

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 413.20 – Use of Registered Officials
(~~deleted language~~ proposed language)

Submitted by: MSHSL Board of Directors

Current Bylaw [bylaw reference(s)]: 413.20

Copy language of current bylaw (if applicable) here:

2. Use of Registered Officials:

Fully eligible officials shall be employed for all varsity-level interscholastic contests in:

Baseball	Hockey, Adapted Floor	Swimming and Diving
Basketball	Lacrosse	Synchronized Swimming, Girls
Dance Team	Soccer	Track and Field
Football	Soccer, Adapted	Volleyball, Girls
Gymnastics, Girls	Softball, Adapted	Wrestling
Hockey	Softball, Adapted	
Softball, Adapted	Softball, Girls Fast-Pitch	

Proposed Changes:

Addition of Cross Country Running to the list of Use of Registered Officials

Rationale:

Cross Country Running athletes should have the opportunity to have events that are managed by officials that have completed the minimal competencies including the online rules module and exam that focuses on the rules and mechanics of officiating cross country running events. This brings Cross Country running in line with the majority of other sports held within our league.

One eligible official has been required for varsity track and field contests for many years. This proposal would align those sports (which share a rules book) in a similar requirement for cross country running. Officials would register for both sports with one fee, one online rules module and one exam to be eligible for both sports.

Officials Advisory, Cross Country Running Coaches Advisory and Activities Director Advisory have all discussed and voted in support of this proposal moving forward in the process of consideration.

Advisory Committee Report to the MSHSL Board of Directors

Activity: Cross Country

Date Submitted: October 3, 2022

Indicate the category of the proposed recommendations: Staff Recommendation with support from Official's Advisory Committee, Cross Country Coaches Advisory Committee and Activities Advisory Committee

Authors of the Proposal: Jason Nickleby, Coordinator of Officiating Services and Charlie Campbell, Associate Director

Current Rule/Policy: N/A Eligible officials are not currently required for varsity cross country events.

Proposed Recommendation: As a companion policy to Bylaw 413 which is currently requesting the addition of cross country running events to the list of sports requiring an eligible official, we are recommending that the following language be applied to varsity cross country running events:

*Minimum: One (1) official (either the referee or starter).
Recommended: Two (2) officials – referee (1) and starter (1).*

Rationale:

- **What is the history of the proposal?**
Eligible Cross Country Running officials have not been required for any level of competition. Officials Advisory Committee submitted a proposal to League staff to require one eligible official for varsity cross country running events similar to that of track and field. This proposal was subsequently vetted and supported by Cross Country Running Coaches Advisory Committee and Activities Director Advisory Committee.
- **How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students? (Include socio-economics, enrollments and underrepresented populations, equity and precedent amongst sports and activities)**
Cross country running athletes have not had the opportunity to have an eligible individual to manage their events as an official. Student participants should have the opportunity to have positive events managed by capable adults in as many occasions as possible. This proposal ensures that an individual who is officiating varsity cross country running events will have completed minimal competencies to serve as a meet official and will have the confidence that they are prepared to support cross country running athletes as they participate in varsity meets.
- **What other policies are significant in this proposed recommendation?**
One eligible official has been required for varsity track and field contests for many years. This proposal would align those sports (which share a rules book) in a similar requirement for cross country running. Officials would register for both sports with one fee, one online rules module and one exam to be eligible for both sports.
- **Evidence of Support for the Proposed Amendment from Other Groups (Coaches, Administrators, Superintendents, Officials, etc.):**
Officials Advisory, Cross Country Running Coaches Advisory and Activities Director Advisory have all discussed and voted in support of this proposal moving forward in the process of consideration.

Cite an example of how the proposed recommendation would affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools.

A survey of participating schools indicated that:

- Approximately 70% of respondents indicate they hire a starter/official. Of those:
 - 35 % of respondents hire registered T&F/CCR officials.
 - 52% of respondents are hiring/using current and/or former coaches
 - 17% indicate "other" which includes formerly eligible track and field officials

It is also important to note that 20% of respondents indicate they do not host cross country running meets.

Administration: This would not impact Section or State Tournaments as we currently contract for officials at these meets. The only change is that eligible officials would be required to officiate at these events and we are confident that we will have numerous individuals who are capable of officiating at this level of competition including women and candidates of color.

Length of Tournament: N/A

Participants: N/A

Facilities: N/A

Awards: N/A

Other: N/A

Primary Author and Contact for Proposal

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