

2020

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

CROSS COUNTRY



CROSS COUNTRY COACHES' HANDBOOK

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2020 GHSA Cross Country Dates and Deadlines

2020 GHSA Cross Country Dates and Deadlines

- Monday, July 13, 2020**Online Cross Country Rules Clinic Opens (learn.ghsa.net)
- Friday, July 31, 2020**Deadline for completion of Online Cross Country Rules Clinic for ALL coaches
- Saturday, August 1, 2020**Earliest Date for Cross Country Practice
- Monday, August 10, 2020**Earliest Date for Cross Country Meet
- Tuesday, September 29, 2020**Online Post Season Cross Country Clinic for HEAD coaches opens (learn.ghsa.net)
- Monday, October 19, 2020****Deadline** for completion of Online Post Season Cross Country Clinic for HEAD coaches
- Friday, October 23, 2020**Deadline for electronic submission of Region rosters on GHSA MIS site (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>). Changes to rosters may be made until the deadline established by each Region, prior to the beginning of Region Meet competition.
- Saturday, October 31, 2020****Deadline** to complete Region Meets
- Monday, November 2, 2020****9:00 am Deadline** for electronic submission of Region RESULTS on GHSA MIS site (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>).
- Monday, November 2, 2020****5:00 pm Deadline** for Head Coaches of State Meet qualifying teams to confirm projected seven (7) runners at state meet (<https://app.ghsa.net/node>)
- Friday-Saturday, November 6-7, 2020****State Meet in Carrollton, GA**
(<http://www.ghsa.net/ghsa-state-cross-country-championships>)

State Meet Course Map

(https://www.ghsa.net/sites/default/files/documents/track/cross_country_map2017.pdf)

Friday, November 6, 2020

9:00 am	Boys 3A
9:45 am	Girls 3A
10:30 am	Boys 4A
11:15 am	Girls 4A
12 noon	Boys 6A
12:45 pm	Girls 6A

Saturday, November 7, 2020

8:00 am	Boys 5A
8:45 am	Girls 5A
9:30 am	Boys A Private
10:15 am	Girls A Private
11:00 am	Boys 7A
11:45 am	Girls 7A
12:30 pm	Boys 2A
1:15 pm	Girls 2A
2:00 pm	Boys 1A Public
2:45 pm	Girls 1A Public



2020 GHSA Cross Country Protocol and Procedures



CROSS COUNTRY

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. Cross Country is a team championship sport for boys and girls that is held on region basis for classes (1A-7A). Class A will be organized into two (2) divisions; one for public schools and one for private schools.
- B. The distance for both boys and girls Cross Country will be approximately three (3) miles or five (5) kilometers.
- C. All GHSA Cross Country meets will be run in accordance with the rules as published in the National Federation Track and Field and Cross Country Rule Book with any exceptions as may be found in this section.
- D. The maximum number of competition dates in Cross Country shall be 10, exclusive of region and state competitions.
 1. It is permissible for coaches to use "split squads" during the regular season. However, the use of split squads will count as two (2) of that school's maximum allowed competitions.
 2. Any meets involving eight (8) or more schools must be approved by the GHSA Executive Director in accordance with the process found in By-Law 2.64.
 3. No individual athlete may compete in more than one (1) race per day.
- E. The GHSA has elected to fully comply with the 2019 NFHS Rule 4-3-1. All competitors shall have legal uniforms. The singlet and bottom, or one-piece uniform, must be a school-issued or school-approved Cross Country uniform. Uniform bottoms clearly designed as "underwear" (including bottoms with a crotch outline) will NOT meet the NFHS or GHSA requirement. Uniform apparel with multiple manufacturer logos are NOT legal. Team uniforms worn must clearly identify the competitors, at a glance, as being a member of a certain team. NOTE: The ultimate responsibility for uniforms compliance lies with the coach. Coaches should inspect any/all garments competitors wear to make sure they are in compliance with GHSA and NFHS uniforms rules.
- F. Beginning and ending dates for practice and competition can be found at the front of this publication.
 1. There will be no interscholastic practices in Cross Country.
 2. Athletes may run in non-GHSA events as long as they do not represent their school, do not wear the school uniform, and are not coached at the event by their high school coach ("unattached runner").
 3. Electronic devices are not allowed during competition.
 4. The State Championship Course for all classifications is off limits beginning August 1 of each year until all State Championships are concluded, (unless a GHSA sanctioned/scheduled meet is run during the regular season on the course and a school participates in the event). Course preview and practice times for all State Championship participants will be TBD and will be posted on the GHSA web site at a later date.

