

Vashon Island School District

CROSS COUNTRY

SAFETY GUIDELINES

(Prior to participating, both the student and parent must read carefully and sign)

When a person is involved in any athletic activity, an injury can occur. One should be aware the information presented in these safety guidelines is to inform the athlete of proper techniques and inherent dangers involved with cross-country. There is a chance of broken bones, muscle and soft tissue and back injuries, which could lead to some form of paralysis. Not all potential injury possibilities in this sport are listed, but athletes should be aware that fundamentals, coaching and proper safety equipment are important to the safety and enjoyment of the sport.

1. Proper warm-up is essential before strenuous activity takes place. Be aware of the potentially serious injuries if you do not follow correct procedures in stretching, running and conditioning.
2. If you wear eyeglasses, contact the coach for proper fitting of safety lenses, appropriate frames that are compatible with running. If you have a bi or tri-focal lens, contact your doctor to provide the best len(s) combination for running on surfaces with sudden changes in elevation.
3. Perform only those skills and techniques as instructed and/or supervised by your coach.
4. Be sure all equipment, especially shoes, is fitting properly before each day's activity. Be cautious when running on slick surfaces.
5. Travel to and from off-campus facilities and practice/competition sites must be in accordance with school procedures.
6. Remove all jewelry and metal hair fasteners and other body adornments as required by rules and regulations for cross-country.
7. Be aware of your surroundings both home and away including but not limited to surface conditions, obstructions in the proximity to the cross-country course and safe entrance/egress to/from the course and the locker room.
8. Wear outer and under garments appropriate for humidity and temperature.
9. In order to help protect the safety of all squad members, squad members with physically limiting injuries and/or health conditions must inform the coach prior to each day's activity of limiting conditions and participate only to the extent allowed by the coach.
10. Hydration is essential with frequently scheduled drink breaks during practice and drinks available during all contests. Players should hydrate themselves frequently during practice and meets and follow the coach's direction on hydration prior to and following practices and meets.
11. Notify the coach immediately if injured.
12. Practice only when your coach is present.
13. Run on only the course outlined by your coach. If running along a road, use the sidewalk and run single file. Avoid heavily traveled streets and intersections.
14. Run in pairs in unfamiliar territory.
15. When running on or near a roadway, always run facing the oncoming traffic.
16. Beware of dogs
17. Be ware of objects thrown from cars and from car doors opening.
18. Runners should be familiar with basic recognition of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, sprained ankles, shin splints and be familiar with basic first aid treatment for those conditions.
19. If runners use roads for training, then state and federal highways should be avoided. It is recommended to use remote country roads which have the following:

