

Committee Members Present: Carl Rickershauser (Rules Interpreter), Jim Casey (Central Section Director), Ed Colona (South Section Director), Justine Cassavell (Coach-Voorhees), Steve Shaklee (Coach-Cherokee), Tim Grant (Coach-Pingry), John Martin (Coach-Westfield), Wayne Letwink (North I Section Director), Lou Fraulo (North II Section Director), Grant Shrivvers (Woodbury Athletic Director), Len Pietrewicz (Coach Randolph), Don Danser (NJSIAA Staff). **Absent:** Jeannette Bruno (Executive Committee Representative)

Nearly everyone connected with this tournament are to be commended for their spirit of cooperation and understanding during this period following Sandy. Without such a spirit, nothing would have taken place. There was sentiment out there for cancelling all NJSIAA tournaments, but the most NJSIAA members felt that the athletes needed this “break from reality of Sandy” and did all that could be done to allow the athletes and schools to carry on.

Correspondence: Almost all of this year’s correspondence dealt with the Sandy-caused situation that ended with the Central Park of Morris County hosting North I and North 2 sectional and Delsea Regional High School hosting Central and South Sectionals a week later than scheduled (November 10), most suggesting alternate sites, most of which had the same issues as Garrett Mountain, Thompson Park, and Warinanco Park. Enough cannot be said about the work and dedication of the Morris County Park Commission and Len Pietrewicz (and the Randolph staff) in making sure Central Park was up and running by meet time. The following were most the sites suggested for substitutes:

Wolf Hill Recreation (Eastontown)

St. Rose Athletic Fields

Washington Crossing Park

Mercer County Parks

Horeshoe Lake (Near Roxbury High)

Natirar Park

We managed to get most of the checked out with the same results: Either the Park was unusable or the surrounding area was not able to handle influx of traffic a meet would bring due to power lines and trees being down

The one negative from the North 2 meet was over a close call between a 10th and 11th place runner. Officials saw it one way and the coach saw it another. Three of the 4 timing companies we use for these meets can video for back up, and we will ask them to do so next year. This will do away with the place card back up system for those sites. (2 correspondents requested this also.)

There was some discussion about post season meets and whether or not they should be considered when a rescheduling takes place. Since most of our individuals and teams are not considering post season meets, and since these meets are not school functions, they will not be given prime consideration when a rescheduling becomes necessary. That being said, we would not deliberately reschedule to cause a conflict if it could be avoided.

Before the Meet of Champions was scheduled for Wednesday, the tournament director surveyed the schools, via the NJSIAA listserv as to the date. Twenty-two asked for Wednesday and 3 for Saturday the 24. Only schools who thought they might be attending the meet were asked to respond. Jim Lambert of the Star-Ledger conducted an informal poll of the coaches, stating that 60% of the coaches favored Wednesday the 21st. That being settled, getting the Park to go along was the next step. They did agree to it. If the Meet of Champions is rained out (Holmdel Park makes the call), then the meet would be cancelled. The NJSIAA staff felt going beyond this date for this sport was not feasible

Some correspondence dealt with the mandatory attendance rule because of the rescheduled tournament. NJSIAA policy has been to relax the rule if a reschedule takes place **during** the tournament. In this case tournament schedule was settled **BEFORE** the tournament started. Teams and individuals are obligated to follow through with their commitments, as unusual as this may be in today’s society. It is also true, with a 12-person roster, that there is enough room within the rules for any team to fulfill their commitment to this meet and to any other post season affair.

Letter of Complaint from a parent about Garrett Mountain course, and one about Warinanco course, both proposing Greystone (Central Park of Morris County) course replace them.

A proposal to have only two sites for sectionals permanently and to change how you qualify for the Group meet based on this fact:

Proposal

North 1 and North II run on the same course

Central and South run on the same course

Top 3 teams automatically qualify for the groups from each section.

Next 4 fastest teams qualify from Section 1 and 2; and from Central and South qualify

All top 10 qualify; all individual runners who run faster than the 10th place finisher from one of the two sections on the same course also qualify.

