

NEW HAMPSHIRE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2012

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR
BOYS AND GIRLS
CROSS COUNTRY**



NHIAA CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE

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Special Notice

Enclosed you will find information regarding the 64th Annual NHIAA Cross Country Championship Divisional Meets to be held at Derryfield Park in Manchester, New Hampshire; and 35th Annual Meet of Champions to be held at Mines Fall, Nashua South High School, Nashua, New Hampshire as well as items identified by the Cross Country Committee as “Points of Special Emphasis.”

The 2012 edition of the Cross Country Policy and Procedures Manual provides all of the information that you will need for the Divisional Meets and Meet of Champions including a map of the course. **THERE WILL BE NO COACH’S INFORMATION GIVEN ON THE DAY OF THE DIVISIONAL MEETS. ONLY** the starting line up and competitor’s numbers will be distributed at the Divisional Meets.

INTRODUCTION

This Manual is published by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association, 251 Clinton Street, Concord, NH 03301. Neither the whole nor part of this publication may be copied or reproduced and/or translated without first obtaining written permission from the publisher.

All schools must be aware of the NHIAA By-Laws and policies relative to Cross Country which are published annually in the “NHIAA Handbook” as well as the rules of competition published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

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POINTS OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS:

The NHIAA Cross Country Committee is concerned about several matters regarding the NHIAA Cross Country Championship Meets and requests the assistance of coaches and athletic directors in addressing them. Although they are addressed elsewhere in the “Policies and Procedures” they are often ignored on days of the meets. Familiarity and follow through will ensure that your school or one of your competitors is not disqualified or not allowed to participate in the meets and will enhance the operation of these meets for the benefit of all participants. (Policies and Procedures number is indicated in the parentheses).

1. Time Schedule: this includes checking in at the stage and reporting to the starting line when scheduled. (II)
2. Uniforms: this includes the wearing of proper outer school uniform and visible undergarments. (V)
3. It is recommended that metal spikes or hard plastic cleats **NOT** be worn on footwear due to safety concerns on the paved surfaces.
4. Competitor’s tags must be worn over the navel. (I)
5. Disqualification: this includes interference with another competitor by using the body, arms or hands to show exuberance at the finish line and affecting the finish or placement of another competitor. (VI)
6. Code of Conduct: this includes graffiti, spray painting, banners, signs, etc. (IX)
7. **Any variation/exception to any of the regulations outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual must be for medical reasons and have the prior approval of the Committee/Meet Director. Written documentation from a physician must be provided to the Committee/Meet Director prior to competition.**
8. The NHIAA will charge a parking fee of \$10.00 per car at the Meet of Champions.
9. ATHLETIC TRAINERS – Schools requesting medical services are to provide the necessary supplies for the athletic trainer at all regular season and tournament events.
10. **By-Law Article XVII Cross Country, Sect. 2: State Divisional Championships. For an athlete to compete in the State Championships, he/she must have participated in at least one Cross Country meet during the regular season.**
11. The Cross Country Committee has voted to impose a modification to the NFHS Jewelry Rule for New Hampshire. **No jewelry is allowed.** No team warning for jewelry violations will be issued during the cross country championships. All athletes competing while wearing jewelry will be disqualified.
12. **By-Law Article I, Sect. 24: Practice at Tournament Sites (Modification):** “In the sport of cross country the Divisional and MOC Championship venues are available to teams for viewing any time prior to the championship meets beginning with 2011-12.”

RECORDS

State Records	At Derryfield Park		
Girls	Danyelle Wood	(Spaulding) Rochester	17:57, 1992
Boys	Cory Thorne	Portsmouth	15:21, 2004
Divisions			
Division I Boys	Cory Thorne	Portsmouth	15:21, 2004
Division I Girls	Emily Hodgson	Manchester Central	18:00, 1992
Division II Boys	Eric Jenkins	Portsmouth	15:32, 2009
Division II Girls	Georgia Griffin	Hanover	18:01, 2007
Division III & IV Boys	Eric Malnati	Fall Mountain	15:34, 2008
Division III & IV Girls	Kylie McCoy	Portsmouth Christian	18:16, 2010
Meet of Champions	At Derryfield Park		
Girls	Danyelle Wood	(Spaulding) Rochester	17:57, 1992
Boys	Matt Downin	(Pinkerton) Derry	15:30, 1994
Meet of Champions	At Mine Falls		
Girls	Georgia Griffin	Hanover	17:28.0, 2007
Boys	Jeff LaCoste	Bishop Guertin	15:07.8, 2010

