

2024 IESA CROSS COUNTRY ADVISORY MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

November 20, 2024

The following members were present for the meeting: Nicole Schaeftbauer (IESA Executive Director), Corey Plotner (St. Joseph, Coach), Adam Thas (Bolingbrook Jane Addams, Coach), Marland Rachel (Official), Mark Bohdan (Orland Park St. Michael, Coach), Janelle Meyers, Elmwood (Administrator), Evan Thorpe, Coach (Dixon Reagan), and Jamie VanDongen, Coach (Manteno). Jim Bartlett (Barrington Prairie, Coach) attended via Zoom. Also present were Brett Papoccia (Host School Management) and Brad Henz (ShaZam Racing).

The IESA Cross Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting on November 20, 2024, discussed the following:

Recommendation 1- Terms and Conditions

Current	Entry of sectional participant information on the IESA website.
Proposed	Entry of sectional participant information on athletic.net.
Rationale	Use of Athletic.net benefits the athlete and the meet host. It provides a more accessible, comprehensive body of work for the athlete. For meet hosts and/or timing companies, it offers various download options and a central place to access results.
	Approx. Cost: \$4,800
XCC T&C	
IESA By-Law	
Admin Vote	
Board Action	APPROVED

Recommendation 2- By-laws and Terms and Conditions and Host Instructions

Current	A. ADVANCEMENT PROCEDURE Team Advancement to State There will be eight (8) sectionals in each of the four classes. The first, second, and third-place sectional teams shall advance to state-level competition. For purposes of advancement of teams from sectionals to the state final, if a tie occurs at the last qualifying spot , the teams tied advance to the state final.
Proposed	A. ADVANCEMENT PROCEDURE Team Advancement to State There will be eight (8) sectionals in each of the four classes. The first, second, third, and fourth-place sectional teams shall advance to state-level competition. If a tie occurs at the last qualifying spot , the tie shall be broken by NFHS Rule 8-2-4.
Rationale	Expansion would help overall running engagement across IESA schools - there are several very competitive sectionals - and by including the 4th place team, it would allow those teams who could compete competitively at state with an opportunity. Increase in the school diversity of the individual qualifiers. By going to 4 qualifying teams, the top 7 individuals would most likely represent additional schools - which then leads to more engagement and participation. The additional teams would add between 320-640 additional runners. The state meet time schedule will be adjusted by five minutes to accommodate additional runners and review. Approx. additional cost- \$8,200

XCC T&C
IESA By-Law
Admin Vote
Board Action

DIED FOR LACK OF A MOTION

Recommendation 3- Terms and Conditions and Host Instructions

Current **Individual Awards:** A medal will be given to those placing 1-10 in each sectional race.
Team Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the first, second, and third place teams. No additional awards will be presented to the team.

Proposed **Individual Awards:** A medal will be given to those placing 1-10 in each sectional race.
Team Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the first-place team; no additional awards will be presented to the team.

Rationale The change is consistent with all other IESA activities, in which only the championship plaque is awarded.

Total savings: \$8,064

XCC T&C
IESA By-Law
Admin Vote
Board Action

APPROVED

Discussion Topics

1. The Committee reviewed the 2024 state series.
2. The Committee discussed the current season calendar. The Committee discussed calendar changes submitted by a participating school. No recommendation.
3. The Committee discussed a proposal submitted by Newton Jasper Co. No recommendation.
4. The Committee discussed various classification cutoff percentages. No recommendation was made at this time. Further discussion will be held.
5. Discussed potential wording for Friday meet start times. No recommendation.
6. The Committee discussed allowing packet pick-up on Friday. No recommendation.
7. The Committee discussed reinstating the race rotation schedule. No recommendation was made at this time. The Committee will survey the participating school going into the 2026 season. Survey results will be reviewed and discussed after the 2026 season. Any recommendations regarding the race schedule would not be implemented until the 2027 season.
8. The Committee reviewed a recommendation to implement a qualifying time from the sectional to state. No recommendation.
9. The Committee discussed a recommendation to increase the number of individual qualifiers from 7 to 10. No recommendation.

Points of Emphasis

1. Sectional Results coach meeting
2. Recall protocol
3. Body paint
4. Hip numbers- placement

Janelle Meyers, Marland Rachel, and Corey Plotner were thanked for their contributions and service to the Committee and membership.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting Date

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 (online)

Admin To Do

TO ADD TO THE SECTIONAL HOST MANUAL AND HOST REMINDERS:

1. Box assignments and roster are to be sent to the officials at least two days prior to the sectional meet.
2. Highlight the review of results prior to the awards ceremony.
3. Change the recommended start time for Friday to be outside of school day and prior to dusk (6:30 p.m.).

FOR THE STATE MEET:

1. Create a box assignment diagram for the individual runners. This needs to be shared with the clerks. 3-3-1 (l to r).
2. Work with host school to provide 3 ladders- one behind and one at each end of the start line.
3. Work with host school to paint the start line and box lines between each class.