

## MODIFIED XC SCORING WHEN FEWER THAN 5 RUNNERS COMPETE FOR A SCHOOL

Effective with the 2019 Cross Country Season, the PIAA Board of Directors accepted the recommendation from the Cross Country Steering Committee and adopted NFHS Track & Field and Cross Country Rule 8-2-3 **to permit Leagues and/or Conference** to modify the scoring system when less than five competitors are available in dual meet competition. The adoption by a league/conference is to be made prior to the first legal contest date (August 30).

**NOTE:** Two schools cannot mutually agree to use the adoption if the League/Conference has not adopted this provision. Modified scoring is permitted only in Regular Season dual meets and NOT invitationals/League Championships/District Championships.

**The NFHS Track & Field and Cross Country Rules Book provides under Rule 8-2 the following:**

**ART. 1 ...** Scoring shall be as shown in the following table:

Place:	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth,	etc.
Points:	1	2	3	4	5	6	etc.

**ART. 2 ...** All competitors who finish the race shall be ranked and tallied in accordance with the above table. In cross country, up to seven team members retain their order of finish. Any team members beyond seven shall be disregarded and shall not displace any opposing runners. The team score then shall be determined by totaling the points scored by the first five finishers of each team. The team which scores the fewest number of points is the winner.

**ART. 3 ...** If fewer than five competitors of a team finish, or other number specified by the games committee, the places of all members of that team shall be disregarded and the team scores re-ranked. **By state association adoption, a modified scoring system may be used.**

*The PIAA Adoption provides as follows: If teams do not have an equal number of competitors, the team with the fewer number of competitors will count a place(s) one more than the total number of runners towards their team score, up to a maximum of five places.*

*The following is a sample of how the scoring would occur if one of the teams has fewer than 5 runners: In this example, Gold HS only has three runners (the Gold 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places are shown in parentheses).*

Sample Meet	Blue HS	Gold HS
Runner 1	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Runner 2	4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Runner 3	6 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Runner 4	7 <sup>th</sup>	(11 <sup>th</sup> )
Runner 5	8 <sup>th</sup>	(12 <sup>th</sup> )
Runner 6	9 <sup>th</sup>	
Runner 7	10 <sup>th</sup>	
Final Score:	28	31

**Blue** would be declared the winner of this dual meet.

*The following is a sample of how the scoring would occur if both of the teams have fewer than 5 runners:  
In this example, Blue HS only has four runners and Gold HS has 3 runners (the Gold 4<sup>th</sup> place is shown in parentheses).*

Sample Meet	Blue HS	Gold HS
Runner 1	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Runner 2	4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Runner 3	6 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Runner 4	7 <sup>th</sup>	(8 <sup>th</sup> )
Runner 5		
Runner 6		
Runner 7		
Final Score:	20	16

**Gold** would be declared the winner of this dual meet.

If a team has less than 5 runners or both teams have less than 5 runners, this is the only time the “modified scoring” procedure may be used.

#### **Additional Scenarios with Both Teams having Fewer than 5 Runners:**

- Team A has 4 runners and Team B has 4 runners – the Meet would be scored using the finishing places of the 8 runners only. (There would be 36 points to be awarded and there would be NO displacers)
- Team A has 3 runners and Team B has 3 runners – the Meet would be scored using the finishing places of the 6 runners. (There would be 21 points to be awarded and there would be NO displacers)
- Team A has 4 runners and Team B has 3 runners- - The 7 runners that run the race would be awarded places 1 thru 7 (NO Displacers). Team B would be credited with a ghost runners and would be awarded 8<sup>th</sup> place.
- Team A has 2 runners and Team B has 3 runners – the 5 runners that run and finish the race would be awarded places 1 thru 5 (No displacers). Team A would be credited with a ghost runner and be awarded 6 points for a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish.

#### **Additional Scenarios with One Team having Fewer than 5 Runners:**

- Team C has 6 runners and Team D has 4 runners – Assuming all of Team D’s runners finished ahead of Team’s C sixth runner that runner would be a displacer and Team D would be credited with a ghost runner that finished the race in 11<sup>th</sup> place. In any case Team C would have a displacer and the Team D would still need to be credited with a ghost runner in 11<sup>th</sup> place.
- Team E has at least 7 runners and Team F has 4 runners – Team E would have 2 runners that would be displacers and Team F would have a ghost runner that finished 12<sup>th</sup> added to their team score.