2012-13 Boys and Girls Cross Country Divisional Alignment

DIV. I (1226+)		DIV. II (626-1225)		DIV. III (1-625)			
19 Schools		20 Schools		35 Schools			
Pinkerton	3168	Goffstown	1201	*Laconia	628	Newport	390
Man. Central	2324	Portsmouth	1085	Pelham	623	Mascenic	379
Nashua South	2053	Milford	963	Kearsarge	604	Bishop Brady	362
Man. Memorial	2040	Hollis/Brookline	908	Monadnock	601	Inter-Lakes	360
Nashua North	1928	Con-Val	905	Fall Mountain	574	Hopkinton	316
Concord	1860	Pembroke	899	Prospect Mountain	537	Epping	277
		Merrimack					
Londonderry	1707	Valley	885	Gilford	532	Woodsville	273
Exeter	1703	Kennett	857	Bow	528	Littleton	271
Keene	1582	Souhegan	857	Campbell	493	Newmarket	262
Salem	1543	Kingswood	799	Conant	486	Derryfield	248
Spaulding	1506	John Stark	762	Winnisquam	481	Moultonborough	221
Merrimack	1450	Hanover	760	Belmont	476	Hinsdale	181
						Portsmouth	
Dover	1437	Sanborn	736	Hillsboro-Deering	470	Christian	167
Timberlane	1424	Lebanon	727	Berlin	442	Gorham	156
Alvirne	1400	Coe-Brown	715	White Mountains	434	Lin-Wood	105
Bedford	1351	Windham	708	Newfound	422	Sant Bani	53
Man. West	1304	Plymouth	688	Raymond	419	Pittsburg	33
Winnacunnet	1235	Oyster River	681	Mascoma	404		
*Bishop Guertin	854	St. Thomas	643				
		*Trinity	417				

*Petition

I: SPECIAL INFORMATION:

- A. **Any variation/exception to any of the regulations outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual must be for medical reasons and have the prior approval of the Committee/Meet Director. Written documentation from a physician must be provided to the Committee/Meet Director prior to competition.**
- B. **Competitor Numbers:** Competitor's numbers will be found in the coaches' packets. Each team member is assigned a number. This number is to be pinned to the front on the jersey with the pins provided. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE BAR CODE IS NOT OBSCURED IN ANY WAY, AS THE OFFICIALS WILL READ THIS AT THE END OF THE CHUTE. DO NOT PIN THROUGH THE BAR CODE. THE NUMBER MUST BE PLACED OVER THE NAVAL. **DO NOT CRUMBLE THE NUMBER. WHEN HIP NUMBERS ARE ISSUED THEY ARE TO BE WORN ON EACH HIP OVER THE SEAM OF THE COMPETITORS SHORTS. THE HIP NUMBERS MUST NOT BE OBSCURED BY ANY OBJECT.**
- C. **Delays:** The NHIAA Cross Country Committee, meet directors, or referee may delay the start of the race if such a delay is in the best interests of the competitors or management of the meet.
- D. **Jury of Appeals:** Protests must be submitted to the referee. All decisions and protests will be acted upon on the day of the meet, and at the site, by the referee and further appeal must be made to the Jury of Appeals whose decisions shall be final. The Jury of Appeals shall consist of the members of the NHIAA Cross Country Committee present at the site excluding the referee.
- E. **Medical Services:** Athletic trainers will be on duty at all meets. Schools requesting medical services are to provide the necessary supplies for the athletic trainer. If an athlete needs medical attention, the coach or the school's adult supervisor should inform the public address announcer located on the stage area.
- F. **Check-in:** Coaches must check in at the stage, sign-in and pick up packets with competitors' numbers. Coaches must verify in writing that their competitors are in proper uniforms and are not wearing any jewelry. **There will be only ONE (1) clerk at the starting line to answer any questions regarding the uniform rule including jewelry.**
- G. **Reporting for the Race:** Competitors are expected to be at the starting line at least 15 minutes BEFORE the start of their race. Announcements will be made but the responsibility to be at the starting line rests with the coaches and competitor. Races will NOT be delayed for teams reporting late.
- H. **Scoring:** Scoring for teams will be by finish positions based upon displacement of non-team competitors. The Official Scorer will determine the team Results. Rule 9 of National Federation shall govern these meets.
- I. **Starting Line Positions:** Positions for the start have been randomly selected by the meet committee for each race. For teams: FOUR (4) competitors may be on the line. For individuals: all may be on the line.
- J. **Team:** Seven (7) runners may be entered per team. The positions of the first five (5) finishers will be used for team Scorers. To qualify for team scores there must be a minimum of five (5) runners. Team members shall wear the same school uniform.

II: DIVISIONAL MEETS - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012:

TIME SCHEDULE: Each coach, or school designated adult, should check in upon arrival and pick up a packet containing competitors' numbers and positions on the starting line. **TEAMS MUST REPORT TO THE THEIR STARTING LINE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THEIR RACE. This race will be held at Derryfield Park, Manchester.**

The time schedule is as follows:

10:00	a.m.	Division III Girls
10:40	a.m.	Division III Boys Race
11:20	a.m.	Awards Division III
11:30	a.m.	Division II Girls Race
12:10	p.m.	Division II Boys Race
12:50	p.m.	Awards Division II
1:00	p.m.	Division I Girls Race
1:40	p.m.	Division I Boys Race
2:20	p.m.	Awards Division I

- A. **ENTRIES:** The Coach, Athletic Director or Principal is to complete the entry procedure using www.DirectAthletics.com for the NHIAA Championship Cross Country Meets. **Entries will close at 11:59AM on Sunday, October 14, 2012.** Each school may enter up to a MAXIMUM of 12 athletes. Any 7 of the 12 athletes may represent the school at the Divisional Meets or Meet of Champions. NO CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL NAMES MAY BE MADE to the original entries after October 14, 2012. **Note:** It takes at least 24 hours for new users to be accepted into the Direct Athletics system. athletes (If your school offers the sport and is not entering any athletes, the NHIAA must be notified in writing before or on the deadline date. There is no section on the website to indicate this information.)

Note: Athletes participating in NHIAA sponsored post-season activities must have a school designated adult supervisor in attendance at the event throughout the athlete's participation in such event. The school designated adult supervisor must be authorized by the high school principal and such authorization must be presented to the event director prior to participation by the athletes (If your school offers the sport and is not entering any athletes, the NHIAA must be notified in writing before or on the deadline date. There is no section on the website to indicate this information.)

- B. **ENTRY FEES:** There are no entry fees for Divisional Meets or the Meet of Champions.
- C. **COURSE:** The course will be the same as last year and maps will be provided. The course is open for walks and for inspection as indicated on the time schedule. The Meet Directors are members of the NHIAA Cross Country Committee and they reserve the right to make any alterations to the course that they deem necessary. If any changes are made, information will be given at check-in. Course length: BOYS – (approx.)5000m; GIRLS – (approx.)5000m.
- D. **AWARDS:** Official NHIAA championship and runner-up plaques, as well as 13 team medals, will be awarded in each of the divisional meets. In addition, 25 individual medals will also be awarded in each division for boys and girls.

III: MEET OF CHAMPIONS - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012:

The Meet of Champions will be held at **MINES FALLS, NASHUA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL NASHUA, NH** and will bring together the outstanding runners from each division for **HEAD TO HEAD COMPETITION**. The Meet of Champions also serves as a qualifying race for the New England Championships.

A. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Competitors for the Meet of Champions will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. From Division III - top 5 teams and first 23 finishers.
2. From Division II - top 6 teams and first 25 finishers.
3. From Division I - top 8 teams and first 30 finishers.
4. From Divisions I,II,III - at large next fastest 3 boy's, 3 girl's finishers

B. **ENTRY PROCEDURE:** No further entry procedure is required for the Meet of Champions. Packets will be prepared for each team or individual. Procedures will be similar to those of the Divisional Meets. Check-in is one hour before each race.

C. **RACE TIMES: GIRLS** - 2:30 p.m. **BOYS** - 3:20 p.m.

D. **AWARDS:** Official NHIAA medals will be awarded to the top twenty-five (25) individuals for boys and girls. **THERE WILL BE NO TEAM AWARDS.**

IV: NEW ENGLAND MEETS - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012:

TBA: Races for boys and girls will be held. The starting times will be 11:30 am for girls and 12:30 p.m. for boys. The course length will be 5000m for BOTH boys and girls. For both boys and girls, the first twenty-five (25) individuals and the first six (6) teams in the Meet of Champions will qualify to run in the New England Championships. Team qualifiers will be determined by adding the finishing positions of the first five (5) runners of each team. Before leaving the Meet of Champions, coaches who have qualified runners **must** check with the Meet Director. An entry fee of **\$105.00 per TEAM or \$15.00 per INDIVIDUAL** will be charged payable on the day of the New England Meet. Make checks payable to: "New England Council".

V: UNIFORMS (Divisional Meets and Meet of Champions)

It is the coaches responsibility to verify that the competitors are wearing the proper uniform, are not wearing jewelry and comply with the uniform rule:

Section 3; Competitor's Uniform (National Federation Rule Book)

ART. 1 . . . The competitor's uniform shall be issued by the school, worn as intended by the manufacturer, and have the following restrictions:

- a. Each competitor shall wear shoes.
 1. Shoes shall be worn on both feet and shall have an upper and definitely recognizable sole and heel.
 2. The (shoe) upper must be designed so that it can be fastened securely to the foot.
 3. The use of slippers or socks does not meet the requirements of the rule.
- b. Each competitor shall wear a full length track top or one-piece uniform issued by the school.

