



2024 OHSAA Cross Country Early Season Invitational Meet Information

Fortress Obetz & Memorial Park, Obetz Ohio

General Information

Spectator Questions: Spectators should direct their questions to their coach or athletic administrator. OHSAA staff will not be available via phone or email as they will be working on final preparations for the event.

Map: A map of the facility, including parking, admission gates, spectator boundaries, etc., can be found [HERE](#); Spectators are encouraged to access them from their mobile device. Paper copies of the map will not be available on-site.

Gates Open: The stadium gates will open 60 minutes prior to the start of the first race.

Parking: Free parking is available at the site in the designated areas on the map.

RV Parking: No RV parking is available or allowed.

Tickets/Admission: Tickets go on sale Monday, August 12 at ohsaa.org/tickets ONLY; no cash sales will be available. Students \$5, Adults \$10. Once entering the stadium, you will receive a hand stamp that will allow for reentry without an additional ticket.

Live Results: Live results can be found on the [OHSAA Cross Country Page](#).

Smoking/Vaping/Tobacco: Smoking/vaping and the use of tobacco products are prohibited in all areas.

Umbrellas: Umbrellas are prohibited in the stands.

Food & Drink: No outside food or drink is permitted inside the stadium.

Concessions: Concessions will be available inside the stadium.

Merchandise: Meet merchandise will be available for purchase from EA Graphics inside the stadium.

Spectator Access: Spectators are prohibited from entering competition areas during the event. Spectators who enter restricted areas will be removed from the facility without a refund.

Prohibited Items for Spectators: Bicycles, pets, weapons of any kind, and drones are prohibited at the event, both inside and outside of the stadium.

Team, Coach, & Athlete Information

Stadium Walk-Through: The course will open 90 minutes prior to the start of the first race to those with wristbands and bibs.

Board-Approved Coaches: Per OHSAA Regulations, each team must be accompanied by a board-approved coach. This regulation applies to all OHSAA contests, not just this event.

Packet Pick Up: Packets will be available for pick up in the team camp area near the school transport parking area starting 90 minutes before the first race. The packet tent is indicated by a "P" on the map and will have signage, look for a yellow feather flag. Packets MUST be picked up by a board-approved coach, not parents. **Coaches should ensure all needed items are in the packet before leaving as replacement credentials will not be provided after the packet is taken from the area.**

Coach & Athlete Admission: Each team will receive one coach's wristband that will provide them access to the competition area; coaches must wear the wristband on their wrist the entire time. Athletes entered in the meet will receive a bib that will provide them access to the competition area when worn.

Coaches & Athlete Course Access:

- ONLY coaches with a provided wristband and athletes wearing their issued bib number will be permitted access to the competition area.
- Those accessing the competition area without the appropriate credentials, as well as those transferring credentials or using fake credentials, will be subject to disqualification from the meet (ejection), which would include suspension from future contests.
- Once the race begins, coaches and athletes should stay several feet outside the course boundaries.
- During the race, when the course moves through the stadium, coaches and non-competing athletes must stay off the turf and on the grass.
- During the finish of the race, coaches and non-competing athletes may move to the barrier on the turf near the finish straight.

Bib Numbers: Bib numbers will be issued to all athletes entered to compete. They must be worn on the chest and secured in all four corners. Lost bibs can be replaced at the timing trailer by completing the bib replacement form, they will be subject to a \$10 per bib replacement fee that will be billed to your school following the meet.

Substitutions:

- Once registration closes, no additions will be allowed.
- Substitutions & moves between races will be accepted via an online substitution form ONLY until noon on Friday, August 16; no substitution or changes sent via email, text, or phone call will be made.
- Substitutions after noon on Friday can be made by completing the substitution form that is available at the timing trailer or packet pickup tent and turning it in to the timing trailer at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the race. It must then be taken to the clerk before the athletes may check in.
- Substitutions within 30 minutes of the start of the race will not be accepted.

Spikes: OHSAA & NFHS regulations on spikes apply.

Check-In: Athletes can check in no more than 30 minutes prior to the start of their race at their designated clerking tent. Bib numbers will be verified, and uniforms will be checked at that time.

Contest Rules: While this is the first meet of the season, ALL contest rules and regulations will be followed. Officials will do their best to prevent violations; however, no rules will or can be ignored.

Prohibited Items For Coaches:

- Coaches are prohibited from using bicycles or any device to move through the course (including golf carts).
- Coaches are prohibited from placing markers or indicators of any kind on or adjacent to the course.
- Coaches are prohibited from using bells, whistles, bull horns, or any other device to communicate with your student-athletes during competition.
- Drones are prohibited.

Usage of any of the above-listed items is a violation of NFHS contest regulations and could result in the disqualification of your athlete(s).

The Course:

- The course has been set up with double lines throughout with the exception of the finish straight.
- Cones, flagging and barricades will be utilized throughout the course in appropriate areas.
- Signage is placed every 400M indicating the current distance.
- Non-competing athletes wearing bibs should avoid standing near the 1M/2M split mats. The mats will capture scans from the non-competing athletes, causing delays in processing results.

Lead Cart: Weather permitting, a lead cart will be used for all races. The lead cart will not travel up the sledding hill on the back of the course or down the finish straight. Athletes should be aware of this when traversing the course.

The Finish:

- As athletes finish, if they are timing themselves on a watch, they MUST stop their watch by holding both hands over their head. Stopping their watch in front of the body not only blocks their bib number from the finish cameras, but it may also prevent their bib chip from being recorded. Athletes who stop their watch in front of their body vs over their head may not have their finish recorded.
- Athletes should not stop and/or fall immediately after completing the race. Doing so puts them and other athletes at increased risk of injury. Additionally, if an athlete stopping or falling immediately upon finishing the race interferes with another athlete finishing, they could be subject to disqualification.

Awards:

- Team trophies will be given for the 4 team races for champion and runner-up. These awards will be given at the podium following the conclusion of the race.
- Medals will be given to the top 30 runners in all 5K races. The top 10 finishers will be sent to the podium for awards; all others will be given as they finish.
- Ribbons will be given to the first 30 runners in both 2M races as they finish.

Water: Bottled water will be available as athletes finish their race. Each team must provide additional hydration beverages for their athletes.

Athletic Training: Five athletic trainers and one physician from Kettering Health will be on hand to handle athlete-related needs. They will be available near the finish line, and at least one will be on the course. EMS will also be on site. NO parents or coaches will be permitted access to the competition/medical area unless requested by the medical staff; this is to ensure their focus is on the athlete not on crowd control.

Weather Emergencies: We will follow the OHSAA/NFHS 30 minute rule related to lightning and thunder. If severe weather occurs while a race is taking place, officials positioned through the course will sound air horns singling athletes to go IMMEDIATELY to their team transportation. Once competition is suspended, everyone must vacate team camps, the stadium and course area and move to their vehicles. Once in a weather delay, communication related to restarting will be made by PA announcement and emails through MileSplit.

Coaches or Administrator Questions: Coaches and administrators with questions should first review this document & the [OHSAA Cross Country Page](#). If, after reviewing the information, there are still questions, please send them via email to BJ Duckworth, OHSAA Sport Administrator, bjduckworth@ohsaa.org. Every possible effort will be made to respond promptly; however, responses may be delayed due to final venue preparations. Staff will not be available via phone to answer questions.



Respect
THE
GAME

Scan the QR Code for:
Time Schedule
Course Map
Live Results & More

