A meeting of the Cross Country Committee was held on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the MPA office.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blair Marelli, Nathan Priest, Sarah Stackhouse (GTM), and Mark White (GTM).

LIAISONS PRESENT: Jorma Kurry (GTM) and Glendon Rand.

MEET DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mike Griffin (GTM) and Dave Jeffrey.

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Bisson.

GUESTS: Ryan LaRoche, Athletic Administrator at Leavitt Area High School and Neal Rioux, coach at Leavitt Area High School.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

NOMINATION OF CHAIR: On a MOTION from White/Priest and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, Blair Marelli was selected as the chair of the Cross Country Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were read and reviewed. On a MOTION by White/Priest, the minutes of August 8, 2018 were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Bisson shared a series of emails with the committee and were reviewed and placed on file at the MPA. No official action was taken on any of the correspondence.

2018 REGIONAL/STATE MEET SITES: The committee reviewed that 2018 Regional, State, and New England Championship meets. They went well, except for an issue with George Stevens Academy having a wrong entry. Dave Jeffrey will post the entries once he has received them, hopefully on Tuesday, the day following the Hy-tek entry due date for coaches and athletic administrators to check for errors.

For the Regional Championship one coach asked to not have the South Regional Championship at Narragansett.

The adaptation to the schedule at States worked out well. Dave Jeffrey liked the move to 35-minutes between races at Troy Howard Middle School. At Twin Brook it would probably need to stay at 45-minutes between races. The Committee would like to try 40-minutes between races at Twin Brook. There was also a recommendation for all people on the gym floor for awards to sit so that others behind them can see.

Jorma Kurry shared that it would be good to put wood chips down where there are exposed roots at Troy Howard Middle School.
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Regarding the New England Championships, six coaches emailed Jorma Kurry that Manchester is not a good site for the New England Championships due to pavement, inequity of the start line, narrow spots in the course (4 to 5 feet wide), and steep downhills with rocks. At one point in the race some runners were on grass and gravel while others were on a paved sidewalk. Mike Bisson will share this concern with the New England Council.

2019 SITES: After discussion, on a MOTION from White/Stackhouse, the committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to host the North Regional at Troy Howard Middle School in Belfast and the South Regional and State Championship at Twin Brook in Cumberland.

COACHES REPORT: Jorma Kurry and Glendon Rand presented from the Cross-Country coaches:

- A complaint from one coach about the way we select the New England qualifying teams.

REVIEW OF 2019 BULLETIN: The bulletin was updated for the 2019 season. Sites were selected and added to the bulletin. This year the calendar moves forward, and the New England Championships will be held the week following the Maine State Championships.

Fines for not entering the Hy-Tek Team Manager regional entries and the online Regional Eligibility Declaration Form were discussed, as many schools did not submit the Regional Eligibility Form on time this year. The committee feels that fines should be imposed on schools not submitting the Hy-Tek entries on time to David Jeffrey, but not for the Regional Eligibility Form.

WHEELCHAIR DISCUSSION: Ryan LaRoche, Athletic Administrator at Leavitt Area High School and Neal Rioux coach at Leavitt Area High School attended the meeting and advocated for their wheelchair athlete to compete in the regional and state championship races. He competed as a freshman this year. The length of courses varied from a mile to a full 5K race. The trail terrain dictates the length of the course. His father follows him but does not assist him. He trains at 5K+ distances. Courses that are too narrow, have 2-way traffic, and mud limit him. Coach Rioux advocated for him to be able to participate. Leavitt had two boys participate this past year. He would be considered in their top seven. The coach communicated with the race director ahead of time to make accommodations to the course. The chair was designed by a veteran in Maine that has inflated tires and allows him to participate over most terrain. He is not as concerned about scoring for the team, but wants to compete in all meets with his teammates. They would recommend that he by-pass the “Pain Cave” at Twin Brook but do the rest of the course. Eileen Carey, Leavitt alumni at Colorado Paralympics competitor may offer advice. Mike Bisson will check with other states and with Paralympics.

CLASSIFICATION: The committee was given the current cross-country classification with the April 1, 2018 official school count inserted to begin the discussion of classification. On a MOTION from White/Stackhouse and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, the committee recommended to the classification committee to set the cutoffs at Class A 655+, Class B 400-654, and Class C 0-399 for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

OTHER: Sofie Matson a sophomore from Falmouth High School, will participate in the Foot Locker National Championships in San Diego, California and Lisandro Berry-Gaviria a junior from Mt. Ararat High School will participate in the Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Oregon. Congratulations to those student-athletes for being recognized as some of the best in the United States.
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NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the MPA office.

ADJOURNMENT: On a MOTION by Priest/Marelli, the meeting was UNANIMOUSLY adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bisson
Assistant Executive Director

/tjm
12/5/18

wddata\xcountry\2018\minutes 11-28-18