1. When numbers are used, each competitor shall wear his/her assigned, unaltered contestant number.
2. The top or one-piece uniform may have school identification and the top may have the competitor's name.
3. The top shall not be knotted or have a knot-like protrusion.
4. A single manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference, no more than 2¼ square inches with no dimension more than 2¼ inches, is permitted on the top or one-piece uniform.
5. The American flag, not exceeding 2x3 inches, and either a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform top.

NOTE: Only one American flag and/or commemorative patch may be displayed on the uniform (one or two piece).

6. Bare midriff tops are not allowed.
7. The top must hang below or be tucked into the waistband of the bottom when the competitor is standing upright.
8. Any visible garment(s) worn underneath the uniform top must be unadorned and of a single, solid color. As per NFHS rules, a single, visible manufacturer's logo and/or single school name or insignia no more than 2¼ inches are permitted on the undergarment. Visible items worn under both the top and the bottom do not have to be the same color.

NOTE: If more than one visible garment is worn under the uniform top, all must be the same color.

c. Each competitor shall wear a track bottom or one-piece uniform issued by the school.

1. The bottom or one-piece uniform may have the school identification.
2. Loose-fitting, boxer-type bottoms or compression-style bottom are permitted for boys and girls. Closed-leg briefs are acceptable for girls.
3. French or high-cut apparel shall not be worn in lieu of the uniform bottom.
4. The waistband of a competitor's bottom shall be worn above the hips.
5. A single manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference, no more than 2¼ square inches with no dimension more than 2¼ inches, is permitted on the bottom or one-piece uniform.
6. The American flag, not exceeding 2x3 inches, and either a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform bottom.

NOTE: Only one American flag and/or commemorative patch may be displayed on the uniform (one or two piece).

7. Any visible garment(s) worn underneath the uniform bottom must be unadorned and of a single, solid color. As per NFHS rules, a single, visible manufacturer's logo and/or single school name or insignia no more than 2¼ inches are permitted on the undergarment. Visible items worn under both the top and the bottom do not have to be the same color.

NOTE: If more than one visible garment is worn under the uniform bottom, all must be the same color.

ART. 2 . . . Additional restrictions for relay races.

- a. Each team member shall wear the same color and design of school uniform although the length of the bottom or one-piece uniform may vary.
- b. Any visible garment(s) worn by two or more relay team members underneath the uniform top and/or bottom shall be unadorned and of the same single, solid color, but not necessarily the same length.

NOTE: Visible items worn under both the top and the bottom do not have to be the same color.

PENALTY: (Arts. 1, 2) For illegal uniform, the competitor is disqualified from the event.

ART. 3 . . . Jewelry shall not be worn by competitors.

- a. Medical alert medals are not considered jewelry. The alert should be visible.

When the medal is attached:

1. to the body.
 2. to a bracelet made of a pliable material, it is not required to be taped to the body.
 3. to a necklace, it shall be taped to the body.
- b. Religious medals are not considered jewelry and must be worn under the uniform and taped to the body.
- c. A watch may be worn around the wrist.
- d. Unadorned devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes and hair clips, no longer than 2 inches, may be worn to control a competitor's hair.

PENALTY: For the first violation, the competitor shall be required to remove the jewelry before further competition, the team shall receive a team warning and a subsequent violation by any team member shall result in disqualification from the event. The referee shall be notified of the violation by the observing meet official and he/she shall then notify the head coach of the offending school of the violation and the team warning.

NOTE: The ultimate responsibility to have each competitor compliant with uniform and jewelry rules is with the coach.

ART. 4 . . . Removing any part of the team uniform, excluding shoes, while in the area of competition, as defined by the games committee, is illegal.

PENALTY: This shall lead to a warning and if repeated, to disqualification from the event. If the incident recurs, the competitor will be disqualified from further competition in the meet.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Cross country Committee has voted to impose a modification to the NFHS Jewelry Rule for New Hampshire. **No jewelry is allowed.** No team warning for jewelry violations will be issued during the cross country championships. All athletes competing while wearing jewelry will be disqualified.

VI: DISQUALIFICATION:

A competitor shall be disqualified who:

- a. Fails to complete the prescribed course.
- b. Uses an illegal aid such as, but not limited to, electronic impulse devices of any type.
- c. Wears an illegal uniform.
- d. False starts.
- e. Interferes with another runner.
- f. Uses unsportsmanlike or unacceptable conduct.
- g. Moves out of place position after the finish line.
- h. Shows exuberance by using the body, arms or hands at the finish line and affecting the finish or placement of another competitor.
- i. Joins hands with another competitor at any time during the race.
- j. Wears jewelry during a race. No warning will be given.