REGION COMPETITION:

- A. The initial team roster of twelve (12) runners must be submitted **electronically** to the GHSA MIS site no later than **Monday, October 23, 2020**. (Posting entries on sites other than the GHSA MIS site does **not** fulfill GHSA requirements). Changes to the roster may be made until the deadline established by each region.
 1. Coaches are to list runners in priority order: the top seven (7), then the selected five (5) alternates.
 2. Region Secretaries will be able to download their region's schools' rosters after this submission.
- B.
 1. Four (4) teams in each Region will advance to the State Meet.
 - a. All qualifiers must be determined by **Saturday, October 31, 2020** (All Classes).
 - b. Region qualifiers must be sent by **electronic submission** to the GHSA Office within 48 hours of the completion of the Region Meet; but not later than **9:00 a.m., on Monday, November 2, 2020**.
 2. The first six (6) individual finishers from each Region will qualify for the State Meet regardless of whether they are a member of a qualifying team.
- C. Region Meet Cross Country rosters should list twelve (12) contestants. No replacements may be made in the list submitted to the Region Meet Director. Any seven (7) of the twelve (12) may run in the Region or State Meets.

STATE MEET:

- A. The State Cross Country Meet for all classifications will be held at Carrollton High School on **Friday-Saturday, November 6-7, 2020**. The running order may be found on the Cross Country page of the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net/cross-country).
 1. **There will be a \$5.00 admission fee for all spectators.**
 2. The Meet Director will be **Craig Musselwhite**, Cell-678-910-3022, email is cmusselwhite7@charter.net.
 3. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of each classification.
- B. A minimum of five (5) and a maximum of seven (7) entrants are allowed for each team that qualified.
 1. The first five (5) finishers for each team will count for the total team score.
 2. Each team must begin and end the competition with a minimum of five (5) runners. If, for any reason, a qualifying team does not have five (5) runners, that team will not be allowed to compete in the State Meet.
 3. Each member of a qualifying team, as well as individual qualifiers from each region, are considered to be in contention for individual honors.
 4. Practice times and Team Instructions for the state meet will be announced on the Cross Country page of the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) approximately one month prior to the State Meet.

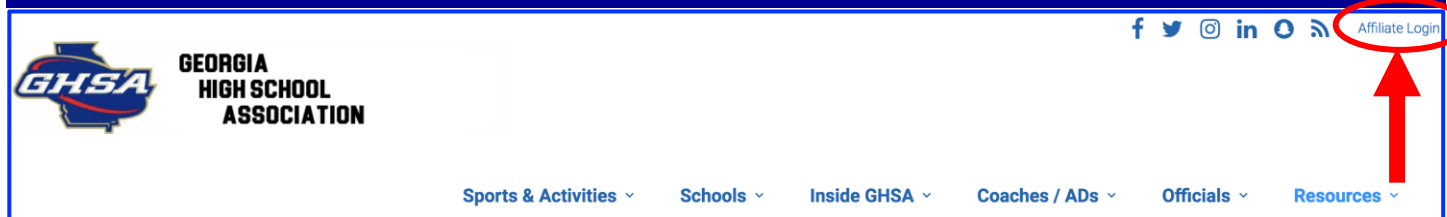


2020 GHSA Cross Country

Use of GHSA MIS site



The GHSA Cross Country MIS site is accessed through the “Affiliate Login” at the top of the GHSA website.



