

Form Name: NJCAA Committee Proposal Submission Form
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NJCAA Sport Committee Proposal Submission Form

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Submitting Committee Cross Country / Half Marathon

Proposal Title/Topic change to Qualification Structure for DI and DII Men's and Women's Cross-Country

Type of Proposal Tournament/Championship Format Change

Proposed Effective Date of Proposal August 1, 2026

Rationale for Proposal

Having a qualifying standard would:

Provide legitimacy for our sport amongst other athletic teams at our own institutions as well as with our peers at four year universities since we are the only sport that does not have a qualifying system.

Allow more teams to advance to the national championship who are currently unable to because they haven't proven to their administration that they belong there.

Create a more competitive environment at the regional and national championships.

Establish a more accurate and reliable field size for the event host to count on when planning the championship.

Qualify the Top 25 teams to advance 4 Wednesdays prior to Nationals will:

Provide teams more time to book accommodations at an affordable rate.

Allow bubble teams would have more time to prepare for an 'At-Large' bid.

Influence more teams to compete full squads at the championship race distance in hopes of more accurate national rankings.

Encourages participation in an NJCAA Region Championship event.

Please specify the NJCAA Handbook section(s) affected

Sport Codes Section 3

Current NJCAA Handbook Language

3. A. All teams will qualify by open invitation and are encouraged to participate in their regional championship if one is being held (entry as a full team in the region championship is not required for national qualification). After a team qualifies for the national championship, they may enter up to 10 eligible athletes from their roster.

Proposed NJCAA Handbook Language

Proposed:

3. A 1. A field of up to 35 scoring teams will compete at the NJCAA Division 1 and 2 Championships

All NJCAA Region Championship teams automatically qualify for nationals.

If there is only one full team competing in a designated NJCAA Region Championship, the team will by default, be the Region Champion.

All teams ranked among the top 25, four Wednesdays prior to Nationals will automatically advance.

i. The National Cross Country Ranking Committee will meet

the Tuesday prior to the rankings being released to ensure the

top 25 are thoroughly and accurately examined

To fill out the field of 35, any remaining non-ranked teams will complete a declaration form to obtain an at-large bid.

i. All declarations are due to the USTFCCCA by midnight, two Tuesdays prior to the national meet.

ii. The National Cross Country Ranking Committee will meet via zoom two Wednesdays prior to the national meet to determine at-large team berths.

iii. The top 3 individuals from each NJCAA Region Championship, not on a qualifying team, will advance to nationals.

iv. The qualifying teams and individuals will be announced by the end of the day on Wednesday, two Wednesdays prior to the national meet.

2. All Division 3 teams will qualify by open invitation and are encouraged to

participate in their regional championship if one is being held (entry as a

full team in the region championship is not required for national

qualification).

3. After a team qualifies for the national championship, they may enter up to

10 eligible athletes from their roster..