NOTE: If a competitor is pushed, tripped or otherwise interfered with on the course, the competitor must not retaliate. Retaliation will be an automatic disqualification no matter what the provocation.

VII: CONTINGENCIES (Divisional Meets and Meet of Champions):

- A. If a Championship meet scheduled for Saturday is postponed due to weather or other circumstances, it will be rescheduled for Sunday using the same time schedule.
- B. If the Divisional Meets are postponed on Saturday and Sunday due to weather or other circumstances, they will be rescheduled the following Saturday using the same time schedule and the Meet of Champions will be canceled that year. Team qualifications for the New England Championships will be based on the lowest aggregate time of the five (5) scoring runners in the Divisional Meets and individual qualifiers for the New England Championships will be based on their individual time in the Divisional Meets.
- C. If the Meet of Champions is postponed on Saturday and Sunday, they will be canceled that year, with team qualifications for the New England Championships based on the lowest aggregate time of the five (5) scoring runners in the Divisional Meets and individual qualifiers for the New England Championships based on their individual time in the Divisional Meets.

VIII: SPECIAL NOTES (Divisional Meets, Meet of Champions and New England's):

- A. **RULES:** The rules of the National Federation Cross Country, Rule 9 shall govern these meets. The finish position of non-team competitors will be eliminated and team positions re-ranked in order to determine team scores. In the event that two or more teams tie for the awards in the Divisional Meets or the Meet of Champions, the position of the 6th runner will be used as the tiebreaker. If a team does not have a 6th runner, the team with the 6th runner shall prevail. The NHIAA Cross Country Committee shall act as Jury of Appeals for the Divisional Meets and the Meet of Champions
- B. **PARKING AND OTHER FACILITIES:** Showers, toilets and locker room facilities are **NOT** available at Hillside Junior High School. Parking facilities are available at Hillside Junior High School on Reservoir Avenue for buses and at McDonough School at 550 Lowell Street for general public. Buses and other vehicles ARE NOT ALLOWED in Derryfield Park. Portable toilets will be available. There is a \$10.00 parking fee for the Meet of Champions.
- C. **SCHOOL DESIGNATED ADULT:** Athletes participating in NHIAA sponsored post season activities must have a school designated adult supervisor in attendance at the event throughout the athlete's participation in such event (they must sign in at the stage). The high school principal must authorize the school designated adult supervisor and the athlete must present such authorization to the event director prior to participation. Only that person may check in entries and receive competitors numbers.
- D. Any variation/exception to any of the regulations outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual must be for medical reasons and have the prior approval of the Committee/Meet Director. Written documentation from a physician must be provided to the Committee/Meet Director prior to competition.

IX: CODE OF CONDUCT:

The NHIAA Cross Country Committee has chosen Derryfield Park in Manchester, NH, as the site for their sanctioned events. We as a Committee believe that this course offers the best challenge for the athletes who participate in this event. This course is prepared by a group of dedicated individuals who take pride in the work they do.

We as a Committee have had to come to grips with the vandalism that takes place at events that we sponsor. In the past, the course has had damage due to spray painting by different schools. Fences have also been destroyed by over-zealous spectators and competitors who should understand this can no longer be tolerated by the Committee.

First of all, the members of the Committee expect the women and men who coach the athletes at our events to be directly responsible for not only the competing athletes, but also for non-competing athletes, supporters, spectators, and parents from the coach's school. We do not accept the argument that a coach is not responsible for anyone other than competing athletes. If a coach is not able to control non-competitors from the coach's school, please inform a member of the Committee to handle the situation.

After the event, we ask that all schools be responsible for their staging area. The trash you make you must pick up. Banners and signs are to be removed after the event.

Some specific rules, then:

1. No marking, painting, defacing of anything.
2. No taking of anything.
3. All signs and banners must be visible from the bandstand, no signs or banners in the woods or on the trails.
4. No nailing or stapling of anything to trees.
5. All signs or banners must be approved by a Committee member prior to being posted. Signs not approved will be removed.

We know that these rules will not diminish the good time that you and your athletes will have at the event. The Committee asks that you review these rules with your team. Violators will be subject to Committee action including non-participation in the current or following year.

X: BLOOD SPILLAGE AND BODY FLUIDS:

The NHIAA Sports Medicine Committee suggests that each school develop a local policy in cooperation with their local medical personnel, on how to handle blood spillage.

Housekeeping Procedures for Blood and Body Fluids:

Disposable latex gloves should be worn to avoid contamination of the hands of the person cleaning spillages involving blood or other body fluids and secretions. Persons involved in cleaning contaminated surfaces should avoid exposure of open skin lesions or mucous membranes to blood or body fluids. A freshly prepared solution of dilute household bleach (one quarter cup of bleach diluted in one gallon of water) or other disinfectant labeled as *virucidal*, *Tuberculocidal*, *staphylocidal* is useful. Allow the disinfectant to stand wet for a minimum of one minute to start killing pathogens and disinfecting the area (10 minutes of disinfection time guarantees surface sterility). Whenever possible, disposable towels, tissues, and gloves should be used and properly discarded and mops should be rinsed in disinfectant.