The GHSA MIS site (<http://app.ghsa.net/>) **MUST** be used for:

- **Electronic submission of Region Rosters**
 - Each member school’s AD has been issued login credentials for submission of each school’s Region Roster.
 - The team roster of twelve (12) participants must be submitted **electronically** to the GHSA MIS site no later than **Monday, October 23, 2020**. (Posting entries/rosters on sites other than the GHSA MIS site does NOT fulfill GHSA requirements).
 - Changes to the roster may be made until the **DEADLINE** established by each Region
 - Changes to the roster may NOT be made after the scratch meeting (if held) or after the Region Meet competition begins.
 - Each Region Secretary will be issued login credentials for downloading/printing School Rosters.
- **Electronic submission of Region Meet Results**
 - Each Region Secretary will be issued login credentials for submission of Region Meet Results. **Deadline is 9am on Monday, November 2, 2020.**
 - Region Secretaries (or designees) must not only submit results on the MIS site but **ALSO** edit/correct Region entries (rosters) for each school on the MIS site to reflect any changes (scratches/additions/replacements) made at the Scratch Meeting (if held).
- **Electronic Confirmation of State Meet Qualifying Team Participants**
 - Each member school’s AD has been issued login credentials for Confirmation of State Meet Qualifying Team Rosters.
 - After Region RESULTS have been submitted electronically, coaches of each **Qualifying Team** must “confirm” their team’s expected seven runners in the State Meet. If the original submitted roster is unchanged, coaches simply confirm the original list. If coaches anticipate a CHANGE in their top seven (7) runners for the State Meet, they should “reorder” and “confirm” their updated roster so that the Top Seven roster members are those who **ARE EXPECTED** to compete at the State Meet. **Deadline is 5pm on Monday, November 2, 2020.**



2020 GHSA CROSS COUNTRY STATE MEET COACHES' INSTRUCTIONS



The State Championship Course for all classifications is off limits beginning August 1st of each year until all State Championships are concluded, (unless a GHSA sanctioned/scheduled meet is run during the regular season on the course and a school enters the event).

1. Course Preview, Practice and Early Packet Pickup Times: State Meet Course Map (<https://www.ghsa.net>)
 - a. **Thursday, November 5, 2020: 3:30-5:30pm** – Course open for preview and practice **ONLY** for participants in Friday's races.
 - i. Early packet pickup available and replacements on roster Declaration Forms accepted
 - b. **Friday, November 6, 2020: 3:30-5:30pm** – Course open for preview and practice for participants in Saturday's races. The Course is **CLOSED** on Friday after the conclusion of Friday's races until 3:30pm in order for Meet Management to re-mark and re-condition the Course.
 - i. Early packet pickup available and replacements on roster Declaration Forms accepted

NOTE: Coaches and teams MUST adhere to the published times for which the course is open for preview and practice. The Carrollton Greenbelt is adjacent to the Carrollton Elementary School campus for practice.

NO teams or individual athletes competing on Friday, November 6 will be allowed on the course on Thursday, November 5 other than during the published 3:30-5:30pm time.

NO teams or individual athletes competing on Saturday, November 7 will be allowed on the course on Friday, November 6 other than during the published 3:30-5:30pm time.

2. Bib #'s / timing tags will be assigned **ONLY** to the seven (7) runners, who have been "confirmed" by each Qualifying Team coach. Athletes must wear assigned numbers, unaltered and clearly visible.
3. On Race Day, Qualifying Team coaches may make necessary changes for the seven athletes who actually compete by using a Declaration Form (example on next page) to "finalize" any REPLACEMENTS for the original seven "confirmed" runners. The Declaration Form is submitted to Meet Management at the packet pick-up table (**Deadline is 30 minutes before each race start time**). If there are **NO CHANGES**, the form does **NOT** need to be completed. Follow instructions on the declaration form for making changes and complete the form before you leave the check-in area. Please make every effort to submit the correct names of the seven who **WILL** race so that race results are accurate.
4. Before leaving the check-in table, carefully review your entry list and be sure you have the correct bib numbers and the two timing chips attached to the bib that correspond to each athlete's name. Take only enough shoe ties for your runners. You will need four ties for each runner; two on each shoe.
5. When you get back to your team area, please distribute the bib number and the two chips that are attached to the assigned runners. The bib number must be attached, unaltered, to the front of the uniform top. Make sure your runners attach the timing chips by following the instructions below. Improper attachment may result in the chip(s) falling off and your runner not being counted. Be sure to place one timing chip on each shoe. If you place two timing chips on one shoe, the mat may fail to read the chip(s).

