



## Oregon School Activities Association

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August 14, 2023

To: Athletic Directors and Head XC Coaches

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Subject: 2023-24 Cross Country Reminders

Included within this memo are reminders regarding OSAA policies and NFHS rules specific to Cross Country that each coaching staff should review as we begin a new season. The links provided will take you directly to more detailed information regarding that specific reminder. Each school offering Cross Country should have received one copy of the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book from the OSAA, and if your Athletic Director has your email address listed on the OSAA website under your school, you will be able to have one NFHS eBook of the rules. If your school didn't receive your copy, please let me know. Feel free to contact me if you have questions and best of luck this season!

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### OSAA Cross Country Plan Book

<https://www.osaa.org/docs/planbooks/xcpplan.pdf>

The 2023 OSAA Cross Country Plan Book is available on the OSAA website. This plan book contains information regarding important season dates, NFHS rules information, OSAA Cross Country rules and policies, state championship information and qualifications, etc.

#### Health and Safety Information

<http://www.osaa.org/health-safety>

The OSAA website contains a variety of information regarding heat and hydration, lightning safety, air quality, and concussion management. This page contains links to informational items that all coaches should familiarize themselves with as practices begin.

#### Heat Index Alerts

<http://www.osaa.org/heat-index>

ADs and coaches should subscribe to heat alerts through the OSAA website. Alerts are sent about 11am daily when the forecasted heat index in your area is high. If an alert is received, OSAA policy requires that schools check the actual heat index within one hour prior to the start of practice to determine if modifications must be made. If no alert is received, no further action is required by the school that day.

#### Air Quality Guidelines:

<http://www.osaa.org/health-safety/air-quality>

it's important to review the updated [Air Quality Guidelines](#). The OSAA Executive Board recently amended this policy which allows schools to participate in contests up to an AQI of 150 (previously 100). Schools should consider rescheduling to a different time and/or area with a lower AQI when the AQI is between 101-150 (orange). Cancellation is required for outdoor events when AQI reaches 151 (red). It also clarifies that schools in remote areas not near a DEQ reporting station may refer to Purple Air monitors for monitoring air quality using the [EPA's Fire and Smoke Map](#). The policy suggests schools consider the impact of elevated AQI lasting for multiple days and the impact of prolonged exposure for athletes and staff on multiple practice session days when making decisions.

#### Practice Model

<http://www.osaa.org/docs/handbooks/PracticeModelBP.pdf>

The Practice Model **now requires athletes to have a minimum of five days of actual practice prior to participation in a jamboree or interscholastic contest**. Please familiarize yourself with this policy. Notable requirements contained in the policy include:

- ✓ Prohibition on consecutive days of multiple practice sessions
- ✓ A teaching session as one of the practice sessions on the first two multiple practice days (the intensity, duration and pace of all practice components in a teaching session shall be modified from a normal practice session)
- ✓ Maximum of one hour of weight training before or after practice on a single practice session day

## **2023-24 NFHS Track & Field / Cross Country Rule Changes:**

See the [NFHS website](#) for a complete list of changes.

### **State Championships Seeding Criteria**

#### **Members Per Committee**

6A - 1 coach per league, per gender + OACA Rep

4A - 1 coach per league + OACA Rep

2A/1A Boys - 1 coach per district + OACA Rep

5A - 1 coach per league + OACA Rep

3A Boys - 1 coach per district + OACA Rep

3A/2A/1A Girls - 1 coach per district + OACA Rep

**Ineligible Coaches** - *A coach cannot be a league/district representative on the At-Large committee if they have a team (boys and/or girls) in the At-Large Pool.*

#### **Process for Choosing the Committee Members**

1. Each league/district will be responsible for choosing their own representative(s).
  - A. A list of substitute coach representatives must be created so that they can be on the committee in the case that a current committee member has a team in the At-Large Pool.

#### **Determining Eligible Teams**

1. Based on District Meet finish placements
  - A. 6A & 4A - Only third and fourth place teams from each district qualifying event may be considered for at-large berths.
    - i. 6A - 14 eligible teams for four (4) spots
    - ii. 4A - 12 eligible teams for one (1) spot
  - B. 5A, 3A Boys, 2A/1A Boys, and 3A/2A/1A Girls - Only third, fourth, and fifth place teams from each league/district qualifying event may be considered for at-large berths.
    - i. 5A - 12 eligible teams for five (5) spots
    - ii. 3A Boys - 12 eligible teams for four (4) spots
    - iii. 2A/1A Boys - 12 eligible teams for three (3) spots
    - iv. 3A/2A/1A Girls - 12 eligible teams for two (2) spots

#### **Criteria for Choosing Teams**

1. Order of finish at district meet (ex. a fourth-place team is only eligible if that district's third place team has been chosen for an at-large berth).
2. Eligible team's district championship team score compared to automatic qualifying teams in the district.
3. Strength of the district based on state meet results from the previous year.
4. Head-to-head competition with more consideration given to meets later in the season, as available.

#### **Process for Choosing Teams**

1. After all district meets have been completed and results posted to athletic.net:
  - A. OSAA will host a virtual meeting to include committee members as well as OSAA staff and a representative from Athletic.net.
  - B. The OACA Rep will serve as the moderator of the discussion and will compile results.
  - C. The pool of eligible teams will be compiled by the OSAA and sent to the committees prior to the meeting.
  - D. Committee discusses strengths of each team.
  - E. After discussion is complete, the committee will narrow down the list to the number of at-large bids plus two, all committee members will then rank each team based on the number of teams remaining in the pool.
    - i. Example - 6A has 14 eligible teams (two per league) – the committee will narrow that list down to six (four at-large + two), then each member will rank their 1st choice with six, their 2nd choice with five, third choice with a four, etc. all the way down to one.
  - F. The OACA rep will vote, but their votes will only be used in the case of a tie for the final at-large berth.
  - G. Points are tabulated by the OACA Rep and OSAA and at-large berths will be assigned accordingly.