

200. State Series

Terms & Conditions

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In accordance with Article 8 of the FHSAA Bylaws, the following Terms and Conditions governing the 2009 FHSAA State Cross Country Series have been approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors. Justin Harrison, administrator for cross country, shall be the state series director.

201. Team Entries (Policy 10)

201.01 Eligibility.

(1) Participation in the state series is voluntary and open to any full member senior high school varsity team provided:

(a) The school engages in a minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests (games, matches or meets) or the required number of district contests as determined in the district meeting, whichever is greater, in the sport. To count as a contest, the school's team actually shall participate in and complete the contest. Scheduled contests that are canceled or not completed (in accordance with the playing rules of the sport in question) may not be counted.

(b) The school files a declaration of intent to participate in the state series with the FHSAA Office by the specified deadline;

(c) A school must play not less than 60 percent of its regular season contests in the sport against FHSAA member schools; and

(d) A school must not take more than one trip per school year in the sport beyond the neighboring states of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

(2) A school shall enter only one (1) girls team and/or one (1) boys team.

(3) A first-time member senior high school shall not be eligible to enter a team into the FHSAA State Series in any sport in its two years of provisional membership, unless the school is created from the consolidation or division of existing member high schools and remains under the control of the same governing board.

(4) Boys may not participate on a girls team or in the girls division in the FHSAA State Series in any sport. In an individual sport, girls may not participate in the boys division in the FHSAA State Series if competition is conducted in a girls division in that sport. However, for a girl to participate in the girls division of the state series in a sport, the school must file a "Declaration of Intent to Participate in the FHSAA State Series" form in that sport.

201.02 Commitment to Participate.

(1) Commitment Form. Each member school that elects to participate in a State Series competition in an individual sport must notify the FHSAA Office of its intent to do so on the "Declaration of Intent to Participate in FHSAA State Series" form. The FHSAA issues intent forms on a biennial basis. A commitment made using this form is for the following two school years.

(2) Signatures Required. An intent form, to be valid, must bear the signature of the member school principal and Athletic Director or FHSAA Representative.

(3) **Non-Binding Agreement.** A properly executed intent form is non-binding on the member school. A school that elects to withdraw from its intent to participate in an individual sport may do so without penalty, prior to the beginning of the fifth (5th) week of competition in the sport, by notifying the FHSAA Office of its decision using the form provided for that purpose. If, however, the school fails to notify in writing the FHSAA Office of its decision to withdraw from its intent to participate in an individual sport prior to the beginning of the fifth (5th) week of competition, that school shall be assessed a \$250 fine and its program in that sport placed on administrative probation.

(4) **Failure to Declare Intention before Deadline.** A school that does not file notice of its intent to participate in the FHSAA State Series in an individual sport by the deadline, and later submits a request in writing to the FHSAA Office to participate in that sport shall be assigned to the appropriate classification and district and shall be assessed a mandatory, non-refundable \$100 administrative fee.

No school, however, under any circumstance, shall be assigned to a classification and district in the FHSAA State Series in an individual sport if its request for such assignment is received in the FHSAA Office on or after the deadline for filing the Official Entry List in that sport.

(5) **Intention Agreement.** By filing notice of intent to participate in an FHSAA State Series, a member school agrees to participate in accordance with and abide by all the procedures, guidelines, policies and regulations for that FHSAA State Series as approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

202. Student-Athlete Entries

202.01 Eligibility.

(1) To represent a member school in the state series, a student-athlete:

(a) Must be eligible under Bylaw 9 and applicable administrative guidelines, regulations, policies and procedures.

(b) Must participate in a minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests in the sport during the regular season. A student-athlete who is academically ineligible at the beginning of a sports season and who regains his/her eligibility during that sports season, but is unable to participate in the minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests in that sport shall be exempted from this provision.

(c) Must be submitted to the district tournament/meet host on the school's official entry list.

(d) In an individual sport, to be eligible for individual honors on the regional and state levels, a student-athlete shall compete for individual honors on the district level. To be eligible for individual honors on the state level, a student-athlete shall compete for individual honors on the district and regional levels.

(2) Girls only may participate in the girls division of the state series. Boys only may participate in the boys division of the state series.

