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OUR STUDENTS, OUR TEAMS . . . OUR FUTURE.

2026 Cross Country Sectional & State Championship Tournament Guide

AIA Cross Country Tournament Coordinator

Mary Wimmer

602-385-3824

mwimmer@aiaonline.org



2026 Cross Country Sectional & State Championship Guide

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Information for spectators including admission pricing, the digital ticketing process, programs, souvenirs, venue information & schedules can be found at:

<https://azpreps365.com/championships/crosscountry-boys>

<https://azpreps365.com/championships/crosscountry-girls>

Media information, including policies, credential requests, broadcasting & media rights agreements can be found at: <https://aiaonline.org/host-media-info>

ADA Compliance information can be found at: <https://aiaonline.org/files/14160/committees-ada-compliance.pdf>

Emergency personnel protocols & information related to AIA postseason competitions can be found at:

<https://aiaonline.org/files/17188/qmp.pdf>

School conference/ division/ section alignments can be found at:

<https://aiaonline.org/alignments/2026/activities/crosscountry-boys>

<https://aiaonline.org/alignments/2026/activities/crosscountry-girls>

All rules as stated in the National Federation Rules Book for this sport, along with the AIA Constitution & Bylaws as well as these tournament instructions apply.



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General Rules for Sectional Meets & State Championship

1. Bicycles will not be allowed on the sectional courses as well as on the state championship course. Neither coaches nor those associated with a team are to ride bicycles as it can create an unfair advantage.
2. Spikes are not allowed on the sectional courses or the state championship course.
3. Per AIA Policy 24.10.5.1 – The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person at all AIA post-season events.
4. Per AIA Bylaw 23.9.4, A practice or competition on the site of the Sectional or Post-Season Championship Tournament, except for a regularly scheduled contest, is not permitted for seven calendar days prior to the Sectional or Post-Season Championship, except in the case of the host school.

Sectional Meet Information

Site	Gilbert Crossroads Park	Heroes Park	Lake Powell National Golf Course	Rio Rico High School
Address	2155 E. Knox Rd, Gilbert, 85296	NE Corner of 83rd Ave. & Bethany Home Rd, Glendale, 85303	400 Clubhouse Dr. Page, 86040	590 Camino Lito Galindo, Rio Rico 85648
Host School	Chandler HS	Glendale HS	Page HS	Rio Rico HS
Tournament Director	Dave Shapiro	Scott Krumpos	Megan Moore	Chris Laughland
Phone	602-918-6479	623-435-622	928-608-4147	520-375-8700
Email	shapdave5@gmail.com	Scott.krumpos@guhsdaz.org	mmoore@pageud.org	claughland@scv35.org

Division I Sites

Northeast	Site: Heroes Park	Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Southeast	Site: Gilbert Crossroads Park	Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026
Southwest	Site: Gilbert Crossroads Park	Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026

Division II Sites

South	Site: Rio Rico High School	Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
Northwest	Site: Heroes Park	Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026
East	Site: Gilbert Crossroads Park	Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026
Metro:	Site: Heroes Park	Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Division III Sites

South	Site: Rio Rico High School	Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
East	Site: Gilbert Crossroads Park	Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026
Metro	Site: Heroes Park	Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026
North	Site: Lake Powell National G.C.	Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Division IV Sites

Metro	Site: Heroes Park	Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026
South	Site: Rio Rico High School	Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
North	Site: Lake Powell National G.C.	Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
East	Site: Gilbert Crossroads Park	Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026



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Sectional Meet Entry Instructions

All entries will be completed on www.athletic.net.

Directions are found here: <https://aiaonline.org/files/18351/athleticnet-cross-country-meet-entry-process.pdf>

DEADLINE FOR SECTIONAL REGISTRATION: Sunday, 12:00 pm (noon!). November 1, 2026

All changes must be completed prior to race time with the Wingfoot Finish Timing tent.

Sectional Meet Information

Chip timing will be used and provided by Wingfoot Finish at all sectional meets:

Sectional BIB Instructions for Coaches

1. Inspect your team packet to ensure you received all your bibs
 - a. Immediately notify meet management if you are missing any bibs.
 - b. Very important – this must be done before leaving the packet pickup area.
2. Distribute your bibs to all competing athletes
 - a. All athletes must wear their assigned bib, as assigned on your team roster.
 - b. Athletes that are not registered should not use someone else's bib.
 - c. Failure to properly distribute the bibs will result in inaccurate results.
3. Athletes must properly secure their bibs with the three provided safety pins

Information For Sectional Tournament Directors

All athletes running at the Sectional Meet ***must be*** entered on www.athletic.net.

All sections will be set up with Westview High School being the host school.

Clyde Resendez will download all entries for Wingfoot Finish.

Remind all teams that the STATE entry deadline for individuals and teams is Monday, 2:00 pm November 9, 2026.

State Qualifying Standards

- Each Sectional race will qualify the **top 50%** of FULL (5 or more runners) teams that finish with a team score. If a Section has an odd number of scoring teams the number of qualifying teams will be rounded up. Example: 11 Sectional teams scoring in the results will qualify 6 teams for state.
- Each Sectional race will qualify the **top 7 individual finishers** from teams that are NOT qualifying as one of the top 50% of full teams that finish with a team score as referenced above.

