

**CROSS COUNTRY**  
Coaches Advisory Committee  
November 27, 2018

**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 in attendance: Casey Hopp (Madison Memorial), Sara Lazarescu (Wisconsin Heights), Geoff Wilhelmy (Aquinas), Jeff Martin (Chetek-Weyerhaeuser), Jill Werner (Waukesha North), Matt Polzin (Deerfield) Coaches Association Representative. Kate Peterson Abiad attended representing the WIAA.

**I. SEASON REGULATIONS**

- A. Review of last year's Minutes: Motion by Matt Polzin, seconded by Jill Werner, to approve the minutes of the 2017 meeting. Passed unanimously.
- B. Review of WIAA Season Regulations
- C. Items from Committee Members
  - 1. Use of GPS Watches
    - a. Arguments against
      - i. Competitive edge for those who can afford the watches
      - ii. Could create a situation where course distance is in question – GPS can give different reads than the surveyors or course developers.
    - b. Arguments for
      - i. Currently pacing is being done by coaches – why not watches?

\*\*This is on the radar of the NFHS. The annual Questionnaire asks for opinions on this. Discussion about moving it forward in Wisconsin, prior to the NFHS. No motion.

- 2. Courses with path crossing in Sectionals – It was discussed about regulations for how to handle crossing paths. In some cases slower runners being held back. How to avoid this situation. There were some last minute change of Sectional course because of water problems. This caused some of the issues. They were looking for a quick fix. It was noted that the State Meet course also has a section where the runners cross paths. This cross is far enough apart that all runners should be through before the lead group passes through a second time. No motion

**II. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES**

- A. Review Tournament Procedures 2018. (No changes from 2017)
- B. Items from Committee Members
  - 1. State Meet
    - a. Losing crowds after the Division 1 races

- b. Spectator frustration for parking and arriving. Everyone seems to arrive at 11:00 am for the noon start. Creates a log-jam.
- c. Spectators are cutting across the course during the race to get to the next spot. This year the largest crowd was first (Division 1). There was no time to “train” the crowd during the less populated races.
- d. Perspective on the new 30 lanes/5 runners per box/Sectional Qualifiers together in same box. Agreement that this was a good change.
- e. Distance of Course – Comment about course being too long – Mid State uses surveying equipment (27 satellites) to determine distance. Jim Newman uses a wheel and measures it 3 times.
- f. Opening State Course 90 minutes before meet (want more time) – Tent City opens at 9:30/ Registration available at 9:30. Jim Newman could approve a 10:15 warmup (for the noon start). This would provide 1 hour and 45 minutes for warmups. Previously the first race was earlier, but often delayed because of frost on the course. With this change, frost should not be an issue. If frost is evident on race day, the warm-ups would have to be delayed and in-turn each race would have to push back the start time. Motion by Matt Polzin, second by Casey Hopp, to start warmups at 10:15 am. Passed unanimously.
- g. Clothing at the Finish Line. Discussion that it can’t be like State Track – adds to the congestion area.
- h. At-Large teams at State (Chad Carstens). Chad is working on a proposal that would allow extra teams to qualify for State if you put 5 runners in top 25 in your Sectional. He is not ready to put his proposal forward. Discussion about whether other teams would be bumped out, or how the State Meet could handle more runners in each division. It was brought up that it would be of interest to look at the tennis system and how they handle extra qualifiers.
- i. Non-competitors in starting area. Discussion about Boys teams cheering for girl/teammates/parents (blocking run out area). Signs indicated “For Competitors and Coaches only” – more volunteers needed to help police this area. We currently have 6 clerks and each had 5 lanes. Adding 4 more for a total of 10 clerks at State would be helpful. Coaches should police their parents, and we should ask them to be aware by including it in the State Meet information. The addition of more signage and more clerks, and educating the coaches should help. Could be added to the pre-race instructions and possibly included in the sportsmanship agreement that is signed by the coaches.

## 2. Sectionals

- a. Sectional Double Headers – No standard time schedule from site to site. It was decided it should stay the way it is and let Host decide on time.

- 3. Drone Video – Discussed to put on front page of CC website – New video will be available next year. Will include runners and is a great view of the course. Committee believes that it would be a great addition to our website prior to the State Meet.

### III. Cross Country Rules

- A. Review of 2018
- B. 2019 Rules NFHS – Torso
- C. NFHS Questionnaire
- D. Rules Video
- E. Questions on test not in video
- F. Items from Committee
  - a. 2 Committee Members have concluded their time on the Coaches Advisory Committee. Jill Werner also announced that she will be retiring from coaching. Potential replacements:
    - i. Megan Carstens, Jefferson (D2),
    - ii. Jeremy Duss, Monona Grove (D1),
    - iii. Nate Schreiber, Waterford (D1),
    - iv. Nancy Gritt, Madison East (D1),
    - v. John Zuelsdorf, Tomahawk (D2)
    - vi. Tomahawk (D2),
    - vii. Mike Jameson, Bayport (D1),
    - viii. Heather Raffel, Waunakee (D1).