

2019 GATFXCCA Cross Country Survey Results

Sent to all head coaches on 11/11. Reminder sent before Thanksgiving.

183 Responses 177 schools out of 463 in GHSA (38%)

18.9%	7A	34 responses	33 schools out of 48 (68.7%)
16.8%	6A	32 responses	31 schools out of 58 (53.4%)
14.7%	2A	27 responses	25 schools out of 66 (37.8%)
11.4%	5A	21 responses	21 schools out of 56 (37.5%)
10.8%	4A	20 responses	20 schools out of 54 (37%)
9.7%	3A	18 responses	18 schools out of 57 (31.5%)
9.2%	A Private	17 responses	17 schools out of approx. 48 (35%)
7.6%	A Public	14 responses	14 schools out of approx. 41 (34%)

What option would you prefer for the 2020 season?

Start date stay the same, state on 11/6, 11/7

Overall	56.8%
7A	32.4%
6A	43.7%
5A	80.9%
4A	55%
3A	50%
2A	70.3%
1A Private	64.7%
1A Public	78.5%

Start date stay the same, State on 11/13, 11/14

Overall	16.8%
7A	26.5%
6A	21.8%
5A	14.2%
4A	15%
3A	27.7%
2A	14.8%
1A Private	11.7%
1A Public	7.1%

Start date stay the same, State on 11/20, 11/21

Overall	6.4%
7A	17.6%
6A	0%
5A	4.7%
4A	10%
3A	0%
2A	7.4%
1A Private	0%
1A Public	0%

Start date a week later, State on 11/13, 11/14

Overall	12.4%
7A	14.7%
6A	12.5%
5A	0%
4A	30%
3A	16.6%
2A	3.7%
1A Private	23.5%
1A Public	14.2%

Start date 2 weeks later, State on 11/20, 11/21

Overall	7.6%
7A	8.8%
6A	18.7%
5A	0%
4A	10%
3A	16.6%
2A	0%
1A Private	0%
1A Public	0%

Would you like all classifications to move to Areas instead of Regions?

Overall	62.7% No	37.3% Yes
7A	32.3%	67.6%
6A	62.5%	37.5%
5A	90.4%	9.5%
4A	65%	35%
3A	94.4%	5.5%
2A	86.2%	13.7%
1A Private	17.6%	82.3%
1A Public	57%	42.8%

For 7A coaches: would you support new Area alignments or are you happy with the current ones?

67% Current 33% New

Would you like more opportunities to preview the State Meet course than just the Carrollton Ortho Invitational and the day before State, or are you fine with the current opportunities?

Overall	53% Fine with current	47% Would like more
7A	61.7% Fine with current	38.2% Would like more
6A	56.2% Fine with current	43.7% Would like more
5A	42.8% Fine with current	57.1% Would like more
4A	55% Fine with current	45% Would like more
3A	50% Fine with current	50% Would like more
2A	51% Fine with current	49% Would like more
1A Private	36.2% Fine with current	64.7% Would like more
1A Public	71.4% Fine with current	28.5% Would like more

Any other suggestions or concerns that you have, that you would like the Association to address?

The most popular suggestions pertained to the State Meet. Some suggested moving it to a more centralized location, such as the Macon area. Other suggested rotating the location every few years (Sam Smith, Nash Farms, and McIntosh were listed as options). Some suggested getting mats for road crossings. Some suggested not having races for boys and girls in the same classification back to back, so that coaches that coach both genders can have more time to prepare/coach each gender. Some suggested more timing mats, so that there can be more live scoring during the State Meet. Some suggested bib timing instead of chip timing.

The next most popular suggestions pertained to State qualifying. It was suggested that Area meet host should host a Saturday meet during the season, in order to give teams a chance to preview the course. Some suggested to change the Area alignments every 2 years, or otherwise go back to all classes having Region meets. Some suggested bringing back Sectionals as a way to qualify (top 4 from each Region qualify from Region, top 8 from each Sectional qualify for State was the format used in the early 2000s,, but some suggested different formats). Some suggested fewer classifications for Cross Country, similar to what some other GHSA sports do.

Other suggestions that fewer coaches made:

- New GHSA heat policy changes for meets (races canceled if a certain wet bulb reading)
- Increase the number of individuals that can qualify for State
- Different dates for State for different classifications
- Use NCAA model for 6th and 7th runners-they can only displace and are not used for ties; ties are broken by comparing #1 vs #1, #2 vs #2, etc
- Clearer undergarment explanation