

August 6, 2020

Greetings Cross Country Families!

Gainesville Parks & Recreation is preparing to start Cross Country practices.

Dates of particular importance are as follows:

- August 6 – Cross Country Practices Start.
- August 29 – First Cross Country Meet.

With the Coronavirus pandemic, Gainesville Parks & Recreation is making every effort to follow social distancing guidelines and appropriate reduced capacities in its facilities. We have also increased our sanitization and safety protocols to protect our staff and participants. However, we cannot guarantee safety from exposure. If you are suffering any of the following symptoms; fever, sore throat, cough and/or sneezing or have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please do not participate in our programs or services at the time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Operational changes vary greatly by facility but residents can expect to see additional security measures focused around social distancing and sanitizing. Please be aware that due to the nature of Cross Country (line up, pace, etc.), social distancing cannot always be maintained.

Cross Country – Know Before You Go:

- We will utilize scheduled starts at meets versus rolling starts to stagger the amount of participants.
- Each team will be assigned a designated starting block for their race.
- Practice social distancing to include spectators during practices and races.
- Hand sanitizer and masks will be available for anyone that would like to utilize it.
- Social distancing will be maintained between runners when explaining drills and rules.
- Team huddles will be limited.
- Runners need to have their own individual water bottles.
- Practice in smaller groups when possible.

Kate Mattison, CPRP
Director

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- There will not be any communal water stations. Bring extra water as needed.
- Awards will be presented one at a time to prevent congregation of the runners.
- If a parent, runner, or coach tests positive, GPRA staff should be notified immediately.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding, as we slowly work our way back to full operations. Please note that changes are inevitable but Gainesville Parks and Recreation will work to minimize the impact on participants, coaches, and staff by following these safety guidelines and protocols as well as those of the North Georgia Youth Cross Country League. Keep your chin up, stay healthy, stay active, and stay safe.

We look forward to seeing you!

GPRA Staff
770.531.2680
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