



2023 DIVISION II
CROSS COUNTRY
CHAMPIONSHIPS
JOPLIN, MO • Missouri Southern State University, Host

PARTICIPANT
2023-24 MANUAL
Regionals

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Site Representative

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Schedule of Events

(All Times are Central Standard Time)

Thursday, November 2

Noon to 5:00 p.m. Course AVAILABLE

Friday, November 3

8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Course open for practice
Trainers available on site

2:30 to 4:00pm Packet Pick-up
Location: MSSU North Endzone Building; Alumni Room

Saturday, November 4

7:00 a.m. Course available for participants
8:00 a.m. Gates open to spectators
9:15 a.m. **Competition Course closed to competitors**
Please advise runners that the competition course becomes closed to runners at 9:15am, however the adjacent warm-up course (mile loop) as well as areas around the stadium are available. The course will be closed for cool-down during the women's race.

Women's 6,000-Meter Championship Race

8:40 a.m. Women's competitors clerking procedure begins (80 minutes prior start)
9:40 a.m. Women's competitors called to the start line (approx. 20 minutes to start)
9:50 a.m. Second call to the start line (10 minutes to start)
9:55 a.m. Start line is cleared of all non-competitors (5 minutes to start)
9:57 a.m. Runners at the start line for instructions
10:00 a.m. Start of Women's 6,000 meter championship race

Men's 10,000-Meter Championship Race

9:55 a.m. Men's competitors clerking procedure begins (80 min. prior to start)
10:55 a.m. Men's competitors called to the start line (approx. 20 min. to start)
11:00 a.m. Second call to the start line (10 min. to start)
11:10 a.m. Start line is cleared of all non-competitors (5 min.to start)
11:12 a.m. Runners at the start line for instructions
11:15 a.m. Start of Men's 10,000 meter championship race

Immediately after the second race, recognition of top runners and teams adjacent to the finish line

Accommodations

The following is a list of area hotels and their contact information. The institution is responsible for contacting the hotel to make all arrangements and providing the hotel with a rooming list.

Hotels in the Area

Identify yourself as participants in the NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country Regional Championships. There are other accommodations all available with ½ mile of the meet headquarters. All accommodations are within 3 miles of the course.

Drury Hotel, 3601 S. Rangeline Road Joplin, MO 64804 Phone: 417-781-8000

Fairfield Inn by Marriott, 3301 S. Rangeline Road Joplin MO 64804, Phone: 417-624-7800

Holiday Inn Joplin, 3402 S. Arizona Ave., Joplin, MO 64804, Phone: 417-624-9000

Residence Inn by Marriott, 3128 E. Hammons Blvd. Joplin MO 64804, Phone: 417-208-1021

Sleep Inn, 221 S East Street , Webb City, Missouri 64870. Phone: 417-717-0497

TownePlace Suites by Marriott, 4026 S Arizona Ave, Joplin, MO 64804, Phone: 417-659-8111

Restaurants in the Area

We have over a hundred restaurants in the area. On our website is a list of the corporate sponsors of MSSU who assist us in having the resources to put on events such as this. We highly encourage you to visit our corporate sponsors as a show of support. This greatly enhances our ability to work with more local businesses who know that we and our other institutions will visit their businesses.

Mandatory Administrative Meeting

Coaches are required to attend the mandatory administrative meeting. We will be having a virtual meeting this year on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 1:00CT. Meeting information will be emailed to all head coaches.

Championship Format

Teams and individuals qualify for the national championships through participation in the regional meets. Teams are not reimbursed for participation in regional meets. A total of 34 teams and 24 individuals will be selected. The process for allocating the berths is as follows:

Teams (34)

- The top three teams from each regional meet will automatically advance to the championship finals (24 teams total).
- Ten at-large teams will be selected by the NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Committee using the selection criteria found [here](#). There is no limit to the number of at-large teams that may be selected from any given region.

