



LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

2026 - 2027

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



Monday - Tuesday, November 16-17, 2026

Monday - Tuesday, November 15-16, 2027

Proposal Deadline: May 1, 2026

Email Bid To:
Attn: Kathie Smith
ksmith@lhsaa.org

INTRODUCTION

The information contained in this document provides the minimum proposal specifications for hosting the championship. The completed and signed proposal form must be received electronically by 11:59 pm on Friday, May 1, 2026.

All proposals shall be reviewed and analyzed by the LHSAA staff. As each proposal is evaluated, further clarification/input regarding the prospective host sites may be sought and, if needed, a site visit to the facility shall be arranged. The LHSAA administration will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee during its next meeting on May 28, 2026. Final approval rests with the LHSAA Executive Committee, and your organization will be notified of its decision.

Coordinating the hosting of the championships requires solid planning, smooth coordination between those involved, and complete cooperation from all entities in the community. The LHSAA is keenly aware of the hard work and dedication necessary to be successful as a host. The LHSAA will do everything within its ability to make sure the event is successful for all involved. The partnership will split areas of responsibility between the host and the LHSAA.

In recent years, the LHSAA has turned to corporate and organizational sponsorships to help defray some of the expenses involved in staging this event; therefore, any sponsorship money offered by the proposing party will be given strong consideration by the LHSAA when awarding this proposal. At the same time, other important factors we believe to be vital in staging a first-class championship experience for our students and coaches will be considered.

It is critical that you reference all topics in the invitation to host documents when preparing your proposal. Responsibility management, facility operations, personnel assignments, identification of those who will work directly with the LHSAA staff, and revenue sharing sources will be very important to the proposal evaluation by the Executive Committee.

Thank you for your interest in this event! We are fully aware of the time and effort required in preparing a proposal and are grateful for your consideration and commitment. Should you have any questions or concerns during this process, please do not hesitate to email Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org or call our office at 225-296-5882.

Below are the two important deadlines to keep in mind:

May 1, 2026 - Proposal to Host Due

May 28, 2026 - Proposal Recommendation and Approval to Executive Committee

LHSAA State Cross Country Championships RFP
GENERAL INFORMATION

Each fall, high schools from across Louisiana compete in the LHSAA Cross Country State Championships for the right to be proclaimed State Champions in their respective divisions.

The meet dates included in this request for a proposal to host the Cross Country State Championships are Monday-Tuesday, November 16-17, 2026, and Monday-Tuesday, November 15-16, 2027. The championships involve six divisions (Division I, Division II, Division III, Division IV, Division V, and Division VI). Divisions I-IV will compete on Monday, and Divisions V-IV on Tuesday. We have a scheduled rainout that can be utilized on Tuesday afternoon or potentially Wednesday.

Proposal Specifications:

The proposal specifications set forth in this packet are the Association's minimum expectations for the host organization. The Association is committed to making the LHSAA championships first-class events and will expect no less of the host organization. **Please read the specifications carefully. As you work your way through each section, note the requirements that will result in an expense. In this way, you can determine the minimum cost of complying with the specifications and operating the event.** While you are encouraged to take liberties with your proposal, you should understand that the Association is seeking substantial compliance with these specifications. The LHSAA will give the most consideration to those proposals that meet or exceed such minimums. Keep in mind, the LHSAA also reserves the right to deny any and/or all proposals if it feels expectations will not be met.

LHSAA State Cross Country Championships RFP

CHAMPIONSHIP RFP SPECIFICATIONS

The administration of a Louisiana High School State Championship event is under the authority of the LHSAA staff, subject to policies and regulations established by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The LHSAA office must approve all activities and events associated with its events.

I. TERM AND FORM OF AGREEMENT

The LHSAA seeks to award rights to serve as host of this event for a term of two years, with the capability of awarding an extension if the event is successful.

II. DATES, FORMAT

DATES - The events will be held on the following dates:

- November 16-17, 2026
- November 15-16, 2027

FORMAT - The LHSAA Cross Country State Championships will consist of 6 Divisional Races for boys and girls, equaling 12 total races (8 races on Monday and 4 on Tuesday).

III. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

A Facility Use License Agreement between the facility and the host entity and/or the LHSAA shall be provided after the championship has been awarded to the city. The LHSAA shall have the exclusive right to the entire competition venue during the specified "hold" dates. The competition venue will be provided fully clean, with all venue areas in good working condition. The competition venue shall furnish an appropriate setup for the championship; however, the LHSAA or its designees shall have the right to provide equipment, as defined in the proposal specifications. The LHSAA will retain the right to determine and approve all aspects related to the competition venue operations during the championship.

