NSW Department of Education

School cross country carnival – guide for officials

Carnival officials

Officials must make adequate travel arrangements to arrive at the venue in time to sign in and be present at the officials' pre-carnival briefing. (Officials should not travel to the venue on the school competitor buses as they will be late for their duty.)

Relevant equipment for officials should be provided at the pre-carnival briefing including:

- Officials' vests
- A two-way radio (recommended, otherwise give out relevant mobile numbers)
- A clip folder, with paperwork and other necessary equipment
- NOTE: All vests, clip folders, paperwork and any other required equipment are to be returned at the end of the day.

Officials are to bring their own

- copy of their role description as provided by school sport coordinator.
- pen, wet weather clothing, hat and sunscreen.
- snacks, lunch & water.

Course Station Officials should also bring a portable chair.

Good practice guide for officials

- Stay alert, quick to react and make decisions in a timely manner.
- Use common sense and be tactful.
- Make sure that you stand in a position to fairly judge the duty allocated to you.
- Have knowledge of any rules pertaining to the assigned duty.
- Ask for guidance from a senior official if you are not sure of something.
- Be prepared to work in all climatic conditions (wet, fine, cold or hot).

Announcer

Main roles

- Keeping the audience informed about the ongoing events. This includes the ‘calling’ of events to be marshalled and program updates (including changes). The announcer has a key role in setting the ‘flow’ of the carnival and ensuring it runs smoothly.
- Sharing the results of events, including the names of students who advance to the next level of competition and any records (if timed) that are broken during the carnival.
- Making safety announcements, such as reminders to stay in designated areas, not to be on the course unnecessarily during events, to reapply sunscreen, stay hydrated or follow any specific protocols during the carnival.
- Working closely with event officials and staff to ensure the smooth running of the carnival, coordinating schedules, addressing any issues, and making sure the events progress as planned.

How to be an announcer at a carnival

- Have the best view possible of the finish line/course and marshalling areas.
- Be familiar with the event program and establish a clear schedule for ‘calling’ students to marshal for each event.
- Ensure that announcements can be heard in all areas of the venue.

Suggestions for school carnivals

- Where possible, assign this role to a member of staff who has experience at school carnivals.
- To maintain a clear view of the venue and minimise distractions, the announcer should be stationed within a designated 'officials only' area.
- The volume and quality of sound of announcements is critical to the success of the carnival. The hiring of professional equipment and support with setup may be required.

Course officiating positions

Course set up group

Equipment

- Officials' vests
- A two-way radio (recommended, otherwise give out relevant mobile numbers)
- A clip folder, with paperwork and course map

Course set up

1. Arrive early enough to help set up the course with cones, signs and bunting as per course map.
2. Place course markers, at least 1 every 25m on the course. Place station number markers at the appropriate locations. All markers should be to the left of the runners' path.
3. The course stations are as follows: Station 1 – Station ?? (Refer to the course route map)
4. All course markers and station markers should in place at the latest 1 hour prior to the first race.
5. Assist with finish area set up tasks and ensure all signage is in place.

Conclusion of carnival

1. Retrieve all course markers (cones, bunting, agility poles and flags), station numbers, signage and other equipment.
2. Pack away all equipment and ensure banners are folded/stored away.
3. Assist with packing the vehicle/trailer where required.

Suggestions for school carnivals

- If two-way radios are not available, prepare a mobile phone list and use mobile phones.
- Have staff members placed around the course to ensure runners remain in line of sight of staff members.
- Try to keep course markers on the same side all the way around the course.
- Ask for parent help to set up the course in the morning and pack up in the afternoon. Prepare a roster so there are enough helpers and teachers can stay with students.
- For a primary carnival have older students run with Kindergarten and Year 1 students for safety.

Race referee

PRE-REQUISITE - Must have a thorough knowledge of cross country rules and carnival procedures.

Main roles

The **race referee** is the chief official responsible for overseeing the entire running competition. Their primary responsibilities include:

- ensuring that all rules and regulations are strictly followed throughout the carnival
- adjudicating on important decisions during the event, including addressing infringements or disputes such as false starts, obstructions or interferences
- overseeing the accurate recording of results
- supporting officials by ensuring they have the necessary equipment and fully understand the event rules
- signalling the start of each race and collaborating with other officials to ensure the smooth running of all competition aspects
- prioritising the safety and wellbeing of athletes, officials, and spectators by maintaining a hazard-free racing course and monitoring conduct.