Interpretation Of Excessive Bleeding:

National Federation Rules call for a player, who is bleeding, has an open wound or excessive blood on the uniform, to leave the court/field.

The NHIAA interprets "excessive blood on the uniform" to mean that part of the uniform is saturated with blood. Saturated does not mean a wet spot. Saturated means a major portion of the garment is covered and soaked with blood. For this to occur, significant bleeding would have had to take place.

For any blood on uniform less than "saturated", the uniform does not have to be changed. School personnel have the responsibility of treating the blood area with the appropriate disinfecting solution before the athlete may participate. If the uniform is "saturated" with blood, the uniform must be changed before the athlete may participate. This interpretation is to be followed in the conduct of all NHIAA athletic events.

XI: OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY: LIGHTNING

Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect outdoor athletics. Within the United States, the National Severe Storm Laboratory (NSSL) estimates that 100 fatalities and 400-500 injuries requiring medical treatment occur from lightning strikes every year. The existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can, and does, strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain shaft. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike. Additionally, thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished due to background noise in the immediate environment, and its distance from the observer.

The following guidelines are recommended:

1. All athletic staff and game personnel are to monitor threatening weather. Establish a chain of command as to who makes the decision to remove a team or individual from athletic sites or events (athletic/site/event director, game officials/umpires, sports medicine staff?). An emergency plan should include planned instructions for participants as well as spectators.
2. Be aware of potential thunderstorms that may form during scheduled athletic events or practices. Included here should include National Weather Service – issued (NWS) thunderstorm “watches” and “warnings” as well as signs of thunderstorms developing nearby. A “watch” means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a “warning” means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take proper precautions.
3. Know where the closest “safe structure or location” is to the field or playing area, and know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location. Safe structure or location is defined as:
 - a Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people, i.e., a building with plumbing and /or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and **do not use** the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.
 - b In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires that make a vehicle safe shelter, but the hard metal roof, which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SIDES OF THE VEHICLE!**
4. **WHEN YOU FIRST HEAR THUNDER OR SEE LIGHTNING, SUSPEND ACTIVITIES AND GO TO A SAFE SHELTER OR LOCATION. “IF YOU CAN SEE IT (LIGHTNING), FLEE IT (TAKE SHELTER). IF YOU CAN HEAR IT (THUNDER) CLEAR IT (SUSPEND ACTIVITIES).” WAIT UNTIL 30 MINUTES AFTER THE LAST OBSERVED LIGHTNING OR THUNDER BEFORE RESUMING ACTIVITIES.**

5. If no safe structure or location is within a reasonable distance, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of the feet touching the ground, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize contact with the ground, because lightning current often enters a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike. **MINIMIZE YOUR BODY'S SURFACE AREA, AND MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH THE GROUND! DO NOT LIE FLAT!** Stay away from the tallest trees or objects (such as light poles or flag poles), metal objects (such as bleachers or fences), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the highest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single, tall tree.

XII: HEAT STRESS AND ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Early fall football, cross country, soccer and field hockey practices are conducted in very hot and humid weather in many parts of the United States. Due to the equipment and uniform needed in football, most of the heat problems have been associated with football. During the 1998 season, there were four heat stroke deaths in football. There are no excuses for deaths if the proper precautions are taken. During hot weather, the athlete is subject to the following:

HEAT CRAMPS - Painful cramps involving abdominal muscles and extremities caused by intense, prolonged exercise in the heat and depletion of salt and water due to profuse sweating.

HEAT SYNOCOPE - Weakness, fatigue, and fainting due to loss of salt and water in sweat and exercise in the heat. Predisposes to heat stroke.

HEAT EXHAUSTION (WATER DEPLETION) - Excessive weight loss, reduced sweating, elevated skin and core body temperature, excessive thirst, weakness, headaches and sometimes unconsciousness.

HEAT STROKE - An acute medical emergency related to thermoregulatory failure. Associated with nausea, seizures, disorientation, and possible unconsciousness or coma. It may occur suddenly without being preceded by any other clinical signs. The individual is usually unconscious with a high body temperature and a hot dry skin (heat stroke victims, contrary to popular belief, may sweat profusely).

