

# 2023 CROSS COUNTRY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The WIAA cross country tournament series starts with Sectional competition on either Friday, October 20 or Saturday, October 21. Tournament assignments and time schedules are posted on the WIAA website < [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org) >. Select Sports, Boys or Girls Cross Country, Tournament (on the left hand side), Assignments & Brackets (on the left hand side). Schools desiring additional information must communicate directly with the designated tournament manager.

## PREMEET INFORMATION

### A. Course

To assist schools, managers have been instructed to send a map of their course to all schools competing at their tournament. The map should include, as much as possible, a description of the course (terrain, surface, turns, etc.). Hopefully this will assist schools who have not run the course.

1. Course should be marked no later than 1 1/2 hours before the meet.
2. Course should only cross pavement, not run along the side of roads, parking lots, and sidewalks.
3. Natural barriers should be utilized where possible.
4. Blue flags should be used where the course is not lined or where there might be a question.
5. Flags should be placed three feet to the side of lines.
6. The starting line should be established so that box 1 is on the runners' left.
7. A visual marker (flag, cone, etc.) must be present 100 meters from the starting line to assist officials with recalls.
8. Distance from start to first significant turn should be 300 to 400 yards. Double turns should be used instead of 90 degree turns where possible, particularly early in the course.
9. Course should allow 800 meters before the course narrows and restricts runners to pass.
10. Chute should be constructed long enough and in such a manner to eliminate potential overflow of runners. (Rule 8-3-4, 8-3-5, 8-4-7 Figure 10)
11. Course distances should be as accurate as possible. Markers should be clearly visible at each mile with splits provided all runners at those points.
12. Course should allow 1/2" spikes to be worn.
13. Meet management must identify the restricted and nonrestricted areas.
14. The use of lead and trail vehicles/carts is recommended. If only one vehicle/cart is available it should be used in a trail capacity.
15. The use of music at meets should cease two minutes prior to the start of the race. Note: Other than music used by meet management, noisemakers and audible music will not be allowed at or near the starting line. (Earbuds are allowed prior to the race).
16. Course shall be 5000 meters.
17. The use of double boundary lines and outside boundaries are allowed. Directional flags would still be required.

### B. Entries

1. A tournament team consists of a maximum of seven individuals.
2. A school may enter less than a full team (1-4) for individual competition.
3. A school is expected to provide their meet manager, by a designated date, an alphabetical list of its participants for purposes of publicity, and programs.
4. Entries will be made on-line at: [www.pttiming.com](http://www.pttiming.com) | [Instructions for On Line Entries](#)
5. Deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, October 17.
6. Any school that misses the entry deadline will still be allowed to enter but their reimbursement will be withheld if their team or individual(s) qualify for the State Meet. The WIAA will also send a letter of reprimand to the school's administration.
7. Alternates – It is not a requirement to list alternates when doing entries. However, if alternates are listed it assists the timing services in making changes to the line-up (listing 3 alternates is an appropriate number). The make-up of your team may change from sectionals to State (this does not apply to individuals who have qualified for State).

### C. Entry Fee

1. To offset hosts' expenses an entry fee of \$25/team per gender will be collected by the host school.
2. If a school's team is incomplete, a fee of \$5/individual will be charged.

#### **D. Limited Competition**

There cannot be any other competition, formal or informal, at the sectional site the day of the tournament. This means there cannot be a junior varsity meet, time trials, runoffs, etc.

#### **E. No Practice at Facility/Practicing at Sectional Site**

Host schools are not permitted to allow participating schools to practice at their facilities prior to tournament competition. Schools are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for sectional and State Tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

#### **F. Order of Events**

1. The boys' race must be conducted first this year.

#### **G. Water**

1. Coaches and team managers will not be allowed to distribute water to runners on the course during a race.
2. Each tournament host should make sure, however, that water is available at the starting and chute areas.

### **TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

#### **A. Inhalers**

Runners who have asthmatic conditions may legally use an inhaler during competition. A physician's statement documenting the need must be presented to the meet manager or meet referee prior to the beginning of the meet.

#### **B. Changes**

1. A school may make changes to its tournament roster up until race time.
2. A school may change its squad makeup from sectional to State competition.

#### **C. Restricted/Nonrestricted Areas**

Tournament Managers must define:

1. Restricted areas where no one except appropriate competing athletes/meet personnel are allowed and where athletes are prohibited from removing any portion of their team uniform, excluding shoes. These areas include, but are not limited to the starting line, finish chute, awards stand, any special area(s) on the course, any other designated area(s).
2. Nonrestricted areas: In these areas coaches and team managers shall be allowed to encourage, call out times, give verbal instructions, etc.
3. This information must be sent to all involved schools and WIAA officials prior to the meet.