How to be a race referee

- Conduct a comprehensive pre-carnival briefing for all officials, covering event procedures, rules, modifications and specific instructions.
- Monitor the timing of events and ensure the carnival runs on schedule. Communicate proactively with the announcer, marshals, starter, timekeepers and judges to manage any delays or bottlenecks
- Handle disputes or protests related to races fairly and transparently.
- Warn or exclude runners from the competition for improper conduct, maintaining discipline and sportsmanship.

Suggestions for school carnivals

- Assign a responsible member of the Executive team or the Championship Convenor/assistant to act as the race referee.
- If implementing a protest system, communicate clearly and in writing to all teachers, volunteers, students and parents/carers before the carnival about procedures, including how protests can be submitted (written or verbal), who may submit them, and what evidence is acceptable.
- Emphasise that all staff and officials share responsibility for observing races and noting infringements.

Safety considerations

Refer to the Specific sport and physical activity guidelines for cross country, course-specific information is below.

- Ensure the course is clear of obstacles and hazards at all times.
- Monitor the behaviour of runners, officials and spectators to prevent unsafe conduct.
- Confirm that all safety equipment, such as defibrillators and first aid kits, are readily accessible.
- Coordinate with first aid officers and emergency personnel to maintain readiness in case of incidents.
- Reinforce the importance of warm-up and cool-down procedures to prevent injuries.

Rules and regulations

Runners in multi-class events

- Each runner in multi-class events must have current classification documentation (national, provisional or review status) for their disability category.
- The verification of classifications will be done against the Athletics Australia National Classification Master List and in conjunction with Paralympics Australia, Sports Inclusion Australia, Transplant Australia and Deaf Sports Australia.
- Runners who do not have a classification prior to competition and fail to meet this requirement will be ineligible to compete at the NSWPSSA Cross Country Championships.
- All Intellectual and Hearing classifications should be completed prior to the state championships. Physical Impairment classifications requiring review will be conducted at the state championships (if classifiers are available). Should a runner's classification be deemed ineligible at this time, they can still participate, but will receive no percentages, and will not be eligible for placings, medals, records or team selection.
- If a runner's classification changes during the championship, as a result of a classification review, the new classification will be used from that point in time for all future events being contested. If an event has already been completed, the former classification will be used to determine its results, placings and team selection.
- Classification for runners in multi-class events is done by specific governing bodies. The classification categories and governing bodies are as follows:

Classification for runners in multi-class events

Classification category	Classification	Governing body
Deaf/hard of hearing	T01(AU2)	Deaf Sports Australia
Visual impairment	T11, T12 or T13	Paralympics Australia
Intellectual impairment	T20, T21*	Sport Inclusion Australia
Physical impairment:		
Cerebral palsy	T35, T36, T37 or T38	Paralympics Australia
Short stature	T40*, T41*	Paralympics Australia
Upper limb	T42, T43, T44, T45 or T46	Paralympics Australia
Lower limb (with prosthesis)	T62*, T63* or T64*	Paralympics Australia
Transplant	T60*	Transplant Australia

- Deaf or hard-of-hearing athletes can wear hearing aids for marshalling, but they must be removed before the start of the race.
- T11 athletes MUST have a guide. T12 and T13 athletes may elect to have a guide.

- Primary multi-class events run over a distance of 2km for all ages (i.e. 8/9, 10, 11, 12/13 yrs). The carnival convener can combine and/or separate athletes in multi-class events based on gender and the number of entries in age groups and gender.

- All multi-class athletes at the secondary level will run in a combined event over a distance of 3 km for all ages. (i.e. 13 Years to 18+ Years run 3km).

  * The classifications with an asterisk require medical clearance to participate in the championships.

The starter

A good starter must be physically and mentally alert with quick reactions and good eyesight. They should be able to take command with a good, clear speaking voice.

The starter assumes control of the competitors from the time they step up to the starting line until after the signal to start has been given.

Main roles

- Providing instructions to students, such as explaining the starting commands, where to start and race rules.
- Communicating with other officials, such the timekeepers, marshals and judges.
- Due to the hazardous nature of caps, schools are strongly encouraged to use alternative starting devices such as:
    - electronic starting pistols
    - beepers with flashes
    - whistles or other audible signals.
- Observing for false starts and then notifying and recalling competitors and restarting the race.
- Maintaining safety by ensuring that the starting line is clear of any obstacles or hazards before starting the race and following Specific sport and physical activity guidelines for cross country.