It is believed that the above-mentioned heat stress problems can be controlled provided certain precautions are taken. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Sports Medicine, heat related illnesses are all preventable. (Sports Medicine: Health Care for Young Athletes, American Academy of Pediatrics, 1991). The following practices and precautions are recommended:

1. Each athlete should have a physical exam with a medical history when first entering a program and an annual health history update. History of previous heat illness and type of training activities before organized practice begins should be included. State high school association's recommendations should be followed.
2. It is clear that top physical performance can only be achieved by an athlete who is in top physical condition. Lack of physical fitness impairs the performance of an athlete who participates in high temperatures. Coaches should know the **PHYSICAL CONDITION** of their athletes and set practice schedules accordingly.
3. Along with physical conditioning, the factor of acclimatizing to heat is important. Acclimatization is the process of becoming adjusted to the heat and it is essential to provide for **GRADUAL ACCLIMITIZATION TO HOT WEATHER**. It is necessary for an athlete to exercise in the heat if he/she is to become acclimatized to it. It is suggested that a graduated physical conditioning program be used and that 80 percent acclimatization can be expected to occur after the first seven to 10 days. Final stages of acclimatization can be expected to occur after the first seven to 10 days. Final stages of acclimatization to heat are marked by increased sweating and reduced salt concentration in the sweat.
4. The old idea that water should be withheld from athletes during workouts has **NO SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION**. The most important safeguard to the health of an athlete is the replacement of water. Water must be on the field and readily available to athletes at all times. It is recommended

that a minimum of 10 minutes be scheduled for a water break every half hour of heavy exercise in the heat. WATER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN UNLIMITED QUANTITIES. Check and be sure athletes are drinking the water. Cold water is preferable. Drinking ample water before practices and games has also been found to aid performance in the heat.

5. Salt should be replaced daily. Modest salting of foods after practice or games will accomplish this purpose. Salt sables are not recommended. ATTENTION MUST BE DIRECTED TO REPLACING WATER—FLUID REPLACEMENT IS ESSENTIAL.
6. Know both the TEMPERATURE and the HUMIDITY. The greater the humidity, the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. Test the air prior to practice or game using a wet bulb, globe, relative humidity index (WBGT Index) which is based on the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement. The following precautions are recommended when using the WBGT Index (ACSM's Guidelines for the Team Physician, 1991):
 - Below 64.....unlimited activity
 - 65-72....moderate risk
 - 74-82....high risk
 - 82+.....very high risk

There is also a weather guide for activities that last for 30 minutes or more (Fox Matthews, 1981) which involves knowing the relative humidity and air temperature.

AIR TEMP	DANGER ZONE	CRITICAL ZONE
70 F	80% RH	100% RH
75 F	70% RH	100% RH
80 F	50% RH	80% RH
85 F	40% RH	68% RH
90 F	30% RH	55% RH
95 F	20% RH	40% RH
100 F	10% RH	30% RH

RH = Relative Humidity

One other method of measuring the relative humidity is the use of a sling psychrometer which measures the bulb temperature. The wet bulb temperature should be measured prior to practice and the intensity and duration of practice adjusted accordingly. Recommendations are as follows:

- Under 60 F.....safe but always observe athletes
- 61-65 F.....observe players carefully
- 66-70 F.....caution
- 71-74 F.....shorter practice sessions and more frequent water and rest breaks
- 75 + F.....danger level and extreme caution

7. Cooling by evaporation is proportional to the area of the skin exposed. In extremely hot and humid weather, reduce the amount of clothing covering the body as much as possible. NEVER USE RUBBERIZED CLOTHING.
8. Athletes should weigh in each day before and after practice and WEIGHT CHARTS CHECKED. Generally, a 3% weight loss through sweating is safe and over a 3% weight loss is in the danger zone. Over a 3% weight loss that athlete should not be allowed to practice in hot and humid conditions. Observe the athletes closely under all conditions. Do not allow athletes to practice until they have adequately replaced their weight.
9. Observe athletes carefully for signs of trouble, particularly athletes who lose significant weight and the eager athlete who constantly competes are his/her capacity. Some trouble signs are nausea, incoherence, fatigue, vomiting, cramps, weak rapid pulse, visual disturbance and unsteadiness.

10. Teams that encounter hot weather during the season through travel or following and unseasonably cool period should be physically fit but will not be environmentally fit. Coaches in this situation should follow the above recommendations and substitute more frequently during games.
11. Know what to do in case of an emergency and have your emergency plans written with copies to all of your staff. Be familiar with immediate first aid practice and prearranged procedures for obtaining medical care, including ambulance service.

HEAT STROKE - This is a medical emergency- DELAY COULD BE FATAL.

Immediately cool the body while waiting for transfer to the hospital. Remove clothing and place ice bags on next in the axilla (armpit) and on the groin area. An increasing number of medical personnel are now using a treatment for heat illness that involves applying either alcohol or cool water to the victim's skin and vigorously fanning the body. The fanning causes evaporation and cooling. (Source, The First Aider – September 1987).