Committee thought using two sites for an emergency was fine, but not for normal operations.

Another proposal asked to restructure the tournament in a way that would require only two weeks to complete. The first round would include the Non-public Group Meets and Public Sectionals. Award the sectional winners and NP Group Winners. To qualify for the combined Group Meet/Moc – only the top 5 from each sectional site (20 public and 5 non-public) based on team average performances would advance. After this race of the top 25 teams, the State Group Titles would be awarded using the Hy-Tec software, and the M of C awards would be based on the actual race.

You could also have a Group Consolation Race for public schools remaining top 10 teams (ranking 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10th at the sectionals) The proposal throws in 10 individuals somehow also.

If this were followed, it would be very rare day in deed that there would ever be a Non-Public B, Group I or even Group 2 state title winners. Taking the top five teams based on average performances in the sectionals would make the five advancers almost exclusively Group 3 and 4 and A. If you look in the rule book you will not see TIME mentioned in the cross-country rules. It does not determine winners, and really should not determine advancers. This proposal also flies in the face of the Meet/Tournament of Champions philosophy. Just because cross-country and track appears to be able to get just the best into the final phase of the tournament, does not mean that should be the goal. The 440 NJSIAA member schools have developed the philosophy that tournaments are based on GROUPS which are based on school SIZE (i.e. enrollment grades 10,11,12). The M/ToC's are designed to give those who do well in the GROUP tournaments an opportunity to see what they can do against each other. To change the advancement rules, you will first need to change this philosophy created by the 440 member schools.

Another proposal along this line suggested we use merged results of the group meets as a fairer way to determine the two wildcard teams. This year, the girls wildcard teams would have been different if this system were used.

One problem with the merged method is individuals with the same time are placed in the order received by the computer. Secondly, we could not tell who the wildcards are until the next day, because the merging takes some time. There was no consensus to change the present system

Another e-mail wanted expansion of roster from 12 to 14 to allow teams more flexibility when there is a conflict with a post season meet. Financially, buying two extra numbers for each team is cost prohibitive.

Like to thank Jim Schlentz and TheTrackShow.com for providing so quickly a video tour of Central Park of Morris County. That added to their collection of video course tours, so that are courses used for almost any major meet can be viewed on this site

Annual complaint about S.A.T. conflicts with the meets. Coaches and guidance counselors need to look into alternate dates and sites for athletes. Not only were the cross-country dates change, but so were the S.A.T.'s. Now-a-days the S.A.T. s are more flexible than in the past.

Thanks to Barry Frasco for pointing out some mistakes in the sectional records!

And finally there was a letter regarding the classification of A and B non-publics.

I believe that basing the division of A and B based on the number of entries into the race is faulted. It is illogical to assume an arbitrary dividing line can be established based solely on the number of teams that enter the competition. This is even more apparent because the original formula upon which this was based relied on the proposition that all of the teams entered would actually compete in the team competition. Four teams that were slotted for Group B did not field full teams, and one team did not field a team in Group A. This skewed the number of teams that actually competed in each section. Had the original division been based upon the teams that actually competed, Bishop Eustace, Depaul, Camden Catholic and Union Catholic would may have been afforded an opportunity to compete in Group B, and, had any of them been in this group would have either won or placed based on their respective average times. The failure of the teams to actually to actually field full teams despite entering as such (namely Roselle Catholic, Seton Hall Prep, Wildwood Catholic, Holy Spirit and Ranney) served to create an unlevel playing field where smaller schools were forced to compete with much larger programs.

Current Procedure: Non-Publics had two separate classifications: one for boys and one for girls. Entries were due, postmarked by Oct. 24 for a meet originally scheduled for the 10th. Classification was not done until about 10 days before the meet. Schools that had no effect on the classification: Those whose enrollment were under 150 and those who did not submit a team. There was a delay of the meet because of Sandy. The writer does not say how the director was to determine who had decided to change their entries from team to individuals. It seems that the writer wants the classification to take place the day of the race.