Individuals (24 minimum)

- The top two individuals who are not part of a qualifying team will automatically advance to the championship finals (16 individuals total).
- All individuals who finish in the top five at the regional meet and are not part of a qualifying team will automatically advance to the championships finals.
- The next eight individuals will be selected at-large.

The team and individual winning the regional will be recognized and presented with an NCAA trophy.

Clerking Procedures

The window for check-in will open 80 minutes before the start of each race. Teams are encouraged to check in as soon as possible, but not later than 20 minutes before to their race.

When teams check in at the clerking tent, they will be required to show that they have their hip numbers, chips on their spikes, bibs on their jerseys, and that their uniforms meet the NCAA logo requirements. The clerk will be located in the tent immediately behind the start line. This will serve as a quick visual for assistant clerks at the start line that the student-athletes have completed the check-in process. Reminder: Teams may not run more than seven (7) student-athletes.

Teams will not be allowed to check in at the start line. All teams must check in at the clerking tent which is located behind the start line.

The head clerk controls the master list of all the teams/individual qualifiers that have and have not completed the check-in process. The clerks at the line will only be responsible for ensuring teams that have reported to their appropriate boxes. There should be no need to check uniforms, chips, bibs, etc. at the start line.

If a team is missing from a box, the assistant clerk will communicate via radio to the head clerk. If a team has not checked in with the head clerk, the head clerk will radio the assistant clerk(s) to see if it is at the start line and have it report immediately to the tent for check-in.

Competition Site

Maps, campus information and race preview

All of the information regarding the regionals can be found at the link below (including maps, schedules, lodging (see above for rates), course description, credential requests, etc...) which is also listed as a button on the athletic webpage for MSSU on the scrolling buttons tab, immediately below the lead stories. <https://mssulions.com/feature/2023xcregion>

Men's and Women's Course Maps

The entire course maps are located at this site about a third of the way down is the complete list of the different race distance maps. Find the appropriate map from the links listed.

<https://mssulions.com/facilities/?id=11>

Banners and Artificial Noisemakers

No banners may be posted at the tournament other than the NCAA approved banners. Artificial noise makers, air horns, and electronic amplifiers are not permitted and shall be removed on discovery.

Dressing Rooms

No locker rooms are available at the Cross Country Course. If a team needs to have a place to shower after the competition, please contact Cori Reid at reid-c@mssu.edu or at 417-625-3576 prior to Friday at noon regarding space available at the Leggett and Platt Athletic Center/Young Gym.

Parking

Teams may park Northeast of the cross country course, immediately off of Newman Road in the College Heights Christian Church Parking Lot. We ask that the teams park in a manner that will allow for appropriate car movement in and out of the lot. Please follow the team parking signage. There is a path through to the warm-up/Team Tent area from the parking lot.

Spectator parking can occur at the south stadium lot, the south parking lots on campus just west of Duquesne Road (adjacent to the basketball arena, Leggett and Platt) or in the large central parking lot just south of Newman, also known as "the Bowl". These designated spectator lots should be able to accommodate several thousand vehicles.

Participant/Spectator Entrance

Spectators should enter from the South Football Stadium lot at the gate labeled Spectator entrance or from the Northwest spectator entrance at the corner of Newman and Duquense

by the large brick pillars. For more detail, please review the parking mat online that shows parking and entrances.

Restrooms

Portable units are located immediately west of the start line, as well as, the football stadium restrooms to the south of the finish line are available.

Starting Boxes

Starting boxes will be assigned to teams and individuals by a random draw. Starting box assignments will be communicated on [NCAA.org](https://www.ncaa.org).

Drug Testing

All student-athletes are subject to NCAA drug testing at all NCAA championships or in conjunction with all postseason certified events. The goal of the drug-testing program is to provide safe, fair and equitable competition as well as to protect the health and safety of all NCAA student-athletes participating in NCAA championships and postseason certified events.