HEAT EXHAUSTION - OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE AT ONCE. Cool the body as you would for heat stroke while waiting for transfer to the hospital. Give fluids if athlete is able to swallow and is conscious.

SUMMARY - The main problem associated with exercising in the hot weather is water loss through sweating. Water loss is best replaced by allowing the athlete unrestricted access to water. Water breaks two or three times per hour is better than one break an hour. Probably the best method is to have water available at all times and allow athletes to drink water whenever he/she needs it. Never restrict the amount of water an athlete drinks, and be sure the athletes are drinking the water. The small amount of salt lost in sweat is adequately replaced by salting foods at meals. Talk to your medical personnel concerning emergency treatment plans.

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XIII: NHIAA Guidelines on Ozone Pollution and Physical Activity

School Administrators and coaches as well as other appropriate staff are to use this document in making decisions regarding indoor and outdoor activities during periods of high ozone pollution.

CHARTING AIR QUALITY

Local officials use a simple scale to forecast and report on smog levels and other air pollution.

Depending on where you live, it might be called Air Quality Index (AQI) or Pollutant Standards Index (PSI).

Current air quality is reported as a percentage of the federal health standard for a pollutant. If the current index is above 100, air pollution exceeds the level considered safe.

At Ozone smog levels above 100, children, asthmatics and other sensitive groups should limit strenuous exercise. Even otherwise healthy people should consider limiting vigorous exercise when ozone levels are at or above the health standard.

If the index is above 200, corresponding to an ozone pollution level of .20 parts per million (ppm), the pollution level is judged unhealthy for everyone. At this level, air pollution is a serious health concern. Everyone should avoid strenuous outdoor activity, as respiratory tract irritation can occur.

U.S. EPA Air Quality Index

Index Value	Descriptor	Color	1 hr. Ozone ppb
0 – 50	Good	Green	---
51 – 100	Moderate	Yellow	---
101 – 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange	125 – 164
151 – 200	Unhealthy	Red	165 – 204
201 – 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple	205 – 404
301 – 500	Hazardous	Maroon	405 – 604

OBSERVING AIR QUALITY

1. Watch the Calendar

Ozone smog tends to be worst during the May - to - September “smog season.” Be especially conscious of smog levels during warm weather. In warm areas, smog can be a problem at any time of the year. Carbon monoxide pollution levels also are related to the weather, as well as to altitude. In the western U.S., the highest carbon monoxide levels are found in the winter months.

2. Watch the Clock

Since sunlight and time are necessary for ozone smog formation, the highest levels of ozone typically occur during the afternoon. Since carbon monoxide is produced primarily by motor vehicles, the highest carbon monoxide levels usually occur during rush hour or during other traffic congestion situations.

3. Watch the News

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Observe appropriate physical activity restrictions represented above.
2. If an ozone exceedance is expected, but has not yet occurred at the time an interscholastic practice or contest is scheduled to begin, that event may begin as scheduled.
3. If an interscholastic practice or contest is scheduled to begin and an E.P.A. warning is in effect (PSI 201 or higher), the event shall be cancelled, delayed or rescheduled.

When ozone levels reach a national PSI level of 201 (.201 parts per million), exercising indoors or outdoors may cause significant respiratory tract irritation and a decline in lung function. Therefore, strenuous exercise indoors and outdoors is to cease.

RECOMMENDED RESTRICTION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The following limits on activity for each type of episode are as follows:

A. Level Orange, PSI 101-150 (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups)

1. Active children and adults and people with heart or respiratory disease, such as asthma or allergies, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
2. Healthy individuals with noticeable health effects associated with existing conditions should minimize outdoor activity.

B. Level Red, PSI 151-200 (Unhealthy)

1. All athletes should discontinue prolonged, vigorous exercise indoors and outdoors.
2. Sensitive individuals, primarily children who are active outdoors and people with heart or respiratory disease such as asthma or allergies, should avoid indoor and outdoor activity.
3. Indoor and outdoor activities that should be avoided include, but are not limited to, calisthenics, basketball, baseball, running, field hockey, soccer, football, tennis, swimming and diving.

C. Level Purple, PSI 201-300 (Very Unhealthy)

1. All athletes shall discontinue vigorous indoor and outdoor activities, regardless of duration.
2. All indoor and outdoor physical education classes, sports practices and athletic competitions shall be rescheduled.

Note: Indoor practices may be held if an air-conditioned facility is available.

XIV: Concussion Statement:

NFHS Guidelines for Management of Concussions:

The NHIAA mandates the following of the NFHS guidelines for management of Concussions.

Concussions: Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.

Please visit www.nhcaa.org; “What’s New” to view the
NFHS Guidelines for Management of Concussions
and the New Hampshire SB402 and its language as written