He also states: *in the alternative, select a concrete enrollment number upon which to base the classifications as is done in the public groups.*

First, the public groups are not based on entries, but on schools that OFFER cross-country. They are then quartered by size then by geography. The range that results is a result of the quartering not some arbitrary number. The NJSIAA constitution requires equal number of teams when teams are divided into groups. If we did (as we used to) the classification based on schools offering the program, there would be many more "B" schools in the "A" group.

Sites were discussed at length. North I may decide to alternate with Central Park of Morris County, if they so desire.

Electronic chips will be used for the first time at the Meet of Champions. The chips are embedded in the numbers. For the Meet of Champions, 600 chips at \$1.00 per chip was doable because about 8 fewer officials are needed if chips are used. (No need for chute monitors, tag pullers etc). Backup systems will include a video and a digital imaging system.

If we did not run the Group Meet at Holmdel, the \$3,000 spent on shuttle busses for spectators could be used to purchase the 2700 chips needed for that meet. As a result, we will look into the possibility at running the Group Meet at Thompson Park, but keep the Meet of Champions at Holmdel. We will survey the membership on their feelings about this possibility.

The awards ceremony at the Group Meet went ok without a stage, (Holmdel Park stage was no longer available to rent), but it was missed. We will look into the expense of renting one for future meets.

Tournament Regulation Changes

Page 1 Note 1 October 23 for Public October 30 for Non-Public

NOTE: Midseason transfer date: October 20, 2013

Opening Season – September 12, 2013

Page 2 Sectional Date – November 9, 2013

Order of Events

10:00	Group 1 Girls	11:40	Group II Girls
10:25	Group IV Girls	12:05	Group III Girls
10:50	Group 1 Boys	12:30	Group II Boys
11:15	Group IV Boys	12:55	Group III Boys

Page 3 November 9, 2013 Entries Close October 23, 2013

NJSIAA Cross-Country Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

Page 4 of 4

Page 4 November 9, 2013 Entries Close October 23, 2013

Page 5 Group Meet –November 16, 2013

October 30, 2013 (70% rule)

Public Schools Entries Postmarked by October 23, 2013

Non-Public Entries Postmarked by October 30, 2013

Page 6 2013 National Federation Rules

Transfer after October 20, 2013

Page 7 2013/2014 seasons

Page 8 2013 National Federation Track and Field Rule Book

Page 9 State Group Meet = November 16, 2013

Order of Events

10:00	Group III Girls	11:40	Non-Public A Girls	1:20	Group IV Girls
10:25	Group II Girls	12:05	Non-Public B Girls	1:45	Group I Girls
10:50	Group III Boys	12:30	Non-Public A Boys	2:10	Group IV Boys
11:15	Group II Boys	12:55	Non-Public B Boys	2:35	Group I Boys

Page 10 – Awards Ceremony Schedule

11:00	Group III Girls	12:40	Non-Public A Girls	2:20	Group IV Girls
11:25	Group II Girls	1:05	Non-Public B Girls	2:45	Group I Girls
11:50	Group III Boys	1:30	Non-Public A Boys	3:10	Group IV Boys
12:15	Group II Boys	1:55	Non-Public B Boys	3:35	Group I Boys

State Championship Meet (MoC) November 23, 2013

Order: Girls – 11:00

Boys - 11:45

Awards – 12:30 (starting with girls)

Page 11-15 – Holmdel Park may make changes in their rules and regulations at a later date

Page 14 Group Meet November 16, 2013

Page 16 Public School Deadline: October 23, 2013

Non-Public School Deadline: October 30, 2013

Page 19 Sectionals –November 9, 2013

Group Meet – November 16, 2013

Meet of Champions – November 23, 2013

Public School Deadline: October 23, 2013

Non-Public School Deadline: October 30, 2013

Page 20 2013 Sportsmanship Declaration

Page 24 Closing date for Non-Publics – Oct. 30, 2013