The drug-testing program involves collecting urine specimens from student-athletes at various times throughout an NCAA championship. Student-athletes may be selected for drug testing based on their place of finish, playing time, position and/or an approved random selection method. A student-athlete may be selected for drug testing on more than one occasion during the championship event. All urine specimens provided by student-athletes are analyzed by a World Anti-Doping Agency accredited laboratory and the results are then reported to the institution's director of athletics.

The WADA laboratory analyzes each urine specimen for substances and related compounds from a list of banned-drug classes developed by the NCAA Executive Committee. The NCAA Banned-Drug Classes List is comprised of substances that are performance-enhancing and/or potentially harmful to the health and safety of the student-athlete. The 2022-23 list includes drugs in the following classes: stimulants, anabolic agents, diuretics and other masking agents, peptide hormones and analogues, street drugs, beta blockers and alcohol (rifle only) beta-2 agonists and anti-estrogens. Refer to the 2022-23 Drug-Testing Programs booklet or the NCAA Web site (www.ncaa.org/drugtesting) for the published list of banned drug classes and the procedural guidelines for testing. Athletic administrators are urged to review the NCAA Drug Education and Testing video, the NCAA Banned Drug Classes List as well as the NCAA Drug-Testing Program booklet with all coaches and student-athletes in advance of any NCAA championship or postseason certified event. Student-athletes who test positive as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA or who breach the NCAA drug-testing program protocol shall lose one year of eligibility and shall be charged with the loss of a minimum of one season of competition in all sports.

Additional information regarding the NCAA's championship drug-testing program is located at www.ncaa.org/drugtesting.

Entry Procedures

In order to be eligible for participation in the regional and national meets, institutions must have met outlined minimum qualification requirements (outlined in the pre-championships manual) and submit an online entry form through DirectAthletics during the outlined entry period. Coaches may enter up to 10 eligible student-athletes on the online entry form, of which no more than seven must be declared to participate during packet pick-up (regionals and nationals). Coaches may make changes to the 10 student-athletes listed on the entry form up through the end of the online entry period but will NOT be able to make changes to online entries if the team qualifies for the national championships. It is not necessary for student-athletes representing a qualified team at the finals to have competed in regional competition. Any student-athlete competing at regionals and/or nationals must be eligible for NCAA competition.

The online entry form will be available beginning at 8 a.m. Eastern time, Tuesday, Oct. 3. **All entry forms must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, Oct. 30. Late online entry form submissions may be considered by the committee until 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, Tuesday, Oct. 31. If allowed, late entry form submissions will result in a fine of \$400 per team per gender. Institutions wishing to submit a late entry form must email the NCAA liaison. No late entry form requests will be considered after 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, Tuesday, Oct. 31. Institutions that have not submitted an entry form by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, Tuesday, Oct. 31, will not be eligible to compete at the regional meet.**

The online entry form is located at DirectAthletics at www.directathletics.com. If you experience technical difficulty using the online entry system, please contact DirectAthletics (support@directathletics.com; phone: 347-674-3002).

Please follow instructions below to complete your entries for the regional/national championship.

Please note: If you already have a DirectAthletics account for your team, you should log in at www.directathletics.com and use your existing account to submit your entries. The NCAA entry process is no different than submitting entries to other DA meets. If you know you have an account but have forgotten your username/password, you can click the "I forgot my password" link in the login box.

STEP 1—Creating a DirectAthletics Account

If you are new to DirectAthletics, you will be able to create an account for your team by following the instructions below:

1. Go to www.directathletics.com/ncaa.html.

2. On the right side (in the New Account Creation box), select your division.
3. Select your team, choosing only the genders for which you are submitting entries. Enter your contact information—this information will be used only by the NCAA and the meet hosts. Last, enter the username and password you would like for your account. Please choose a username that is unique—common usernames like “bears” or “adam” or “track” are likely to be taken.
4. Click Continue and you will be directed to the default Team Roster page. You can see which team you are controlling by looking at the Team dropdown on the navigation bar across the top of your account [e.g., Texas (Men)]. If you have a men’s and women’s account, it will usually default to men first.
5. Follow Step 2 below to enter your roster.