How to start a race

1. Call students for the next race to the start line. Work with marshals to ensure they are in their correct positions.
2. Provide a race briefing to explain the start commands and any race rules.
3. Communicate with the head timekeeper to ensure the timekeepers are ready to start. This could be accomplished by using a flag, a two-way radio or a hand signal.
4. Check the starting line and running area are clear.
5. Ensure competitors are behind the starting line.
6. Races are started using the commands below.

    - 'On Your Marks' followed by a firing of the starter's gun. A second firing will indicate a recall
    - For multi-class events only, raise a white flag to signal ‘On Your Marks’, and drop it when the gun is fired
    - For multi-class events only, wave a red flag to signal a recall.

7. Suggestions for school carnivals

- The starter must have the best view of all students on the starting line.
- Call the students to the stand behind the starting line. Students stand behind the starting line, check that the competitors are completely behind the starting line, ensure they have enough time to steady themselves, notify the timekeepers that the race is about to start.
- On the command “ON YOUR MARKS", the students should come to the START position.
- Once all athletes are ‘on their marks’ and steady, the race should start with as little delay as possible.
- If any student moves or is unsteady at any time during the start procedure, the race should be stopped, the students asked to stand up, and the race should be restarted.

Marshal

Main roles

- Supervising students within the marshalling area
- Ensuring students are in the correct event for their age and gender
- Briefing students on the race and responding to questions or concerns
- Organising students into heats
- Working with the starter to ensure a timely start for each race

How to marshal students

1. Greet students at the marshalling area and state the age/gender division of the race/s being marshalled.
2. Group students into age groups.
3. Beginning with the first age group/race ask them to stand back from the start line and wait for the starter.
4. Inform the starter when each age groups is ready.
5. Each age group moves forward up to the start line when the starter calls ‘ON YOUR MARKS’.
6. One of the marshals can assist the starter by checking all students are correctly positioned behind the starting line.
7. Once the race has started, prepare to marshal the next age group/race.

Suggestions for school carnivals

- Use cones to clearly indicate where students should stand/sit once marshalled. For some carnivals this can be directly behind the starting line, for other carnivals this could be on the outside of the course in a marshalling area.
- Mark another designated zone, using cones, in the marshalling area for students to sit while waiting to be marshalled.
- Ask students to sit in house groups on arrival at the marshalling area, this can help with allocating house points.
- Communicate with the carnival announcer regularly to ensure smooth transitions between races.
- In the marshalling area remind students to remain in their finishing order at the conclusion of the race while names and places are being decided/recorded.
- A minimum of 2 marshals is recommended for school carnivals.
- Give multi-class competitors a choice in how they would like to participate. This could be with peers of the same age and gender, other multi-class athletes or within their classification. All multi-class competitors’ times must be recorded for progression in the Representative School Sport Pathway (RSSP).

Chief timekeeper

Main roles

- Leading timekeepers in the accurate and consistent timing of races by using precision timing devices such as stopwatches or electronic timing systems to measure the duration of each race.
- At the end of each race, recording the time of all students in conjunction with the place order determined by the judge(s).
- Supporting timekeepers throughout the day. This includes providing technical assistance, 'covering' them if they miss a start, arranging a replacement as required and general encouragement.

How to be a chief timekeeper

1. Before the first race, brief all timekeepers on how to operate the stopwatch/timing system and the specific timekeeping procedures that are in place.
2. Stand at the finishing line at the end of the course. Ensure you and all timekeepers are in the best position to see the runners cross the line.
3. Inform the starter when all the timekeepers are ready.
4. Be alert and ready to start timing when the starter notifies that the race is about to start
5. Start the timer when the starting device signal occurs. Check with timekeepers if anyone missed the start and cover the lane of anyone who did (unless timers are started automatically).
6. If 'covering' a specific place, watch closely and count students as they cross the finish line. Stop your timer as soon as your placed student crosses the line.
7. Collect times for all required places. Records should include:
    - event (for example, girls, 10 years, 2km Race)
    - time (for example, 30.3).
8. Corroborate collected times with the placings from the judge(s). If there is a discrepancy between the times and the judge(s)' placings, the judge(s)' placings take precedence.
9. Once you are satisfied that all times have been correctly recorded, instruct timekeepers to clear their stopwatches and prepare for the next race.

NOTE: Not all cross country races are timed. If timing is being used, the first 6-10 times is enough. Times are needed for all multi-class runners to work out their places.

