

IHSAA NEWS RELEASE



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

9150 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46260 • 317-846-6601 • IHSAA.org • IHSAAtv.org • @IHSAAI

January 12, 2023

Cross Country State Tournaments reduced by One Week

In its first meeting of the new calendar year, the IHSAA Executive Committee voted to change the Boys and Girls Cross Country State Tournaments from a four week format to a three week format.

This morning's decision was one of three rules proposals acted upon after being formally presented last month by the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches (IATCCC).

By an 11-6 vote, next fall's state tournaments will be contested on three consecutive Saturdays and begin one week later than previously scheduled. Next season's sectionals will now be on Saturday, Oct. 14, regionals on Saturday, Oct. 21, and the state finals on the same previously scheduled date of Saturday, Oct. 28.

Since 2014, the cross country tournaments had been run on four consecutive Saturdays with sectionals, regionals, semi-states and state finals.

The new format calls for 25 sectionals and five regionals feeding into the state finals while eliminating the semi-state round. The top five teams and top 15 individuals not on a qualifying team will advance from each round to the next. Host sites and sectional assignments will be announced this summer.

“Today was a culmination of several years of discussion around issues within the cross country tournaments,” said Commissioner Paul Neidig. “The three-week tournament will provide more balance at the sectional level, resulting in a more competitive state tournament. The new format will advance 42 additional runners in each race at the state finals. We greatly appreciate the partnership with the state coaches association in developing this new format.”

Two other proposals from the coaches association were unanimously approved including awarding medals to the top 25 finishers in both state meets and creating a common track entry platform that all meets must use throughout the season.



About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its 407 member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 22 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and two co-eds (unified flag football, unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.