

23rd ANNUAL

2020 SANDY VALLEY CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL

Dear Coaches,

In light of the ever-changing cross country season requirements due to COVID-19, we at Sandy Valley have been working hard to do a complete overhaul of our invite to ensure that it is aligned with all health and safety recommendations and requirements passed on to us by our local Health Department, as well as the Governor of Ohio's suggestions and mandates. Please know that all changes discussed within this letter were not decided on easily; these decisions and this overall plan is the culmination of many long discussions amongst coaches, health department representatives, athletic directors, and administrators. **PLEASE READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY**, as there are some very specific and timely actions that each of you will need to complete in order to participate in this year's invitational. Please do keep in mind that at the end of the day, each and every decision has been made with the health and safety of our students, coaches, and spectators in mind.

New Requirements for Coaches

- Coaches who have already entered their entries will need to reenter. We have decided to go with only the top 10 runners from each team. This was not an easy decision to make, but was recommended by our health department, Athletic Director, and Superintendent, to help ensure we keep each race under 150 runners. Due to the space of our starting line we are only going to allow a max of 10 teams per race to allow for proper social distancing.
- Coaches will be required to bring with them the attached OHSAA Symptoms Checklist. We ask that before boarding the bus, you ask each of your athletes and coaches the questions on the sheet, and record their temperatures. You will turn these in upon arrival to the meet, per Health Department request.
- **We will be limiting spectators to TWO (2) per athlete IMMEDIATE FAMILY ONLY.** Coaches will need to create a list of each athlete, and the corresponding two spectators they wish to attend. We will essentially have a "VIP" list at the entrance, and if a name is not on the list, they will not be permitted on the event grounds. Your list can be in a Google Doc., a .pdf, or simply in an email. Send your lists to the Sandy Valley Athletic Director, Garth Evans, at g.evans@svlocal.org. Please note, if we do not receive this list, your team's spectators will NOT be permitted.

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●Once you arrive at the high school, you will be permitted to set up your necessary equipment and supplies within the elementary playground area. We ask that you bring as little with you as possible. We discourage even bringing tents this year, but will allow them if the day is especially hot. *This was the recommendation of the OATCCC to not allow tents.* Keep in mind, this year our races are designed to be as quick and efficient as possible. The less reason teams have to hang around, the better.

●Set up sites AT LEAST 10 ft away from the next team within the elementary playground area.

●Please ensure that each of your athletes are wearing masks basically at all times other than warming up, running, and cooling down. If a particular team is repeatedly told to wear their masks, penalties to the team may be given. If an athlete refuses to wear a mask, please instruct them to stay home and we will see them next year.

●Bring plenty of water for each athlete, and make sure you are set up no closer than 50ft-100ft at the finish line at a previously-designated spot. It will be your responsibility as coaches this year to ensure your runners stay hydrated and receive water immediately upon finishing. We will have bottled water for emergency situations only.

COVID-19 Precautions, Suggestions, and Practices** Please note, the following are suggestions and guidelines that were given to us directly from the Stark County Health Department.

1. All athletes, coaches, and spectators must wear masks while on the school grounds.
Runners may discard their masks while racing, but must have them on before and after each race.
2. Each coach MUST fill out and turn in their OHSAA Symptoms Checklist (see attachment). You will turn these in as soon as you get off the bus, so please have them filled out beforehand. These lists will be kept in case we need to contact trace in the event of someone testing positive for Covid-19 after the race.
3. All spectators, coaches, and athletes must practice social distancing.
4. All volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves.
5. Each volunteer will have their temperatures checked prior to the start of the first meet.
This includes police officers, EMS, administrators, etc.

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Entries: ALL ENTRIES ALREADY ENTERED WILL NEED TO BE RE ENTERED. The entry page will be opened back up ASAP. This year's entries will be done on Baumspage, same as usual. Please be sure to have all entries entered by the cut off, which will be Thursday, September 24th, 2020, at 11 PM. Again, we have wiped all entries prior to Friday, August 28, so coaches will need to log on and re enter their top 10 for each race. **COACHES WILL NEED TO ENTER IN THE DESIGNATED RACE.** We placed your team in the designated division due to the size of our starting line and to allow for social distancing.

