

CROSS COUNTRY 2009

2009 REGULATIONS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS DISTRICT, REGIONAL, STATE CROSS COUNTRY TOURNAMENTS

Note: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified.

These regulations have been adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on June 11, 2009. The Commissioner is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

A. GENERAL

1. ELIGIBILITY

All participants must be eligible in accordance with the OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations.

A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.

2. RULES

National Federation Cross Country Rules will apply in all tournaments. 2009 Track and Field Rules - Rule 9 and other applicable rules, regulations.

3. COMPETITION LEVELS

There will be three Divisions (I, II, III) of competition in the Boys and three Divisions (I, II, III) in the Girls Cross Country Tournaments.

4. TOURNAMENT ENTRY AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Tournament Entry/Withdraw

Member schools wanting to participate in the 2009 OHSAA Cross Country Tournaments must indicate their intent to participate on their 2009-09 OHSAA Sports Participation Card in myOHSAA. Tournament entry confirmation begins September 28, 2009 and ends October 5, 2009. Schools that change their tournament participation after October 5, 2009 will be subject to a \$150 penalty per sport.

4.2 Electronic Entry of Participants

4.2.1 Submit entries online at www.baumspage.com.

4.2.2 A properly completed electronic entry must include the name and grade of the individual entries.

4.2.3 An eligibility certificate listing all squad members must be signed to the principal/designee and submitted to the district tournament site manager per their instruction.

4.2.4 Electronic entries must be completed no later than 5:00 P.M. E.D.T. on Friday, October 16, 2009, or at a later date and time if established by the district athletic board. If the tournament paperwork is not submitted by the designated time and date, the school's participant(s) will not be accepted without payment of a \$150 late fee and approval by the OHSAA.

An earlier deadline for tournament paperwork may not be established, but completed paperwork will be accepted beginning September 8, 2009.

5. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

No team or individual will be allowed to compete in the District, Regional and State Tournaments unless a coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education is present throughout the tournament. Teams and individual entries unaccompanied by such a school representative will be disqualified (Bylaw 3-2-1).

6. LENGTH OF COURSE

The length of the course is 5000 meters.

7. OFFICIALS DECISIONS

The decisions of the Referee are final in all tournaments. Exception: The Commissioner retains the right to rule on all instances involving ineligible participants. The Games Committee will serve in an advisory

capacity to the referee if the referee chooses to seek advice. The referee shall not observe any type of video device unless the device has been approved in advance (NFHS Rule 3-8-4) and when authorized only for determining order of finish.

7.1 Appeals Procedure

- a. Obtain appeal form from the Tournament Manager.
- b. Complete appeal form, sign and present to the tournament referee.
- c. The tournament referee will review the appeal, reach a decision, complete and sign the referee's decision portion of the appeal form and notify the coach of the final decision.
- d. The decision of the tournament referee is final and not subject to further review except as indicated in 7.

7.2 District, Regional and State Tournament officials may use electronic visual devices to record action during a race and at the finish. The devices that are declared official must be authorized prior to the start of a race. The **Referee** may use the authorized devices in making a decision. The **Referee** is prohibited from using recordings from unauthorized devices.

8. GIRLS ON BOYS TEAM

Schools that do not sponsor girls cross country teams (five or more individuals) may permit girls to practice and participate with the boys teams during regular season competition. Girls participating as individuals with boys cross country teams will be permitted to enter and compete in the State Sponsored District, Regional and State Girls Cross Country Tournaments provided the school has indicated on the Sports Participation Card that the school is sponsoring girls cross country. All other rules and regulations of the OHSAA will apply. This interpretation applies to regular season meet limitation participation.

9. UNSPORTING CONDUCT PENALTY

During participation in OHSAA tournaments any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection.

Individuals ejected for unsporting conduct shall be reported to the OHSAA Commissioner by the tournament manager. The Commissioner will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 12 if the situation warrants it.

Participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct himself or herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

10. LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials *shall* be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles, ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

Monitor Weather Patterns – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity

National Weather Service – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS.