202.02 Official Entry List.

(1) Each participating school must generate in iFHSAA and submit by fax to its district tournament manager a "2009 FHSAA State Cross Country Series Official Entry List" on which is listed the name of each student-athlete who will represent the

school in the state series. The official entry list:

(a) Must be filed by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26, 2009 (late filing fee is \$50, increases to \$100 if not received by district meet manager by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, 2009).

(b) May contain the names of up to 15 student-athletes, of whom any seven (7) may participate. All student-athletes listed must have been previously reported to the FHSAA Office via iFHSAA/C2C Schools.

(c) Must bear the signatures of the principal, the official FHSAA representative or the athletic director, and the head coach of the school's team in that sport. The District Tournament/Meet Manager must not accept an Official Entry List that does not bear all three required signatures.

(d) Cannot be e-mailed.

(2) A school whose official entry list is not received by the time designated for the draw to determine the starting position of teams and individuals in the district meet may be permitted to participate only with the approval of the FHSAA Office; however, that school shall be assessed a minimum financial penalty of \$250. This penalty will increase if it is later determined that a student-athlete(s) representing the school was ineligible to do so. Under no circumstances shall the Manager of a District Tournament/Meet permit a team for which he/she has no Official Entry List to participate in the District Tournament/Meet without the approval of the FHSAA Office.

(3) Additions/changes to an official entry list must be submitted in writing to the district meet manager using Form AT8. The coach must certify that the student-athlete has been reported to the FHSAA Office on an annual eligibility list via iFHSAA and has met minimum regular season participation requirements. The following provisions will apply:

(a) An administrative fee of \$50 per addition or change will be assessed if the AT8 form is filed after the district entry list deadline. The fee(s) will appear on the school's next monthly statement. This penalty will increase if it is later determined that the student-athlete(s) added to the school's Official Entry List was ineligible. This fee will be waived for changes due to academic eligibility changes from the first semester to the second semester.

(b) Requests for additions/changes are permissible until the the designated time for the draw for starting positions in the district meet. Once the draw for starting positions for the district meet begins, no additions/changes may be made without the approval of the meet manager.

(4) The Event Manager must forward to the FHSAA office within ten (10) working days following the conclusion of a district, regional or state finals event: 1). The Official Entry Lists submitted by the participating schools; 2). The Entry List Addition/Change Forms (AT8); and 3). The Entry List log. The minimum fine for noncompliance with this regulation is \$100.

203. School Classification

Please refer to Policy 12 in the FHSAA Handbook for more information on school classification. State series assignments as of press time are provided in Appendix B. Check FHSAA.org for the most up-to-date assignments.

204. Districts

204.01 Assignment. Participating schools are geographically assigned to one of eight (8) district complexes (see Appendix B or FHSAA.org). A meet shall be conducted in each district complex at the conclusion of the regular season to determine the teams and individual competitors who shall represent the district complex in the remainder of the state series.

204.02 District Coordinator. One school in each district complex has been designated as the district coordinator (see Appendix B or FHSAA.org). The FHSAA representative or his/her designee at the district coordinator school shall be responsible for hosting, conducting and reporting to the FHSAA Office results of the district meeting. At the conclusion of the district planning meeting, the district meet/tournament host (meet manager) will assume responsibility for the event.

204.03 District Meeting.

(1) Each district coordinator must conduct a district meeting between Monday, Aug. 31-Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009. The site and time of the meeting shall be determined by the District Coordinator, except that the time of the meeting should cause no loss of time from school for any attendee. The District Coordinator shall give written notice to the FHSAA representative, athletic director and appropriate head coach of each school in his/her district as to the date, time and site of the meeting at least seven (7) days in advance of the date of the meeting. If, however, the FHSAA representative, athletic director and appropriate head coach at a given school has not received written notification from the District Coordinator as to the date, time and site of the meeting, it is his/her responsibility to contact the District Coordinator for the arrangements. Exceptions to this policy must be made in writing to the Executive Director.

(2) Each school in the district shall be required to send a representative to attend the meeting and vote on behalf of the school on all matters pertaining to plans for the district tournament. A school that is not represented at the meeting shall be assessed a \$100 penalty. If a school wishes to submit an invitation to host the district tournament at the meeting and its representative present is not the principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director, the representative must have in his/her possession a letter of invitation signed by one or more of the principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director. A District Coordinator may request of the Executive Director or his/her designee permission to conduct a district scheduling/tournament meeting by teleconference if his/her district is spread over a large geographic area.