High School

Small School Division: Canton Central Catholic, Malvern, Ridgewood, Strasburg, Barnesville, Sandy Valley, Tuslaw, Buckeye Trail, Hiland, Lake Center Christian, St. Thomas, Bellaire, Waterloo, Dalton

Large School Division: Carrollton, Cambridge, Claymont, East Canton (Boys), Dover, Marlinton, Riverview, Fairless, Canton South, Northwest, Perry (Girls),

Middle School:

Small School Division: Bellaire, East Canton, Malvern, Ridgewood, Strasburg, Barnesville, Sandy Valley, Tuslaw, Buckeye Trail, Hiland, Lake Center Christian, St. Thomas, Waterloo

Large School Division: Carrollton, Cambridge, Claymont, Dalton, Dover, Marlinton, Louisville, Riverview, Fairless, Canton South, Minerva, Northwest, Field, Perry

Results will not physically be posted at the meet, and instead will be uploaded to Baumspage.

We will be using disposable chips to score the meet. Please make sure your roster is up to date by Thursday on Baumspage.

Please Note.The discussion and ultimate decision of only allowing the top 10 runners was not decided upon lightly, and was certainly the hardest decision we here at Sandy Valley had to make during this process, but please know we made this decision with the health and safety of our runners in mind. We believed that if it came between not having a race, or having a race with only the top 10 runners from each team, we felt the pros outweigh the cons of the latter choice. Next year hopefully things will be back to normal!

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Touring The Course: Opportunities to tour the course will be limited, and will only be allowed prior to the beginning of each session. No schools will be permitted to walk the course or warm upon the course once races have begun. Maps can be located on Baumspage.

Starting Line Changes: We will be lengthening our starting line as much as physically possible this year, to allow even more space for social distancing amongst teammates and other teams. Each box will be AT LEAST 6 ft, boxes in between each team. We ask that you instruct your athletes to stagger themselves appropriately within their boxes, so we have no more than 2 runners running abreast, 6 ft. between them and 6 ft. behind. This will be the responsibility of the coach, as the officials will not have enough time on the line to make sure each runner is 6 ft. apart from his or her teammate. We ask that you encourage your runners to stay away from other runners as much as physically possible during the race, though we understand this is impossible to ensure.

Finish Line Changes: The finish line will now be located near the elementary team camp area. ONLY COACHES AND RUNNERS WILL BE PERMITTED IN THIS ELEMENTARY AREA. After the finish of the race, we ask that runners exit to the team camp area. Coaches will be permitted to set up a “recovery site” for their runners to get water inside of the softball field. Team recovery sites must be at least 50ft-100ft away from the finish line. Remember, we will only be providing water for emergency situations. Be sure to bring water for your runners! Individual awards will be given at the finish line, and team awards will be announced shortly after the race.

Race Schedule: PLEASE read the attached UPDATED race schedule closely. We have made major changes to when each division will be racing. We have decided to adopt the Sessionsformat recommended by the OATCCC. We will have two “Sessions”, one for the Large Division Schools and one for the Small Division. Within each session, we will run HSBoys, HS Girls, MS Boys, MS girls, with an hour break in between. Our intent is that once the final race in a session is over, the entire facility will be cleared and all teams will depart to make way for the next Session/Division of races. Each team has been assigned a division already, so please see the attached Team Division Sheet, so you will know which race to register your athletes!

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Location The meet is held at the Sandy Valley High School located at 5130 State Route 183 NE Magnolia, Ohio. We will have volunteers directing parking/traffic. Please try to pass the word along that fans will only be permitted to park within the school parking lots!

Entrance fees there will be an entrance fee upon arrival. Price for admission of spectators on the VIP list will be \$5.00 per person.

Packets Upon your arrival, you can pick up your packets at the white tent by the finish line.

