

Post Season Cross Country 2021 - Meeting Agenda

Meeting was held at NJSIAA Office- Robbinsville, NJ – November 23 – 10am

1. Attendance – **Committee Members present- Coaches- Tim Mooney- NJCTFCA, Pam Willson- Hackettstown, Kaitlyn Lavender- St. Rose, John Pontes- Clifton, Dan Fourney- Cinnaminson, AD's- Steve Normane- Holy Spirit, Tim George- Haddon Township, Sectional Directors- North I – Victor Wu, North II – Bob Byrnes, Central- John Schwarz (Marty Hollaran), South, group and MOC -Ed Colona Others- Carl Rickershauser- State Rules Interpreter, Robert Kellert – NJ Milesplit Absent – AD- Ryan Miller- Scotch Plains Fanwood, Executive Committee Rep – Leon Owen**
2. Introductions
3. Review of Sectional Meets
 - a. North 1 – Garrett Mountain – Victor Wu
 - b. North II – Oak Ridge Park – Bob Byrnes
 - c. Central – Thompson Park- Marty Hollaran
 - d. South- Dream Park- Ed Colona

All sectional meets reported very few minor issues. There was an issue at the South Sectional with an overlap of a boys and girls race that will be resolved at Dream Park in the future- the time between races at Dream Park ONLY will be increased by 5 minutes making the time between races 30 minutes. This should alleviate the issue of the overlap of runners on the course. As there were no issues at the other Sectional sites the time between races starting will remain 25 minutes.

4. Review of Group and MOC Meet- Ed Colona

The issue of having to postpone the last 3 races of the day at the Group Meet due to weather conditions was discussed. The NJSIAA and the meet directors will look at developing a contingency plan to handle postponements based on weather issues and will ask each site for a pre-determined plan based on bad weather postponements, for example- race will continue on Monday. These plans may vary from site to site based on the individual site's availability and the scheduling of the necessary personnel for safely running the meet at each site. These contingency dates and plans will be on the XC website so coaches will know in advance about the plans.
5. Old Business- **The NJSIAA explained the issues with the classifications and the changes that were made early in the season. The NJSIAA received the student numbers very late this year which slowed down the classification process. Initially, they were gender specific, some schools had the boys' and girls' teams that were in different groups and/or sections which created issue for schools that had only one coach for both boys and girls. That issue was corrected, next issue was that some schools that either did or did not sponsor XC did not notify the NJSIAA. This created issues mostly in the Group 1 and 2 classifications. Once this was discovered, it was corrected, and the groups were re-done. These classifications will remain the same for the 2021-22 and the 2022-23 school years. After reviewing these minutes with Colleen Maguire, she informed me that this year was what would have been the second**

year of the classification cycle prior to COVID, she wants to get the classification cycle back on track so she will be doing new classifications for 2022-23 and 2023- 24 school years (2 year cycle) this summer.

6. New Business

- a. Busing issues/order of groups M/F- **Briefly discussed, the consensus was that since the meets are on Saturdays that it was not an issue. It was also discussed about using a schedule of running the boys' and girls' races in each group back-to-back, this change was not made because of the difficulty of the coaches in getting from the finish line of one race before the start of the other race.**
 - b. Increase time between races – 5 minutes – **Will only be done at the South Sectional Site.**
 - c. Inclement weather plans- rain date- **please see # 4 – Review of Group and MOC Meet**
 - d. Modifications to the MOC Meet- **Initially, Al Stumpf discussed that the MOC would eliminate the Team aspect of the MOC and that the MOC would just be for individuals. This raised great concerns from the committee. This was presented by mistake; it is not an official proposal. Al Stumpf explained in a later written email to the committee members that the current legislation listed the specific sports in which the TOC was being eliminated and that Cross Country was not one of the sports listed. He also reminded the committee that if the topic comes up at the Executive Committee level, the Executive Committee will need to know why the team scoring for winter track and spring track ends at the Group Championship level while the team scoring continues into the MOC for cross country.**
The Cross-Country Committee advocated for keeping the MOC as it currently exists with both individuals and a team championship.
 - e. Advancement to the Groups and MOC (numbers) – clarification of wording in regulations. – **This was discussed because the 2021 regulations had a discrepancy as to the means to advance from the Group Meet to the MOC – it was stated that the 8 next fastest teams would advance after the full merger to the MOC, it was also stated that advancement by place is never over-ruled by time. Because of this, the NJSIAA added 2 teams to the boy's race because of the wording in the regulations. The NJSIAA was not going to penalize the student – athletes for this wording issue. The committee will put together a small committee to explore “cleaning up” this wording and the entire full merger process pending to decide to keep the current merger style or to return to the pre- 2018 method of total time.**
 - f. Proposal from Hasbrouck Height Coach – **requested that one more wildcard team be added to the MOC – that team would be the fastest team that did not automatically qualify from Group 1, Group 2, or NP B. He believes that it will make the small school races more competitive. After discussion by the committee there was no motion to move this idea forward.**
7. Good of the order- **Tim Mooney asked about the delay in getting the race results posted. It was explained that there were numerous issues that slowed things down. One of the biggest issues is the internet access at Holmdel Park is very poor. Victor Wu has been in contact with Verizon and AT&T about getting portable internet “hot spots” at Holmdel Park but has been told that the event is not big enough and it would be cost prohibited. Other factors that slow**

down the process- runners wearing bibs from other races which means the chips do not register when crossing the finish line, coaches giving bibs to the wrong runner, not giving the runner the bibs at all and the runners folding the bibs which makes the chips inoperable. When this occurs, the video of the finish must be reviewed to get the places and scoring correct. The NJSIAA and the timers believe it is more important to get the results correct rather than rush them out and then having to recall and correct them.

There was a request to bring back advancing the top 15 individuals in each sectional race to the Group meet. The top 10 will receive medals. This was approved by the committee.

There was another request to increase the times between the races at the MOC to one hour- race times would be 11:00 am and 12 noon- followed by the awards presentation. This was also approved by the committee.

Al Stumpf announce that Ed Colona would be retiring from being the Cross- Country Meet Director after this season. The NJSIAA thanked Ed for his years of service to the sport. Carl Rickershauser also praised and thanked Ed for his years of service and expressed that he enjoyed working with Ed over the years and that he would certainly be missed by the Cross-Country Community.

8. Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:05 pm.

2022 Cross Country Dates- Please make note of the new Sectional, Group and MOC dates for 2022- they are earlier due to the new Fall season start and ending dates.

First Practice- August 22

First Scrimmage – August 29

Competition Starts – September 8

Sectional Meets – October 29

Group Meet- November 5

MOC – November 12

Respectfully submitted,

Al Stumpf

Assistant Director-

November 29, 2021

