on the 2013 championships to be held in Spokane, WA stating that he and his teams have competed there on several occasions. He feels it is a fair course, wide, all grass.

Motion to adjourn: Steve Guymon
Second: Damon Martin
Meeting adjourned at 4:08pm ET.

**U. S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association
Division II General and Voting Session
Thursday, December 20, 2012 – 9:15am ET**

Cross Country

1. MOTION: Move the NCAA Cross Country Championships banquet to the Friday evening before the competition.

Accept: 75
Reject: 22
Abstain: 5

2. MOTION: That the Learfield Cup award points to non-national qualifying teams finishing 6th – 8th place at the regional championships in addition to its current structure. (Currently, teams finishing 1-32 at the national championships and non-qualifying teams finishing in the top 5 at regional championships receive points).

Accept: 71
Reject: 3
Abstain: 14

3. MOTION: Slate for Cross Country officers is:
President: Gary Gardner, UMass Lowell
1st Vice President: Scott Lorek, Northwest Missouri State
2nd Vice President: Mark Misch, UCCS

Accept: 98
Reject: 0
Abstain: 2

4. MOTION: The Fall Festival to be concluded the weekend prior to Thanksgiving

Accept: 95
Reject: 1
Abstain: 3

5. MOTION: That the NCAA contract a standardized timing company for the national championships who can meet the following minimum requirements:
- Chip timing (either 2 chips or bib chip)
 - Finish Lynx camera with at least one Finish Lynx back-up camera
 - Mat for split timing at at least one location approximately mid-point of course
 - Double check chip results vs. Finish Lynx images before posting unofficial results
 - Have interfacing capabilities with a video board
 - Have capabilities to download from Direct Athletics to assign numbers
 - Compilation of bib number, hip number, and chip packets and provide to meet management

Accept: 64
Reject: 1
Abstain: 0

6. MOTION: That the NCAA provide internet coverage that will provide the same quality of coverage as in Division I and meet the following minimum requirements:
- Camera on the lead vehicle
 - Cameras at at least two stationary points mid-course
 - Camera positioned at the finish line to provide continuous coverage from the first finisher through the remainder of the field

Accept: 98
Reject: 1
Abstain: 0

7. MOTION: That the Division II coaches are in support of a 75th Anniversary Championships in which multiple divisions compete at the same location in 2014.

Accept: 100

Reject: 1

Abstain: 2

8. MOTION: That the NCAA have all regional championship participant manuals approved and available to coaches by Sept. 15 and the national championship participant manual approved and available by Oct. 1

Accept: 102

Reject: 0

Abstain: 0

9. MOTION: That institutions who are not eligible to compete in NCAA post-season competition not be permitted to compete in the regional championships.

Accept: 84

Reject: 6

Abstain: 9