Middle School Races Please note that Middle School teams will now need to be entered in the appropriate division race for their school, similar to the high school races To find out which race to enter for, please see the attached Divisions List. IF YOU FEEL YOUR TEAM IS ENTERED IN THE WRONG DIVISION RACE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY AUGUST 24TH. Entry fee will be as follows: Varsity Boys Team: \$75.00 Varsity Girls team: \$75.00 Middle School Boys Team: \$35.00 Middle School Girls Team: \$35.00 Individual Racers: \$6.00

Concessions: There will NOT be an open concession stand, per the Health Department's request. Please plan on bringing water and snacks with your team for the day. Communicate this to spectators, as well. We will have water for emergencies only! If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 330-936-6764 or g.howard@svlocal.org. You can contact the Sandy Valley Athletic Director, Garth Evans, at g.evans@svlocal.org. See you on the 26th!

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Race Schedule

Session 7:15-8:15am - Course is open for Small Division Teams

8:30am -Small Division High School Girls Race

9:15am-Small Division High School Boys Race

10:00am-Small Division Middle School Girls Race

10:30am-Small Division Middle School Boys Race

****Hour Break/Clear the Course Area****

ALL Small Division Schools Must Depart During BreakSession

12:00pm- Course is open for Large Division teams

1:00pm-Large Division High School Girls Race

1:45pm-Large Division High School Boys Race

2:30-Large Division Middle School Girls Race

3:00pm- Large Division Middle School Boys Race

****Please note, we will NOT be starting any race early. We will be sticking to this schedule as closely as possible.**

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The Sandy Valley High School and Middle School Cross Country Invitational will be held Saturday, September 26, 2020. The 2020 competition will feature two high school races in small school (Divisions II-III) and large school (Division I-II). Also there will be a middle school race.

TEAM ENTRY MUST BE COMPLETED ON BAUM'S PAGE BY
September 24th at 11 PM

WHEN: Saturday, September 26, 2020

WHERE: Sandy Valley High School

COST: \$75.00 per Boys High School team \$75.00 per Girls High School team
\$35.00 per Boys Middle School team \$35.00 per Boys Middle School team
\$6.00 per MS/HS runner if no full team & may run with designated race.

Please make a copy of this form and fax or send back with entries you intend to participate.

_____ High School Boys (Large School)	_____ Middle School Girls
_____ High School Girls (Large School)	_____ Middle School Boys
_____ High School Boys (Small School)	_____ # of individuals (If no Team)
_____ High School Girls (Small School)	

SCHEDULE:

Session 7:15-8:15am - Course is open for Small Division Teams

8:30am -Small Division High School Girls Race

9:15am-Small Division High School Boys Race

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1:00pm-Small Division High School Girls Race

1:45pm-Large Division High School Boys Race

2:30-Large Division Middle School Girls Race

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****Please note, we will NOT be starting any race early. We will be sticking to this schedule as closely as possible.**

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PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM SO WE CAN GET AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS COMING.

Hope to have you join us.

Garth Evans, Athletic Director; W:(330) 866-3060 C:(330) 806-1080 FAX: (330) 866-2490

e-mail: g.evans@svlocal.org

Greg Howard, Cross Country Coach C: (330) 936-6764 e-mail: g.howard@svlocal.org

SCHOOL _____ CC COACH _____

CONTACT # (____)-____-____ COACH'S E-MAIL _____

CONTEST CONTRACT HAS BEEN SENT VIA ARBITER TO ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

ENTRY FEE INVOICE

School _____

School Address _____

Athletic Director _____

e-mail _____

Phone _____

Races your school plans to enter

High School Girls Large Division	_____ @ \$75
High School Boys Large Division	_____ @ \$75
High School Girls Small Division	_____ @ \$75
High School Boys Small Division	_____ @ \$75
Middle School Girls	_____ @ \$35
Middle School Boys	_____ @ \$35
# of Individuals (if no team)	_____ @ \$6 each

_____ TOTAL

Please send payment and a copy of this invoice to:

Sandy Valley Athletic Department

Attn: Garth Evans

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Sandy Valley High School

5130 State Route 183 N.E.

Magnolia, OH 44643