

Cross Country Sports Specific Committee
Friday, January 22, 2010
Minutes

The Cross Country Sports Specific Committee met on Friday, January 22, 2010 at the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel. Those present were as follows: Doc Helm, Alamogordo High School; Larry Chavez, Cleveland High School; Larry Padila, Los Lunas High School; Kelly Osuna, Cobre High School; Roxy Hunt, ATC Member; David Nunez, Oñate High School; Daniel Otero, Laguna-Acoma High School; Fred Polich, Del Norte High School; Adam Kedge, Albuquerque Academy; Tim Host, Rio Rancho High School; Sal Gonzales, Rio Rancho High School.

Site of the State Cross Country Meet - Mr. Aragon stated that the NMAA entered into a five year agreement with the city of Rio Rancho. Part of that agreement was that the city of Rio Rancho would be the host of the State Cross Country Meet for the next five years. This does not mean that the meet will remain at Rio Rancho High School, it could be at another location within Rio Rancho in the next five years. The NMAA will have discussions with members from Rio Rancho to decide where the state meet will be held. Mr. Aragon mentioned that the moving of the teams by the starting line at the state meet helped with traffic flow. He stated if we are going to be at Rio Rancho High School we will need to figure out how to accommodate special needs situations.

Alignment and Classification – Mr. Aragon stated that the classifications have been determined for the next four year block. In 5A District 4 there will only be three teams. In 4A District 3 and District 4 there will only be three teams. Lastly, in 3A District 2 there will only be three teams.

Mr. Padilla stated he felt the districts that have six teams as opposed to just three teams should be allowed to have four teams qualify.

Mr. Aragon stated every time we (NMAA) send a survey out to the membership to vote on about changes to the qualifying procedures, they vote against them.

Financial Report – Mr. Aragon stated that Cross Country is gradually paying off for itself. Mr. Chavez’s idea of paying for more security has definitely helped with gate receipts. The total expenses for Cross Country are around \$20,000. We make \$20,000 in gate receipts, \$10,000 in t-shirt sales, \$9,000 in sponsorships which give us around a \$19,000 profit.

Sports Specific Committee Members – Mr. Aragon stated two of our sports specific committee members terms are expiring, Mr. Shuster who represent the Athletic Directors, and Ms. Hipwood who represents 4A Girls. If anyone has any suggestions as to who might be a good representative for these two groups please let Mr. Aragon know as soon as possible.

2009-2010 State Cross Country Season Items of Concern – Mr. Polich had some concerns about the state course measurement, mile markers, and the finish line. At the time he was told that the official judges and the tear away tags are the official place of the runner, not the time.

Mr. Aragon stated that for the awards we go by the bib tear off for individual placement.

Mr. Polich asked if it would be possible to ask Rocky Mountain Championship timing to put a yellow piece of tape on the ground indicating the actual finish line and to not just use the mats.

Mr. Aragon state he will see what he can do to get the finish line issues fixed.

Other Business – Mr. Aragon informed the committee that the membership voted against making cuts games and competitions. For the upcoming season no one has to worry about cutting meets from their schedule.

Mr. Kedge handed out a sheet with information on how the Colorado State Association is allowing nine runners to compete in their regional meets, which are equivalent to our district meets in the state of New Mexico. (See Page 3)

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be scheduled for July during the Coaches Association Clinic.

The following amendment to the CHSAA cross country committee report will be proposed at the January 28 CHSAA Board of Control meeting:

Amendment:

State Qualifying Procedure - Two additional runners may run in the regional race. At regionals, the top five score, six & seven displace and are used for breaking ties in team scoring, and eight & nine are removed for purposes of calculating team scores.

Explanation:

The cross country committee report, if passed, clarifies the intent of regional races and eliminates the possibility of JV/open races contested on that date. Past practice at many cross country regionals has been to include JV/open races. Most coaches have used the results of the JV races to determine rosters for the state championship meet the following week. Cross country is a sport without substitutions and a team's lineup can change with illness, injury, etc. For most coaches, the best means of determining their state team roster is to take the regional times where runners are all running on the same course under the same conditions. Removing the possibility of JV races from regional events makes a coach's roster decision much more subjective and inequitable. This proposal is intended to allow coaches and athletes a more objective and equitable opportunity to set their rosters for the state meet.

Pros:

- 1) Allows coaches an opportunity to run their next two "alternates" in the regional qualifying race where those athletes have an opportunity to make the state roster under the same course and conditions as their teammates without affecting team scores.
- 2) Puts a cap on additional runners at regional races, thereby honoring the committee's intention of decreasing travel time and loss of school time.

Cons:

- 1) If both the cross country committee report and this amendment are passed, this proposal would result in two more students per team, thereby increasing student travel and loss of school time.