The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent change), event organizers *shall* be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

Evacuation – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators *shall* evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures *shall* be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

Thirty-minute rule – Competition or practice *shall* be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is *mandatory* to wait at least **30 minutes** after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. **Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

11. PROPERTY DAMAGE

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. The tournament manager is authorized to deduct from the school's share the cost of any damages caused by competing schools. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and may be deducted from tournament receipts. If damage is extensive, the District Board or Board of Control will become involved. Student crowd control at state sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the principals of the competing schools.

12. SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is the sponsoring association for the District, Regional and State Cross Country Tournaments. The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items at the tournaments or any audio-visual reproductions of the tournaments. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs or any other items at each site is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for District Tournaments and the OHSAA Commissioner for the Regional and State Tournaments.

13. PROHIBITED ADVERTISING

There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of the high school athletic program.

14. RAFFLES PROHIBITED

There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of cross country tournament contests during the period beginning one hour prior to the tournaments and ending one hour after the tournaments have ended.

15. PROHIBITED SALES

The sale of, the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

B. DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

1. ASSIGNMENTS TO DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

District Athletic Boards determine tournament sites, employ managers and assign schools to district tournaments. The section which follows lists the sites, managers and assignments of District Tournaments.

2. QUALIFIERS FROM DISTRICT TO REGIONAL

2.1 Boys Teams

District	<u>Division</u>		
	I	II	III
Central	16	8	4
East		8*	4
Southeast		8*	8
Northeast	24	20	12
Northwest	8	12	24
Southwest	<u>16</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	64	68	64

** NOTE: Division II – Resolution of the tie per Board of Directors action results in the following: 2009 in Division II, SOUTHEAST DISTRICT will have 8 qualifiers, EAST DISTRICT will have 4 qualifiers 2010 in Division II, EAST DISTRICT will have 8 qualifiers, SOUTHEAST DISTRICT will have 4 qualifiers

2.2 Girls Teams

District	<u>Division</u>		
	I	II	III
Central	12	8	8
East		8	4
Southeast		4	4
Northeast	28	20	16
Northwest	8	12	24
Southwest	<u>16</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	64	64	64

2.3 Individuals

Each boys and girls District Tournament will qualify individuals to a Regional Tournament based on the formula of four individuals for each team qualifying. For example: If three teams those individuals not on a qualifying team who finishes in the top twelve positions. If four teams those individuals not on a qualifying team who finish in the top sixteen positions. If five teams those individuals not on a qualifying team who finish in the top twenty positions. A runner may qualify as a team member and as an individual.

3. ORDER OF COMPETITION

At each District Tournament, the girls competition will precede the boys competition as follows: Boys III, II, I; Girls III, II, I. By District Board approval, this order may be adjusted at those sites where there is more than one race in the same division.

4. DISTRICT AWARDS

4.1 Team - The district champion and runner-up teams will receive a team trophy. There will be no ties in team scoring as National Federation Track and Field Rules 9-2-4 and 5 apply.

4.2 Individual - There shall be no individual awards presented.

5. ADMISSION

Admission charge at district tournament sites is at the discretion of the respective district athletic boards.

C. REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. SITES, MANAGERS, QUALIFIERS

See the OHSAA Cross Country website at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/cc/default.asp> for updated sites, qualifiers and representation information for 2009.

2. ENTRIES

Teams and individuals who qualified at their respective District Cross Country Tournaments will automatically be entered in the Regional Tournament to which assigned.

The personnel of qualifying cross country teams from District Tournaments may be changed prior to the Regional Tournament as long as all rules regarding eligibility are followed and all participants are named on the eligibility certificate. Substitutions may not be made for individual qualifiers.

3. QUALIFIERS TO STATE

Qualification of teams and individuals to the respective state tournaments has been adopted by the Board of Directors. All divisions, boys and girls, will qualify to the state from regional tournaments.

3.1 TEAMS

Four teams from each Regional Tournament will qualify to the state tournament.

3.2 INDIVIDUALS

Each boys and girls Regional Tournament will qualify those individuals not on qualifying teams, who finish in the top 16 positions to the State Tournament. A runner may qualify as a team member and as an individual.

