

CROSS COUNTRY CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

The following recommendations have been designed specifically for the Galion High School cross country teams. Because of the intense demands and conditioning required, athletes and parents are asked to read and understand certain cautions and responsibilities designed to improve the safety and enjoyment of the sport.

Preparation for practice or contests:

1. Select the appropriate clothing to be worn in warm or cold weather. Since we have a varied climate, it is important to be prepared for all kinds of weather and to dress accordingly.
2. Proper warm-up and warm down is very important before and after competition and practices.
3. Select and change shoes/spikes for various surfaces to help reduce shock and stress.
4. Athletes who are ill, dizzy, or lightheaded should contact their coach. Do not practice.
5. Athletes with seizure, neuromuscular, renal, cardiac, insulin/diabetic, or chronic skeletal problems, disorders or diseases, must present a physician's approval prior to participation in any practice session.
6. Participants should ingest the equivalent of 4-6 glasses of water each day.
7. Athletes needing preventive taping or bracing should arrive early to receive treatment. Any injury problem or concern should be discussed with the coach or athletic trainer. Wear all pads, braces and supportive undergarments to all practices and competitions.
8. Athletes with visual impairments must wear shatterproof glasses or lenses where judgment or safety is a problem. Glasses must be mounted in break resistant frames and secured with an elastic strap.
9. No horseplay, rough-housing, hazing or initiations.

In the locker room:

1. Be alert to slippery floors and use caution.
2. Keep floors free of litter. Place all personal belongings in assigned locker.
3. Close and lock locker door when away from the locker.
4. Keep soap and shampoo in the shower room.
5. No horseplay, rough-housing, hazing or initiations.

Movement to the practice/contest site or travel to contest/practice site:

1. Be aware of variations in the surface of ramps, locker rooms, cinder, or artificial surfaces.
2. Stretch thoroughly and start your workout with easy running.
3. No horseplay, rough-housing, hazing or initiations.

Hazards specific to cross country:

1. Athletes should be alert to activity going on around them to prevent collisions and/or the sudden stopping of others.
2. Runners engaged in street work as a method of distance conditioning must face traffic or use sidewalks. Do not wear radio or tape player head phones. Run in single file and be alert at intersections. Avoid heavily traveled streets and always look both ways before crossing.
3. Never cut across neighborhood lawns or through private property.
4. Avoid sudden stops on hard surfaces while sprinting. A gradual slow down will help prevent unnecessary leg stress.
5. Weight training regimens may also be part of your conditioning. Observe all weight room safety rules carefully.
6. Dehydration can be dangerous. Water will be available at practices and contests. Athletes should ingest water frequently.

Emergencies

Because of the physical demands of cross country, some injuries will occur. All injuries must be called to a coach's or trainer's attention. Most will be minor and can be managed through basic first aid techniques. However, some injuries may need more intense management, and may also require squad members to:

1. Stop all activities, practice, or competition. **DO NOT** move the victim!
2. Call a coach to manage the situation if not already at the site.
3. Sit or kneel in close proximity
4. Assist by:
 1. Helping with the injured person
 2. Calling for additional assistance
 3. Bringing first aid equipment or supplies to the site
 4. Keeping onlookers back
 5. Directing the rescue squad to the accident site