STEP 2—Setting Up Your Online Roster

Before submitting your entries for the championships, you must first add all attending student-athletes to your DirectAthletics roster:

1. On the default Team Roster page, click the green “Add Athletes” link above “Welcome to your DirectAthletics account!”
2. Select the number of student-athletes you wish to enter. You can always add more later.
3. Enter your student-athletes’ first names, last names and school years and click “Submit.” Please be aware of which gender you are entering—you will complete the roster and entry process for one gender first, and then repeat the process for the other gender. (See the Important Notice after Step 3 below.)
4. The system will display the student-athletes you have added to your roster. You are now ready for the final step of Submitting Your Roster/Entries.

STEP 3--Submitting Your Roster/Entries

Once your student-athletes are added to your roster, you must submit your roster to the NCAA Division II Championships.

1. Click the HOME tab in the upper left of the site. Under Upcoming Meets, click the green Register button next to the NCAA Division II Championships.
2. Check off the box for each student-athlete you wish to enter. You can check the top box to select (or un-select) your entire roster. If you accidentally omitted someone from your roster, you can add them by using the “Add New Entry” box.

3. When you have completed your entries, click “Submit.” You MUST click “Submit” to submit your entries.
4. You will see your current, submitted entries on the “View Entries” page. For entry confirmation, click the link for a printable receipt or click the Email Confirmation link at the top of the “View Entries” page. An email confirmation will be sent to the email address associated with your account.
5. At any time before the entry deadline, you may edit your entries by clicking the “Edit Entries” link next to the meet in the HOME tab.

Please note that if you are entering men AND women, you will now repeat Steps 2 and 3 for the other gender. Select the opposite gender from the Team dropdown on the navigation bar across the top of your account. Repeat Steps 2 and 3. You must request separate email confirmations for men and women.

NOTE: If you do not receive a confirmation of entry, the registration was not submitted. Please ensure you receive a confirmation email to validate the entries.

REMINDER: It is the coach’s responsibility to inform the cross country committee immediately if for some reason a student-athlete entered and selected to compete in any national competition cannot compete.

Declarations/Package Pick-Up

Declarations and package pick-up will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time), Friday, November 3, at the North Endzone Facility, Alumni Room. Declarations must be made in person. The seven student-athletes competing in the meet must be declared at this time. Coaches can only declare student-athletes from the entry form submitted on DirectAthletics during the declaration period on TFRRS. Medical circumstances for declaring a student-athlete not on the entry roster will be reviewed by the sport committee. A representative of the student-athletes’ institution must declare for a team/individual. Missing declarations/package pick-up will result in a fine.

Course maps and descriptions also will be available and host representatives will be there to answer questions about the course.

Substitutes

Substitutions are allowed up to 45 minutes before the start of the race at the championships. A certification of illness or injury by the designated meet physician/athletic trainer is required, and the substitution must be approved by the referee. All participating student-athletes must be eligible to compete. The possible substitute must be on initial entry form.

Squad Size

Teams are limited to a maximum of seven competitors. Institutions entering **five to seven** runners in the meet must compete as a team. If fewer than five competitors run, they will compete as individuals.

Evacuation/Severe Weather Plan

Lightning and Weather Detection Service

Following NCAA protocol, the host will be using MxVision Weather Sentry Online lightning-detection and weather-monitoring system. Once lightning enters the 30 mile radius of competition, we will begin preparations to protect the student-athletes and spectators. Once lightning enters an eight-mile radius of our site, competition must stop and student-athletes and spectators will be moved to safe areas. Activities will not begin until 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike inside the warning ring.

Shelter Locations

In the event of inclement weather the following buildings have been declared emergency shelters. An announcement will be made by the public address system advising of the problem and occupants should at that time leave the area for the closest designated shelter. Do not leave the designated shelter until an all clear is advised by the department of public safety or a representative of the department of public safety.

