

MEMO

Attn: All Cross Country Coaches of State Qualifiers

Re: National Trail and the State Championships

You may have heard or seen that there has been a recent change in the State Cross Country course. Please allow me to explain briefly.

The change from the past years (as well as from this year's Early Season Invitational in August) is due to a couple of factors: 1) National Trail has now been taken over by a new group, and as a result, along with that change came additional changes to the facility itself; 2) one of these changes was the sale and purchase of property.

You may recall the parking lot across the street from the facility. That property was completely sold and now is no longer available. That former parking lot is now re-located behind the stands where the runners formerly ran their loop at about the 1600 meter mark. The property that was purchased is to the back of the 3200 meter mark where formerly a corn field had existed. A group of people have spent numerous hours clearing and smoothing that area and replacing the "loop" into this location. In some ways the change is significant; in other ways it is not.

I wanted to alert you to this change to invite – and encourage you – to take advantage of our "Course Inspection" period that runs from Thursday, 10:00am – 5:00pm, and again on Friday from 12:00pm – 5:00pm where athletes are permitted to run the course. There is no admission charge for teams on these days.

My apologies for the last minute change, however, the cause for the change was totally unexpected and completely out of our control. I thank you for your understanding.

Terry Oehrtman (tournament manager) and I will be available on these days if you have any questions. Good luck to all of our qualifiers.

Respectfully,

Dale Gabor
OHSAA Director of Cross Country and
Track and Field