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Thread the wire ties under your shoelaces	Thread the IPICO Sport Tag onto the wire ties	Secure the IPICO Sport Tag by twisting the wires ties firmly together
		

NFHS RULE 8-6-2: ...A competitor shall wear the assigned contestant number and/or computerized transponders/chips during competition. The number and/or transponder/chips shall be worn, unaltered, for purposes of official timing and place finish.

PENALTY: A competitor not wearing the assigned contestant number and/or computerized transponders/chips or altering such items in a manner which interferes with the recording of place finish is a rule violation resulting in disqualification from the race.

6. The timing chips will be removed by meet officials in the finish area. If your runner fails to have his/her timing chips removed and returned, your school will be charged for any missing chips.
7. Please check the order of finish and team scores on the posted results board or on line at ptgrouponline.com.



GHSAA State XC Meet - 11/3/2018
Hosted by Carrollton High School
State Meet Course in Carrollton, Ga.
Declaration Form - Boys AAA

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTACHING BIB #'S AND CHIPS ARE ON THE INFORMATION SHEET

Each Qualifying Team has been issued seven (7) BIB #'s and two chips per athlete per BIB #.

IF any of the top seven athletes are NOT RUNNING, and will be REPLACED by an alternate, please circle "Replaced" for that/those athlete(s) NOT RUNNING.

For the REPLACEMENT athlete(s), circle "Replacement" and ALSO write the BIB# of the athlete(s) being REPLACED on the line provided before "Replacement".

Athlete Name	BIB #	Status
Qualifying Team	EXAMPLE	
1. RUNNER #1	2583	Confirmed Replaced
2. RUNNER #2	2584	Confirmed Replaced
3. RUNNER #3	2585	Confirmed Replaced
4. RUNNER #4	2586	Confirmed Replaced
5. RUNNER #5	2587	Confirmed Replaced
6. RUNNER #6	2588	Confirmed Replaced
7. RUNNER #7	2589	Confirmed Replaced
8. ALTERNATE #1	<u>2584</u>	Replacement
9. ALTERNATE #2	<u>2587</u>	Replacement
10. ALTERNATE #3	_____	Replacement
11. ALTERNATE #4	_____	Replacement
12. ALTERNATE #5	_____	Replacement



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

2020 Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Changes

4-6-5g, 8-6-1e: Clarifies that a competitor should not be penalized for helping another competitor who is distressed or injured when no advantage is gained by the competitor who is assisting.

Rationale: The committee believes when no advantage is gained by a competitor helping a distressed or injured competitor, the competitor assisting should not be penalized for exhibiting good sportsmanship.

8-1-1: Clarifies cross country course markings.

Rationale: The reorganization of the rule states that a course should be clearly marked with any or all of the methods listed in the rule.

8-1-3: Clarifies cross country course layouts.

Rationale: This rule change will not eliminate courses that may be used for smaller meets with limited numbers of participants. The additional language provides a recommended minimum distance for straightaways at the start of all meets.

2020 Editorial Changes

5-11-1 A relay team shall pass their baton in accordance with the rules. **Rationale:** Clarifies that a team finishes the race with the same baton that it used at the start of the race.

2020 Editorial Changes

5-1-5, 6-8-10d

2020 Points of Emphasis

1. Meet Administration
2. Exchange Zone
3. Assisting Injured Athletes

: Clarifies that a team finishes the race with the same baton that it used at the start of the race.