- Leggett & Platt Athletic Center

Severe Weather Plan

For the safety of all spectators, student-athletes, officials and coaches the following procedures will be used in case of severe weather:

1. The meet director, NCAA championships manager and NCAA site representative will monitor the weather during the week and morning of the championships.
2. A text messaging system will be used to communicate a change in schedule to all coaches and officials. The host will send out a text message alert notifying coaches and officials of the start times or a delay in course inspection times due to inclement weather.
3. The NCAA site representative, in consultation with the NCAA championships manager, host and head referee, will determine whether the start of the meet will be delayed or if the meet will be postponed until the following day.
4. If the race has already started and a suspension would need to take place in the middle of the competition, the committee will recommend the following:

Men's 10,000-meter - if competition is suspended before the lead runner reaches the 3,000-meter mark, the race may be run the same day with a two hour delay from the

time the race was stopped, weather permitting. If competition is suspended after the lead runner reaches the 3,000-meter mark, the race will be postponed until the next day.

Women's 6,000-meter - if competition is suspended before the lead runner reaches the 2,000-meter mark, the race may be run the same day with a two hour delay from the time the race was stopped, weather permitting. If competition is suspended after the lead runner reaches the 2,000-meter mark, the race will be postponed until the next day.

5. If necessary, competition may be postponed until the next day, per NCAA policy, with similar if not the same start times. This information will be communicated with all involved institutions.
- * The 2,000 and 3,000-meter marks for the course must be clearly marked to ensure above procedures can be adequately followed.
- ** Appropriate provisions will be made to the competition site to ensure the safety of competitors and general public/spectators. The NCAA track and field and cross country committee reserves the right to make changes to the above policies and schedules as they see fit.

Finish-Line Procedure

The order of finish will be verified with the chip system (with chips on both feet of each runner). For backup we will have Two Lynx cameras located on each side of the finish line for hip number review and finish as well as a frontal camera to review numbers. Timing mats will be used on the course at select marks yet to be designated.

Runners should continue racing past both sets of mats at the finish line. Once they have crossed the mats, runners should continue to move through the finish chute and into the back half of the large finish corral as quickly as possible. Runners need not maintain their order of finish in the chute and corral area. Athletes will be ushered to the back of the corral. It is the Coaches Responsibility to collect and return the runners chips to the timing tent to the designated buckets.

Water, energy drinks and limited snacks will be available at the end of the finish area corral, immediately before the exit to the finish corral. Trainers and the Training Room Area are located immediately to the left (south) of the finish chute; with access immediately from the finish corral for any athletes needing medical assistance. It is the responsibility of the student-athletes coach to ensure that any student-athlete brought into the Training Room has the chip removed and it is returned to the chip collection area in the timing tent prior to departing the Training Room area. Coaches and fans can wait for runners outside of the finish corral. We would ask that only coaches enter the Training

Room area to remove the chip until the student-athlete is released from the training room area. We need to keep the training room area clear for emergency and medical personnel.

Merchandise

Merchandise will be available for purchase from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, November 3, in the Lobby of the North Endzone Facility. It will also be available at the course Saturday from 8:30 a.m. through the conclusion of the second race.

Participant Expectations and Guidelines

Code of Conduct

Participation in an NCAA championship is an accomplishment and it is expected that individuals and teams are committed to ensuring that the championship is a positive experience for all participants, fans and volunteers. All members of the travel party must sign the [Division II Code of Conduct form](#) before the start of competition. The institution shall keep the signed form on file and make it available on request by NCAA staff or the sport committee.

Sports Wagering

The NCAA defines sports wagering as putting something at risk – such as an entry fee or a wager – with the opportunity to win something in return. The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering on college sports. Student-athletes and athletics administrators cannot place a sports wager for any NCAA-sanctioned sport. This includes wagering on the intercollegiate, amateur or professional level.

A student-athlete involved in sports wagering on the student-athlete's institution permanently loses all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports. A student-athlete who is involved in any sports wagering activity that involves college sports or professional athletics, through Internet gambling, a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling, will be ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition for at least one year.