The facility in which the event will be held must meet the following requirements:

AVAILABILITY:

The facility must be available for use from 12:00 p.m. the day before the event (for setup) through three hours following the last event's completion (for post-event media operation and breakdown) during the event. A copy of any contract for use of the facility between the host organization and facility ownership/management must be forwarded to the LHSAA once it has been executed.

The host shall provide an ADA-approved facility suitable for hosting a state championship event with appropriate seating capacity.

SPECTATOR AREAS

- i. Minimum general admission seating requirements - seating available in direct view of the competition area.
- ii. In compliance with all applicable city, state, and federal regulations concerning access and seating for people with disabilities.
- iii. Clean, accessible, and adequate lighting throughout the event.
- iv. Adequate concession and restroom facilities.
- v. Area to comply with corporate sponsor contracts (i.e., signage and booth space)
- vi. Separate entrance for players and pass gate for coaches.

COMPETITION AREA

- vii. Facility suitable for hosting a state championship event which includes ample open space over natural ground material (i.e., dirt, grass, etc.) with limited running on road surfaces (i.e., concrete, asphalt, etc.)
- viii. A 3.0-3.1-mile cross-country course that is properly marked with an approved start and finish line as per NFHS guidelines.
- ix. Course markings

- x. Press box
- xi. PA system
- xii. Equipment for the ground crew to have the ability to maintain a runnable course in the event of inclement weather during competition is required.
 - i. Tables and chairs required for the championship.
 - ii. Ample water and coolers for the course, including tables for coolers and volunteers to assist. (Note: LHSAA shall provide product and coolers. No other cups or coolers should be placed on the course.)

MEDIA ACCOMMODATIONS

- i. Press box and/or media work area with ample space for at least 10 individuals, and should include high-speed internet (hard-wired or wireless). Preferably with appropriate lighting, heat, air conditioning, and toilet facilities.
- ii. Space for radio broadcasts (with multiple Ethernet ports available)
- iii. Television production truck parking – parking with easy cable access to the field for television production and satellite trucks. Requires assistance with scaffolding setup along the course before the event. Coordinate with the television crew to ensure access to in-house wired internet and designated prime broadcasting locations for camera setup. Permit the crew to set up the day prior to the event and ensure IT staff are available on-site during both setup and the event to assist with any technical issues that may arise.
- iv. Hospitality room shall be provided for media members credentialed by the LHSAA. The media hospitality room shall include food and drink throughout the event.
- v. Provide a secure, dedicated WIFI channel exclusively for media use (example “LHSAA Media”).

ADDITIONAL SPACE

- i. Hospitality room and attendants for event workers, officials, LHSAA Staff, and LHSAA Executive Committee members.
- ii. A training room or tent for trainers and participating student-athletes.
- iii. Area for t-shirt sales and storage room to securely store awards and souvenir merchandise before, during, and after each day of competition.
- iv. Adequate Public Restrooms.

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL FEATURES

- i. Electrical power (110 AC) and high-speed/wireless Internet line.
- ii. A public-address system that can be heard throughout the course.
- iii. Power available at the finish line for the timing system.

DECORATION

- i. The design of any event banners or signage produced by the host must be approved by LHSAA to ensure compliance.
- ii. The host must provide an American Flag visible in the championship area and a National Anthem singer (preferably high school students).

PARKING

A thorough parking plan should be presented (complete with the number of parking spaces in each lot) to accommodate team buses, fan parking, media, officials, LHSAA staff, VIP's, life safety vehicles, event staff, concession workers, and ADA. If a fee for parking is to be charged, it must be noted in the proposal and must be mutually agreed upon by the host and the LHSAA. Parking areas should be adequately lighted.

SECURITY

The competition facility is required to provide experienced, qualified security personnel in all positions for the championship. Emergency plans inside and outside the facility. A comprehensive staffing plan with a sufficient number of security personnel both inside and outside the facility shall be provided to the LHSAA prior to the championship, including:

- Police (Inside and outside)
- Traffic control/security
- Parking lot attendants and supervisors

** Must enforce LHSAA policies relative to non-permissible items.

IV. EVENT STAFFING

The host site shall provide the following event staff:

- Local Organizing Committee (LOC): A LOC should be formed in the host city to act as the local party for fulfilling the host obligations and to provide to the LHSAA certain services and assistance in connection with the various activities related to the championship.
- Host Site Championship Coordinator: A knowledgeable person with experience in championship administration whose focus will be on championship operation. Shall work closely with the LHSAA Championship Director, helping to ensure that the policies of the sport and LHSAA are implemented and followed in the administration of the championship sport itself.
- Facility Liaison/Manager: Specific responsibilities may include assisting LHSAA with direction and supervision of facility arrangements.
- Media Coordinator(s): Someone who is familiar with media operations and protocol. They will assist the LHSAA in ensuring that the sports committee's policies regarding media are observed. Specific responsibilities may include planning and supervision of media work areas, postgame interviews, coach/athlete delivery, statistical services, communications, hospitality, and entertainment needs of the media. He/She may assist the LHSAA with the compilation of the post-championship report.
- Volunteers: The host will be responsible for securing volunteers for various functions and duties both prior to and during the championships.
- Ticket manager
- Ticket sellers
- Ticket takers
- Personnel for course credential verification checks.
- Personnel for media, coaches', and VIP pass gate.
- PA Announcer (to be approved by the LHSAA)
- Ground Crew
- Custodial staff and supervisor
- Concession workers
- Hospitality room attendants

V. COMMERCIAL IDENTIFICATION, SIGNAGE, AND OFFICIAL MARKS

NAME OF EVENT

The official name of the event is the "Louisiana High School Cross Country State Meet." It may be referred to as the "Louisiana High School Cross Country State Championships" on second reference. The event must not be referred to by any other name, unless notified otherwise.

EVENT LOGO

The LHSAA is responsible for the design of the official event logo. The approved official LHSAA event logo will be distributed to the host venue. No other logo will be permitted. All advertisements, promotional items, etc., using the LHSAA's name or marks, including the event logo, must have the prior approval of the LHSAA. The host organization is not granted rights to license use of the event name or logo.

VI. HOSPITALITY

The host shall provide, at its expense, hospitality services for event staff and workers; LHSAA staff, board members, contest officials, and credentialed media. Two meals must be served to these individuals in their respective hospitality areas (Staff, Officials, and Media) each day of the event. Snacks and drinks must also be provided in the hospitality area and in the officials' area throughout the event.

VII. LODGING

STAFF HOTEL

The staff hotel, in which the LHSAA staff and contest officials will be housed, shall be approved by LHSAA and must be in close proximity to the facility, and should not have any participating teams staying there. Must work with the local CVB to secure rooms for staff at no charge (50 room nights). The LHSAA shall consider it a proposal incentive when the prospective local host includes financial assistance to help defray hotel/lodging costs for LHSAA staff attending the championship.

TEAM LODGING

Must work with the local CVB to provide a list of hotels and prices for teams and fans of the championship. The potential host is only required to identify potential hotels to serve the lodging needs of the championship. Each participating team is responsible for making its own lodging arrangements. Participating teams from schools beyond a two-hour drive of the facility likely will require overnight lodging in the host community. The host is encouraged to offer assistance in securing a rate at or below the state travel allowance rate for each team.

VIII. MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

- i. The LHSAA has contractual obligations to our valued corporate partners. The corporate partners and their contributions are vital to the overall success of the LHSAA and our state championship events. Promotion of these corporate partners is part of our existing contracts, and the promotion and use of all available marketing opportunities, including the display of banners, is required. LHSAA corporate sponsors are subject to change without notice to the host/facility prior to the actual dates of the event, and the LHSAA reserves all rights to new sponsors as noted in the agreement.
- ii. In their bid, the host/facility shall provide a list of any and all sponsorships and any exclusivities or limitations that would affect the LHSAA corporate sponsors. No limitations shall be applicable that would prevent any LHSAA sponsorships from being displayed or advertised. The LHSAA will be granted the rights to all promotional opportunities in conjunction with the host/facility, including message boards, video boards, ribbon boards, PA system, etc. The LHSAA shall have the right to display corporate sponsor banners and LHSAA signage inside and outside of the facility.
- iii. Seeking community and corporate involvement is encouraged. The LHSAA will permit the host/facility to solicit contributions for its championship-related functions from local, regional, or national companies only after the LHSAA has reviewed and approved a list of potential contributors. No on-site signage, video/scoreboard ads, or PA announcements may be offered to a potential sponsor without consulting the LHSAA Director of Marketing.
- iv. All non-permanent signage/advertisement shall be removed from the facility during the LHSAA event.
- v. In certain cases, permanent signage/advertisement may be asked to be covered.
- vi. No public address announcements, except those approved in advance by the LHSAA, or for public emergencies, shall be allowed over the public address system during the championship event.
- vii. The LHSAA retains the right to provide the facility with the appropriate logo stickers for the approved floor markings for the championship.