#### **D. Jury of Appeals**

1. Each tournament manager must appoint a jury of appeals consisting of the contracted WIAA starter, the meet manager, and three coaches (at least one boys', one girls') not from the same school or host school.
2. The meet referee cannot be a part of this committee.
3. The membership of this committee will be published and sent to all involved schools and the contracted WIAA officials prior to the meet.
4. The committee will serve as the final board of appeals. Their responsibilities include:
  - a. Hearing and ruling on appeals of official's decisions.
  - b. This committee, however, has no authority to set aside, modify, or change defined WIAA tournament qualifying procedures or National Federation Track & Field/Cross Country Rules.
5. If anyone on the committee has his/her school involved with an appeal they must withdraw from that particular committee review.
6. The WIAA does not have the authority to change a meet referee or jury of appeals decision.
7. The meet referee will assemble this committee prior to the start of the meet to review their responsibilities.
8. Committee members must stay and be available after the meet for approximately 20 minutes.

#### **E. National Federation Allowed Adaptations**

1. Measuring wheels on visiting courses must be used for coaching purposes only. If used to question or challenge the length of the course the coach shall be charged with "Unsportsmanlike Conduct." (Rule 8-6-1c)
2. Any runner, coach, or team personnel who is observed tampering with a flag on the course anytime during premeet warm-ups, competition, or post-meet activities shall be charged with "Unsportsmanlike Conduct." (Rule 8-7)
3. Any runner who has not reported to the clerk of course prior to the three-minute race countdown shall be charged with "Unacceptable Conduct." (Rule 8-7)

4. The penalty for "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" is no further involvement in the meet. The penalty for "Unacceptable Conduct" is disqualification from the race. A written report must be filed with the WIAA.

#### **F. Starting Procedure (Rule 8-4-4)**

1. Starters should not give instructions nor answer questions after the three-minute countdown. The information given over the public address system must be:
  - 15 minutes to the start of the race
  - 10 minutes to the start of the race
  - 5 minutes to the start of the race
  - 3 minutes to the start of the race - all runners must have reported to the clerk of course
  - 2 minutes to the start of the race - all runners remove sweats, coaches and non-competing athletes must vacate starting box area
  - 1 minute to the start of the race - all runners must be positioned, and remain, behind the starting line
  - 30 seconds to the start of the race
  - 15 seconds to the start of the race
  - 10 seconds countdown to 5 seconds
  - The starter fires the gun when all runners are "set and motionless."
2. If a public address system is available the entire countdown to 5 seconds is done by the announcer. The starter is responsible only for firing the gun when all runners are set and motionless.
3. Other than music used by meet management, noisemakers and audible music will not be allowed at or near the starting line. (Earbuds are allowed prior to the race)

#### **G. Recalling a Race**

1. If a runner falls during the first 100 meters due to contact with another runner, the race shall be recalled by firing the pistol.
2. The countdown should normally be started again from 30 seconds. This can be modified, however, depending on special circumstances.

#### **H. Uniform/Equipment Regulations (Rule 4-3-1)**

Make sure all your runners are in legal attire. The clerk of course, the referee, and both starters will check runners on the starting line before each race.

1. Gloves
  - a. Gloves may be worn.
  - b. No regulation on color(s).
2. Shoes/Spikes
  - a. Athletes must compete using the defined appropriate shoes/spikes. Spikes, if allowed may NOT be longer than 1/2 inch. Rule 4-3-1(3).
3. Jewelry
  - a. There are no longer any restrictions regarding jewelry.
4. Headwear
  - a. The only allowed head coverings are knit caps/headbands (ear warmers) which may be solid or multi-colored. School names, nicknames, and mascots are allowed, along with a manufacturer's logo. Items covering the entire head such as scarves, bandannas, do-rags, baseball caps, etc. may not be worn during competition. Waivers for other head coverings may be issued for medical situations by the WIAA staff.
  - b. A single manufacturer's logo/trademark no more than 2 1/4 square inches with no dimension more than 2 1/4 inches is permissible on all apparel.
5. Flags/Patches
  - a. One American Flag may be worn or occupy space on each item of the uniform apparel, but shall not exceed 2" x 3".
  - b. Other items may be placed on the team warm-ups provided the warm-ups are not worn in actual competition.
6. Preventative Officiating
  - a. The clerk of course, meet referee, and both starters will prior to the start of each race enforce uniform, visible apparel, and shoe regulations.
  - b. The final responsibility, however, still lies with the athlete and/or coach.

#### **I. Wireless Communication Devices**

1. Wireless communication devices (headsets, radios, etc.) except by meet management and meet officials is PROHIBITED.
2. Individuals bringing such equipment will be instructed to return the item(s) to their vehicles.