In championships in which a bracket format is used, student-athletes, coaches and administrators may not participate in bracket competitions where there is both a required entry fee and an opportunity to win a prize. Student-athletes and administrators may participate under current NCAA rules, in bracket contests where there is no entry fee but a possibility of winning a prize. Some NCAA member schools, however, have chosen to ban student-athletes from participating in these types of bracket contests.

Tobacco Ban

The use of tobacco products is prohibited by all game personnel (e.g., coaches, trainers, managers and game officials) in all sports during practice and competition. Uniform

penalties (as determined by the applicable rules-making committees and sports committees with rules-making responsibilities) shall be established for such use.

Practices

<u>Thursday, November 2, 2023:</u>	12:00pm – 5:00pm
<u>Friday, November 3, 2023:</u>	8:00am – 5:00pm
<u>Saturday, November 4, 2022:</u>	7:00am – 9:00am

The adjacent warm up course (mile loop), as well as the areas around the stadium, are available for warm-up. The course will be closed for cool-down during the Men's race. The course will be officially marked by Wednesday afternoon

Protest Procedures/Appeals

All protests shall be written on the carbon copy NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field Protest Form, which will be located the timers tent adjacent to the finish line. One copy shall be posted, and the other copies shall be given to the referee. The referee's decision shall be written on each copy of the protest. One copy shall be returned to the protesting coach, and the other copy shall be placed in the committee's files. A \$50 deposit is required for all protests, which will be returned if the protest is successful in reversing the official decision. Protests will be accepted up to 15 minutes after the posting of the results of the last events.

Sports Information/Results

Official race results will be online at [NCAA.com](https://www.ncaa.com) after the completion of each race. Live results will be available at <http://www.heartlandtiming.com>, and <https://mssulions.com>

At the meet, results will be on the results board directly adjacent to the finish line. Contact Spencer Greathouse at Missouri Southern State University for more information at greathouse-s@mssu.edu.

Championship Websites

The official website for the championships is available at [ncaa.com](https://www.ncaa.com). Additional information specific to participants is located on [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org). Locally, <https://mssulions.com/feature/2023xcregion> will have all the information.

Sports Medicine

Ambulance

An ambulance will be on site Saturday during both races the from Freeman Health Systems.

Athletic Trainers

Certified athletic trainer(s) shall be available in the NEZ athletic training facility and assist the participating institutions' sports medicine staff at any time during the scheduled

practice on Friday, November 3, 2023. This will be open to athletes and coaches Friday, November 3,

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Certified athletic trainer(s), will be on site for practice, starting at noon until 4 p.m. on Friday. Certified athletic trainer(s), EMT's and the team physician(s) will be on site for each competition, starting at 8 a.m. on race day. The on-site training room will be located just south of the finish line. Water will be available during all designated practice times and competitions.

Campus Athletic Training Hours

Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

There will also be a training area set up on the course Saturday. If you have any special needs, please contact Amanda Wolf at O:417-625-3174; C:417-529-4448 or by email at wolf-a@mssu.edu

Concussion Management

The NCAA has adopted legislation that requires all active member institutions to have a concussion management plan for their student-athletes. Participating institutions shall follow their concussion management plan while participating in NCAA championships. If a participating team lacks appropriate medical staff to activate its concussion management plan, the host championship concussion management plan will be activated.

The legislation notes, in part, that a student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from athletics activities (e.g., competition, practice, conditioning sessions) and evaluated by a medical staff member (e.g., sports medicine staff, team physician) with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions; a student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion is precluded from returning to athletics activity for at least the remainder of that calendar day; and medical clearance for return to athletics activity shall be determined by the team physician or the physician's designee from the student-athlete's institution. In the absence of a team physician or their designee, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance. Within the rules of the sport and policies established for the championships, medical staff should have access to the injured student-athlete without interference (e.g., coach).

A concussion is a brain injury that may be caused by a blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an "impulsive" force transmitted to the head. Concussions can occur without loss of consciousness or other obvious signs. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the previous one (hours, days or weeks) can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in brain swelling, permanent brain damage and even death.

