

Cross Country (Boys & Girls)

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE

1. ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOLS WILL BE ON A GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS IN THREE DIVISIONS (1-2-3).

- The largest 120 schools sponsoring cross country in the WIAA membership in Division 1.
- The next largest 122 schools sponsoring cross country in the WIAA membership in Division 2.
- The remaining schools sponsoring cross country will be in Division 3.
- Cooperative teams are placed into divisional competition on the basis of the combined enrollment of the schools involved.
- Schools may be allowed to play up one division in any sport (except football) from where its enrollment would otherwise place it if an application is submitted prior to **December 1**. This will not cause other schools to be displaced.

Note: Please refer to tournament performance factor and procedures outlined in the Constitution, Article III, 3B and Appendix N.

2. THE TOURNAMENT PLAN – LEVELS OF COMPETITION, DATES, QUALIFYING, AND SITES – IS AS FOLLOWS:

Note: In the event scheduled classes are interrupted or terminated due to infectious/communicable disease, refer to WIAA Bylaws, Article II, Section 6-A. (p. 25) of WIAA SENIOR HIGH HANDBOOK.

- Schools are assigned to:
 - Division 1 – One of ten sectionals on Saturday, October 24, 2026.
 - Division 2 – One of eight sectionals on Friday, October 23, 2026.
 - Division 3 – One of eight sectionals on Saturday, October 24, 2026.

It is recommended that whenever possible sectionals be held on Saturday.

 - Assignments of teams to tournaments and host schools for those tournaments will be posted **on the WIAA website < <http://www.wiaawi.org> >, then access the Cross Country Home Page.**
- State Meet
 - The State Meet will be held on Saturday, October 31, at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids with Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School as the host.
 - Participating in the State Meet will be:
 - 20 teams in Division 1 and 16 in Divisions 2 and 3.
 - This includes from each sectional.
 - The first two teams.
 - The first five individuals who are not members of a qualifying team.

3. RULES GOVERNING COMPETITION

All specifications of Numbers 8 and 15 under SEASON REGULATIONS (pages 4-5) will apply with these exceptions and additions:

Athletes who are ineligible during the WIAA Tournament (for any reason) may not appear in uniform, participate in warm-ups, and may not participate in the awards ceremony at the WIAA Tournament. Exception: An injured athlete will be allowed to participate in the awards ceremony provided he/she is included in the roster allotment for that game.

- A school may not compete in the tournament program if it has participated in more than 11 meets.
- A school must compete in a minimum of four meets in the regular season to be eligible for tournament competition.
- A tournament team consists of a maximum of seven individuals. A school with less than a full team (1-4 competitors) is eligible only for individual competition.
 - A school may change its squad make-up from one level of tournament competition to the next.
 - A school is expected to provide their meet manager, by a designated date, an alphabetical list of its participants for purposes of publicity, programs, etc.
- Wireless Communication Devices

The use of wireless communication devices (i.e., headsets, radios, cellular phones, etc.) except by meet management and meet officials is **PROHIBITED**.
- Videotapes/Television Equipment

The use of videotapes or any other television equipment will not be used by the meet manager, the jury of appeals, or chute director to verify or determine:

 - Disqualifications
 - Officiating Decisions

Note: Sectional hosts who choose to use "chip timing" must have a video system and manual timing for back-up. Video review would be used **only** to verify order of finish. Finish places may change based on officials' review of the videotape.

Sectional hosts using manual timing may use a video system as a back-up to the chute to determine finishes when determined necessary. The meet referee will determine the necessity of video review.
- Preventative Officiating
 - The clerk of course, meet referee, and both starters should prior to the start of each race enforce uniform, visible apparel and shoe/ spikes.
 - The final responsibility, however, still lies with the athlete and/or coach.
 - Even if the clerk, meet referee, or the starters do not catch something prior to competition, if an athlete competes wearing an illegal uniform/other apparel, and/or uses illegal equipment, they will be disqualified. The disqualification may occur during or after the race. Uniforms follow NFHS Rules 8-6-1 & 2 Penalty, 8-6-3 Penalty.

g. Jury of Appeals

(1) Sectional

- (a) Each tournament site must appoint a jury of appeals consisting of the contracted WIAA starter, the meet manager, and three coaches (at least one boys, one girls) not from the same school or host school.
- (b) The meet referee cannot be a part of this committee.
- (c) The membership of this committee must be published and sent to all involved schools prior to the meet.
- (d) This committee serves as the final board of appeals. Their responsibilities include:
 - 1) Hearing and ruling on appeals of official's decisions.
 - 2) This committee, however, has no authority to set aside, modify, or change defined WIAA tournament qualifying procedures or National Federation Track & Field Rules.
- (e) If anyone on the committee has his/her school involved with an appeal they must withdraw from that particular committee review.
- (f) The WIAA does not have the authority to change a meet referee or jury of appeals decision.
- (g) The meet referee must assemble this committee prior to the start of the meet to review their responsibilities.

