

NEW MEXICO ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
CROSS COUNTRY SPORTS SPECIFIC MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2009
MINUTES

Mr. Gary Schuster welcomed everyone to the meeting. All Cross Country Sports Specific Committee members were present. Others present were, Rudy Aragon, NMAA Assistant Director, Jackie Gallegos, NMAA Administrative Assistant, Hilario Chavez and Sal Gonzales, State Cross Country Championships Co-directors.

- A. Mr Aragon presented the following in his Director's report. He indicated that the adjustment made to the qualifying standard had proven successful. He stated that this year's event featured 994 runners, where in the recent past, that number had been closer to 850. He stated that of the slowest 45 runners in both divisions, only a handful had qualified based on the new qualifying system.
- B. He stated that an adjustment to the system has been made and adopted by the NMAA Board of Directors. He indicated that in some of our smaller classifications, there is the possibility that a runner, whose team does not qualify for the state meet and who is one of the top 10 finishers in the district meet, may not qualify for the state meet if 3 other runners from teams who did not qualify finish ahead of him. Since the intent was never to eliminate a top 10 district meet finisher from the state meet, the board added to the qualifying policy that all top 10 finishers in the district meet, regardless of circumstance, qualify for the state meet.
- C. Mr. Aragon advised the committee that the 2008 state meet had been a financial success. He indicated that the number of spectators in attendance, coupled with several cuts that were made to event logistics, were factors that kept it in the black.
- D. Mr. Aragon advised the committee that the contract for timing services provided by Champion Chip of the Rockies. He asked the committee if they were happy with the services that are presently being provided. He asked if any of the members had other ideas or recommendations of other timing companies that should be reviewed.
- E. Mr. Aragon informed the committee that Mr. David "Doc" Helm and Mr. Daniel Chinana will be completing their tenure on the SSC at the end of the 08-09 SY. He thanked them for their services and asked committee members to think about recommendations for their replacement.
- F. Mr. Aragon informed the committee that he is the Section 6 representative to the publications committee of Coaches' Quarterly magazine. He asked that they consider developing coaching articles for submission.
- G. Mr. Aragon discussed his concern regarding the lack of respect shown to our invited former champion athletes who spoke at the spaghetti dinner on Friday evening prior to the State Meet. Mr. Gonzales suggested that we continue to invite former athletes but that their role be specifically to move throughout the crowd and talk to various groups of athletes about their experiences.
- H. Mr. Chavez brought up the fact that we had several athletes who "walked" throughout the majority of the State Championship race. He indicated that they

pose a possible hazard in that there is a chance that they might meet up with the leaders who are in the process of completing a loop. The committee had a lively discussion as to strategies, and were assigned the task of discussing those strategies with coaches throughout their region to come up with a solution to the problem.

- I. Mr. Chavez informed the group about possible adjustments to the state championship course to try and alleviate the congestion in the tent, entrance and starting area. One possible solution was to allow the busses to park by the baseball field and set up the tent area on the field adjacent to it.
- J. Mr. Aragon informed the group that he had been contacted by several coaches regarding hosts of meets placing the event date and time on the NMAA website sometime during the spring/summer so that they can plan their schedule. Mr. Kedge indicated that most of the coaches do place their scheduled events on the NMHSTCA website. Mr. Aragon indicated that he would see what he could do to accommodate their request.
- K. Mr. Aragon informed the committee that he was considering going to the “one time use” chip for the state meet. The cost is fifteen cents more than the chip rental (two chips or 30 cents more per athlete). They would be the athletes to keep, thus eliminating several of the problems that we encounter.
- L. Mr. Aragon asked the committee what they thought about presenting the awards at the state meet immediately at the conclusion of each race. There were good points presented for both sides.
- M. The next meeting date of the committee will be during the NMHSCA summer conference.