



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

100th ANNIVERSARY PIAA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

MECHANICSBURG – When the PIAA Registered Officials sing the National Anthem and the athletes are called to the starting line for first event of the 2025 PIAA Track and Field Championships, hosted at Seth Grove Stadium, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pa starting Friday, May 23rd, 2025, through Saturday, May 24th, 2025. It will reflect on 100 years of championships, crowning the best track and field athletes in the Keystone State for the last century. The first championship was approved during the February 10th, 1925, PIAA Board of Directors Meeting and was adopted as the Grand State Championships. Unlike the 18 events held today, there were a total of ten events. Athletes had the opportunity to qualify and compete in three events. Those events were:

100-yard Dash
220-yard Dash
220-yard Hurdles
440-yard Run
880-yard Run
12-lb. Shot Put
Running Broad Jump
Running High Jump
Medley Relay (Runners ran legs of 100, 220, 440 and 880 yards)
Pole Vault

The 100th PIAA Track and Field Championships will have the largest field competing in the history of the event and will see a record of 3,068 student-athletes competing and representing 194 3A boys' teams, 189 3A girls' teams, 179 2A boys' teams, 147 2A girls' teams and 9 unified teams.

For the first time, the track and field championship will have athletes competing in para-ambulatory events. Wheelchair and para-ambulatory standards were adopted by the PIAA Board of Directors ahead of the 2022 track and field season. Athletes have qualified and competed in wheelchair events since 2022.

In 1925, track and field was the second sport adopted by the PIAA. The championships have only been held at four sites: Bucknell University (1925-29), Mansion Park Stadium, Altoona (1930-32, 1943), Penn State University (1935-42, 1944-75) and Shippensburg University (1976-present). Shippensburg took over being the host site in 1976, after Beaver Stadium went under construction and the track was moved

down the hill. Historically, the championships have been hosted during the Memorial Day Weekend. There have only been a few instances when the championships were held in June. Over the years, the events have altered slightly, and some have even been retired. Whether it was switching from yards to meters, landing on mats in the high jump and pole vault instead of sawdust and the track surface evolving from changed from cinders to the surface we have today. According to Art Hindle, the foremost Track and Field historian in Pennsylvania, the inaugural Track and Field Championships in 1925 had 85 boys competing from 35 different high schools, while representing eight different PIAA Districts from across the Keystone State. Bethlehem HS won the very first team championship, scoring 15 points.

Team champions from 1925-1932: Bethlehem (1925), Lower Merion (1926), Lock Haven (1927-29), Williamsport (1930), and Altoona (1931-32). The championships were not held in 1933 and 1934 due to the Great Depression. After ten years of sponsoring the Track and Field Championships, 1935 was the initial year splitting schools into two classifications of "Class A" and "Class B." "A" was considered the larger schools while "B" was considered the smaller schools.

Class A (*No confirmed scoring results for 1973-1975*)

- 8: Altoona (1935-36, 1938-39, 1941-43, 1954)
- 4: Norristown (1947, 1950-51, 1961), Abington (1964-65, 1969-70)
- 3: Williamsport (1945-46, 1956)
- 2: Clairton (1955, 1962), Lower Merion (1957, 1966), Mt. Lebanon (1958, 1968)
- 1: Erie Strong Vincent (1937), Taylor Allderdice (1940), Upper Darby (1944), Wilkinsburg (1948), Chester (1949), Coatesville (1952), Erie Academy (1953), New Castle (1959), Lancaster (1960), Harriton (1963), Neshaminy (1967), York (1971), Wissahickon (1972)

Class B (*No confirmed scoring results for 1941, 1956, 1959-62, 1973-75*)

- 4: Ridley Park (1937, 1940, 1945, 1953)
- 3: Swarthmore (1935, 1943, 1955)
- 2: Ambler (1938, 1952), Springfield (Montco) (1944, 1946)
- 1: Birdsboro (1936), Lawrence Park (1939), Bridgeville (1942), Ridley Park (1945), Sewickley (1947), Springfield (Delco) (1948), Wyomissing (1949), Manheim Township (1950), Dallastown (1951), Avon Grove (1954), Scotland (1957), United Joint (1958), North East (1963-64), Columbia (1965), Sayra (1966), Spring-Ford (1967), Wissahickon (1968), Freeport (1969), Bristol (1970), Darby-Colwyn (1971), Middletown (1972)

The mid to late-70s saw numerous changes to the championships. In 1974, it was the addition of the inaugural girls track and field championships. Two years later, in 1976, the classifications changed to what they are today, 3A and 2A. The girls also expanded to two classifications in 1977, and, in that same year, the first team champions were crowned. The final big change in the 70s came in 1979. It was the first-year events changed to meters. The last significant change came in 2002, when the use of the IAAF javelin was instituted.

3A Girls Team Champions: *Co-Champions in 2006, Bradford and Strath Haven; Co-Champions in 2018 Northgate and Avonworth (No confirmed scoring results from 1976)*

16 - 3A Girls teams have won titles:

- 3: State College (1978, 1980, 2011), Chester (1981, 1983, 1994), Penn Wood (1990-91, 1996), North Penn (1995, 1997, 2017), McDowell (2001, 2004-05)
- 2: Harry S. Truman (1984, 1999), Abington (1) (1985, 2009), Henderson (1987-89), J.P. McCaskey

- (1992-93), Harrisburg (1998, 2000), Merion Mercy Academy (2002-03), Hempfield (7) (2013-14)
- 1: Central York (1977), Upper Dublin (1979), Great Valley (1982), Williamsport Area (1986), Bradford (2006), Strath Haven (2006), Easton Area (2007), Methacton (2008), Penn Hills (2010), Coatesville (2012), Northgate (2018), Avonworth (2018), Warwick (2019), Central Bucks West (2021), Moon (2022), Haverford Township (2023), Spring Grove (2024)

2A Girls Team Champions: *Co-Champions in 2021, North Schuylkill and Schuylkill Valley (No confirmed scoring results from 1976)*

21 - 2A Girls teams have won titles: Milton Hershey winning the most consecutive titles with seven.

