

GYTOA Local Rules Meeting

August 25, 2025
Austintown Fitch Cafeteria

Cross Country Officiating Roles

OTFCCOA Updates

- Clinic will be Fri/Sat Jan 24/25
- Credit for 2 local meetings plus state meeting if you stay the whole time
- 1st year officials get clinic fee waived (still pay for membership)
- Nominations for officers must be in advance
- Watch for mailing!

Games Committee/Meet Director

- NFHS Rule book 3-2, 8-4-1; NFHS Manual 6.1, p 54
- Length of course
 - Measurement rule
 - Limitations on length (5000 m/3200 m)
- Three meter line
- Starting positions of teams – assigned in advance, and needs to be RANDOM
- Order of races, time schedule
- Facilities
- Procedures, medical, etc.

Referee

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-2, 3; NFHS Manual 6.1, p 54
- When should you be there?
- What should you bring?
 - Rule book, case book, OHSA manual
 - Writing material
- Pre-meet meeting with coaches and/or team captains – can be via written communication
 - Good sporting conduct
 - Get verbal or written confirmation from coaches regarding uniforms and equipment
 - Any special circumstances
- Makes all decisions regarding DQ's
 - Get appropriate info from official regarding possible DQ

Clerk

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-5; NFHS Manual 6.1, p 54
- When should you get there?
 - Number of teams/athletes, number of clerks
- What should you bring?
 - Writing material
- Checking in athletes
 - Be familiar with current uniform rules, requirement set by games committee
- Uniform reminders
- Placing on start line - assigning starting boxes (if not done in advance) - random
- Accurate count – report to finish line, scorer (total plus who has full teams)

Starter

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-4 ; NFHS Manual 6.2, p 55
- When should you get there?
- What should you bring?
 - Sleeve, flag, whistle, gun, shells
- Pre-race meeting with athletes
 - Review starting commands
 - Final uniform warning
 - Possibility of recall gun
- Positioned “well in front of the runners”

Starting Procedures

- Rule 8-4-4 ; NFHS Manual 6.2, p 55
- Starting commands
 - Runners three meters back (gun and flag held to the side)
 - “On your marks” or long whistle blast (gun and flag slowly raised overhead)
 - Fire gun and drop red flag when runners are set and motionless
- Re-call gun
 - Unfair start – runner falls due to contact in first 100 yards

Chute Director (or Corral Director)

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-6, 7; NFHS Manual 6.3, 6.4, p 56
- Supervise finish chute (or corral)
- Assign stand-ins (fillers) for runners who can't continue through chute
- Assign gate controllers if more than one chute
- Assign marshals to keep chute area free of unauthorized individuals
- Be certain other chute/corral personnel are in place as runners approach finish

Finish Judges

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-8; NFHS Manual 6.5, p 56
- Stand “on” the finish line (outside the chute)
- Call out order of finish – ID by bib number, school, jersey color, hair color, etc.
- Can only be overturned by referee
- Backup scoring systems
 - Video
 - Caller/checker list
 - Tear tags

Chute Umpires

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-9; NFHS Manual 6.6, p 57
- Supervise competitors after they enter chute
- Keep in order, adjust as needed – listen to finish judges

Course Umpires

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-12; NFHS Manual 6.8, p 57
- Make sure competitors run proper course
- Report any infraction to referee
- How to properly ID competitor

Callers/Checkers

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-10, 11; NFHS Manual 6.7, p 57
- Call number of each competitor in order
- Record accurately and legibly

Tag puller/stringer

- Take tear tag from each competitor's bib number
- Place on stringer in order

Timers

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-13; NFHS Manual 6.9, 6.10, p 57
- A timer may be assigned to call out times at a designated place along the course
- Record time of each runner as they cross the finish line (torso)
- Occasionally check with recorders to make sure you are on the same number
- Manual timing vs FAT

Marshals

- NFHS Rule Book 8-4-14; NFHS Manual 6.11, p 58
- Keep competitive area free from unauthorized individuals

Scorer(s)

- Rule 8-2; NFHS Manual 6.10, p 57
- Add up top 5
- Athletes on teams with less than 5 runners don't count in scoring (re-score)
- Don't count athletes who are 8th runner on team and beyond in re-score
- Tie-breaking – 6th runner, or top 4 if neither has 6 runners – all places, not just for 1st

Modified Scoring

- In accordance with NFHS Rule 8-2-3 the OHSAA has adopted modified scoring. Modified scoring is a scoring procedure that would allow teams with less than five runners to score in a regular season meet. It can only be used when approved by a meet's games committee and all participating schools have been notified in advance of the meet verbally, in writing, or in the contest contract. Modified scoring does not allow games committees to change/modify any other element of the scoring process. Modified scoring shall not be used in OHSAA tournament competitions. If modified scoring is used, it MUST follow the procedure outlined below:
- After runners in excess of each team's allotted 7 athletes are removed and the remaining runners re-ranked, the next place in the ranking will be added to each team with 4 runners. The next 2 places will be added to each team with 3 runners, and so on to give each team 5 places to be scored. This means that all teams without 5 finishers shall be awarded the same position(s) for their next scoring position(s). Therefore, if there are 109 finishers (after removing those who are not in their team's top 7), ALL teams with fewer than 5 finishers will be awarded 110th place, ALL those with fewer than 4 finishers will also be awarded 111th place, etc. until 113th place is awarded to all teams having only one runner.

Meets using FAT or chip timing

- Rule 8-3-4
- Chute director, finish judges, chute umpires, callers/checkers, tag puller/stringer, timers all have different roles
 - Keep athletes moving through finish area
 - Make sure chips get turned in
- Count finishers, check with FAT operator periodically
- Chip timing is not necessarily FAT
- Backup on scoring and timing
- Keep athletes moving beyond immediate finish area
- Assist athletes as needed
- Help athletes get chips removed and returned
- Cleaning and sorting chips

Other Noteworthy Points

- NFHS Officials Manual pages 58-64, Part 6
- Disqualifications
 - False start
 - Failure to complete the prescribed course - "Cutting" the course – course markings
 - Interference
 - Unsporting or unacceptable conduct
 - Receiving assistance
 - Pacing
 - Medical forms for inhalers, etc.
 - Not wearing assigned number or transponder(8-3)
 - Uniform violation (4-3-2)
- Weather decisions
- Uniforms – pages 17-19 of OHSAA Manual for Coaches, 20-21 of Officials Manual
 - rules, situations
- Undergarments – no longer any restrictions
- Jewelry – no longer any restrictions (safety)
- Water on the course
- Holding hands
- Chips – rule now specifies the torso, regardless of chips