4. TIME SCHEDULE AND COMPETITION

4.1 Time Schedule

11:05 A.M. - Division III Girls

11:50 A.M. - Division II Girls

12:35 P.M. - Division I Girls

1:20 P.M. - Division III Boys

2:05 P.M. - Division II Boys

2:50 P.M. - Division I Boys

4.2 Competition in each division shall involve qualifying teams and individuals competing in one race.

5. ADMISSION

Admission charge at regional tournament sites are at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

6. AWARDS

6.1 Team - There shall be regional championships and runner-up trophies presented.

6.2 Individual - Individual awards shall be presented to each individual qualifier to the state tournament.

7. EXPENSES ALLOWANCE FOR SCHOOLS

Travel expense reimbursements for participants and coaches have been eliminated per Board of Directors action on June 8, 2006.

D. STATE TOURNAMENTS

1. DATE

Saturday, November 7, 2009

2. LOCATION

Scioto Downs, 6000 South High Street, Columbus

3. MANAGERS

Terry Oehrtman, 535 E. Allen St., Lancaster 43130. H: 740-654-7999, Fax: 740-654-9936, E-mail: toehrtman@columbus.rr.com.

Kevin Lewis, 677 Rosehill Rd., Reynoldsburg, 43068. H: 614-863-6628.

4. HISTORY

Boys - Eightieth

Girls - Thirty-first

5. TIME SCHEDULE

11:05 A.M.	Division III Girls	16 teams and individual qualifiers
11:50 A.M.	Division II Girls	16 teams and individual qualifiers
12:35 P.M.	Division I Girls	16 teams and individual qualifiers
1:20 P.M.	Division III Boys	16 teams and individual qualifiers
2:05 P.M.	Division II Boys	16 teams and individual qualifiers
2:50 P.M.	Division I Boys	16 teams and individual qualifiers

6. ENTRIES

All teams and individuals who qualified at their respective regional cross country tournaments will automatically be entered in the respective State Tournament.

The personnel of qualifying cross country teams from regional tournaments may be changed prior to the State Tournament as long as all rules regarding eligibility are followed and all participants are named on the school eligibility certificate that was submitted electronically. Substitutions may not be made for individual qualifiers.

7. ADMISSION

\$9.00 per person.

8. PASSES

Passes shall be provided to competitors and coaches according to the following schedule.

8.1 Individuals - number of qualifiers plus one

8.2 Team - ten

9. CONTESTANT MATERIALS

Coaches may obtain instructions, passes and contestant numbers at the pass gate beginning at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 7th.

No packets will be distributed prior to Saturday.

10. COURSE INSPECTION

The General Manager of Scioto Downs, has granted permission for state qualifying teams and individuals to inspect the cross country course at Scioto Downs the Thursday and Friday only prior to the State Tournaments beginning at 10:00 A.M. However, Scioto Downs will close at 5:00 P.M. each day; therefore, the grounds must be cleared of all people by 5:00 P.M.

On Saturday, the course is available for inspection from 8:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. and between races. Inspection may take place after a race starts when the last contestant in the race has passed. The course must be cleared for the next race five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the race. Public address announcements will be made regarding inspection times. Failure to abide by inspection regulations could result in disqualification of contestants.

11. AWARDS

11.1 **Individual Awards** will be presented to the first fifteen finishers in each race.

11.2 **Team Awards** will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams. Trophies will be presented for the school and eight individual awards

12. MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Media credentials will be required for news media personnel. Credentials must be reserved in advance by faxing requests to the OHSAA office at 614-267-1677; Attn: Tim Stried.

13. PROHIBITED ITEMS

The presence of recreation equipment at the State Cross Country Tournament will not be permitted (frisbees, footballs, baseballs, softballs) and pets of any kind. In addition, no fences are to be climbed at Scioto Downs. Individuals that violate this regulation will be requested to leave with no refund of the admission fee.

14. TEAM CAMPS

Team tents (camps) are encouraged and will be permitted in an area south of the main stadium. No team camps will be permitted in the stadium area unless dictated by inclement weather.

15. EXPENSES ALLOWANCE FOR SCHOOLS

Travel expenses will not be reimbursed per Board of Directors action in June 2009.