#### J. WIAA Tournament UAV Policy (Drones)

The Board of Control has approved a policy for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or drones at outdoor WIAA State Tournament Series events. UAVs are prohibited at all WIAA indoor tournaments. Drone operation requires a Remote Pilot Command license. Operators must also receive written consent from the WIAA executive office at least 24 hours in advance, as well as approval of the host facility event management. The complete policy for UAVs is located on page 52 of the Senior High Handbook.

#### K. Sectional Box Assignments

(if a team withdraws or you have less teams entered then the number of boxes, you may move team closer to the middle of the course).

##### DIVISION 1

1. 11th School Alpha
2. 8th School Alpha
3. 12th School Alpha
4. 6th School Alpha
5. 5th School Alpha
6. 3rd School Alpha
7. 7th School Alpha
8. 4th School Alpha
9. 2nd School Alpha
10. 9th School Alpha
11. 10th School Alpha
12. 1st School Alpha

##### DIVISIONS 2 & 3

1. 13th School Alpha
2. 8th School Alpha
3. 3rd School Alpha
4. 14th School Alpha
5. 9th School Alpha
6. 10th School Alpha
7. 2nd School Alpha
8. 1st School Alpha
9. 7th School Alpha
10. 4th School Alpha
11. 20th School Alpha
12. 17th School Alpha
13. 19th School Alpha
14. 5th School Alpha
15. 6th School Alpha
16. 21st School Alpha
17. 22nd School Alpha
18. 12th School Alpha
19. 18th School Alpha
20. 23rd School Alpha
21. 16th School Alpha
22. 11th School Alpha
23. 15th School Alpha

#### POST MEET INFORMATION

##### A. Posting/Announcing of Results

1. To avoid issues during the awards ceremony unofficial results must be announced or posted prior to the awards ceremony.
2. Appeals regarding misapplication of the rules shall be filled within 30 minutes after the results have been announced or made official. The head coach protests to the meet referee. (Rule 2-3-3, Rule 3-5-3 a, b)

##### B. Awards

1. Plaque for championship and runner-up teams.
2. Medals to:
  - a. Members (7) of championship and runner-up teams.
  - b. Sectional champions.
  - c. First five individuals who are not members of a qualifying team, with the individual sectional champion receiving a gold medal (even if he/she is a member of the championship team).
  - d. Extra medals - To order additional medals online from our jeweler ESCO. Access their website <<http://wiaa.escoinc.com>> ESCO "WIAA Award & Gift Store" and choose "extra" medals. The medals are offered in "Plain" for quick turn around and also "Engraved" for those that want/need the copy on the back.
3. It is recommended that meet managers use the following procedures for their Awards Presentations:
  - a. Read team scores from last to second place.
  - b. Call up each runner from the second place team reading their name, place, time, and present medal.
  - c. Present WIAA sectional runner-up plaque to coach.
  - d. Have second place team stay in Awards Area.
  - e. Call up each runner from the first place team reading their name, place, time, and present medal.

- f. Present WIAA sectional championship plaque to coach.
- g. Have first place team also stay in Awards Area.
- h. Call up the five individual State qualifiers and present each runner his/her medal.

**C. State Qualifying**

Qualifying for the State Meet from each sectional will be:

1. The first two teams.
2. The first five individuals who are not members of a qualifying team.

**D. Scoring (Rule 8-2-1, 2, & 3)**

1. All competitors who finish the race shall be ranked and tallied.
2. The team score shall then be determined by totaling the points scored by the first five finishers of each team.
3. The team which scores the fewest number of points is the winner.
4. If fewer than five competitors of a team finish, the places of all members of that team shall be disregarded and the team scores re-ranked.

**E. Ties (Rule 8-2-4, & 5)**

1. Ties in team scoring shall be resolved by comparing the sixth-place finishers from the tying teams.
2. The team with the best sixth place finisher shall prevail.
3. If one team does not have a sixth-place finisher, the team with the sixth-place finisher shall prevail.
4. If only five competitors of tying teams finish, the tie shall be resolved by totaling the scores of the first four finishers.

**F. WIAA Website**

1. State Qualifiers will be posted on the WIAA Website <[www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org)> on Sunday, October 22. Access the Cross Country Home Page and choose State Qualifiers.
2. Corrections (spelling, year in school, etc.) should be emailed to [hlaidlaw@wiaawi.org](mailto:hlaidlaw@wiaawi.org). Deadline for corrections is 12 noon on Monday, October 23.
3. State Meet results will be posted on the WIAA Website <[www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org)> Saturday, October 29 approximately 1 hour after the conclusion of all competition.