IX. FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSIONS

The host/facility will retain, operate, and control all food and beverage concession rights at the championship. No alcoholic beverages or non-alcoholic beer may be sold or dispensed for consumption in the arena complex from the time the doors open until 90 minutes after the conclusion of the games and practices.

X. MERCHANDISING

The LHSAA has the exclusive right to sell products licensed by the LHSAA for merchandising at the competition site during the lease period. LHSAA shall retain 100% of the proceeds from the sale of merchandise. Only LHSAA-licensed souvenirs and soft goods merchandise may be sold at the competition site (both inside and outside in areas controlled by the facility). Currently, the LHSAA has an existing merchandise contract with Fine Designs.

The host is responsible for the production and distribution of the official LHSAA championship program. (physically and/or digitally) The LHSAA is responsible for providing all content and ad placement within the championship program. Host will be permitted six (6) dedicated pages. Host will be responsible for printing and providing at least 100 physical programs for staff and media. The host may sell copies of the championship programs with approval from the LHSAA.

XI. TICKETS, CREDENTIALS, AND PASSES

Ideally, the LHSAA would like to have the opportunity for a facility where tickets could be sold to help cover some of the costs incurred to produce the event. Revenue produced from ticket receipts shall be retained by the LHSAA. Ticket prices for the event would be based on availability and sold as a one or two-day ticket.

GoFan is the official ticketing platform of the LHSAA. If your proposed venue doesn't have an exclusive ticket platform, then GoFan shall be utilized. If your proposed venue has an exclusive ticketing platform, any/all fees shall be disclosed in this proposal. Any/all fees must be mutually agreed upon before the event by the LHSAA.

LHSAA will provide event credentials to the host for the specified individuals. Credentials will be color-coded and issued to event staff/volunteers, LHSAA staff, vendors, media, participating teams, officials, and VIP.

Host Venue shall provide personnel to be present on the course for credential verification.

XII. INSURANCE

The LHSAA requires a general liability policy with a minimum amount of \$1 million to cover facilities, participants, and spectators. The host is responsible for ensuring that primary comprehensive general public liability insurance coverage is in effect for the duration of the competition (including set-up dates). It is the responsibility of the host to provide the LHSAA with the appropriate insurance certificate.

XIII. OTHER ITEMS HOST SHALL PROVIDE

- Lightning Detector
- Appropriate directional signage within and outside the venue
- Emergency Action Plans for the venue
- Equipment necessary for crowd control
- Medical Services – EMT/Ambulance
- Facility set-up fees expenses
- National Anthem, American Flag, Music (to be approved by the LHSAA)
- Incidentals necessary for the facility to host the championship
- Area for T-Shirt sales (including a secure storage area for merchandise, tables, and chairs)
- Area for Photography sales (tables and chairs)
- Course marshals and official starter.
- Gators (3) and Golf Cart (1) for timers, trainers, staff, and head referee.
- Tent with power for packet pickup.
- Team camp area.

XIV. THE LHSAA SHALL PROVIDE

- i. LHSAA staff members on site
- ii. Meet Director and the race operation/management
- iii. Meet Timing
- iv. Game Officials: selection, coordination, and scheduling
- v. Medical Services/Certified trainers
- vi. Media coordination, including credential printing and distribution
- vii. On-site marketing and advertising coordinator
- viii. Official photographer
- ix. Post-game presentations including trophies and awards
- x. Numbered ticket credentials
- xi. Powerade sports drink, cups, and coolers
- xii. Television coordination and timing - The LHSAA owns the exclusive rights to broadcast the games on television (linear and digital) and radio, to record the competition and broadcast thereof for DVDs, etc., and to photograph the games by means of still, videotape, or other motion-picture cameras. The LHSAA shall have the sole right and authority to designate usage of all broadcast, telecast, and press locations, tables, and work areas.
- xiii. Television production and on-screen talent
- xiv. On-site signage and marketing
- xv. Souvenir T-shirts and soft goods personnel/sellers



LHSAA CORPORATE PARTNERS

THE LHSAA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
2025-2026 PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED DEDICATION AND
SUPPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS IN LOUISIANA



SERVING LOUISIANA'S YOUTH FOR OVER 100 YEARS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTNERING WITH THE LHSAA OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WILL BRYANT - WILL.BRYANT@PLAYFLY.COM