2026 OHSAA Cross Country State Championships 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 one 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. Please click HERE to review the parking map/directions prior to departing for the meet. Please follow the direction of staff as well as signage placed throughout the facility.

Tailgating: Due to the limited parking space and for the safety of everyone, tailgating, including the use of grills, fires, tents, awnings, etc., is prohibited. All tents MUST be located in the team camp area.

RV Parking: **Per Obetz City Ordinance, RVs are now PROHIBITED in city parks, therefore they are prohibited at our events.**

Tickets/Admission: Tickets go on sale Monday, November 2 at ohsaa.org/tickets ; Students $10, Adults $16. **Student tickets will not be available for purchase online and will be available for purchase at the Center Gate the day of the event.** **All spectators** 6 years and up must purchase a ticket. Once you enter 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 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 for $10, credit card ONLY. Merchandise can also be purchased 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, megaphones, air horns, and drones are prohibited at the event, both inside and outside of the stadium.

Medical Assistance: Ohio Health EMS will be on site for any spectator medical needs.

Safety & Security: Obetz Police will be on hand to provide security for the event. They will be supported by Fortress Obetz, OHSAA, and Event Staff. If in need of assistance please contact the nearest staff person.

Team, Coach, & Athlete Information

Virtual Coaches Meeting: A virtual coaches meeting will be required of all coaches. The meeting will be previously recorded, and a link will be provided to all coaches of advancing teams and individuals. The meeting must be viewed by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4; failure to complete the meeting will result in a $50 per-team fine.

Course Preview:

- **Friday, November 6**: The course and stadium will be open for preview, **no practice allowed,** 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. *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 7:** The course and stadium 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. Those entering the course or stadium prior to its opening will be subject to removal from the tournament or ejection from the facility.
- **NO OTHER** course preview will be available.

School Transport Parking & Entrance: All school transport vehicles **MUST** enter via Alum Creek Drive & Recreation Trail. They then must drop off their students and coaches in the fitness center parking lot near the packet pickup pavilion. Buses will park in the fitness center parking lot; all other types of school transportation (vans, minibuses, etc.) will be directed to park opposite the team camp area. School transports must exit via Maureen Drive. A School Transportation map can be found by clicking HERE.

Team Camps: Team camps may be set up in the designated area as indicated on the map. No team camps should be placed within 15 feet of the rope/fence line to allow spectators to watch the race. Due to underground irrigation, **ABSOLUTELY NO STAKES** may be used to secure tents; weights must be used. Teams/schools are responsible for the repair costs of damage caused by their team. **No tents may be placed ANYWHERE other than the designated area.**

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. The coach picking up the packet must have a valid Pupil Activity Permit and be school board approved.

Packet Pickup: Packets will be available for pickup in the pavilion near the school transport parking area starting 90 minutes before the first race. The packet pavilion is indicated by a yellow flag on the map and will have signage; look for a yellow feather flag in front of the pavilion. The coach picking up the packet must have a valid Pupil Activity Permit and be school board approved. Coaches must 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.

Bib Numbers: Bib numbers, with electronic chips embedded, 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 van 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. All athletes and alternates will be issued a bib; athletes may keep their bibs as a memento of their achievement.

Box Assignments: Box assignments will be posted on OHSAA Cross Country State Championship Page once they have been completed, no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4. 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. Athletes should report to their designated starting box, and a clerk will come to them. 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.

Coach & Athlete Admission and Course Access

- **Athletes & alternates** entered in the meet will receive a bib that will provide them access to the competition area when worn.
- **Each qualifying 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.
- **Each team with individual qualifiers** will receive one coach's wristband if they have 1-4 individual qualifiers and two wristbands if they have 5-7 individual qualifiers; these wristbands will provide them access to the competition area. Coaches must wear the wristband on their wrist the entire time.
- 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).
- Athletes and coaches can only access the course through the designated access points. Any athletes or coaches who cross or climb barriers to gain course access are subject to disqualification from the meet (ejection).
- 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.
- Coaches and non-competing athletes are prohibited from entering the finish or timing areas.
- Noncompeting athletes wearing a bib and coaches holding packets containing a bib must stay a minimum of 10 feet from the 1600M and 3200M mile split mats. Standing near or crossing those mats will cause false scans that may delay the results of the meet.

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.

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.

Substitutions:

- While changes will be accepted throughout the week, **only changes submitted by 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 1, will be included in the souvenir program.**
- Substitutions will be accepted via an online substitution form ONLY until noon on Friday, November 6; 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 van or packet pickup and turning it in to the timing van 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.
- Substitution forms are needed to place an alternate into the race.
- **Substitutions within 30 minutes of the start of the race will not be accepted.**

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, bullhorns, or any other device to communicate with their student-athletes during competition.

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.
  Noncompeting athletes wearing a bib and coaches holding packets containing a bib must stay a minimum of 10 feet from the 1600M and 3200M mile split mats. Standing near or crossing those mats will cause false scans that may delay the results of the meet.

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 versus over their head may not have their finish recorded and could be recorded as a DNF. An athlete being given a DNF due to this is not appealable.
- Athletes must 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 are subject to disqualification.

Medical Assistance: Sports Medicine Physicians and Athletic Trainers from Ohio 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. Ohio Health EMS will be on site for any spectator medical needs. 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.

Safety & Security: Obetz Police will be on hand to provide security for the event. They will be supported by Fortress Obetz, OHSAA, and Event Staff. If in need of assistance, please contact the nearest staff person.

Awards:

- Team trophies will be given to the champion and runner up.
- Medals will be given to the top 20 finishers for D1, and 24 finishers for D2-4 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.
- OATCCC All Ohio: The Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches will be awarding All Ohio honors during the meet. Those in the top 20 (D1) or top 24 (D2-4) will receive 1st Team All Ohio honors on the podium when presented their OHSAA medal. Those finishing 21-40 (D1) and 25-48 (D2-4) will report to the OATCCC tent located near gates D & E to receive their award. For questions about the OATCCC All Ohio honors please contact the OATCCC directly at https://www.oatccc.com/Contact-Us/ or visit their tent at the championship.
- Academic All Ohio information will be available at the OATCCC tent.

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 throughout the course will sound air horns signaling 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 the Final Forms contact list.

Media Interviews: The OHSAA appreciates the cooperation of student-athletes and coaches who participate in media interviews following their event(s). Participation in media interviews is an important part of the state tournament, and working with the media can be a beneficial learning experience for your athletes. Following each event, athletes should report to the designated media/athlete interview area, where interviews will take place. The media/athlete interview area is located behind the awards tent. When the awards ceremony begins, all interviews must stop and athletes are to report to the awards stand.

Coaches or Administrator Questions: Coaches and administrators with questions should first review this document and the OHSAA Cross Country State 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.

Respect THE GAME

OHSAA

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