- 14: Milton Hershey (1989-95, 1999-03, 2005-06)
- 5: Perkiomen Valley (1979-83)
- 4: Swenson A&T (2007-09, 2013)
- 3: Hickory (2012, 2015-16), Neumann Goretti (2017-19)
- 2: Annville-Cleona (1985, 1987), West Philadelphia Catholic (2010-11)
- 1: Avon Grove (1977), General McLane (1978), McConnellsburg (1984), Palisades (1986), Farrell (1988), Washington (1996), Smethport Area (1997), Gwynedd Mercy (2004), Merion Mercy Academy (1998), Paul Robeson (2014), North Schuylkill (2021), Schuylkill Valley (2021), Susquehanna Community (2022), Central Columbia (2023), West Catholic (2024)

3A Boys Team Champions: *Co-Champions in 1987, Glen Mills and Bensalem; Bishop Shanahan and North Allegheny in 2018 (No confirmed scoring results from 1976)*

25 - 3A Boys teams have won titles; Harrisburg winning the most consecutive titles with four.

- 7: Harrisburg (1980, 1984, 1986-89, 1992), Glen Mills (1987, 1993, 1995-97, 1999-00)
- 3: State College Area (2016, 2019, 2021)
- 2: Coatesville (1977, 2024), North Allegheny (1979, 2018), North Penn (1981, 2002), Penn Wood (1985, 1998), Bensalem (1987, 2013), Henderson (1990-91), Strath Haven (1994, 2012), Central Dauphin (2004-05), Altoona Area (2008, 2010), Hempfield (3) (2009, 2011), Cheltenham (2014-15)
- 1: Erie (1978), Wissahickon (1982), Steel Valley (1983), Cumberland Valley (2001), Pennsbury (2003), Gratz (2006), McDowell (2007), Carlisle (2017), Bishop Shanahan (2018), Butler (2022), Chambersburg (2023)

2A Boys Team Champions: *Co-Champions in 1994, Pottstown and G.A.R.; Co-Champions in 1999 Bald Eagle and Scotland (No confirmed scoring results from 1976)*

28 - 2A Boys teams have won titles; Scotland has won the most consecutive titles with three.

- 6: Scotland School (1991-92, 1995-97, 1999)
- 4: Milton Hershey (1980-82, 1989)
- 3: Elmer L. Meyers (1987-88, 2004), Springfield Township (1990, 2014-15), Schuylkill Valley (2012-13, 2018)
- 2: Pottstown (1993-94), Clarion Area (2000-01), Wyomissing (2002, 2022), Danville Area (2006, 2023), Trinity (3) (2010, 2011), Hickory (2017, 2019)
- 1: Middletown (1977), Darby Township (1978), Kennard Dale (1979), Greenville (1983), Southwestern (1984), Lancaster Catholic (1985), Susquehanna Township (1986), G.A.R. Memorial (1994), Mount Carmel (1998), Bald Eagle Area (1999), Bethlehem Catholic (2003), Aliquippa (2005), Carver E&S (2007), Wilmington Area (2008), Bishop McDevitt (2009), West Middlesex (2013), Southern Columbia (2021), Slippery Rock (2024)

Eight records were set at the **2024 PIAA Track and Field Championships:**

AAA Girls: Pole Vault – Veronica Vacca, Mount St. Joseph HS, 14' 0"

AAA Boys: 100M Dash – Shaun McCoullum, Washington HS, :10.37

400M Dash – Jayden Horton-Mims, Imhotep HS, :46.06

1600M – Drew Griffith, Butler HS, **3:57.08***

3200M – Drew Griffith, Butler HS, 8:43.72

Triple Jump – Jordan Sowell, Cheltenham HS, 50' 06"

Wheelchair: 100M Dash – Alex Brown, North Catholic HS, :20.00

Shot Put – Kristofer Robinson, Knoch HS, 22' 09"

(*NFHS Record)

NFHS RECORDS

Student-athletes competing at the PIAA Track and Field Championships have not only excelled, setting state records but also National Federation of State High School records. Three national records are currently held by PIAA student-athletes:

Boys 4x800 Relay NFHS record set in 2009

Central Bucks South: Jeffery Dickson, David Manion, Matthew Poiesz, Thomas Mallon; 7:33.48

Boys Javelin NFHS record set in 2012 – Billy Stanley, South Park; 246' 9"

Girls Javelin NFHS record set in 2015 – Madison Wiltrout, Connellsville; 185' 8"

Boys 1600M NFHS Record set in 2024 – Drew Griffith, Butler HS; 3:57.08

Fun fact: Pennsylvania has been a talent filled state for decades. Currently, in the NFHS records, there are 19 boys' marks and 16 girls' marks that stand as some of the fastest times and distances in the country. Distance events and the javelin have been a strong suit in Pa.

Members of the media are asked to familiarize yourself with the PIAA Handbook, Section II Policy and Procedures, pages 97-102: <http://tinyurl.com/5a3h7wyk>. The championship schedule may be found [here](#) and a full list of any [previous championship results](#).

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Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association

Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition, and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.