- (3) The following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:
- Review FHSAA rules, policies, terms and conditions governing the FHSAA State Cross Country Series, including the FHSAA "Licensing and Merchandising Policy" (s. 208.07).
 - Select host school, site and determine time schedule. (Note: If using alternate sites, one school must be selected as the host and be responsible for submitting all required reports at the conclusion of the district tournament with FHSAA policies.) The host school must use Hy-Tek Meet Manager for Windows software to conduct the District Meet.
 - Determine team awards to be ordered.
 - Determine number of passes to be allowed competing teams.
 - Determine financial arrangements and complete the Financial Terms Form included in the district meeting packet. See Section 206 (Financial Terms). Determine how expenses/profits will be shared among participating schools.
 - Determine the amount of compensation, not to exceed \$100, to be paid to the

Meet Manager.

- (g) Determine whether meet manager or games committee will conduct the draw for starting positions and on which date the draw will be conducted.
- (h) Other business (i.e., AED availability, medical presence, etc.).
- (4) The FHSAA Office will e-mail each district coordinator a form on which to record the decisions made during the district meeting. The report form should be completed and submitted along with minutes of the meeting to the FHSAA Office and each school in the district promptly following the meeting.

204.04 Regular season district competition. Competition between schools assigned to a district is not required during the regular season.

205. Meet Structure and Time Schedules

205.01 Meet Series. The successive meet series shall be designated respectively as district, regional and FHSAA Finals. Competition in the girls and boys divisions shall be conducted simultaneously.

205.02 District Meets.

(1) **Dates, Time Schedule and Site.**

(a) Dates. Week 18 (Nov. 2-7, 2009)

(b) Time Schedule. Each district will determine the time schedule for its meet at the district meeting.

(c) Site. Each district will determine a site for its meet at the district meeting.

The date and site of each district meet will be posted on FHSAA.org.

205.03 Regional Meets.

(1) **Complexes.** Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. Districts 1 and 2 will comprise the Region 1 complex, Districts 3 and 4 the Region 2 complex, Districts 5 and 6 the Region 3 complex, and Districts 7 and 8 the Region 4 complex. One meet will be conducted in each regional complex.

(2) **Dates and Time Schedule.** Regional meets shall be held on Thursday, Nov. 12, through Saturday, Nov. 14 (Week 19). Suggested schedule times for a regional meet held on Friday are 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Suggested schedule times for a regional meet held on Saturday are 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. The girls race shall precede the boys race in each meet. The date and time of each meet will be posted on FHSAA.org. A coaches meeting shall be held at the site of each regional meet 60 minutes prior to the start of the meet.

(3) **Sites.** Regional Meets shall be held at the following sites and hosted by the following schools:

Class 4A

| Region | Site | Host School |
|--------|---|---|
| 1 | Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville | Buchholz (Gainesville)/Oak Hall (Gainesville) |
| 2 | Lake Park | Plant (Tampa)/Holy Names (Tampa) |
| 3 | Tradewinds Park | Coral Springs |
| 4 | TBA | TBA |

Class 3A

| Region | Site | Host School |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Miccosukee Greenway Canopy Park | Chiles (Tallahassee) |
| 2 | Withlacoochee River Park | Wiregrass Ranch (Wesley Chapel) |
| 3 | Charlotte Sports Park | Charlotte (Punta Gorda) |
| 4 | On campus | South Fork (Stuart) |

Class 2A

| Region | Site | Host School |
|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Miccosukee Greenway Canopy Park | Chiles (Tallahassee) |
| 2 | TBA | TBA |
| 3 | Lake Park | Plant (Tampa)/Holy Names (Tampa) |
| 4 | Mills Pond Park, Fort Lauderdale | Cardinal Gibbons (Ft. Laud.) |

Class 1A

| Region | Site | Host School |
|--------|---|---|
| 1 | Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville | Buchholz (Gainesville)/Oak Hall (Gainesville) |
| 2 | On campus | Mount Dora |
| 3 | TBA | TBA |
| 4 | West Campus | Westminster Academy (Ft. Laud.) |

(4) **Invitations to Host.** The deadline date for extending an invitation to serve as host for a regional meet in 2010-11 is Mar. 31, 2010. A criteria to be used in the selection of regional meet hosts shall be their access to and ability to use Hy-Tek Meet Manager computer software. Invitations to host should be addressed to Justin Harrison, Cross Country Administrator, 1801 NW 80th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606-9176.

