



2024 OHSAA Cross Country State Championship 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](#); you are encouraged to access the map from your mobile device. Paper copies of the map will not be available on-site outside of the two provided to each team.

Gates Open: The stadium gates will open 90 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: Limited RV parking is available. Those interested in RV parking must contact Andy Scholz, Fortress Obetz Operations Director, at ascholz@obetz.oh.us at least 72 hours in advance.

Tickets/Admission: Tickets go on sale Monday, October 28 at ohsaa.org/tickets ONLY; **no cash sales will be available.** Students \$10, Adults \$15. Once entering the stadium, you will receive a hand stamp that will allow for reentry without an additional ticket. **All spectators must purchase a ticket.**

Live Results: Live results can be found on the [OHSAA Cross Country State Championship Page](#). The results found there and on the video boards at the stadium are unofficial until the end of the appeals period.

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. There are no food/drink restrictions in the team camp area.

Concessions: Concessions will be available inside the stadium.

Merchandise & Programs: Meet merchandise will be available for purchase from EA Graphics inside the stadium. Programs will also be available inside the stadium for \$5. Merchandise can also be purchased online by clicking [HERE](#).

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

Course Preview:

- **Friday, November 1:** The course and stadium will be open for preview from Noon to 5 p.m. All teams and individuals MUST leave the facility promptly at 5 p.m. The preview is open to all team-related individuals, including non-participating teammates. **Fortress Obetz will have several food trucks on hand Friday with items for sale.** Parts of the course may be off-limits during the Friday walk-through to accommodate additional course setup or to ensure good course conditions for the championship.
- **Saturday, November 2:** The course will open 90 minutes prior to the start of the first race to those with wristbands and bibs and remain open throughout the day. Once the race begins, coaches and athletes should stay several feet outside the course boundaries.
- **NO OTHER** course preview will be available.

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 pavilion 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. 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 two coach's wristbands that will provide them access to the competition area; coaches must wear the wristband on their wrist the entire time. Athletes & alternates entered in the meet will receive a bib that will provide them access to the competition area when worn.
- Each team w/individual qualifiers will receive one coach's wristband for their team that will provide them access to the competition area; coaches must wear the wristband on their wrist the entire time. The athlete 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.
- **NEW IN 2024** - 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 \$20 per bib replacement fee that will be billed to your school following the meet.

Substitutions:

- More information will be sent directly to advancing coaches following the conclusion of the regionals related to the process used. While changes will be accepted throughout the week, only changes submitted by the end of the day on Monday, October 28, will be included in the souvenir program.
- Substitutions will be accepted via an online substitution form ONLY until noon on Friday, November 1; no substitution or changes sent via email, text, or phone call will be made. The form will be available on the MileSplit Meet Page for the appropriate division.
- Substitutions after noon on Friday can be made by completing the substitution form that is available at the timing trailer or packet pickup 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.

Box Assignments: Box assignments will be posted on the [OHSAA Cross Country State Championship Page](#) once they have been completed, no later than 6pm on Wednesday, October 30. They will be included in your packets.

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; the tent assigned to your athletes will be indicated on your packet. Bib numbers will be verified, and uniforms will be checked at that time.

Contest Rules: ALL NFHS & OHSAA contest rules and regulations will be followed. Officials will do their best to prevent violations; however, they will not ignore violations. It is recommended that you review the [Tournament Regulations](#) before the event.

Appeals: All appeals will follow OHSAA and NFHS regulations. The 30-minute appeals period begins once the order of finish has been finalized, and it will be announced following each race. Coaches may file a written appeal by obtaining an appeals form from the meet referee.

Prohibited Items For Coaches:

- Coaches are prohibited from using wheeled devices such as bicycles or scooters 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, except for the finish.
- 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 and coaches carrying bibs must avoid standing near the split mats. The mats will capture scans from the non-competing bibs, 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 and could be recorded as a DNF.
- 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 to the champion and runner up.
- Medals will be given to the top 20 finishers at the awards podium.
- **When called, teams must enter the awards area by using the gate located in the center of the stands; once awards are completed, they will exit the same gate. Teams will NOT be allowed to enter through any other entrance.**

Athletic Training: Kettering Health will be on hand to handle athlete-related medical needs. They will be available near the finish line, and at least one will be on the course. EMS will also be on-site and will be provided by Ohio Health. **NO parents will be permitted access to the competition/medical area unless requested by the medical staff; this is to ensure the medical team can focus 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 the competition is suspended, everyone must vacate team camps, the stadium, and the 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 Championship 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.

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

**Respect
THE
GAME**

