

2026 7th & 8th Cross Country State Championships Meet Information

Fortress Obetz & Memorial Park, Obetz, Ohio



General & Spectator 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 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 directions 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, October 19 at ohsaa.org/tickets; Students \$5, Adults \$10. **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 7th & 8th Grade 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 restrictions on food or drink 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. Merchandise can also be purchased [HERE](#). Programs will also be available inside the stadium for \$5, credit card only.

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. Megaphones and air horns are prohibited.

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

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, such as 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](#).

Stadium Walk-Through: The course will open 90 minutes prior to the start of the first race to those with wristbands and bibs. No course access will be available at any other time.

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 ft. 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 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.

Coach & Athlete Admission: Each team will receive **three** coach's wristbands 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.

Coach & 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.
- Coaches and non-competing athletes are prohibited from entering the finish or timing areas.

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

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 van 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.

Spikes: OHSAA & NFHS regulations on spikes apply.

Awards:

- Team trophies will be given for champion and runner-up in team races. 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 team championship races at the podium. The top 20 finishers in open races will receive awards as they finish.

Substitutions:

- Once registration closes, **no additions will be allowed.**
- Substitutions will be accepted via an online substitution form ONLY until noon on Friday, October 23; no substitution or changes sent via email, text, or phone call will be made.
- Due to printing deadlines, substitutions made after Tuesday, October 20, will not be printed in the souvenir program.
- 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.
- Substitutions within 30 minutes of the start of the race will not be accepted.

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.

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).

Contest Rules: ALL contest rules and regulations will be followed. Officials will do their best to prevent violations; however, no rules will or can be ignored.

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 1M split mats. The mats will capture scans from the non-competing athletes, causing delays in processing results.

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.

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

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

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.

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 MileSplit.

Coaches or Administrator Questions: Coaches and administrators with questions should first review this document and the [OHSAA 7th & 8th Grade 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