205.04 FHSAA Finals.

(1) **Dates and Site.** The FHSAA Cross Country Finals state meet shall be held on Saturday of Week 19 (Nov. 21, 2009) at Little Everglades Steeplechase in Dade City. Justin Harrison, FHSAA administrator for cross country, will be the meet director.

(2) **Time Schedule.** The FHSAA Finals will be run according to the following time schedule:

| Time | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 7:30 a.m. | Class 1A girls | Class 4A girls | Class 3A girls | Class 2A girls |
| 7:55 a.m. | Class 2A girls | Class 1A girls | Class 4A girls | Class 3A girls |
| 8:20 a.m. | Class 1A boys | Class 4A boys | Class 3A boys | Class 2A boys |
| 8:45 a.m. | Class 2A boys | Class 1A boys | Class 4A boys | Class 3A boys |
| 9:05 a.m. | Class 3A girls | Class 2A girls | Class 1A girls | Class 4A girls |
| 9:30 a.m. | Class 4A girls | Class 3A girls | Class 2A girls | Class 1A girls |
| 9:55 a.m. | Class 3A boys | Class 2A boys | Class 1A boys | Class 4A boys |
| 10:20 a.m. | Class 4A boys | Class 3A boys | Class 2A boys | Class 1A boys |

(3) **Coaches Meeting.** An online presentation for head coaches of schools with participating teams or individuals will be available Nov. 14, 2009. It will be located at FHSAA.org on the cross country main page. Each school entering a team or individual in the FHSAA Finals must be represented at this meeting by either the head girls coach or head boys coach. Schools that fail to have a head coach view the presentation shall be assessed a monetary penalty. There will be an optional question-and-answer session on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, in the grandstands at a time to be determined.

205.05 Advancement of Teams and Individuals.

(1) **District Meet to Regional Meet.** The first six placing teams and the top 15 runners in each district meet in which 14 or less teams of five to seven runners are entered, and the first eight placing teams and the top 15 runners in each district meet in which 15 or more teams of five to seven runners are entered, shall advance to the regional meet to which they are assigned. "Entered" is defined as being present at

the starting line and competing. A runner who qualifies in the top 15 and who also is a member of a qualifying team may be replaced in the team lineup [regional meet/FHSAA Finals] by a substitute. The substitute, however, shall not be eligible for individual honors on any subsequent level of competition.

(2) **Regional Meet to FHSAA Finals.** The first six placing teams and the top 15 runners in each regional meet shall advance to the FHSAA Finals. A runner who qualifies in the top 15 and who also is a member of a qualifying team may be replaced in the team lineup [regional meet/FHSAA Finals] by a substitute. The substitute, however, shall not be eligible for individual honors on any subsequent level of competition.

205.06 Local Management. The FHSAA representative of the host school will be the local manager for the state series meet that his/her school is hosting. He/she will be responsible for making the necessary preparations to host the meet and for the filing of necessary reports to the FHSAA Office upon conclusion of the meet.

The local manager must submit to both the FHSAA Office and the next level meet manager the results of the meet that his/her school hosted. These results must be transmitted using Hy-Tek Meet Manager for Windows software. The first and last names of each participant, together with their recorded times (manual or FAT), must be provided. These results must be submitted within 24 hours of the conclusion of the meet. The local manager also must forward to the next level meet manager by fax or overnight delivery photocopies of the official entry lists for all schools participating in the meet. Original copies of the official entry lists must be mailed to the FHSAA Office by district meet managers. Results may be e-mailed to the FHSAA Office at “crosscountry@fhsaa.org”. The FHSAA Office will supply each local manager with the appropriate phone numbers and fax numbers.

206. Financial Terms

Please refer to Policy 9 in the FHSAA Handbook for more information on financial terms.

207. Meet Regulations

207.01 Teams. A team shall be composed of five (5) to seven (7) runners. Schools that enter fewer than five runners, and schools from which fewer than five runners finish the race, at any state series meet shall not be eligible for team honors. Individual contestants from such schools, however, may earn individual awards.

207.02 Starting Positions. The starting position for each team in a state series meet shall be drawn by lot from left to right in advance by the meet manager or games committee. Individual contestants shall be assigned starting positions using the same procedure.

207.03 Meet Management Software. Hy-Tek Meet Manager for Windows software shall be used to score state series meets and transmit their results to the FHSAA Office and the next level meet manager. The school names and abbreviations developed by the FHSAA Office (see Appendix B) shall be used when entering competitors into the computer.

207.05 Jury of Appeals.

(1) A Jury of Appeals consisting of five coaches from five different participating

schools shall be appointed by the meet manager for each meet in the state series. Five alternate jurors shall also be appointed. A Jury of Appeals consisting of five members is mandatory. There can be no ruling rendered without five jurors.

(2) Jurors for the FHSAA Finals shall be chosen as follows:

(a) A list of recommended jurors will be compiled by the FACA State Cross Country chairperson at the FACA summer clinic and submitted to the FHSAA for approval. Any coach not on the “approved” list cannot serve on a Jury of Appeals at the FHSAA Finals.

(b) Diversity in school classification, gender and geography, as well as knowledge and experience, must be taken into consideration when a Jury of Appeals is selected.

(3) A member of the Jury of Appeals whose team or individual contestant is a party to an appeal must recuse himself/herself and be replaced until the appeal is concluded.

(4) The Jury of Appeals shall meet 15 minutes following the conclusion of the final race of each classification, and should conclude all rulings prior to the awards ceremony for that classification.

(5) The head coach of a team who wishes to file an appeal must do so in writing. The appeals process will adhere to NFHS Case Book guidelines.

(6) The decision of the Jury of Appeals shall be final. The Jury of Appeals cannot set aside any rule.

207.06 Failure to Compete. A student-athlete who qualifies in a state series meet is expected to compete on successive levels of the state series unless ill, injured, suspended due to disciplinary action, or for any other reason acceptable to the Executive Director. A school must submit in writing to the FHSAA Office the name of the student-athlete and an explanation for the inability to compete in advance of the competition whenever situations make it possible to do so.

208. State Series Policies

208.01 Administration and Management. As specified in Bylaw 4.3.2, all state series shall be conducted in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Directors and shall be under the control, direction and supervision of the FHSAA Office.

208.02 Enforcement of Rules & Policies. Participating schools shall adhere to all regulations and policies governing the state series.

The determination of the host school for each event shall be conditioned in part on the school’s willingness to comply with and enforce regulations and policies governing the event. This includes financial terms, as well as licensing and merchandising policies. A school that does not comply with and enforce such regulations and policies shall forfeit its opportunity to serve as host.

208.03 Neutrality. It is the responsibility of the host school to ensure that an atmosphere of neutrality is maintained in all state series events. Such events are not “home contests” for the host schools. Special festivities held as part of, or in conjunction with, regular season home contests (i.e., pregame activities designed to rally support for the home team, such as light shows, or give special recognition to members of the home team) are not permitted during the state series.

208.04 Forfeitures and Vacations of Brackets, Standings. Individuals or teams that are eliminated from state series competition by defeat by

individuals or teams that later are ordered to forfeit their victory, place and/or points, are not reinstated and do not advance in the state series competition from which they were eliminated by defeat.

If championships or other placements in state series competitions are ordered vacated by individuals or teams, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements nor receive awards for those placements.

208.05 Passes.

(1) FHSAA State Series Passes, FHSAA Lifetime Passes and legitimate news media credentials **ONLY** will be honored for complimentary admission to state series events.

(2) FHSAA State Series Passes issued to member schools may only be issued to and used by those individuals who are directly connected to the schools' athletic departments (i.e. coaches, athletic director, athletic secretary, etc.). A state series pass issued to an individual may only be used by the individual in whose name it is issued. Member schools must not issue state series passes to students or other individuals under the age of 18. Use of state series passes by students or other individuals under the age of 18 is prohibited. Users of state series passes must present a valid government-issued photo ID (i.e., drivers license) with the pass to gain admittance. A state series pass admits only the bearer. Individuals accompanying the bearer of a state series pass who themselves do not possess a pass must purchase a ticket of admission to the event. State series event managers are instructed to confiscate and return to the FHSAA Office any state series pass that is misused.

(3) Visiting school administrators (i.e., principal, FHSAA representative, assistant principals and athletic director) who are required by their principal to attend the event for supervisory purposes shall be admitted upon presentation of a photo I.D., provided the visiting school submits their names to the event manager by fax in writing on school stationery not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the event.

