

DATE: July 8, 2024

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

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

RE: July Officials Memo



State Rules Meeting

The annual, mandatory Cross Country State Rules Meeting will occur per the chart below. It will be online only. All officials working cross country, tournaments and/or the post season MUST complete the State Rules Meeting in addition to meeting requirements for local meetings. More information on how to view the meeting will be shared at a later date.

Meeting Starts	Late Fee Starts	Meeting Closes
July 25	August 19	September 23

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.

Local Virtual Meetings

Again this fall, I will also be producing one virtual local meeting that will be available to all officials and will count as one local meeting credit. The topic and date are TBD.

Exhibition/Scratch Competition Is NOT Permissible

Exhibition or “scratch” competition is not allowed in both Cross Country and Track & Field; **all participants must have the ability to score.** “Open” races are allowed, and they MUST be scored; the issuance of awards for these open races is a meet management decision; however, scoring is not. If you are asked to officiate an exhibition competition, you should refuse to do so and file a game report immediately following the contest.

Starting Position Must be Random

NFHS Rule 8-4-1 details that starting positions shall be assigned by the meet manager or games committed “by lot.” For clarification, “by lot” means that starting positions are assigned randomly. In order for starting positions to be random, they cannot be pre-determined through a method like alphabetical, the order they arrive, or the order they register. Following this process cannot be changed by a games committee, meet manager, referee, etc.

Required Verification Forms

The OHSAA, together with our partners at MileSplit, have worked together to help streamline the mandatory verification form process. Going forward, any meet that does registration on MileSplit will require the coach to electronically sign the verification of sporting conduct and legal uniforms/equipment when registering for the meet. This means that you will NOT need to collect the forms at the meet. Any meet that does not utilize MileSplit for registration will still be required to have the verification form completed at the meet and turned into the referee or meet management.

For the OHSAA Tournaments, coaches will sign the form when entering the District, and that signed form will carry throughout the tournaments.

Permit Renewal

Permit renewal is underway and this year will take place in DragonFly. Please review the information sent from the OHSAA office on the new process; it takes 5 minutes or less to complete.

Officials planning to work Cross Country and Track must renew ASAP. Officials who will only be working Track and Field in the spring have until December 31, 2024 to renew their permit without a late fee.

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! Three different categories of awards will be given and can be nominated by any official or association:

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 sport of Track & Field/Cross Country.

Joe Lenge Service Award- The Joe Lenge Service Award is presented to a Track & Field/Cross Country Official whose service and dedication to the OTFCCOA and membership goes well above and beyond the call of duty.

Contributor Awards- Contributor Awards are presented to persons 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, sports writer, 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 completed at the Google Form link here: bit.ly/OTFCCOAawards. **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 – Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association Clinic

The OTFCCOA Annual Winter Clinic will be held on January 24 & 25, 2025 at the Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio. Officials will have the opportunity to earn TWO local meeting credits, one for each day of the clinic, as well as their state rules interpretation credit. More information will be sent to all officials in the fall by the OHSAA on behalf of the OTFCCOA.

NFHS Official 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.

Boys Track and Field: Penny Zuber

Girls Track and Field: Rodney Russell

Boys Cross Country: Ron Weaver

Girls Cross Country: Gail Bowers

50 Year Officials Awards

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

50 year Officials: Rodney Russell, Paula Coder, Mark Klopfenstein, Lee Sternberg, Diane McClellan, Roger Hosler, Robert Karl and Thane Hecox

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