

Cross Country Sports Specific Committee
Thursday, July 31, 2008
Notes

The Cross Country Sports Specific Committee met on Thursday, July 31, 2008 at the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel. Those present were as follows: Larry Padilla, Los Lunas High School; David Helm, Alamogordo High School; Adam Kedge, Albuquerque Academy; Kathy Hipwood, Los Alamos High School; Daniel Otero, Laguna Acoma High School; Kelly Osuna, Cobre High School; Daniel Chinana, Jemez Valley High School; Spencer Sieschott, NMHSTCA; Tim Host, Navajo Pine High School; Roxy Hunt, Athletic Trainer; Hilario Chavez, Rio Rancho High School; Sal Gonzales, Rio Rancho High School; Rudy Aragon, NMAA Assistant Director; presiding, along with Jackie Gallegos, NMAA Administrative Assistant.

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. with a welcome and introductions of new committee members, followed by a review of the agenda as follows:

2008 Cross Country Season Items of Concern:

- *Sub-varsity District Meets:* Mr. Aragon brought up the issue of having a district JV meet. He stated that schools are allowed to have a district JV meet, but if they choose to do so, they are required to stay within the eight (8) allowable meets that the team/participant may compete in.
- *APS City Championship Invite:* Mr. Aragon addressed the issue of seniors not being allowed to run on sub-varsity teams at the APS City Championship Invite. He said that it is an APS rule to not allow seniors to participate on any sub varsity teams at any city championships. Mr. Kedge stated that APS has a general rule and they want to keep it even across the board for everyone. Mr. Aragon suggested that those interested communicate with APS administration about them including a non-varsity senior race at the APS City Championship Invite.
- *Qualifying Process for State:* Mr. Aragon stated that he had sent out a survey regarding the qualifying process for the State Cross Country Championships and the results showed that 75% of coaches wanted the process to remain the same. Ms. Hipwood wanted to know if there was a way for us to increase the number of individuals that qualify for state. Mr. Aragon suggested looking at the top 5 individuals that aren't on qualifying teams and allowing them to qualify for state. Mr. Kedge suggested that the number should be 3 because 5 could actually include another complete district team. The proposal would allow the top 3 teams to qualify along with the top 3 finishing individuals that aren't on a qualifying team. Mr. Gonzales stated that he didn't think that this was a statewide issue and that it might only be a few districts that would gain from this process. Mr. Aragon said that he would survey the coaches and ask their opinion on eliminating the top 10 individuals as state qualifiers and instead qualifying the top 3 individuals who aren't on a state qualifying team.

- *2008 State Cross Country Championships:* Mr. Aragon started by informing the committee that Rio Rancho will be the site of the Cross Country State Championships for the next two year block. Mr. Sal Gonzales and Mr. Hilario Chavez will be the race directors. Mr. Chavez gave a brief overview of the 2008 state course. He said the first half of the race will remain the same as last year, but the second half will have a few changes due to the new soccer addition to the Rio Rancho High School Athletic Complex. Mr. Chavez said that the adjustments to last year's course will include running about 1200 meters on a grass field and that the visibility for fans will be improved from an already good situation.
- *Recommendations for the State Cross Country Championship:* Mr. Sieschott recommended moving the coaches meeting, held on the Friday evening prior to the State meet, back to the auditorium rather than have the meeting in the gym. He said that the sound wasn't very good in the gym and it was very hard to hear everything that was being said. Mr. Aragon said he would look into booking the auditorium for the coaches meeting at state. Ms. Hipwood had concerns regarding last years discussion on participants' uniforms, and the negative tone that it set for the meet. Mr. Aragon noted that although the NFHS has no rule regarding this particular issue, the NMAA did adopt a regulation this past spring that provides clarity and direction. Uniform monitors, similar to those used at the State Track and Field Meet of 08 will be implemented.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting will be an A.M meeting to be held on the Saturday morning which falls in conjunction with the New Mexico High School Track Coaches' Association Winter Clinic.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.