(4) All individuals who gain admittance to a state series event using any one of the accepted passes must record their name, position with school or organization, type of pass used, and pass number (if applicable) on the "FHSAA State Series Event Pass Gate Log" (Form AT10). This pass gate log must be submitted to the FHSAA Office with the financial report.

208.06 Signs and/or Banners. The display of signs, banners, placards or similar items at matches in the state series is permitted, provided:

(1) They are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use;

(2) They reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school or community, and make no reference to the opposing team, its school, players or community;

(3) They are not displayed on the court, or in a manner which interferes with play;

(4) They do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators; and

(5) They are not safety hazards.

208.07 Licensing and Merchandising. The FHSAA owns or controls all rights and interests in its name, logos, trademarks and service marks, whether registered or unregistered, including the official event logo for all FHSAA Finals events.

The sale of items bearing any of these marks by a member school or organization without the written consent of the FHSAA is prohibited.

The FHSAA retains the exclusive right to produce and sell souvenir products (apparel and otherwise) at all games, tournaments and meets held as part of the state series; host schools/organizations are required to sell items provided by the official FHSAA event souvenir merchandiser.

The official FHSAA event souvenir merchandiser is Team IP Sportswear, Inc., of Port St. Lucie. Team IP may be reached by phone at (877) 821-8643. Team IP has been awarded exclusive souvenir merchandising rights to all state series events on the district, regional and FHSAA Finals levels in all sports. A host school/organization that desires to sell souvenir merchandise at a state series event must purchase such merchandise from Team IP. No other vendor shall be permitted to produce such merchandise. Team IP shall have the right to go on-property and sell souvenir merchandise at the site of any state series event. The host school/organization of a state series event shall grant Team IP access to its property for the event.

No individual(s), including those affiliated with a participating member school, shall bring onto the property of a facility at which an FHSAA State Series event is being conducted any items (including but not limited to T-shirts, caps, posters, bumper stickers, etc.) to be sold or otherwise distributed on the property to student-athletes, coaches or spectators without the written approval of the FHSAA. An individual(s) found in violation of this provision shall surrender the items for confiscation, shall be expelled from the property and may be subject to legal action. A member school found in violation of this provision shall be assessed a minimum fine of \$250 and, in addition, shall pay monetary damages to be mutually determined by the FHSAA and its exclusive vendor(s).

The host school/organization of a state series event may be permitted to sell generic merchandise unrelated to the event (i.e., apparel and other merchandise bearing the host school/organization's mark), provided such merchandise has been made available for sale on a consistent basis throughout the year and has not been produced specifically for sale at the state series event.

208.08 Souvenir Programs. All host schools of district tournaments/meets and regional tournaments/meets that produce an official program must display on the program cover both the appropriate FHSAA sport logo and sportsmanship logo, which may be downloaded from FHSAA.org. If the program cover is preprinted, the logos must be displayed prominently inside or on the team roster inserts.

208.09 Public-Address Announcer. The public-address announcer shall be considered a bench official for all state series events. He/she shall maintain complete neutrality at all times and, as such, shall not be a "cheerleader" for any team. The announcer will follow the FHSAA script for promotional announcements, player introductions and awards ceremonies. Other announcements are limited to:

- Those of an emergency nature (e.g., paging a doctor, lost child or parent, etc.);
- Those of a "practical" nature (e.g., announcing that a driver has left his/her vehicle lights on); and
- Announcements that FHSAA souvenir merchandise, souvenir programs and concessions are on sale in the facility.

During the contest, the announcer:

- Should recognize players about to attempt a play (e.g., coming up to in baseball,

punting, kicking or receiving a punt or kick in football, serving in volleyball, etc.);

- Should recognize player(s) making a play (e.g., “Basket by Jones” in basketball, “Smith on the kill” in volleyball, etc.);
- Should report a penalty as signaled by the referee;
- Should report substitutions and timeouts;
- Must not call the “play-by-play” or provide “color commentary” as if he/she were announcing for a radio or television broadcast;
- Must not make any comment that would offer either competing team an unfair advantage in the contest; and
- Must not make any comment critical of any school, team, player, coach or official; or any other comment that has the potential to incite unsporting conduct on the part of any individual.

The announcer should be certain of the accuracy of his/her statements before making them. When in doubt, the announcer should remain silent.

208.10 Public-Address Announcements. Announcements promoting the FHSAA and its interscholastic programs must be read over the public-address system, if available, prior to and during all contests in the state series. See the “Promotions and Programs” page on FHSAA.org for the appropriate script.