State Tournament Games Committee:

Mary Wimmer	AIA Site Director
Randy Collyer	AIA Official
Rick Glider	AIA Official
David Hines	AIA Official
Sue Hysong	Referee/AIA Official



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Coaches dependent upon session

State Championship Entry Procedures

Declarations will be made using the championship advancement procedures on www.athletic.net

DEADLINE FOR STATE REGISTRATION MONDAY 2:00 PM, NOVEMBER 9, 2026

All athletes running at the State Meet *must be* entered with www.athletic.net.

Chip timing will be used and provided by Finished Results from California.

State Championship Bib Instructions

INSPECT your Team Packet

- Confirm you have the correct team roster and the matching bibs
- If you notice anything missing/incorrect, please notify meet management, before you leave the pickup area

DISTRIBUTE your BIBS to your competing athletes

- All competing athletes **MUST** wear their assigned Bib as listed on your Team Roster
- Athletes that are not registered should not use someone else's bib. Failure to follow these instructions will result in inaccurate results

PROPERLY ATTACH the bibs for each athlete (see picture)

- Race bibs should be placed up-right on the torso, between the chest and stomach
- Be sure each athlete uses 4 safety pins to securely affix their bib
- DO NOT FOLD OR DAMAGE BIBS



RACE BIBS - POST EVENT

- Please return any unused bibs and safety pins to the timer so they can be recycled or used at another event
- Athletes may keep their race bib as a souvenir or discard them in the proper recycling





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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Certified Athletic Trainers will be on site; however, each school will be responsible for the taping/wrapping of their own athletes; including providing the needed supplies. The ATC's will be near the finish line area.
- Water will be available at the meet site; however, each team is to bring additional water for their personal needs.
- If a participant requires medical attention, the parent/guardian/coach will be notified by the tournament staff to meet in the medical area. Under no circumstance is a parent or coach to enter the restricted area unless requested, which includes the following areas: scoring, finish and chute.

TROPHIES/MEDALS

Awards will be as noted in the AIA Constitution and Bylaws. First place teams and runners-up will receive team trophies. Individual medals will be awarded to the top 21 places in each race.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- The Cave Creek Golf Course will be **closed and off limits** until 6:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, the day of the 2026 AIA State Cross Country Meet. A walk-through of the course will begin at 6:45 a.m. **The parking lot will be open to school buses and vans only.**
- Only Teams arriving in a school district bus or van (no district cars) with their printed team **School Parking Pass** will be allowed into the golf course parking area, **one van/minibus per gender team.** After the bus/van is unloaded the driver must circle the parking lot from east to west and exit the parking lot. All **school buses** will need to go to Turf Paradise North Parking Lot—or somewhere that the driver wishes to go. Bus drivers can be shuttled back to Cave Creek Golf Course. Only **school vans/minibuses** will be allowed to park in the golf course parking area. **District cars will be directed to park at either Turf Paradise North Lot or Thunderbird High School.** If the lot is full, you will be directed to drop off and go to Turf Paradise parking lot and be shuttled back to the golf course.
- **Individuals or teams arriving with their coach in a car MUST** park at Thunderbird H.S or Turf Paradise North Lot and take the shuttle to the site. It is the coach's responsibility to inform meet personnel of unusual circumstances
- In order to maintain a safe and efficient environment for all the participants, fans and workers are asked to use the walking lane from the team camp area to the main part of the course. This will be barricaded and monitored by the Event Staff. We ask for your cooperation as coaches and school personnel to instruct your athletes and fans not to cross the parking lot on foot in areas of high vehicle traffic.
- Division I and III teams are not to arrive at Cave Creek Golf Course until 10:45am. Teams can arrive earlier but will need to park at Turf Paradise North Lot and take a shuttle to the golf course.
- Team camps are restricted to the driving range that is located to the east of the parking lot.
- Course maps will **not** be included in coaches packets. Download a copy of the map from www.aiaonline.org →Sports→Cross Country→State XC Map.
- **NO PETS ARE ALLOWED— working service animals only!** Comfort animals will **not** be allowed into the facility at Cave Creek Golf Course.



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State Championship Information

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2026
Site: Cave Creek Golf Course; 15202 N. 19th Avenue; Phoenix, AZ 85023; 602-866-8076
Course Distance: 3.1 miles

The course is closed for practice all year and there are to be no scheduled meets on site during the season.

State Race Day

6:45am Walk Through (Div. II & IV)

Packet pick-up at white pop-up

8:15am National Anthem

Report Schedule

Race Schedule

8:15am	Division IV Boys	8:30am	Division IV Boys
8:40am	Division II Boys	8:55am	Division II Boys
9:05am	Division IV Girls	9:20am	Division IV Girls
9:30am	Division II Girls	9:45am	Division II Girls
10:15am	Awards Division IV		
10:45am	Awards Division II		
11:00am	Walk Through (Div. I & III)		
12:30pm	Division III Boys	12:45pm	Division III Boys
12:55pm	Division I Girls	1:10pm	Division I Girls
1:20pm	Division III Girls	1:35pm	Division III Girls
1:45pm	Division I Boys	2:00pm	Division I Boys
2:15pm	Awards Division III		
2:50pm	Awards Division I		

The race schedule is based upon a rotating formula approved by the Cross Country Sports Advisory Committee.

* All times are approximate and subject to change; **BE READY FOR YOUR RACE!**

The course will not be open for walk-throughs until Saturday, November 14, 2026. During your walk-through please do not interfere with any of the participants competing in the race in progress!