

2025 IESA CROSS COUNTRY ADVISORY MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

November 19, 2025

The following members were present for the meeting: Nicole Schaeftbauer (IESA Executive Director), John Morrissey (River Forest St. Luke, Coach), Adam Thas (Bolingbrook Jane Addams, Coach), Leo Vandervlugt (Official), Mark Bohdan (Orland Park St. Michael, Coach), Joe Fritzsche, Mt. Zion (Coach), Evan Thorpe, Coach (Dixon Reagan), Jamie VanDongen, Coach (Manteno) and Jim Bartlett (Barrington Prairie, Coach). Also present were Brett Papoccia (Host School Management), Jay Marshall (Coordinator of Officials), Todd Ehler (ITCCCA), and Brad Henz (Shazam Racing).

The IESA Cross Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting on November 19, 2025, discussed the following:

Recommendation 1- By-Laws and Terms and Conditions

Current	Current split is 25%/25%/25%/25%
Proposed	Proposed split is 22%/23%/25%/30%
Rationale	The recommended split will create statistical equity in qualifying for State, both as a team and as individuals, throughout the classes. This will shrink the enrollment gap between the 2A and 3A classes and increase the number of full teams competing in the 1A class. Proposed for implementation for the 2026 season.
XCC T&C	
IESA By-Law	
Admin Vote	
Board Action	Original recommendation died for lack of a motion. Board instructed IESA staff to form an Ad Hoc Committee to examine alternative splits for all activities.

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 400+ additional runners.
XCC T&C	
IESA By-Law	
Admin Vote	
Board Action	Died for lack of a motion.

Recommendation 3- Terms and Conditions

Current	<u>Sectional</u> 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.
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 and Runner-Up teams; no additional awards will be presented to the team.
Rationale	Finishing as one of the top two teams is a significant accomplishment that the participating schools would like to showcase in their schools. Administrator Note: Consistent application will need to be determined by the Board concerning Bowling and Golf.
XCC T&C	
IESA By-Law	
Admin Vote	
Board Action	Died for lack of a motion.

Discussion Topics

1. The Committee reviewed the 2025 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 had a lengthy discussion on implementing a Regional prior to Sectional competition. The Committee felt it would be prudent to assess how the recommended changes impact the activity. Further discussion may be had if necessary.
4. 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.
5. The Committee discussed providing ribbons to Individual Sectional Qualifiers. No recommendation.
6. The Committee discussed recommending later Friday Sectional start times. No recommendation.
7. The Committee discussed adding additional individual Sectional qualifiers. No recommendation. Could be added in the future.
8. The Committee discussed exploring alternative State meet venues. No recommendation.
9. The Committee discussed shortening the time between state races to 30 minutes. No recommendation.
10. The Committee discussed allowing all 10 runners the opportunity to compete in the Sectional and State races. No recommendation.
11. The Committee discussed having a mid-day course walk-through. No recommendation.

Points of Emphasis

1. Sectional Results coach meeting
2. Spectator etiquette
3. Runner etiquette
4. Discouraging pets at the Sectional and State meets

Jim Bartlett and Adam Thas were thanked for their contributions and service to the Committee and membership.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting Date

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

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. Send us finish line video for promotional use- not for review.

FOR THE STATE MEET:

1. Spectator etiquette. Shore up the course.