208.11 Photography and Videotaping.

(1) The FHSAA, subject to the policies of the host facility, allows still cameras and video cameras to be used at state series events so that participants and spectators may record the excitement and festivities for their own personal entertainment – not for the purposes of commercial re-sale or public re-distribution in any form. Only those duly authorized organizations or individuals who have been granted appropriate rights by contract or by issued credential shall be permitted to sell or publicly display or otherwise redistribute images and sounds of state series contests and then only in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the FHSAA.

(2) Each participating school shall be permitted to photograph, film or videotape, for archival, coaching or instructional purposes, only those state series contests in which its team or contestants perform when arrangements are made with the contest management. Photographers, videographers and their equipment must be positioned so that they do not block the view of any spectator.

(3) Spectators may be allowed to bring handheld video cameras that operate on battery power into the facility. Spectators shall be prohibited from using tripods.

(4) There may be additional guidelines or restrictions for FHSAA Finals state championship events.

(5) A school that violates these guidelines shall be guilty of unsporting conduct and will be subject to reprimand and the assessment of a financial penalty by the FHSAA. An organization or individual who violates these guidelines, and in so doing infringes upon the rights of the FHSAA, shall be subject to one or more of the following actions: remedies under breach of contract; revocation of credentials; expulsion from the site of competition; and legal action under applicable state and federal laws.

208.12 All-Tournament/Meet Teams. No employee of the FHSAA nor the local manager may influence in any way the selection of any all-tournament/meet team, including the selection of a most valuable player or other “player of the game.”

208.13 Uniformed Security. The local manager for a state series event

is responsible for providing appropriate uniformed security at the event that his/her school is hosting.

208.14 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The presence and availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) is mandatory at the site of every FHSAA state championship series contest on the district, regional, sectional and state levels.

209. Media Policies

209.01 Admission and Seating.

(1) **District and Regional Meets.** Media representatives covering a state series event must be admitted free of charge upon presentation of proper news media identification. Space must be set aside to provide for news media representatives whether they be from newspapers, radio stations, commercial television stations and/or cable television stations.

(2) **FHSAA Finals.** News media representatives planning to cover the FHSAA Finals state championship meet must secure credentials as instructed by the FHSAA Office, according to the FHSAA “Media Credential Policy for State Series Events.” Requests for credentials must be submitted to the FHSAA Office online via the FHSAA’s media site (media.fhsaa.org) not later than 5 p.m. EST Monday, Nov. 16, 2009.

(3) **Student Media.** Each school participating in an FHSAA Finals event may request one (1) credential for use by student media (i.e., student newspaper, yearbook, TV/video yearbook) who will be covering the school’s participation in the event. These credentials may be issued only to and used only by students. Requests for credentials beyond the specified number allowed must be accompanied by an explanation of the necessity for the additional credentials.

209.02 Media Rights. The FHSAA owns all media rights to its state series events, including rights to radio broadcasts, telecasts, cablecasts, webcasts, audio and film/video rights, and commercial photography. Radio broadcasts, telecasts, cablecasts and webcasts of state series events are governed by the FHSAA “Broadcast Policy.” Such broadcasts, telecasts, cablecasts and webcasts must be approved by the FHSAA Office. The following provisions shall apply.

(1) The “Application for Media Rights to FHSAA State Series Event” (Form AT11) to the FHSAA Office by 3 p.m. EST on the business day preceding the event to be broadcast, telecast, or cablecast to avoid a \$25 late filing fee.

(2) Radio broadcast rights fees are \$50 per event. Tape-delay telecast and cablecast rights fees are \$250 per event. Rights fees for live telecasts and cablecasts shall be negotiated at the discretion of the FHSAA. The FHSAA Office shall invoice the outlet to which rights are granted. Rights fees must be paid by company check made payable to “FHSAA” and mailed directly to the FHSAA Office within 30 days of receipt of the invoice. Outlets that fail to make payment of rights fees by the deadline shall be assessed a \$25 late fee and may be denied rights to broadcast, telecast or cablecast future contests.

(3) The FHSAA Radio Network owns exclusive rights to the radio broadcast of all FHSAA Finals state championship events. Sun Sports Network owns exclusive rights to the telecast and cablecast of all FHSAA Finals state championship events. EZStream.com owns exclusive rights to the webcast of all state series events.