(2) State

- (a) The jury of appeals shall consist of: the WIAA Tournament Manager, the State Meet On-Site Coordinator, two contracted WIAA starters, and a coach representing WCCCA.
- (b) Responsibilities and duties are identical to sectional.

h. Box Assignments

The WIAA will assign schools to starting boxes for sectionals and State using a random draw.

i. Length of Course – 5000 meters for both girls and boys for the tournament series (NFHS 8-1)

Scoring (Rule 8-2-1, 2, & 3)

- 1. All competitors who finish the race shall be ranked and tallied.
- 2. The team score shall then be determined by totaling the points scored by the first five finishers of each team.
- 3. The team which scores the smallest number of points is the winner.
- 4. If fewer than five competitors of a team finish, the places of all members of that team shall be disregarded and the team scores reranked.

Ties (Rule 8-2-4 & 5)

- 1. Ties in team scoring shall be resolved by comparing the sixth place finishers from the tying teams.
- 2. The team with the best sixth place finisher wins.
- 3. If one team does not have a sixth place finisher, the team with the sixth place finisher wins.
- 4. If only five competitors of tying teams finish, the tie shall be resolved by totaling the scores of the first four finishers.

The Board of Control has approved a policy for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or drones at outdoor WIAA State Tournament Series events. UAVs are prohibited at all WIAA indoor tournaments. Drone operation requires a Remote Pilot Command license. Operators must also receive written consent from the WIAA executive office at least 24 hours in advance, as well as approval of the host facility event management. The complete policy for UAVs is located on page 50 of the Senior High Handbook. Contact the WIAA office with all requests to operate drones at WIAA Tournament events.

- k. A designated, on-site event, appropriate health-care professional who determines an athlete should not participate, shall not be overruled.

4. SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

a. Entries

- (1) The sectional meet entry deadline is Tuesday, October 20 at 11:59 p.m.
- (2) Any school that misses the entry deadline will still be allowed to enter but their reimbursement will be withheld if their team or individual(s) qualify for the State Meet. The WIAA will also send a letter of reprimand to the school's administration.

b. Scheduling of Competition

The exact time schedule is left to the prerogative of the host school manager. It is recommended that whenever possible sectionals be held on Saturday. The following instructions apply:

(1) Friday Sectionals

- (a) Host schools should schedule their competition with regard for the normal school day.
- (b) Competition should not begin earlier than 4 p.m.

(2) Saturday Sectionals

- (a) Starting times should accommodate schools traveling. Schools should not be expected to leave their community before 7 a.m.
- (b) The WIAA recommends a starting time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

(3) The girls race must be conducted first.

(4) There must be 90 minutes of course warm-up time prior to the first race.

(5) There must be 45 minutes between the girls and the boys races.

(6) It is not permissible to conduct any kind of other competition, formal or informal, (junior varsity meet, time trials, runoffs, etc.) in conjunction with the sectional meet.

(7) All runners competing in sectionals are required to wear a number provided by the sectional host (WIAA).

c. Officials

- (1) The WIAA will contract two officials (referee and starter) for each sectional.
- (2) Officials will be paid:
 - (a) Officiating Fee – \$100.

