

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Cross Country Coaches Meeting Report
June 16, 2026

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To require live results during the NSIC Cross Country Championship races, with a minimum of two split times.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. The NSIC handbook does not state that live results were required at the championship. The group felt that live results were a championship enhancement that would elevate the viewing experience for anyone following the races.

Unanimously approved by the Cross Country Coaches.

2. Recommendation. To approve Wayne State College as the host for the 2027 NSIC Cross Country Championships at the Wayne Country Club.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. Wayne State has hosted meets, including NSIC Championships, in the past and has done a wonderful job of giving the student-athletes a first-class experience.

Approved by the Cross Country Coaches 16-12-2

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The group was welcomed and thanked for their time. The group was reminded that assistant coaches were allowed to be on the call, but only as listeners. The group was also reminded that they were putting forward recommendations for the NSIC Athletic Administration to consider, and that new liaison Allison Meadows of Concordia-St. Paul would be reporting out from the call.
2. NCAA Coaches Connection Update. Jonathan Breitbarth, Concordia University, St. Paul, gave an update. Several years ago, the Track and Cross Country Coaches Association passed a proposal around a consolidate single site Regional Championship experience. Two years ago, the championships committee did not approve that proposal. Through research, they found out that the proposal the coaching association passed was never fully presented to the NCAA Division II Championship Committee. The Championship Committee has indicated they will revisit this proposal again at their August Meeting. Between now and then, there is a grassroots effort to educate the members of the Championship Committee on what is in the proposal and why it is important to our coaches. The group was also reminder that it is important to review the minor changes that were made by the NCAA Cross Country Committee this spring that will go in effect this fall. A) The first piece of legislation is that the NCAA Committee revised the Division II Cross Country A-Team definition by changing the requirement from five individuals to at least four of the seven student-athletes who represent the institution at the NCAA Regional Cross Country Championships and clarifying that all individuals who start a race are counted in this number, regardless of the total number of entries and if they finish. B) The second piece of legislation is that the NCAA Committee replaced the current Regional Point Gap Ratio with a Regional Team Time Gap in the second step of the selection process. The group was urged to contact Coach Breitbarth if they have any questions or concerns.

3. NSIC Championship Live Results. The group discussed adding language to the NSIC Handbook requiring the host school to have live results. The group also felt that having split times should be required, with an immediate effective date. Schools that were hosting in the future either already planned to have live results with split times or were willing to do so. Motion can be referenced above.
4. 2026 NSIC Championship Update. Scott Tanis, Augustana University, gave an update on the 2026 NSIC Cross Country Championships. The event will be held Saturday, November 7 with the men at 10 a.m. and women and 11:15 a.m. There will be details and more information shared with the coaching group in the coming weeks/months. Augustana will host a home meet on Friday, September 25, 2026, to help prepare for the NSIC Championships.
5. Handbook Revisions. The group reviewed the 2025 NSIC Cross Country handbook. The group felt that removing item 2.6 from the handbook, which required that split times for the championship be read at the one, two, three, and four mile marks. Coaches felt that most all student-athletes used watches and having extra personal there to read out times was an out dated practice.
6. Future NSIC Championships. The University of Mary, Minot State University and Wayne State College all submitted a bid for hosting the 2027 NSIC Championship, information can be referenced in action item above. There was a relatively close vote between Wayne State and the University of Mary, with nine schools in favor of Wayne State hosting.
7. Miscellaneous. None.
8. Education on Recruitment Tampering. As part of the NSIC strategic plan, the conference is providing education on recruitment tampering to all coaching groups during 2026 spring/summer meetings and to student-athletes during the 2026 SAAC Summit. Education was provided and the group was encouraged to share the education with their respective coaching staff.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Scott Tanis	Augustana University
Ben Baird	Bemidji State University
Jonathan Breitbarth, Sam Kettenhoffer, Jacob Dennison	Concordia University, St. Paul
Jarvis Jelen	University of Jamestown
Chris Lessard, Cale Korbelik	University of Mary
Steven Krouse	University of Minnesota Crookston
Brette Jensen	University of Minnesota Duluth
Jen Blue, Ben Held, Mike Turgeon	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Ryan Milner, Jason Sobolik (Compliance)	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Erik Stevens	Minot State University
Lynne Dingman, Mary Garner	Northern State University
Eric Chilson	University of Sioux Falls
Kirk Nauman	Southwest Minnesota State University
Gabrielle Brown	St. Cloud State University
Marlon Brink, Travis Kamm	Wayne State College
Darin Shepardson	Winona State University
Mason Rebarchek (Chair)	Winona State University
Allison Meadows (Liaison – Incoming)	Concordia University, St. Paul
Mike Powicki, Wayne State (Liaison - Outgoing)	Wayne State College
Nick Kornder	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference