

# DEVON SCHOOLS AA CROSS COUNTRY COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT EXHIBITION FIELDS

**21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**DUTY OF CARE:** All Cross Country events have an element of risk to/for competitors, officials and spectators. Each of these groups of persons are advised that they have a duty of care to themselves and it is recommended that they wear appropriate clothing and footwear according to the weather/underfoot conditions. All Minors must be accompanied by parent/guardian or in the case of school/club teams by a designated adult. All runners are advised to walk the course before their race. They should report any hazards to the meeting referee should they believe the risk assessment has not already covered them.

**Devon Schools AA adopt the UK Athletics Guidance relating to athlete welfare.**

<b>1.</b>		<b>MEETING INFORMATION</b>
1.1	Pre-event information	Final details of all arrangements and precautions for this event will be in the public domain on <a href="http://www.devonschoolsathletics.org">www.devonschoolsathletics.org</a> by Wednesday 11 January, 2023. These will include full directions to the venue, a course map including the positions of race HQ, First Aiders and directions from the car park to the start. There will be an 'on the day information' board sited outside the Exeter Harriers clubhouse where Area team managers will be present. This is where the registration is situated.
1.2	Parking and Traffic Management	Parking is at the nearby Exeter Arena Car Park – EX4 8NT. No parking on site except for officials and First Aid. Please follow instructions of car park marshals.
1.3	Registration Toilets	Registration is located in the Exeter Harriers clubhouse. Portable toilets near the start. No changing is available. Athletes must come suitably attired ready to run.
<b>2.</b>		<b>THE COURSE</b>
2.1	Start	Positioned on level, open ground. All athletes are expected to consult the published course map and will be informed of the start procedures/various laps by the race referee. <b>See map.</b>
2.2	Finish	Finish Funnel to be laid out in open area in alongside the start using posts and tape. <b>See map.</b>
2.3	Course conditions	It is likely to be wet in places and spikes are advised. Start is on good ground and the finish will be positioned to get the best available surface.
2.4	Course route	All runners are advised that <b><u>spiked footwear is desirable</u></b> and that they should walk the course prior to the event. The course follows a well-marked route consisting of two loops as shown. The course is will be staked out and taped off. It is well marked and includes some hills. The run out from the start will be a wide and straight before narrowing. It is approx. 150m in length. Pens will not be used. All marshals to immediately report any First Aid requirements using either mobile telephone or walkie-talkies and to advise runners of the correct route. All marshals to be in appointed positions by 11:15am. Additional course maps will be available on the day and a copy posted on the Race Noticeboard. <b>PLEASE ENSURE ATHLETES DO NOT WARM UP ON PITCHES. ALL DOGS ON SITE MUST BE ON A LEAD.</b>
<b>3.</b>		<b>PERSONNEL and EQUIPMENT</b>
3.1	First Aid provision	Qualified First Aiders: - Provided by Event & Medical.
3.2	Erection/Dismantling of course	The course will be set out on the day of the race and <b><u>carefully re-checked before</u></b> the first race starts.
3.3	Marshalls and Officials	All staffing will be provided by members of staff from Devon Schools AA and local athletics clubs. A full list of meeting responsibilities is available on request.
3.4	Refuse	All visitors will be reminded that refuse must be deposited in the bins provided or taken away.
3.5	Signage	Appropriate signage covering car parking, directions from car park to toilets/course/ location of Race HQ and entrance to courses to be in place by 10:30am on the day of the event.
<b>4.</b>		<b>COVID 19</b>
		Currently there no restrictions relating to this event. Any updates or restrictions announced before the event will trigger additional restrictions as used in 2021 for example. The event itself is outdoors, and the clubhouse is only going to be used for registration. Event results during the day will be posted outside.
<b>5.</b>	<b>CANCELLATION</b>	Normally the nature of cross country running includes competition over mixed terrain and in a wide range of atmospheric and underfoot conditions. Cancellations are unlikely to be made before the day of the competition. Should weather conditions dictate, modification(s) to the course will be made before each race starts and a notice to this effect published on the 'Event Board' by Race HQ.
5.1	Personal responsibilities	<b><i>Election to compete:</i></b> Individual runners have the right to elect not to take part should they feel that conditions are unsuitable. Parents and Team Managers have a duty of care/advice to all runners in their teams.