



2026 OHSAA Pre-Season Invitational 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.

Tailgating: Due to the limited parking space and for the safety of everyone, tailgating, including the use of grills, fires, tents, awnings, etc. and the consumption of alcohol, is prohibited. All tents **MUST** be located in the team camp area and weighed down, spikes are **NOT** allowed.

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, August 17 at ohsaa.org/tickets; Students \$5, Adults \$10. All spectators must purchase a ticket. **Purchasing tickets in advance will reduce wait times upon arrival at the venue.** 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 Pre-Season Invitational 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. There are no restrictions on food or drink in the team camp area.

Concessions: Concessions will be available inside the stadium.

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

School Transport Parking & Entrance: All school transport **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 pick-up pavilion. Buses will park in the fitness center parking lot, all other types of school transportation (vans, mini busses, etc.) will be directed to park in the spectator area near gate B. 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 15ft of the rope/fence line to allow spectators to watch the race. Due to underground irrigation, **ABSOLUTLY 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 be listed on the schools Final Forms/MyOHSAA page as a coach.

Packet Pick Up: Packets will be available for pick up 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. **The coach picking up the packet must be listed on the schools Final Forms/MyOHSAA page as a 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 **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.

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. Please double check with the umpire to ensure the area is clear before moving to center barrier.
- Coaches and non-competing athletes are prohibited from entering the finish or timing areas.

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. Bib numbers will be verified, and uniforms will be checked at that time. All athletes must be in legal team uniforms.

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.

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.

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 Thursday, August 20 for Divisions 1 & 2 and Friday, August 21 for Divisions 3 & 4; no substitution or changes sent via email, text, or phone call will be made.
- Substitutions & moves after the deadline above can be made by completing the substitution form that is available at the timing van or packet pickup tent 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 bicycles or any device to move through the course (including golf carts & any motorized items).
- 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 OHSAA and/or NFHS contest regulations and could result in the disqualification of your athlete(s).

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 rather than 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.

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.

Awards:

- Team trophies will be given for the team races for champion and runner-up. These awards will be given at the podium following the conclusion of the appeals period.
- Medals will be given to the top 30 runners in all races. The top 10 finishers will be sent to the podium for awards; all others will be given as they finish.

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

Sports Medicine: Staff 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 and to assist the Sports Medicine team. 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.

Golf Cart Identification: Numerous golf carts will be used inside the restricted area by meet staff, to help you identify the carts please look for the identification flag on the cart.

Red = Medical, Blue = Police, Green = Meet Referee & Head Umpire, No Flag = Support Staff

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

Weather Emergencies: We will follow the OHSA/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 signaling 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 Athletic.net.

Coaches or Administrator Questions: Coaches and administrators with questions should first review this document & the [OHSA Pre-Season Invitational Page](#). If, after reviewing the information, there are still questions, please send them via email to BJ Duckworth, OHSA Sport Administrator, bjduckworth@ohsa.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



**Respect
THE
GAME**