2020 Editorial Changes 5-1-5, 6-8-10d

2020 Points of Emphasis

1. Meet Administration
2. Exchange Zone
3. Assisting Injured Athletes



NEWS RELEASE

Simplification of Uniform Rule Continues in High School Track and Field/Cross Country

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Cochran

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (August 31, 2020) — Further simplification of the uniform rule in track and field, and clarification on the method of determining the order of finish in cross country highlight 2019 rules changes in those two high school sports.

Seven changes were recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee at its June 11-13 meeting in Indianapolis, and all changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

In Rule 4-3-1, the interpretation of a foundation garment was expanded to include any item worn under the uniform top and/or bottom. The rule now states that “any visible garment worn underneath the uniform top and/or bottom is considered a foundation garment. A foundation garment is not subject to logo/trademark/reference or color restrictions.”

In addition, Rule 4-3-2 was rewritten to allow schools more options in meeting the uniform rule. The rule now states that “all relay and cross country team members must wear uniforms clearly indicating, through predominant color, school logo and color combination of all outer garments worn as a uniform, that members are from the same team.”

“It has become increasingly more difficult to officiate the uniform rule given the increase in the number of programs nationwide that are allowing individual team members the option of independently purchasing either all or part of their team uniform,” said Julie Cochran, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Track and Field/Cross Country Rules Committee. “Slight differences in design of uniform do not negatively impact the identification of a relay or cross country team. The expectation of this rule is that all relay and cross country team members can be clearly identified as representing the same school.”

The revised 4-3-2 NOTE states that “the official shall have no uncertainty in determining that all members are from the same team.”

In cross country, regardless of the system used to determine the places of runners, the order of finish should be based on when the torso of the runner crosses the finish line. Changes in Rule 8-3 state that whether hand timing, transponder/chip or image-based timing systems are used, the torso is the determining factor in order of finish.

The committee also revised Rule 8-1-1 regarding the cross country course which better describes a legal course layout.

The remaining changes concern field events in Rule 6. In the discus and javelin, measurement shall be recorded to the nearest lesser inch or centimeter. The addition of centimeter allows states using the metric system to give a fairer depiction of the actual performance.

In Rule 6-9 regarding the long jump and triple jump, the committee established ranges of distances in the events. Rule 6-9-5 NOTE states that the “distance from the foul line or takeoff board may be adjusted to accommodate different levels of competition. Competitors may change which foul line or takeoff board they are using during competition, but only with the prior notification and confirmation of the event judge.”

According to the 2016-17 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, track and field is the most popular sport for girls with 494,477 participants and is No. 2 for boys with 600,136. Cross country ranks sixth for girls with 226,039 and sixth for boys with 266,271 participants.

A complete listing of the track and field/cross country rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on “Activities & Sports” at the top of the home page and select “Track and Field/Cross Country.”



2020 GHSA Cross Country

Uniform Rules Clarification

- Each team member shall wear the same color and design of school uniform.
- Undergarments having a waistband with multiple logos/references of the manufacturer and/or a crotch outline are NOT legal as uniform bottoms.
- Undergarment tops and/or bottoms do not have to be the same color.
- Any OTHER clothing items (socks, head wear, sleeves, gloves etc.) are NOT considered part of the school issued uniform. **Although the wearing of these items is not prohibited, the wearing of any item (in excess of the school issued uniform) that is demeaning to the competition / sport will NOT be allowed.**
- Gloves are permitted in severely cold weather.
- Use of wristwatches with GPS capability during competition is ILLEGAL. The penalty for this violations is DISQUALIFICATION.
- The ultimate responsibility for uniform compliance lies with the coach. Coaches should inspect any/all garments competitors wear to make sure they are in compliance with GHSA and NFHS uniforms rules. On the next page is a Uniform Guidelines document.

While Uniform rules are quite specific, there is always some gray area open to interpretation by meet officials. Coaches should anticipate the strictest interpretation of the rules that their team may encounter. As the season begins, make sure your athletes thoroughly understand the rules governing electronics and uniforms. Even though many of the early smaller meets may not strictly enforce these rules, impress upon your athletes the importance of being in compliance anyway. Prevent a pattern of competing while violating these rules even if there are no apparent consequences for doing so. As important meets approach, reaffirm that all athletes are fully aware of, and in compliance with the rules. Again, try to anticipate the strictest interpretation and prepare accordingly.

