



Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union
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Iowa High School Athletic Association
PO Box 10 - Boone, Iowa 50036 - (515) 432-2011



September 21, 2017

Dear Cross Country Coaches, Athletic Directors and Officials:

It's hard to believe that the regular season is already halfway done and the state qualifying meet is four weeks from today. Hopefully as we enter the last half of the season, Mother Nature will continue to cooperate with dry conditions and above average temperatures. We've been to a number of meets this fall and continue to be amazed at the large number of participants in our sport. From our standpoint it has been a very quiet fall, but we have a few items to share with you as we prepare for the home stretch of the season.

Distributing Liquids During Competition – As the season has progressed, we have had a few questions regarding the new rule change allowing the games committee to provide liquids during competition. First, meet hosts are not required to provide liquids. If a host is not going to provide liquids for their meet, we encourage those schools to inform participating schools ahead of time that liquids will not be provided and each participating school is responsible for providing liquids to their own students. During the actual competition, an athlete should not be disqualified for taking a liquid from anyone on the course, including spectators. With that being said, we would prefer the liquids to come from coaches or meet volunteers as both of these parties understand there are other competitors on the course. With spectators, we feel there is a greater likelihood of something happening such as tripping or bumping into a competitor from another school.

Pets at Meets – This is more a concern for meet management than coaches and officials, but we do feel that we need to discuss spectators bringing pets to meets. Per both organizations' policy, "No pets are permitted at events sanctioned by the IGHS AU/IHSAA. Any persons found with a pet at an event will be removed from the premises. However, this policy shall comply with the provisions of Iowa Code 216C. As such, a person with a disability or a person training an assistive animal has the right to be accompanied by a service dog or an assistive animal, under control. The person is liable for damage done to any premises or facility by a service dog or assistive animal. A "service dog" means a dog specially trained a recognized training facility to assist a person with a disability, whether described as a service dog, guide dog, hearing dog, support dog, independence dog, or otherwise. An "assistive animal" means a simian or other animal specially trained or in the process of being trained under the auspices of a recognized training facility to assist a person with a disability." With that being said, spectators should not have pets on the course. Coaches, you can help us out by sharing this information with your athletes' parents, so there aren't any issues at the meets you participate. This is not a new policy and will be enforced at the state meet.

Varsity and Sub-Varsity Combined Races – As stated in the rules meeting, students ineligible at the varsity level under the General Transfer and Open Enrollment rules may not compete in combined varsity/junior varsity races. We know there are many meets that combine both races for a number of reasons. A solution we are proposing to schools is to divide your varsity and junior varsity into two races and to start your junior varsity race five minutes after the start of the

varsity race. For a boy/girl one class meet, meet managers are only extending the meet by ten minutes and all participants have a chance to compete on a particular day.

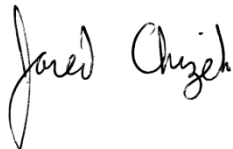
Inhalers – As we mentioned in the rules meeting and last memo, an athlete may carry an inhaler with himself/herself during competition as long as he/she has a doctor’s note indicating the inhaler is designed to alleviate asthmatic conditions. The doctor’s note needs to be presented to the meet director or referee prior to the start of the meet.

State Qualifying Meet Assignments – According to our manuals, State Qualifying Meet assignments will be released the week of October 9. We will review the October 10 IATC rankings and then make the final assignments. Please do not start calling our offices first thing Monday the 9th as the assignments will not be posted until later in the week when we receive the IATC rankings. Keep submitting meet results to iaxcresults@gmail.com as many of you have earlier this season to help make the rankings more accurate.

Wheelchair Competitors – We have not heard from any member school regarding having a wheelchair participant in cross country this fall. This is the last call for any member schools to let us know if they have wheelchair competitors.

We will you all the best of luck as we entered the last half of the season. Again, if we can be of assistance, don’t hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jared Chizek
Assistant Director



Gary Ross
Associate Director