

## Bringing Equitable Competition to the CCS Championship

The current 'equal' distribution of teams into Divisions I-IV does not provide competitively equitable, balanced, and representative fields across the various divisions at the CCS Championship. An equitable championship meet should look to have a balanced and relatively equal distribution of schools across the Division races, leading to more equitably competitive fields which represent comparable ranges of their respective student populations.

The current Championship field size imbalance happens for a variety of reasons. First, the current distribution method does not account for schools that do not participate or do not field complete teams. For 2021, there were 37 such girls' teams (2 D-II, 8 D-III, 6 D-IV, 21 D-V) and 15 such boys' teams (1 D-II, 3 D-IV, 11 D-V). This diminished the available pool in the lower enrollment divisions significantly more than the higher enrollment divisions. Next, in general, a higher percentage of the larger enrollment schools tend to qualify for the championship meet. As a result, the current system impacts the larger schools with disproportionately larger fields and smallest schools with much smaller, less competitive and representative fields at the Championship meet.

On average 65 to 66 schools have typically qualified for the CCS Cross Country championships over the past 11 competitive seasons. With balanced sized Divisional races as a goal, that would make the target number of teams in each Divisional race approximately 13. The average number per Division for the past 11 competitions has been:

	Girls	Boys
D-I:	17.4	17.3
D-II:	14.7	14.4
D-III:	11.5	11.3
D-IV:	12.5	13.5
D-V:	8.6	9.5

(Red indicates the Divisions that on average are 3 or more away from that desired size)

We are not suggesting changes to how schools qualify for the Championship, only how the Divisional assignments are made. To create a more equitable distribution of competition at the CCS Championship meet, the following updates to the CCS Division assignment process are proposed:

- Update D-V to 600 and smaller enrollment schools. This expands the range of schools available to qualify in that division by nine (9) schools to 39-43 schools and helps address the impact of many D-V schools not fielding complete teams. It also increases the number of students represented by the Division
- Update D-I to be the top 15% of remaining schools by size (~14 teams)
- Spread the remaining 85% of schools across D-II to D-IV as follows:
  - D2: 25% (~23 teams)
  - D3: 25% (~23 teams)
  - D4: 35% (~31-32 teams)

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The following table shows the potential impact of this distribution using the data from the past three CCS championships.

### Actual Historical Race Sizes Compared to Proposed Allocation

	2018 actual		2018 w/proposal			2019 actual		2019 w/proposal			2021 actual		2021 w/proposal	
	# of schools	# of qualifiers	# of schools	# of qualifiers		# of schools	# of qualifiers	# of schools	# of qualifiers		# of schools	# of qualifiers	# of schools	# of qualifiers
	<b>Boys</b>					<b>Boys</b>					<b>Boys</b>			
D1	24	16	15	12	D1	24	17	15	12	D1	25	19	15	13
D2	24	15	23	12	D2	24	15	23	13	D2	25	14	23	14
D3	24	10	23	12	D3	24	9	23	13	D3	25	13	23	13
D4	23	14	31	17	D4	26	17	32	15	D4	25	12	30	12
D5	26	13	29	15	D5	30	9	35	14	D5	31	8	40	14
<i>totals</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>totals</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>totals</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>66</i>
	<b>Girls</b>					<b>Girls</b>					<b>Girls</b>			
D1	24	16	15	10	D1	25	18	15	12	D1	26	15	15	11
D2	24	17	23	14	D2	24	16	23	16	D2	25	16	23	13
D3	24	11	23	13	D3	24	11	23	12	D3	25	9	23	10
D4	24	13	32	17	D4	26	13	32	16	D4	25	10	31	13
D5	29	10	32	12	D5	33	6	39	8	D5	34	9	43	12
<i>totals</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>totals</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>totals</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>59</i>

Yellow highlight indicates 3 or more away from the goal number of teams in a division (total/5)

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Continuing this example and looking at the average team times by Division, the level of competition becomes better balanced across the Divisions.

### Example Ave. Team Times 2021 CCS Finishing Teams

Division	Ave. Boys Times Current Model 2021	Ave. Boys Times Proposed Model	Ave. Girls Times Current Model 2021	Ave. Girls Times Proposed Model
I	1:28.19	1:29:27	1:44.47	1:46:38
II	1:26.18	1:25:51	1:47.42	1:44.37
III	1:31.09	1:29:49	1:50.46	1:49:06
IV	1:34.47	1:31:25	1:54:44	1:51:04
V	1:35.09	1:35:44	1:58.59	1:59:15
Ave	1:31:08	1:30:27	1:51:24	1:50:08
Std Dev	2.7 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.5 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	3.9 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	3.9 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>

With the shift in the division assignments, for the first few years, there may be more teams and individuals hitting the time qualifying standards, which would also improve the equitable level of competition in the Division races by filling out the fields.

If you look at the number of schools in each Division and the total student population they represent, there is a vast inequity in the current arrangement. This shift makes the representation of students in the section much more equitable by Division. The next table shows how that representation could shift with this proposal and make the Divisions much more equally representative of their overall student populations using the Boys 2021 results.

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### Division Population Representation (Boys) 2021 CCS Finishing Teams

Division	Number of Schools (Boys)	Current Total Student Population Represented by Division	Number of Schools (Boys) Proposed Model 2021	Total Student Population Represented Proposed Model
I	25	61,443	14	38,051
II	25	44,019	23	45,663
III	25	32,887	23	36,256
IV	25	18,455	31	31,772
V	31	8,064	40	13,126
Std Dev		2.1x10+4		1.2 x 10+4

To affect this change, we propose the following revisions to Section 3. Division Placement in the CCS Cross Country Bylaws.

#### Section 3. DIVISION PLACEMENT

The previous year's grade 9-12 CBEDS figures, as listed below, will be used to adjust the size of each division. Division V will be set at 600 and below. The remaining schools shall be allocated into Divisions in the following manner:

- D-I: top 15%
- D-II: next 25%
- D-III: next 25%
- D-IV: remaining 35%

- If the number of schools was not cleanly divided by the percentages, the "extra" school(s) would be placed beginning in the higher divisions
- If more than one school has the same enrollment at the "point of division," all schools with that enrollment would be placed in the higher of the two divisions.
- When determining the divisions, the CCS staff will utilize a list of enrollments without school names attached to insure objectivity.

We hope you'll consider this adjustment to make the CCS Cross Country Championship event a much more competitively equitable and representative event.