

MSTCA Cross Country Committee Meeting
5/21/19
Minutes

PRESENT: Joe Cusak, Rick Kates, Jeremy Nute, Fred Doyle, Alex Evans, Susannah Tracy, James Fletcher Don Hennigar, Mike Merrill, Todd Deely, Jason Sylvain, Bill Babcock, Jim Hoar (Via Google Hangouts)

1. Rick Kates opened the Meeting at 6:30pm
 - Welcomed new members and explained the mission of the committee
2. Coaches introductions by Name and School
3. Elections of new officers for the 2019-2022 Term
 - President: James Fletcher
 - Vice President: Fred Doyle
 - Secretary: Todd Deely

Review of MSTCA Cross Country Meets led by James Fletcher

- Ted Dutkiewicz Meet (Meet Director Mike Budd)
 - Girls will run first in 2019
 - Last year the D1 and D2 JV races were combined. Fletcher will check to see if the same will occur in 2019
 - Coaches enjoyed the shorter distance for an early season race
 - Questions regarding how many medals will be in JV race (20?)
 - Past attendance might have been hurt due to the conflict with the Amherst Invitational
- Frank Kelly (Meet Director: Dennis Sheppard)
 - D2 will run first in 2019
 - The meet will again be open to out of state teams but Ocean State shares this date
 - Jason reports 2 Long Island schools have expressed interest for 2019
 - Coaches expressed support for 3k and 5k options
 - Rick reported that after instituting the 3k option the number of heat related emergencies shrank from 10-0
 - Middle school races will continue this year between the D2 and Championship races since more D2 schools are likely to have middle school athletes. Coaches and athletes alike enjoyed the middle school races.
 - There will be a new way for middle schools that are not affiliated with a high school to enter the meet via Direct Athletics
 - Time standards will remain the same. Coaches are encouraged to abide by the standards
- Baystate Invitational (Meet Director: James Fletcher)
 - The goal of this meet has always been to create a "State Meet Atmosphere" and provide teams with a high level of competition against teams they don't typically see on the State Meet course
 - Rick and Frank worked to get the meet at Gardner but the only dates available conflicted with Twilight, Catholic Memorial and Brown

- This year's meet will be at Wrentham. We have an opportunity to create something unique this year. Many different options were discussed
 - Relay options, Thetford style meet (athletes seeded by race), Euro Style Relay. This is an opportunity to appeal to a different demographic, perhaps out of state teams as well
 - Important to return to the pre-State Meet format in subsequent years
- Conversation changed to discussion of alternate State Meet sites in Central MA
 - Devens – lack of adequate traffic control
 - New course being created in Attleboro
- Jason and James will put together a list of options to send to the committee

- Bob McIntyre Twilight (Meet Director: Jim Hoar)

- Same format as last year. DI will run on Friday in 2019
- Fairgrounds was happy with the 2 day format and better traffic flow
- Discussion of whether the small school freshman "B" race is necessary
- All New England and New York are now sanctioned
- 1050 cutoff between D1 and D2 to make each meet more even
- Teams can appeal their date but must do so 10 days prior at the latest (homecoming)
- Food trucks will return this year

- Frank Mooney Coaches Invitational (Meet Director: Mike Glennon)

- SAT's are on this date
- Traditional MSTCA Can drive will continue
- Last year we had to split the D1 meet in to separate JR and SR races due to safety concerns in 2017
- Discussion about how deep we want to give medals. Is 50 too much? Coaches like the idea of 50.
 - Also discussion of a better way to distribute medals in the finish area. It has been chaos and sometimes kids get the wrong medal.
- Should we limit "numbered" medals to top 3 or 5 and issue blank medals to the rest?

MOTION: Bill Babcock: Top 3 in each race receive gold, silver and bronze medals. Remainder receive medals that say "top 25" "top 50" or whatever the cutoff for the meet is

SECOND: Todd Deely

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- The single Payment form, waiver and emergency contact forms remain the same

- MSTCA looking to be more pro-active with electronic communication and will try to be more flexible and "school friendly"

- Cross Country Coaches Poll

- Conversation around having more pollsters and specific dates
- James suggests a bi-monthly poll
- Conversation around who should vote. Should it be entire membership, just the committee, by division?
- MOTION: Mike Merrill: The committee will be polled by division
- SECOND: Don Hennigar
- MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- MOTION: Jason Sylvain: There will be a pre-season poll in late August and bi-monthly polls on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of September and October

- SECOND: Todd Deely
- MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- Improving the MSTCA cross country experience brainstorming session
 - Possible suggestions for enhancing meet experience
 - Stream Race from the truck
 - Music (similar to Ocean State) Perhaps a DJ?
 - Timing mats to give “real-time” updates
 - Possible VIP seating at the finish (like the Ironman)
 - Possible meet ideas
 - Euro Style XC
 - relay Meets
 - Consensus that early season meets with shorter distances would work
 - JV/Freshmen Championships
 - Can’t “score” these meets due to MIAA rules
 - RI and NH have models for this before their State Meets (midweek)
 - Perhaps the day after the Divisional Meets
 - Run as a “club” Championship using a similar model as Nationals requiring a waiver and no school issued uniforms
 - Frank Mooney Coaches Meet is not currently an option due to MIAA rules
- Meeting Dates
 - Next meeting Sunday August 25th at 11am in Canton

MOTION TO ADJURN: Jason Sylvain
SECOND: Don Hennigar
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 8:30