Suggestions for school carnivals

- Assign the role to an experienced teacher or member of the Executive team.
- Use finish line recording technology to confirm timings. Your local athletics club may be able to provide equipment, or there are photo finish apps for tablets/smart phones.
- Only time the places that are going to the zone carnival and all multi-class runners.
- Chief timekeepers should use a multi-timer stopwatch to record multiple places.

- The chief timekeeper should record the time of first place to assist with accuracy in case of a potential broken record.
- Ensure all timekeepers are standing to stop the timer when runners cross the line and remind students to stay in finish order while judges make decisions and record names and times.
- Prior to the first race, ensure all timekeepers know how to use a stopwatch.
    - Hold the watch between the thumb and forefinger.
    - Use forefinger for start/stop button and thumb for reset button.
    - Try to keep the watch as still as possible.
    - If the watch has a lap/split time it will allow the timekeeper to take multiple times (usually used for long distances). Press the button as athletes finish their race. To recall these times, press 'recall', located at the top of the watch. Every time 'recall' is pressed the next time will be displayed on the screen. Press 'reset' when all times have been recorded.

Rules and regulations

Races are started using the commands below.

- 'On Your Marks' followed by a firing of the starter's gun. A second firing will indicate a recall
- For multi-class events only, raise a white flag to signal 'On Your Marks', and drop it when the gun is fired
- For multi-class events only, wave a red flag to signal a recall.

TIMEKEEPER'S SLIP				
Event				
Boys/Girls				
Distance				
Place	Name/Number:	Time		
1st Place		.min	.sec	.th/s
2nd Place		.min	.sec	.th/s
3rd Place		.min	.sec	.th/s
4th Place		.min	.sec	.th/s
5th Place		.min	.sec	.th/s
6th Place		.min	.sec	.th/s
7th Place		.min	.sec	.th/s
8th Place		.min	.sec	.th/s

Timekeepers (If using timekeepers)

Main roles

- Ensuring accurate and consistent timing of races by using precision timing devices such as stopwatches or electronic timing systems to measure the duration of each race.
- At the end of each race, recording or reporting the time of the student they were responsible for timing.
- Collaborating with the starter, judge(s) and recorders to ensure smooth coordination of races.

How to time keep

1. Stand up at the finish line to see the runners cross the finish line. Ensure you have an unimpeded view of the finish line.
2. Inform the chief timekeeper when you are ready, the chief timekeeper will inform the starter that the timekeepers are ready.
3. Be alert and ready to start timing when the starter notifies that the race is about to start (unless timers are started automatically).
4. Start the timer when the starting device signal occurs. If you miss the start inform the chief timekeeper immediately (unless timers are started automatically).
5. Watch the finish line, as the runners come into view stand and move into a position that allows you to see the runner cross. Stop your stopwatch at the instant any part of the body of the runner crosses the finish line.
6. Report your allocated runner(s) time(s) to the chief timekeeper. If there is no chief timekeeper, record the times. Records should include:
    - event (for example, girls, 10 years, 2km race)
    - time (for example, 3:30.3). Do not clear your stopwatch until the chief timekeeper is satisfied that all times have been correctly recorded.
    - name and place of runner.

Suggestions for school carnivals

- If needed, ask parents/carers to be timekeepers and use teachers experienced/confident in timekeeping as chief timekeeper and place judges.
- Use finish line recording technology to confirm timings. Your local athletics club may be able to provide equipment, or there are photo finish apps for tablets/smart phones.
- Timekeepers should remind runners to stay in order when they finish the race, while judges make decisions and record names and times.
- Prior to the first race ensure all timekeepers know how to use a stopwatch.
    - Hold the watch between the thumb and forefinger.
    - Use forefinger for start/stop button and thumb for reset button.
    - Try to keep the watch as still as possible.
    - Press the button as athletes finish their race. Press ‘reset’ when all times have been recorded.
- Set up an exclusion zone around the timekeepers so that judges and timekeepers can work without interference from spectators. This can be 10-15m from the end of the course or back in the grandstand/seating area if there is an area allocated.

Rules and regulations

Races are started using the commands below.

- 'On Your Marks' followed by a firing of the starter's gun. A second firing will indicate a recall
- For multi-class events only, raise a white flag to signal ‘On Your Marks’, and drop it when the gun is fired
- For multi-class events only, wave a red flag to signal a recall.

