



Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union
5000 Westown Parkway, Suite 150 - West Des Moines, Iowa 50266 - (515) 288-9741



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

October 1, 2014

Dear Cross Country Coaches and Officials-

It's hard to believe that we are entering the final month of the season. From the meets we have observed and the results we have reviewed on the IATC web site, we continue to be amazed at the performances we are seeing statewide in all four classes for both genders. It will be an exciting last few weeks of the season as we head towards the state qualifying meets on the 23rd.

State Qualifying Meet Assignments – According to our manuals, State Qualifying Meet assignments will be released the week of October 6. We will review the October 9 IATC rankings and then make the final assignments. Please do not start calling our offices first thing next Monday, as the assignments will not be posted until later in the week when we receive the IATC rankings. Keep submitting meet results to Bill Neal (bneal8888@gmail.com) as many of you have earlier this season to help make the rankings more accurate. It is great to season 30 or more meet results a week posted, and you should be commended for promoting your athletes and your sport.

Head Bands & Hair Devices – During our meet visits, we have been stopped and asked the difference between a head band and a hair device. Both items are allowed by rule, but each have a specific purpose and unique rules. A head band is meant to keep perspiration off an athlete's face and out of his/her eyes. A head band needs to be a single solid color, unadorned except for a manufacturer's logo or school logo, and no wider than 2 ¼ inches. A head band must be worn on and around the forehead. Bandanas folded to have a head band appearance are not legal. A hair device is something that is worn to aid in controlling the hair and keeping it back and out of the face of an athlete. Barrettes, hair pins, and ribbons are some examples of hair devices. These items can be adorned. As the name implies, these devices are worn in the hair. To keep it simple for our coaches and officials, if it is in the hair, it is considered a hair device. Remember all other head gear and hats are not allowed unless an exception is made for adverse weather conditions.

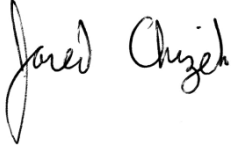
Wheelchair Competitors – We have not heard from any member school regarding having a wheelchair participant in cross country this fall. This is the last call for any member schools to let us know if they have wheelchair competitors.

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 IGHSAA/IHSA. 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 at 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. As 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.

Best of luck preparing for your conference and state qualifying meets. Again, if we can be of assistance, don’t hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jared Chizek
Assistant Director



John Overton
Assistant Director