NFHS and GHSA penalty for illegal uniform:

For the wearing of an illegal uniform, when a violation is observed and noted by a meet official, the competitor shall be required to make the uniform legal before becoming eligible for further competition and shall be issued a warning that a subsequent violation shall result in disqualification from the event. The referee shall be notified of the violation by the observing meet official, and the referee shall then notify or cause to be notified the head coach of the offending school of the competitor's violation and warning.



GHSA Cross Country Uniform Rules / Guidelines



The following items are not allowed during GHSA Cross Country competition:

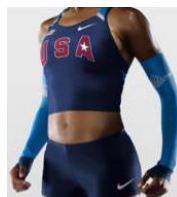
(a) Electronic devices (including GPS devices).

Typical Examples of Illegal / Legal Uniforms

UNDERGARMENTS ARE NOT UNIFORMS!!



ILLEGAL
One-piece Uniforms with
multiple manufacturer
logos / references.



ILLEGAL
Uniform Top
“bare midriff.”



ILLEGAL
Uniform Bottoms
“French or High Cut.”



LEGAL
“Closed-Leg” Women’s
Brief **Uniform Bottoms**.



ILLEGAL
Uniform Bottoms with
decorative waistbands and
multiple manufacturer
logos / references.



ILLEGAL
Uniform Bottoms with
decorative waistbands
and/or crotch outline /
opening.



LEGAL
Uniform Bottoms single
manufacturer logo, no
crotch outline or opening,
no decorative waistband.



LEGAL
Undergarments are
NO LONGER
required to be of a
single (same) color
as of 2019.



ILLEGAL
Uniform Bottoms with
decorative waistbands,
multiple manufacturer
logos, crotch outline.



LEGAL
Uniform Bottoms with
single manufacturer
logo, NO decorative
waistband or crotch
outline.

NOTE: The ultimate responsibility to have each competitor compliant with uniform rules is with the coach. Coaches should inspect any/all garments that competitors wear to ENSURE that they are in compliance with the GHSA & NFHS Uniform Rules!!



NFHS Uniform “Design” vs “Style” Guidelines



Excerpt from 2010 NFHS Track and Field Pre-Meet Notes
(<http://www.usatf.org/usatf/files/bb/bbb4135e-b83d-4bde-a388-cb1a1be02942.pdf>):

The sports of track and field and cross country have some of the most lenient rules for uniforms. However, with this leniency comes confusion from time to time when applying the basic rules of a legal uniform in the midst of all the permitted uniform creativity. One frequent rule question is the accurate application of “design” of the uniform for the members of a track relay team or a cross country team.

Both relay teams and cross country teams are competing as a team, similar to a volleyball or basketball team. The purpose of the uniform rule, in this instance, is so the uniforms worn by the school’s teammates are clearly identifying the competitors at a glance of being a member of a certain team. This identification is essential to allow the meet officials to fairly and consistently identify each runner and the team to which he/she belongs.

Rules 8-6-1 and 4-3-2 require the team members (relay team and cross country team) to be wearing uniforms of the same “design.” The term “design” refers to a pattern of colors used in the uniform. For example, if three team members are wearing singlets with a white body and a red diagonal stripe four inches in width and the remaining team member(s) are wearing a white singlet with two red vertical stripes, the “design” would be different. The vertical striped uniformed runner(s) would be in an illegal uniform and the competitor(s) would be disqualified from the event (Penalties 8-6, 4-3).

Design and style should not be confused. The term “design” refers to a pattern of colors used in the uniform. The use of the same colors, but arranged in a different pattern is not considered the same “design” as required by rule. Style might be all team members are in black one piece uniforms but one team member wears black shorts over the one-piece uniform. These uniforms would be legal. For the runner adding the shorts, the legs of the one piece then become a visible undergarment and subject to those rules.