School cross country recording sheet

Event details								
School					Boys/girls			
Running distance					Age group			
Place	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Initials								

Place	Name	House	Time	Points
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Place judge

Main roles

- Determining the finishing positions of participants in running events, by assessing the order in which athletes cross the finish line. Call out finishing order as the runners cross, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th…
- Identifying the first, second, third, fourth …. place finishers according to the rules and regulations of the event. Using technology or timing systems, where available, to make accurate determinations.
- Collaborating with timekeepers to ensure alignment between recorded times and the observed finishing positions.
- Communicating finishing positions with recorders promptly following the race, usually by completing an event recording sheet.

How to judge a race

1. Stand in line with the finish line on the opposite side to the timekeepers. Ensure you have a good view of the finish line.
2. If electronic timing is not in use:

    (a) Judges give a place card to each competitor as they finish.

    (b) Competitors line up in finishing order and proceed to the recorders.
3. Watch the race as the students approach the end of the race. As they cross the line identify which athlete finished in which place, for example, John Smith finished 1st, Fred Lake finished 2nd etc.
4. Write down your placings and the initials of runner. Communicate these to the chief timekeeper.
5. Always act independently. Only share your place(s) with the chief timekeeper.

Suggestions for school carnivals

- Assign the role to an experienced teacher or member of the Executive team who knows the runner's names.
- Only use teachers or independent adults such as paid athletics' officials.
- Imagine the closest edge of the finish line is a pane of glass. Once athletes break the pane, with any part of their body, they have crossed the line. The body is the torso, from the shoulders to the hips and does not include the head, neck, arms, legs or hands. For a wheelchair or frame running event, you place the athletes as the front axle of the leading wheel crosses the finish line.
- Only one judge is typically needed, but 2 is beneficial especially if a race is close.
- Set up an exclusion zone around the finish line so that judges and timekeepers can work without interference from spectators. This can be 10-15m behind all the edges of the racing course. If there is a grandstand, don't allow parents/spectators on the course.
- Use finish line recording technology to confirm timings. Your local athletics club may be able to provide equipment, or there are photo finish apps for tablets/smart phones.
- If using a tablet/smartphone to confirm placings, have 2 set up on tripods to record the finish of alternating races, or in case one fails.

Cross country judge's sheet

Event name: Heat #:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th

Position	Name	House	Time	Place
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

On-course officials

Equipment needed

- Officials' vests
- A two-way radio (recommended, otherwise give out relevant mobile numbers)
- A clip folder, with paperwork and course map

Staff should supply their own chair, umbrella, wet weather gear, lunch and refreshments.

*** Station officials MUST be adults and should be accompanied by two student assistants.**

- During races, officials MUST STAND, be visible and be familiar with the location of their station.
- Register their arrival with the Championship Convenor and attend the officials briefing.
- STATION OFFICIALS **MUST** be on course and in position before the first race starts (with their student assistants).
- Be familiar with their duties as outlined below.
    - STAND UP and act as a direction guide to competitors and ensure that no competitor deviates from the course route.
    - Stand in a clear location in the area where the students SHOULD NOT run and direct them to run in the correct area.
    - Keep spectators off the course route so as not to impede the runners.
    - Only sit down between events, not during events. Always stay vigilante and refrain from socialising with other officials and using mobile devices excessively.
    - Replace the markers ready for the next race if course poles or cones are disturbed by the runners during the current race.
    - Act as first aid spotters. If there is an injured athlete in your vicinity, assess if they need assistance. If help is required, send your student assistant to the closest first aid location A first aid official will report to the injury location and assess the injured athlete. If required, the first aid official will radio for first aid transport.
    - Retrieve the course markers (at that station and either side) and return them to the pack up area at the end of races.
    - Remain at their station and use their student assistant to run for any assistance required.
    - Use the toilet only after the current race has passed them by. There will usually be an interval of approx. 20 minutes before the next race.
    - Ensure that the student assistant(s) remains in place so that there is always someone ready at that location, if a station official needs to leave the station.

NSWPSSA and NSWCHSSA rules for cross country that could apply at the school carnival

Primary (NSWPSSA) rules

The championship shall be conducted over the following distances:

Age group	Boys	Girls
8/9 years	2,000m	2,000m
10 years	2,000m	2,000m
11 years	3,000m	3,000m
12/13 years	3,000m	3,000m
All athletes in Multi Class events	2,000m	2,000m

- Footwear must be worn by all competitors. Spiked footwear is not permitted due to safety reasons relating to a pack start.
- Any competing athlete who jostles or obstructs another athlete, so as to impede his/her progress, will be liable to disqualification from the event.
- No competitor is to receive assistance or refreshments during the race.
- The Championship Manager retains the right to alter the program if need be.
- Asthma medication is permitted to be taken during the course of the competitor's event.
- Pacing in races by people not participating in the same race should be warned by the referee. If there is any repetition, the athlete will be disqualified from the event.
- MP3, iPads and similar technology devices should not be used by any athlete. Any device able to transmit and receive information should not be worn.