For further details please refer to the “NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook Guideline on Concussions” online at [www. NCAA.org/health-and-safety](http://www.NCAA.org/health-and-safety).

Hydration

Water/Powerade stations are located behind the starting line, the team tent area and outside the finish corral.

Medical Examinations

As the event sponsor, the NCAA seeks to ensure that all student-athletes are physically fit to participate in its championships and have valid medical clearance to participate in the competition. The NCAA tournament physician, as designated by the host school, has the unchallengeable authority to determine whether a student-athlete with an injury, illness or other medical condition (e.g., skin infection) may expose others to a significantly enhanced risk of harm and, if so, to disqualify the student-athlete from continued participation. For all other instances, the student-athlete’s on-site team physician can determine whether a student-athlete with an injury or illness should continue to participate or is disqualified. In the absence of a team physician, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and has valid medical authority to disqualify him or her if the student-athlete’s injury, illness or medical condition poses a potentially life threatening risk to himself or herself. The chair of the governing sports committee (or a designated representative) shall be responsible for administrative enforcement of the medical judgment, if it involves disqualification.

Team Tents

Team Tents can be set up in the large field on the North side of Newman Road (just across Newman Road from the Tom Rutledge Cross Country Course). Tents can be set up starting on Friday, this area will be unsecured so each institution is responsible for any loss or damaged property. This is not located within the admission ticket area so all fans/family/non-participants will not need to have paid admission to enter this area.

Tickets

Prices

\$5 for admission per person. Children under 12 are free.

Ticket Office Contact

Ryan Snyder, Office: 417-625-9815 or email at snyder-r@mssu.edu

Will Call

NO will call for admission. All admission is charged at the Northwest or Southeast entrance gates.

NO PETS ARE PERMITTED WITHOUT BEING A REGISTERED SERVICE DOG.

Transportation/Travel Information

All transportation needs will be the responsibility of the participating teams.

Airport and Car / Van Rentals:

Joplin Regional Airport (6 Miles to Hotels):

Go East on 171 to Range line. Turn right or go South 5 miles to Hotel at I-44.

Hertz Rental Cars and Vans: 417-623-6242; Avis 417-624-6360; Enterprise 417-626-8309

Springfield / Branson Regional Airport (50 miles to Joplin; Hotels 1 Hour)

Go West on I-44 to Exit 8-B. Most Rental Car Companies.

Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport (75 miles to Joplin; 1 Hour 25 mins.)

Go to 71 North from Airport then to I-44 west to exit 8-B. Hertz / Enterprise / Avis / National Car Rentals.

Tulsa International Airport (90 miles to Joplin; 1 Hour 30 mins.)

Take I-44 east from Tulsa to Exit 8-B. Most Rental Car Companies.

Directions to Course

The MSSU Tom Rutledge Cross Country course is located on the Eastern portion of Missouri Southern State University campus in the Robert W. Plaster Sports Complex. It is directly located at the intersection of Duquesne Road and Newman Road in the South Eastern Quadrant. Driving directions to campus can be <https://www.mssu.edu/map.php>. There are also printable directions and a campus map found at this website. It is also attached to this document.

Uniforms

Please see Rule 4-3 in the [2023 and 2024 Cross Country/Track and Field Rule Book](#).

Logo Policy

Per NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4, an institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel (that is, team jersey, socks) that are worn by student-athletes in competition may bear a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal trademark, not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches, including any additional material (that is, patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The logo or trademark must be contained within a four-sided geometrical figure (that is, rectangle, square, parallelogram). An institution's official uniform cannot bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's that is in addition to another logo or that is contrary to the size restriction. A student-athlete representing an institution in intercollegiate competition is limited to wearing apparel items that include only the logo of an apparel manufacturer or distributor. This restriction shall not include logos that identify the student-athlete's institution or conference.

These restrictions apply to all apparel worn by student-athletes during the conduct of competition, including pre-meet or post-meet activities.