

CROSS COUNTRY
Coaches Advisory Committee
November 28, 2017

MINUTES

This summary represents the recommendations of this Committee and is not to be construed as a change or revision of existing rules or regulations. Final action on all items will be taken by the Board of Control at their January meeting.

Committee Members: Geoff Wilhelmy (Aquinas), Jeff Martin (Chetek-Weyerhaeuser), Matt Polzin (Deerfield), Casey Hopp (Madison Memorial) and Jill Werner (Waukesha North). Sara Lazarescu (Wisconsin Heights-Barneveld) attended via electronic communication. Jim Newman (On-Site Coordinator) was in attendance for State Meet discussion. The meeting was chaired by Matt Polzin and Jill Werner recorded the minutes.

Geoff Wilhelmy, Jeff Martin, and Jill Werner received a pin for their first year on the Committee.

I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 15, 2016

Last year's minutes and action taken by the Board of Control were reviewed. The minutes from last year were approved.

II. SEASON REGULATIONS

A. Review of 2017-18 Season Regulations, pages 3-6

B. Varsity vs. JV Schedule – Reminder to clearly publicize varsity vs. JV schedules so the number of meets entered is not confusing. Schedule on websites should be listed separately for each "team". Each team needs to then also keep track of each individual runners entries for the season.

C. Quick discussion about all 9th grade teams having only 8 races allowed. It is not common to have a 9th grade only cross country team.

D. It was recommended to add and edit language to the State Association Regulations, page 5. Starting Procedure: "2 minutes to the start of the race - **all coaches and non-competing athletes must vacate the area.**" Passed unanimously.

E. Items from Committee Members - Open Gyms allowed year round - you can be present, not coaching. In summer, five contact days with athletes and full coaching. Outside of the five days, there can be contact at non-school events (fun runs) as long as there is no school provided transportation, no team email doing the advertising, etc. Stephanie Hauser and Matt Polzin will be putting together a short slideshow on coaching contact rules to be used at WCCCA Conference.

III. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

A. Review of 2017-18 Tournament Regulations, pages 7-10

B. Sectional Meets on Friday – Wisconsin Valley Conference was sent to a Friday night sectional meet this year. They expressed concern with Friday sectional meets and would like it to be required to run sectional meets on Saturday. There is concern about losing a few host sites if it is mandated to Saturday meets only. Are there any requirements about when a sectional host must inform competing teams about whether the meet will be on a Saturday morning or Friday afternoon? Need to allow competing teams time to adjust season schedules if they want to add other afternoon meets to give their athletes more practice/experience with racing at that time of day after a full day of classes. Timing is currently early September. Requesting WIAA ask sectional meet hosts to declare Friday or Saturday in spring after posting assignments. Will do this in spring of 2018.

C. Divisional Structure Discussion - The two big messages that need to get out to the coaches/state:

1. Reassigning sectionals by strength is not within the WIAA philosophy and
2. We can do an at-large qualifying component, but that would likely only happen if we reduce the number of sectionals because State is already too crowded.

Matt Polzin talked about how in October he sent out a survey looking for ideas on what coaches thought needed to be fixed as far as how we qualify teams for State and/or set up sectionals. He said that he only received back around 100 responses. So responses aren't maybe indicative of what the whole state thinks but gives a good starting point for discussion. From these results, there was not much support for four divisions. But there was a fair amount of support for some kind of "at-large" qualifying system for the State Meet. A few different ideas on how this could work were discussed but more discussion will be had at the WCCCA Clinic in January.

Results of WCCCA Survey:

1. Some mention of wanting a fourth division: 13%
2. Do nothing, what we have is fine: 16%
3. At large/Extra qualifying teams at State: 24%
4. Competitive Equity (some sectionals being too strong or weak): 28%
5. Other: 19% (everything from travel time, doing super sectionals, having more teams at State, having less teams at State etc.)

WCCCA will discuss the at-large proposal at their January Clinic. There was also discussion about additional WCCCA meetings either prior to WIAA Cross Country Coaches Advisory or prior to WCCCA Clinic in January.

D. **Sectional Hosting Submission Form** – Changes to form:

1. "Special Consideration" add text box after to allow Athletic Director's to state why they should be considered.
2. "Able to host" add language from Fall Edition of Season Regulations, page 7. "It is recommended that whenever possible, sectionals are recommended to be held on Saturday." Also, reverse the dates and list Saturday as the top option. Add text box for them to state why they are choosing Friday, if that is what they submitted.
3. "Are you able to charge admission?" - Omit, not necessary.
4. "Do you have a computer program..." - change to "Will you be able to secure a timing system for the scoring/timing of the meet?"
5. "Overall rating of course condition" - Only have "very good" and "excellent" and add text box "Please describe your course."

E. **Number of Lanes/Dimensions at State Meet** - Spacing for starting boxes at State Meet - individual qualifying box sizes don't allow every qualifier a front row in box. Two suggestions - widen it, or position them in front row based on sectional qualifying times. Make sure to put same-sectional qualifiers in same box to allow for times to be used to place them. Either needs three additional boxes from 7 to 10, since there are 10 sectionals (Division 1). For Divisions 2 and 3 don't need to change, due to number of sectionals and number of boxes are ok (16 teams and 40 individuals from the eight sectionals).

Jim Newman will create 30 lanes - one for each qualifying team from each sectional as well as one lane for the individuals qualifying from that sectional.

IV. **CROSS COUNTRY RULES**

- A. **Review 2017 NFHS Track & Field/Cross Country Rules Changes** – Double boundary lines is the only change from the 2017-18 Rule Book that applies to cross country.
- B. **NFHS Rule 8-1-3b (New for 2019 Cross Country Season)** - Basically trying to simplify uniform rules.
- C. **NFHS 2017 Questionnaire** – Will share when the results are published by NFHS.
- D. **Suggestions/Points of Emphasis for Rules Video:**
 1. Varsity vs. JV vs. Varsity Reserve schedules need to be posted separately and each individual athlete's competitions need to be carefully kept track of by coaches (i.e., Varsity goes to Minnesota and Varsity Reserve heads to Oshkosh Lourdes, those need to be on two different schedules listed on website).
 2. "How Do Sectionals Get Assigned?" - Make a small video about this so coaches understand this better. Show the maps for each division and the circles.
 3. Coaching Contact - School year and summer, extra events during season, or not in-season, etc.

V. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. **Suggestions for New Committee Members** - Not needed - all current Committee members will return next year (3 year term).
- B. **WIAA Committee Flowchart** - Discussed.
- C. **State Tournament Coaches Survey:**
 - 1. Signage for coaches to find the Bunker.
 - 2. Clean up Packet Pick-up Area/Bunker.
 - 3. Sportsmanship Form - Is it necessary, what is the background?
 - 4. Speaker System - Add speakers to tent city, starting line needs more speakers/better positioning, warm-up music played too long/stop earlier for each race, turn off speakers that face the course during the race while warm-up music is playing for the next division's warm-up, warm-up music should not turn on until 10 minutes after gun goes off for each race.
 - 5. New apparel for 2018 - New system, online orders, pay by credit card.
 - 6. Individual Check-ins - Had to all check-in at one time, wait for all nine athletes to be there at once.
 - 7. Add three starting boxes - total 30 for 2018.
 - 8. Parking - More strict this year, had to be in order to make parking available for competitors.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.