Multi-class athletes

For classifications see referees' section above.

Athletes in multi-class events must be currently classified with the appropriate body and should appear on the Athletics Australia (AA) or Sport Inclusion Australia (SIA) Master lists.

- Athletes with a Physical classification should appear on the AA Master List with an official classification status of Provisional or Review National Classification.
- If an Association enters an athlete in a multi-class event but the athlete does not appear on the AA or SIA Master Lists, the Association should provide the Championship Convener with classification documentation from the governing body 14 days prior to the commencement of the NSW PSSA State Cross Country Championship that the classification has been verified and the student will appear on the AA Master List when an update occurs.

- Athletes who fail to meet the above requirements will be ineligible to compete at the NSW PSSA Cross Country Championship.

Multi-class event structure

Primary multi-class events run over a distance of 2km for all ages (i.e. 8/9, 10, 11, 12/13 yrs). The Championship convener can combine and/or separate Athletes in Multi Class events based on the number of entries in age groups and gender.

Suggested qualifying standards

- Suggested qualifying standards are provided to assist in determining athlete progression in multi-class events to the NSWPSSA State Cross Country Championship. NSWPSSA State Cross Country Championship suggested qualifying standards are adapted from the School Sport Australia (SSA) qualifying standards.
- 12/13 years age category is provided a 10% addition to the SSA qualifying standards
- 11 years age category is provided a 10% addition to the SSA qualifying standards
- 10 years age category is provided a 10% addition to the SSA qualifying standards
- 8/9 years age category is provided a 20% addition to the SSA qualifying standards for the 10 years age category

Placings

Placings for primary events will be determined using Baseline Performance comparing the athlete's time to the Athletics Australia 1,500m Baseline Performance for their classification and determining the percentage. All percentages for all classifications will be calculated and the highest percentage wins, second highest second etc. The calculation method for placings may change to be aligned to the School Sport Australia multi-class event calculation system.

Secondary (NSWCHSSA) rules

The championship shall be conducted over the following distances:

Age group	Boys	Girls
12 years	3,000m	3,000m
13 years	3,000m	3,000m
14 years	4,000m	4,000m
15 years	4,000m	4,000m
16 years	6,000m	4,000m
17 years	6,000m	4,000m
18+ years	8,000m	6,000m
Schools team	6,000m	4,000m

Age group	Boys	Girls
All athletes in Multi Class events	3,000m	3,000m

- Competitors must compete in their own age group, with the exception of ISF schools team members. Competitors in the school team event must be 14, 15, 16 or 17 years of age in the year of competition and will compete in the 17 years' event. Age is determined by how old a competitor is as at 31 December in the year of competition. No competitor can turn 20 years in the year of competition.
- All competitors must wear shoes.
- Spectators and coaches are not allowed to run alongside a competitor at any time.

Multi-class athletes

To be eligible to compete, a multi-class athlete must meet the following criteria:

- All multi-class athletes at the secondary level will run in a combined event over a distance of 3 km for all ages. (i.e. 13 Years to 18+ Years run 3km).
- Each multi-class athlete must have at least a national provisional classification by the governing body to compete at the state championship. The governing bodies, classification categories and how classifications are verified are as follows:
    - Athletes must be listed on the Master List (AUSRAPID Sport Inclusion Australia or Athletics Australia) for Intellectual, Physical, Vision or Transplant classifications. A letter from Deaf Sports Australia (with code AU2) for the Hearing-impaired classification is to be sent at least 14 days prior to the State Championship. Athletes who do not meet these classification requirements will be ineligible to compete at the state Cross Country Championship.
    - Placings for all multi-class events will be determined using the multi-disability formula set by Athletics Australia for 1,500m races in relation to the athlete's classification.
    - All percentages for all disability classes will be calculated and the highest percentage wins, second highest second etc.
    - Note – eligible students must choose prior to competing whether they will compete as a multi-class athlete or as an abled bodied athlete. If competing as a multi-class athlete they must complete the classification documentation.