

DATE: September 8, 2022

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ (William) Duckworth  
Director of Officiating Development & State Rules Interpreter  
Track & Field and Cross Country



RE: Cross Country September Bulletin

## Save The Date

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual OT&F&CCOA Officials Clinic will be January 20 & 21 at a TBD location in greater Columbus. The Awards dinner will be held the evening of January 20. The state rules interpretation will be held on January 21; it will be the **only** in person track and field state rules interpretation for officials. You must be registered for the clinic to attend this state rules interpretation meeting.

## Online Local Meeting Offer by the OHSAA

The OHSAA has provided online local meetings for most sports within the local meeting window. Most sports will offer two online local meetings, **cross country will offer one online local meeting.**

These are optional meetings for officials to view and each meeting is able to be completed for one local meeting credit each. Your attendance credit is not uploaded automatically upon completion like the online state rules meeting. If you watch the wrong sport's meeting you will not receive local meeting credit.

The meeting will only be available on the timeline below. Your attendance will be uploaded on the timeline below:

Meeting Available	Last Date Available	Credit Upload
Thursday, September 1	Sunday, September 11	Tuesday, September 13

## Medical Device Updates & Reminders

### Collection of Doctors Notes

Athletes are allowed to utilize medical devices in both track and cross country. The coach of the athlete affected must present a doctor's note to the meet referee, stating the need for the medical device before competition. The referee **must** collect these doctor's notes and keep them in their possession through the completion of the meet. An additional waiver from the OHSAA is **not** required for the use of a medical device. It is recommended that if there is medical staff at the event, the referee inform the medical staff what athletes are utilizing medical devices.

### Fanny Packs

With their growth in popularity, (again) several coaches have reached out related to the use of fanny packs to hold their athlete's inhalers or EpiPens. Fanny packs can be utilized to hold/carry an athlete's medical device(s) pending the pack is securely attached to the body. The use of a fanny pack does not need to be mentioned in the doctor's note and is not regulated under the uniform rules.

## Acceptable Distribution of Water at Meets

Per NFHS Rule 3-2-4u and 8-6-1, the games committee, meet management or coaching staffs may provide water to athletes along the course. However, an athlete carrying a water bottle or other water transportation

device during competition would be in violation of NFHS Rule 4-6-5f; this includes the use of an item such as a “Camelbak” or similar item.

## Use of Lead Carts

The below information related to the use of lead carts for cross country was inadvertently left out of the official’s manual.

When used, lead vehicles in races **must** adhere to the following guidelines:

- a. No students are permitted to operate the lead vehicle. Lead vehicles may only be operated by a competent adult or official;
- b. Meet management shall determine a safe distance between the vehicle and competitors;
- c. Meet management shall determine whether or not a timing clock shall be permitted on the back of the vehicle.

If a site is utilizing a student as the driver of a lead cart, the referee should discuss the issue with the meet manager and inform them of this OHSAA safety policy. If no official or other competent adult is available, the lead cart must not be used. It is recommended that a registered official be utilized as the lead cart driver.

## Officials Concussion Training

Officials are required to take concussion training every three years and this training is provided for free through the NFHS or CDC. The OHSAA will send you a reminder email when it is time for you to retake your training. Upon completion of the training, you **must** log into your MyOHSAA account and update your concussion information. If you do not update your information on MyOHSAA, the OHSAA office will not have a record of your completion and will continue to remind you to take the training or possibly suspend your license. For more information on this training please click [HERE](#).

## OHSAA Logo For Officials

At our recent DOD meeting it was shared with us that there is currently no plan to implement the “new” logo on officiating uniforms. The “new” logo will be utilized by the OHSAA on all of their marketing, staff clothing, public communications, etc. The “old” logo will continue to be used on all officiating uniforms. The new logo should **not** be worn by officials when officiating. The OHSAA will be sending more information directly to all officials at a later date.

## Regional Officiating Assignments

In order to create better consistency across the state, we have standardized the positions regional meet managers can hire for their meets. Regional meet managers may now hire umpires, marshals, an announcer and a lead cart driver (please see above the rules on the use of lead carts); these are in addition to the nine key officials assigned by the OHSAA. In order to ensure managers have the flexibility they need, we are not mandating the minimum number of umpires or marshals, however, we have set maximums for these positions.

## Cross Country Tournament Assignment Selection Policy

The full policy is posted [HERE](#). I encourage you to take a few minutes to view a video detailing the new policy by clicking [HERE](#).

## OHSAA Cross Country Officials Manual

The 2022 OHSAA Track & Field and Cross Country Officials & Coaches Manuals can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

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Sincerely,

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OHSAA Track & Field and Cross Country