- (b) **Officials shall travel together when practical.**
- (c) Expenses - 55¢ per mile (round trip) for travel.
- d. Awards
 - (1) Plaque to championship and runner-up teams.
 - (2) Medals to:
 - (a) Members (7) of championship and runner-up teams.
 - (b) First five individuals who are not members of a qualifying team, with the individual sectional champion receiving a gold medal (even if he/she is a member of the championship team).
 - (c) It is recommended that meet managers use the following procedures for their Awards Presentations:
 - 1) Read team scores from last to second place.
 - 2) Call up each runner from the second place team reading their name, place, time, and present medal.
 - 3) Present WIAA sectional runner-up plaque to coach.
 - 4) Have second place team stay in Awards Area.
 - 5) Call up each runner from the first place team reading their name, place, time, and present medal.
 - 6) Present WIAA sectional championship plaque to coach.
 - 7) Have first place team also stay in Awards Area.
 - 8) Call up the five individual State qualifiers and present each runner his/her medal.
 - (d) Schools may purchase from the WIAA additional medals for members of the championship and runner-up teams.
- e. Finances
 - (1) Host School Allowance
 - (a) The school will receive \$635, plus consideration will be given for reimbursement of other approved reasonable expenses.
 - 1) Timing company expense \$1,000.
 - (b) The tournament manager will receive \$135.
 - (c) The host school will pay two officials (referee and starter) \$100 game fee. Officials will be reimbursed 55¢ per mile for travel reimbursement.
 - (d) A host school will not receive any allowances or reimbursements unless the Cross Country Tournament Reimbursement Form is completed and returned to the WIAA office within two weeks of the conclusion of the tournament.
 - (2) Participating Schools Allowance - There is no allowance of any kind for participating schools.
 - (3) Ticket Prices - If admission is charged, the host school determines the price, but it cannot exceed the State Meet price (\$9).
 - (4) Admission Policy

If admission is charged, only the following people will be allowed free admission:

 - (a) Seven competing runners.
 - (b) Three additional individuals (coaches, managers, etc.)
 - (c) There is no provision for free admissions for school administrators, bands, or cheerleaders.

5. STATE MEET

- a. General Regulations
 - (1) Schools with runners competing in the State Meet are not allowed on any of the land comprising The Ridges Golf Course on Friday including just driving up to the Club House to look around, unless they are doing business at The Ridges (i.e., eating in the restaurant, etc.).
 - (2) Schools qualifying teams for the State Meet may bring only their team, plus one alternate to the State Meet.
- b. Warm-ups
 - (1) The State Meet course will be open for State competitors only to walk/run from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. the Saturday morning of the State Meet.
 - (2) Qualified athletes, alternates and coaches are allowed on the State Meet course during the warm-up time.
 - (3) Teams on the State Meet course wanting to warm up while races are in progress must wait until all runners in the entered race have passed through the area.
- c. Scheduling of Competition
 - (1) Welcome and National Anthem (11:30 a.m.)
 - (2) Competition will commence at 12:00 p.m. with races in the following order:

Girls' Competition 12:00 p.m. – Division 3 12:40 p.m. – Division 2 1:20 p.m. – Division 1	Boys' Competition 2:00 p.m. – Division 3 2:35 p.m. – Division 2 3:10 p.m. – Division 1
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- d. Awards
 - (1) Individual and team awards will be presented at The Ridges beginning 15 minutes after the start of the last race.
 - (2) Trophy to championship and runner-up teams.
 - (3) Medals to:
 - (a) Members (7) of championship and runner-up teams.
 - (b) First ten athletes regardless of status (individual or team).
 - (c) Schools may purchase from the WIAA additional medals for members of the championship and runner-up teams.

e. Officials

- (1) The WIAA will contract four officials (one meet referee and three starters) for the State Meet.
- (2) Officials will be paid:
 - (a) Officiating Fee - \$140.
 - (b) Expenses
 - 1) **Officials shall travel together when practical. 55¢ per mile (round trip) for travel.**
 - 2) Necessary meals and lodging.

f. Finances

(1) Host School Allowances

- (a) The WIAA will subsidize the State Meet in the amount of the net deficit.
- (b) The WIAA will pay the fees and expenses of three officials (referee and two starters).

(2) Participating Schools Allowance

Schools will receive an allowance for their State Meet expenses. The following factors will be used to determine the amount each school receives:

- (a) Travel to and from the State Meet at the rate of 70¢ per mile.
- (b) No travel allowance will be paid to schools located in the State Meet city.
- (c) An allowance of \$60 for each actual participant, plus one other person.

(3) Ticket Prices Child/Student/Adult – Children two and under do not require a ticket

State Meet \$9 *

*On-line ticket sales subject to processing and handling fees.

(4) Admission Policies

Free admissions will be provided only for:

- (a) Seven members of qualified team.
- (b) Individual qualifiers.
- (c) Three additional individuals (coaches, managers, etc.)
- (d) There is no provision for free admissions for school administrators, bands, or cheerleaders.

6. RADIO AND TELEVISION (See Radio and Television Section in HANDBOOK)