

DATE: July 7, 2026

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ Duckworth | Sport Administrator & Director of Officiating Development

RE: July Officials' Memo



State Rules Meeting for Cross Country

The mandatory state rules meeting will go live in DragonFly on July 17. **This meeting is mandatory to renew your license, to officiate Cross Country during the regular season, and to officiate the postseason.** You will receive an email when the meeting goes live with more information.

Meeting Begins	Late Fee (\$50) Begins	Meeting Closes
July 17	August 19	September 10

If you are a coach AND an official, you must complete both State Rules Meetings. While the content in both is similar, each is customized to its specific audience.

Tournament Questionnaire

The Tournament Questionnaire was sent to all eligible officials via email and will run through July 31. If you feel you are eligible and have not received the email, first check you spam folder and if the email is not there, please reach out to Keaton Jones (kjones@ohsaa.org) or myself. You **MUST** complete the questionnaire to be eligible to officiate Cross Country Tournaments. If you were not renewed by June 30th, you are not eligible to receive the questionnaire.

Permit Renewal

As a reminder, if you plan to officiate Cross Country, your officiating permit must be renewed in DragonFly for 2026/27 prior to the start of the season. However, if you did not renew by the fall sports deadline of June 30, you will not be able to officiate the post season, as you would not have received the questionnaire.

Renewing officials now have the ability to choose whether they would like a digital copy of their rule book, a physical copy, or both. **Any choice that includes a physical copy will add a \$7 charge per sport to your registration.** Digital copies will be sent out weekly, while physical copies will be mailed out on their traditional timeline through the US Postal Service. New and reinstating officials will not have the choice and will be receiving digital books.

If you are not officiating cross country, you have until December 31 to renew your permit for track.

Officials Manual & Mechanics Guide

The 2026 Officials Manual & Mechanics Guide can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

2026 Cross Country State Championship Clinic

We will be holding our Third Annual Cross Country State Championship Clinic this fall in conjunction with the 2026 OHSA Cross Country State Championship at Fortress Obetz & Memorial Park on November 7, 2026.

The 2026 OHSA Cross Country State Championship will serve as the backdrop for this opportunity, where veteran mentors instruct clinic participants on rules, mechanics, and best practices as they happen in real-time. The clinic is open to **ALL** officials who have **not** officiated the Cross Country State Championship. 24 participants will be paired with four mentors who will lead them on scheduled experiences. Two groups will start early morning during the first division competition around 8am. Two additional groups will start late morning/early afternoon during the second division competition around 11am.

Participants will experience sessions covering:

- Meet Management/How Assignments Work
- Clerking
- Starting
- Referee
- Umpiring
- Press Box/Announcing
- Awards
- Finish Line/Timing & Scoring

Registration for this clinic **IS NOW OPEN** and will run through August 15 or when full. Once full, a waiting list will be compiled. There are currently 10 open spots in the clinic, if you're interested, I encourage you to act fast!

When: November 7, 2026

Where: Fortress Obetz & Memorial Park, Obetz Ohio

Who: The first 24 officials who have not worked the Cross Country State Championship who register.

Cost: \$25, non-refundable.

What You Receive:

- Lunch
- All-access pass
- Parking
- Souvenir program
- Officiating guide
- OHSAA baseball hat
- 1 local meeting credit for the 2027 Cross Country season.
 - You must stay with your group for the entire schedule to receive credit.
- Valuable experience

Registration: Due to venue space limitations, registration is limited to **24 people**. Please do not register if you are not 100% committed to attending. To register, click [HERE](#)

Virtual Local Meeting

The OHSAA will produce one virtual local meeting for Cross Country. The date and topic are TBD and will be shared with you when available.

State & Local Meeting Requirements

Below is an outline of the meeting needs per permit year.

Needs for permit renewal

- 4 Local Rules Meetings (spring & fall combined)
- 1 State Rules Meeting

Needs for tournament eligibility

- Cross Country
 - 1 Fall Local Rules Meeting
 - Fall State Rules Meeting
- Track & Field
 - 4 Spring Local Rules Meeting
 - Spring State Rules Meeting

OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame

Congratulations to **Terri Tutt** on her much-deserved induction into the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame. Induction into the hall is the top honor bestowed by the OHSAA for our contest officials.

NFHS Officials of the Year

Congratulations to the NFHS Officials of The Year, who received their award at the OHSAA Celebration of Officiating Banquet in June. These officials were nominated by their local association and selected based on their career achievements, specifically their work recruiting and mentoring new officials and their commitment to preventative officiating.

Girls Track and Field: Ed Katzman (NE)

Boys Track and Field: Marty Dalman (C)

Girls Cross Country: Lisa Rucker (SW)

Boys Cross Country: Nick Molnar (NE)

50 Year Officials Awards

Congratulations to the officials below who received half century awards at the OHSAA Celebration of Officiating Banquet in June.

50 year Officials: Terry Armstead, Ken Vogt, and Joe Widman

Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association Award Nominations

It is time to nominate the best officials and outstanding track & field and cross country supporters in your area for the Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association Awards!

Frederick E Cope Award- The highest award given by the OTFCCOA, the Cope Award is presented to a Track & Field/Cross Country Official who is a respected and enthusiastic promoter of the sports of Track & Field/Cross Country.

Contributor Awards- Contributor Awards are presented to people who have made a positive contribution to the sport of track and field and/or cross-country. Any track and field official, athletic administrator, physician, trainer, sportswriter, tournament manager, and others are eligible. Each nominee must exemplify the highest standards of moral character, ethical conduct, and sportsmanship.

The applications for each award can be found by clicking [HERE](#) and then clicking on the photo next to the relevant award. **All nominations are due by August 1st!**

Note: These awards are given by the OTFCCOA, and the OHSAA is not involved in the selection.

Save The Date – 2027 Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association Clinic and Awards.

The 41st edition of the OTFCCOA Clinic will be held on **January 22-23, 2027**, at Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center in Lewis Center. Registrants will receive one local meeting credit for each day they attend and will be able to participate in and receive credit for the only in person state rules meeting that will be offered.

For more information, contact Dennis Sabo, densabo@gmail.com.

Situations

During Track & Field season I sent weekly situations to all coaches and officials; I will continue this for Cross Country season. Weekly situations for the Cross Country will start in August, any week when a monthly memo is sent, the situations will be included in that email.

Heat Illness

Heat Illness is serious, and officials must take the steps needed to keep themselves safe and healthy. Last season, the officiating community in South Carolina lost one of their own to Heat Illness, specifically Heat Stroke; learn more about what happened by clicking [HERE](#).

When preparing to work a meet in hot weather, make sure to follow the below steps:

- Hydrate before you go, several days in advance.
- Bring...
 - Water
 - Hydration beverages (Gatorade/Powerade)
 - Head covering
 - Cooling towel
- Know your limits.
- If you need help or a break, ask for it!

For more information on heat illness prevention & treatment, click [HERE](#)

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