(4) Approval of radio broadcasts, telecasts and cablecasts of state series contests by the FHSAA Office are final. The FHSAA Office shall fax to the host school a copy of the approved media rights agreement. A host school shall not permit the radio broadcast, telecast or cablecast of a state series contest that has not been approved by the FHSAA Office.

209.03 Post-Competition Procedures.

(1) **District and Regional Meets.** The host school should cooperate with news media representatives in providing them access to a work area and telephone following a state series contest so that they can file their reports on the contest. The local manager also is encouraged to designate a specific area in which interviews are to be conducted. It is recommended the area be covered and that liquid refreshment be provided for the coaches and athletes participating in interviews. The head coach of each competing team is required to cooperate with the news media by participating in interviews as quickly as possible following the conclusion of the contest and providing contest statistics/results if available. Participation by athletes in interviews is voluntary and at the discretion of the head coach.

(2) **FHSAA Finals.** A specific area in which interviews are to be conducted shall be established near the finish line. The area shall be covered and liquid refreshment shall be provided for the coaches and athletes participating in interviews.

209.04 Restrictions.

(1) **Access to Locker/Dressing Rooms.** The FHSAA operates under a closed lockerroom policy at all FHSAA Finals state championship events. At no time will news media representatives be granted access to lockerrooms or dressing rooms at any state championship event. Team boxes, team benches, team huddles and dug-outs are considered extensions of locker/dressing rooms.

(2) **Access to Competition Area.** Media representatives are not permitted in the competition area (i.e., within the field of play, on the playing court, etc.) at any time during a state series contest until the competition has concluded and a winner has been determined. Photographers shall honor photographer lines and designated areas when marked.

210. Awards

210.01 Team Awards.

(1) **District Meets.** Trophies are available for awarding to the champion and runner-up teams, and may be purchased from the FHSAA's authorized vendor by the host school or district as an expense of the meet as determined by those school representatives present at the district meeting, or individually by the champion and runner-up schools. There shall be no other team awards presented by outside organizations or individuals.

(2) **Regional Meets.** Trophies will be awarded to the champion and runner-up in each regional meet. Regional hosts must order the trophies from the FHSAA's authorized vendor. Host schools of regional meets at which, with the approval of the Executive Director or his/her designee, an admission is not charged shall pro-rate the cost of the trophies among the schools with 5-7 participants in the meet. Participating schools shall send payment to the host school. There shall be no other team awards presented by outside organizations or individuals.

(3) **FHSAA Finals.** Trophies will be awarded to the champion and runner-up in

each class in the FHSAA Finals. There shall be no other team awards presented by outside organizations or individuals. In the event of a tie for champion, co-champions shall be declared and no runner-up trophy will be awarded.

(4) **FHSAA Authorized Vendor.** Trophies must be ordered from The Trophy Shop in Gainesville by calling (352) 372-8551. The vendor should also be contacted if problems are experienced in receiving trophies on time and in good condition.

210.02 Individual Awards.

(1) **District and Regional Meets.** Ribbons to be awarded to the first 15 placing individuals will be furnished to the host school by the FHSAA Office. There will be no other individual awards presented by any organization or individual.

(2) **FHSAA Finals.** Medallions to be awarded to the first 10 placing individuals in each class will be furnished to the host school by the FHSAA Office. Medallions to be awarded members of the champion and runner-up teams also will be provided. Certificates commemorating participation in the FHSAA Finals shall be provided to each participating team for presentation to players, coaches and team attendants. There will be no other individual awards presented by any organization or individual.

210.03 Awards Ceremony.

(1) **District and Regional Meets.** Formal awards ceremonies may be conducted following the conclusion of district and regional meets at the discretion of the respective meet managers.

(2) **FHSAA Finals.** A formal awards ceremony will be conducted at the FHSAA Finals for all classes starting at 10:45 a.m.

211. Officials

The FHSAA does not register officials in the sport of cross country. Officials, however, are registered in the sport of track & field. The use of such officials is not mandatory for any state series meet. Each district shall make arrangements for officials for its district meet at the district meeting. Each regional meet manager shall be responsible for securing officials for the regional meet that his/her school hosts, and for negotiating with those officials for their compensation. The state meet manager, in consultation with the FHSAA Office, shall secure the officials for the FHSAA Finals state championship meet.