

DATE: September 23, 2024

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

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

RE: Cross Country Officials Tournament Regulation Update



Virtual Local Meeting

The Cross Country online local meeting is now live on DragonFly! **It will be available until Monday, September 30, at 11:59 p.m.** Watching this video will grant you one of your cross country local meeting requirements for the 2024-2025 athletic year. Credit will not be uploaded until after the meeting is closed.

Please refer to the email you received on September 16 for more information.

2024 Cross Country Tournament Regulations & Information

The 2024 Cross Country Tournament Regulations were approved in late August, and a copy can be found at the link below. They include several new regulations intended to bring consistency across all of our sites and provide our student-athletes with predictable and consistent competition. In order to help you better prepare for the tournament competition, you will find a summary of changes below; please refer to the links to review all of the changes. You will receive additional tournament information in early October.

[Tournament Regulations](#) | [District & Regional Information](#) | [State Meet Information](#)

Substitution Policy: Coaches will be able to make substitutions via an online form found on the meet's MileSplit page through Friday at noon. If a substitution is needed after that, paper forms will be provided by meet management, and those can be turned in on the day of the meet to the timing team. The deadline for changes is 30 minutes prior to the race.

Bib Replacement Fee: At all three levels of tournaments, the replacement of a lost or damaged bib will require signing a bib replacement form and a \$20 fee. The fee will be invoiced to the school following the meet. The goal of this new fee is to encourage the safe handling of bibs and reduce the number that have to be replaced on the day of the event.

Verification Forms: For all meets being hosted on MileSplit, coaches' verification forms will be completed during the registration process. No paper forms will be needed for any meeting hosted on MileSplit, including the OHSAA tournaments.

Starting Line: Several additions/clarifications have been made to the starting lines.

- Curved Starting Line: All starting lines must be constructed in a way to ensure all boxes are equidistance from the first significant change. This means that some courses will need a curved starting line. Details can be found in the managers' manual.
- 3M Step Back Line: All starting lines must include a 3M step back line where all athletes will line up before stepping to the starting line on the long whistle blast.
- Starting Boxes: All starting boxes must be precisely 6 feet wide and numbered with the box on the left (when facing the course) as box one and the box on the right being the highest number. Box assignments must be random and centered on the starting line.
- Individual Qualifiers: Individual qualifiers should be assigned to boxes in groups of four to ensure they can all "toe the line"; there will be times more or less will be assigned to a box based on the total

number of individual qualifiers. Every effort will be made to assign individual qualifiers from the same school to the same or adjacent boxes.

Live Results: In order to provide consistency for coaches, all live results at the Regional & State Meets must be done through MileSplit Live.

Team Passes: The number of team passes has been increased from 10 to 11; please see the chart below.

	Team Qualifying	Individual Qualifying
Coach	2	1
Athletes	9 (7 runners plus 2 alternates)	Number of qualifying athletes

Unauthorized Course Access: Additional penalties now apply for team members (as defined by the NFHS) who access areas they are not authorized to be in.

- **First Offense:** Warning issued to the **TEAM**.
 - o The official will report the warning to the referee, documenting the time. The referee will then attempt to notify the head coach. The warning stands regardless of if the coach is officially notified.
- **Second Offense:** Disqualification from the meet (ejection) for those accessing the competition area.
 - o As the warning applies to the team, any member of that team is subject to disqualification from the meet.
- **Third Offense:** Disqualification from the meet (ejection) for those accessing the competition area & disqualification from the event for any participating athletes.

These penalties DO NOT change the enforcement of NFHS Regulations related to coaching from a restricted area. The penalty for that is a disqualification of all team members from the event.

Wheeled Transportation For Coaches: To ensure the safety of all athletes and spectators, the use of wheeled transportation (bicycles, scooters, etc.) at the tournaments is prohibited. The use of these items is considered an illegal aid, and the penalty is the disqualification of all team members from the event.

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.

Important Dates & Resources

In an effort to keep our officiating community better informed, I will include the charts below detailing important dates and resources in each of my monthly updates. This will ensure this information remains at your fingertips all year long.

Important Dates		
	2024 Cross Country	2025 Track
OTF&CCOA Officials Clinic	January 24 & 25 2025	
First Day of State Meeting	July 25	February 10 <i>(tentative)</i>
First Day of Coaching	August 1	February 24
Early Season Invitational	August 17	
Season Begins	August 19	March 29
State Meeting Late Fee Begins (\$50)	August 19	March 29 <i>(tentative)</i>

Deadline To Declare for Tournament	September 23	April 21
State Meeting Ends	September 23	April 21 <i>(tentative)</i>
Non-Interscholastic Date	September 30	May 5
7th & 8 th Grade State Championship		May 17
District Tournaments	October 19	May 19-24
7 th & 8 th Grade Post-Season Invitational	October 20	
Regional Tournaments	October 26	May 28-31
State Championships	November 2	June 6-7 (AT OSU)
OHSAA State Championship Officials Clinic	November 2	June 6-7
Season Ends	November 2	June 7

Important Documents/Resources		
	2024 Cross Country	2025 Track
OHSAA Sport Webpage	Click HERE	Click HERE
Sport Regulations	Click HERE	Click HERE
Tournament Regulations	Click HERE	TBD
Uniform Guidance Video	Click HERE	
Coaches Manual	Click HERE	TBD
Officials Manual	Click HERE	TBD
Seated Athlete Manual		TBD
Electronic Starting Guide		TBD
Verification Form	Click HERE	
Mixed Gender Relay Waiver		Click HERE
Medical Waiver	Click HERE	
Non-Bordering State Waiver	Click HERE	
OHSAA Officials Handbook	Click HERE	
NFHSLearn.com Fundamentals of Coaching	Click HERE	
NFHSLearn.com Sport-Specific Coaching	Click HERE	Click HERE
NFHSLearn.com Sportsmanship Course	Click HERE	
NFHSLearn.com Track & Field Officiating	Click HERE	
NFHSLearn.com Interscholastic Officiating	Click HERE	
Tournament information can be found by clicking the appropriate links on the sport-specific OHSAA Sport Webpage.		

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