

## 2018 MHSAA Cross Country Rules Updates

On August 22, 2018 at the meeting of the MHSAA Executive Committee, the following changes for the current 2018 Cross Country season were **approved for use immediately** in all MHSAA competitions:

### New NFHS Track and Cross Country Rule 4-3-1

- Any visible garment(s) worn underneath the uniform top and/or bottom are considered a foundation garment. A foundation garment is any item worn under the uniform top and/or bottom and is not subject to logo/trademark/reference or color restrictions.

**Rationale:** Current logo/trademark/reference restrictions remain in place for all uniform top and/or bottoms.

Additionally, it expands the current interpretation of foundation garment to include any item worn under the uniform top and/or bottom. The games committee does have the authority to restrict the wearing of any item outside of the required school uniform and therefore could create more restrictive rules regarding items worn under the uniform if deemed appropriate. This change would minimize issues related to logo/trademark/reference, color and length of undergarments.

### New NFHS Track and Cross Country Rule 4-3-2

- All relay and cross country team members must wear uniforms clearly indicating, through predominant color, school logo and color combination of all outer garments worn as a uniform, that members are from the same team. Officials should be able to observe that all members are from the same team.

**Rationale:** It has become increasingly more difficult to officiate the uniform rule given the increase in the number of programs nationwide that are allowing individual team members the option of independently purchasing either all or part of their team uniform. Slight differences in design of uniform do not negatively impact the identification of a relay or cross country team. The expectation of this rule is that all relay and cross country team members can be clearly identified as representing the same school.

Additionally, the NFHS Points of Emphasis from the 2019 Track & Field and Cross Country Rules book state the following on the Uniform topic.

### **Uniforms**

It has become increasingly more difficult to officiate the uniform rule given the increase in the number of programs nationwide that are allowing individual team members the option of independently purchasing either all or part of their team uniform. The slight differences in design of a uniform do not negatively impact the identification of a relay or cross country team by an official. The expectation of this rule is that all relay and cross country team members can be clearly identified as representing the same school through predominant color, school logo, and color combinations of all outer garments. Through the results of the 2018 Track and Field and Cross Country Questionnaire, the clear majority of coaches, officials and state association personnel surveyed across the nation were in favor of a

simplification of the rule. The rules committee took action to help minimize issues related to garments worn underneath the uniform and provide meet officials more flexibility to determine if relay or cross country team members can be clearly identified as representing the same school. Any garments worn under the uniform are not subject to logo/trademark/ reference, color or length restrictions. Variations in trim and/or accents within members of the same relay or cross country team should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as to whether or not these variations negatively impact a meet official's ability to identify teammates. Officials should be able to observe that all members are from the same team. Under Rule 3-2, the games committee will continue to have the authority to restrict or permit the wearing of any item outside of the required school uniform.

Should you have any questions or clarifications that may be needed in regards to this new rule, please contact Cody Inglis, MHSAA Assistant Director at 517-332-5046 or via email at [cody@mhsaa.com](mailto:cody@mhsaa.com)