

# South Dakota Cross Country/Track & Field Officials Association (SDCCTFOA)

## Newsletter, Fall 2024

### Officiating Philosophy

**Be Safe:** Safety – for athletes, officials, coaches, fans, and media – is the number one priority. Safety is the responsibility of EVERY OFFICIAL! Be proactive in promoting safety and make sure proper safety protocols are followed. Do not be timid if you see unsafe situations or if others are not being vigilant.

**Be Fair:** Know the appropriate rules for the meet and the event you are officiating and apply them consistently. Don't make up rules. No athlete should be allowed to gain an unfair advantage and no athlete should have to suffer an unfair disadvantage. All athletes should be regarded as equals, regardless of ability, the level of competition or who they represent.

### SDCCTFOA Membership Meeting, July 17, 2024

On July 17, 2024, the SDCCTFOA held its second full membership meeting. Among the topics discussed were fees for track and field meets and cross country meets, possible ways to recognize the contribution of officials, the selection of state meet officials, SDHSAA official's uniform, possible rule/policy changes such as use of colored cards for start line violations, and colored flags for field events and umpires, and various issues with track facilities (sand in pits, track markings, throwing ring improvements, etc). Minutes for that meeting can be found at:

[XCTF-MinutesJul24.pdf \(sdhsaa.com\)](#)

### 2024 Cross Country Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis

There are no new cross country rules this year, however a point of emphasis is safety, and Rule 8-1 was reorganized, with emphasis on safety. There is an emphasis on clear course markings being continuous throughout the course, and both artificial and natural boundaries can be used as course markers. Flags, caution tape and rope or other similar materials are allowed as well. Make sure you survey the entire course prior to the race.

### Key Dates for 2024 Cross Country Season

- On-Line Rules Meeting: August 1 to August 31

- Rules Test Completion: August 1 to August 31
- First Allowable School Practice: August 15
- First Allowable Contest: August 30
- Region Meet Completion Date: October 19
- State Cross Country Meet: October 26

## **State Cross Country Meet**

The 2024 State Cross Country Meet for all classes will be held on October 26, 2024 at the Hart Ranch Camping Resort just outside Rapid City, SD. If you have availability and want to help with that meet, reach out to Larry Stevens, the SDCCTFOA Regional Representative for western South Dakota. Larry can be reached at 605-877-4081 or [ldstevens57@outlook.com](mailto:ldstevens57@outlook.com).

## **2024 Cross Country Meet Officiating**

SDHSAA cross country meets must be officiated by a SDHSAA register official. We are encouraging schools to hire a second official, but if only one is hired they serve as both the meet referee and starter. We expect the official to arrive an hour before the first race, attired in the official uniform.

It is imperative the official travel the course to ensure it is marked properly and free of unsafe conditions. To do so, make sure the school has a golf cart available for the referee for the entire meet. Check the starting area and assure there are an adequate number of starting boxes. Mark the 100 meters for recalls. Check to see the set up for the chute/corral at the finish line.

30 to 45 prior to the first race, conduct a coach's meeting to cover uniforms, sportsmanship, receive physician's statements and handle other administrative duties. During the meet, at the start line, check for uniform compliance, and conduct a fair start. Be on the course during the race, particularly at locations where runners could potentially cut off distance. Be sure to be at or near the finish line at the conclusion, as most violations occur near that point, and be prepared to sort out the order of finish if there is a dispute.

Tim Casper has prepared an excellent outline of before, during and after the meet, which was included in your registration packet with your rule books. Make sure you spend some time going over that outline prior to every meet you work. [XC-MeetGuide.pdf \(sdhsaa.com\)](#)

## **Cross Country/Track & Field Advisory Committee Meeting**

The Cross Country/Track & Field Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be a ZOOM call. Currently, there is no agenda, but be sure to watch for this information. Ideas for rule or policy changes, usually start with this committee. Some of the possible topics our association may want to offer input for include: selection of state meet officials, use of red, yellow and green cards for starting violations, use of red and white flags for field events, use of yellow and white flags for umpire observations, fees or National Federation rule variances, to mention a few.

SDCCTFOA President Tim Casper is a member of the committee, which also includes:

- Paul Hendry, RC Stevens Coach
- Jason Bohl, Baltic Coach
- Todd Thorson, Ipswich Coach
- Kelcy Nash, Arlington AD
- Lema Leader Charge, Todd County, Native American Representative
- TBA, ADministrator

## **SDCCTFOA 2025 Clinic Topics, Dates and Locations**

Beginning with the 2024 Track & Field season, a clinic or jamboree is required for SDHSAA registered track and field and cross-country officials. A new official is required to attend a clinic in their first or second year, and current officials are required to attend a clinic every three years to maintain their registered status. See Page 4 of the SDHSAA Officials Handbook.

To fulfill this requirement, SDCCTFOA will present a track & field clinic before the track season. Those clinics are in-person presentations. Regional Representatives are responsible to host the meeting for the purpose of presenting a clinic in their respective area. Track coaches and athletic directors will be invited to the clinic.

### **Clinic topics for 2025:**

We need topics for the spring 2025 Track and Field officiating clinic which will be held probably in February or early March.

### **Tentative Locations for 2025 SD track and field clinics:**

- **Yankton**
  - POC: Tony Waterman, 605-941-1106, twater.cups@hotmail.com
- **Aberdeen or Watertown**
  - POC: Robert Kwasniewski, 605-265-0008, rkwas1@abe.midco.net
- **Rapid City**
  - POC: Larry Stevens, 605-877-4081, ldstevens57@outlook.com
- **Huron**
  - POC: Steve Charron, 605-354-4716, scharron123@hur.midco.net

## **SDCCTFOA Officers, Regional Representatives and their duties**

- President: Tim Casper, Lake Preston, 605-203-1754 tim.casper19@gmail.com
- President-Elect: J.D. Evans, Salem, 605-491-4207 jd.evans@k12.sd.us
- Sec/Treasurer: Dana Nelson, Sioux Falls. 605-280-1333 dana.nelson0007@hotmail.com

### Regional Representatives

- Region 1 (Northeast) Robert Kwasniewski, Webster, 605-265-0008 rkwas1@abe.midco.net
- Region 2 (Southeast) Tony Waterman, Tea, 605-941-1106 twater.cups@hotmail.com
- Region 3 (Central) Steve Charron, Huron, 605-354-4716 scharron123@hur.midco.net
- Region 4 (West) Larry Stevens, Rapid City, 605-877-4081 ldstevens57@outlook.com
- Region 4 (West) Randy Thomas, Faith, 605-381-0394 faithlbr@faithsd.com

Regional Representatives serve a three-year term and are members of the Board of Directors for SDCCTFOA. They are responsible for the officials and the territory within the regional boundaries identified in the Constitution. They interact with and communicate with officials in the region and are responsible for inquiries or requests from officials in their region. They are also responsible to host an in-person meeting in the region for the purpose of a track and field/cross country clinic.

## **Want to be More Involved in the Association**

All you need to do is let a board member know. The only way we can grow this organization is to include more officials. No contribution is too little, so if you have an idea, concern or objection, please reach out.

## **New Officials**

Do you know someone who may be interested in becoming a track & field and/or cross country official? The SDHSAA is looking for new officials. Be responsible to recruit someone to succeed you when you retire. Have them contact the SDHSAA and register.

## **Next Newsletter & Contributions**

The SDCCTFOA are producing two newsletters, one prior to cross country and one prior to track season. Anyone with topics is encouraged to reach out to J.D. Evans, Dana Nelson or Tim Casper. We need more input and ideas, and many of you have things you may like to share. Thank you and best of luck in track & field and cross country.