

TRACK AND FIELD QUALIFYING COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

FEBRUARY 2020



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 1A Athletic Director: Paris Mason (Blackville-Hilda)
- 2A Athletic Director: Tyles Sibert (Woodland)
- 3A Athletic Director: Sarah Hayes (Battery Creek)
- 4A Athletic Director: Joe Monmonier (Hilton Head)
- 5A Athletic Director: Blair Hardin (River Bluff)
- Committee Facilitator: Carlos Cave (Whale Branch)
- At Large Athletic Director:
- SCTCCCA President: Chris White (Seneca)
- Track Coach: Wayne Farmer (Scott's Branch)
- Track Coach: Matt Feiling (Byrnes)
- Track Coach/State Meet Host: Matt Oberly (Spring Valley)
- SCHSL Representative: Skip Lax

OBJECTIVES

- Review qualifying and state championship procedures and make recommendations for the future:
 - Create an equitable qualifying process that can be adopted by all 5 classifications to standardize the qualifying process for track and field
 - **The top 8 athletes/relays in each event should have the opportunity to score points for their team in the state championship**
 - Ensure qualifying procedures do not give teams advantages based on their geographic location.
 - Consider travel costs and try to reduce travel costs as much as possible

CURRENT QUALIFYING PROCEDURES

AA, AAAA, AAAAAA

STATE QUALIFIER FORMAT

- Region Meet- 4-7 athletes/relay teams advance depending on region size (see figure)
- All advancers attend a State Qualifier:
 - Heat/Flight winners (top 2 in distance races) plus the next best performances advance to the state meet
- 8 athletes or relays compete at the state meet*

If a qualifier does not compete for any reason, there is no replacement at the state meet

8 team regions advance 7 teams
7 team regions advance 6 teams
6 team regions advance 5 teams
5 team regions advance 4 teams
4 team regions advance 4 teams

CURRENT QUALIFYING PROCEDURES A,AAA UPPER/LOWER STATE FORMAT

- Region Meet- 4 athletes/relay teams advance regardless of region size
- All advancers attend Upper/Lower State:
 - Top 4 performers in each event qualify for the state meet
- 8 athletes or relays compete at the state meet*

If a qualifier does not compete for any reason, there is no replacement at the state meet

HOW IS SOUTH CAROLINA DIFFERENT FROM OTHER STATES?

- **Athletes Competing in State Meet** (South Carolina is in the *minority*)
 - 46/51 states run 16 or more athletes in the state championship (90.2%)
 - 3 state allow 8 athletes (SC, MS, NV)
 - 2 state allow 9 athletes (TX, LA)
- **Prelims in the State Meet** (South Carolina does not have prelims for any events within the state meet)
 - 100 Meters- 45/51 states (88%)
 - High Hurdles- 45/51 states (88%)
 - 200 meters- 39/51 states (76%)
 - 400/400H/300H- 24/51 states (47%)
 - 4x100 Relay- 26/51 states (51%)
 - 4x400 Relay- 20/51 states (39%)
 - 800 Meters- 5/51 states (9.8%)
 - 1600 Meters- 2/51 states (4%)
- **Officials' Association** (South Carolina is in the *minority*)
 - 34/51 states have a Track and Field Officials' Association (67%)

SUGGESTED STATE MEET CHANGES

1. **All classifications use a standard format**
2. **Adopt a state meet format where 16 athletes/relay teams per event qualify for the state championship**
 - This is consistent with all states around us (NC, GA, TN, FL and AL all take either 16 or 24 to the state championship)
 - Please see provided schedule suggestions for a **on campus site** and for a **site not on a school campus**
 - **On Campus Site-** 1/2A compete Wednesday, Thursday evenings; 3-5A compete Friday evening, Saturday morning
 - **Off Campus Site-** 1/2A compete Thursday evening/Friday morning; 3-5A compete Friday evening, Saturday morning

SUGGESTED QUALIFYING CHANGES

3. All classifications adopt an Upper and Lower State Format with At Large Advancers

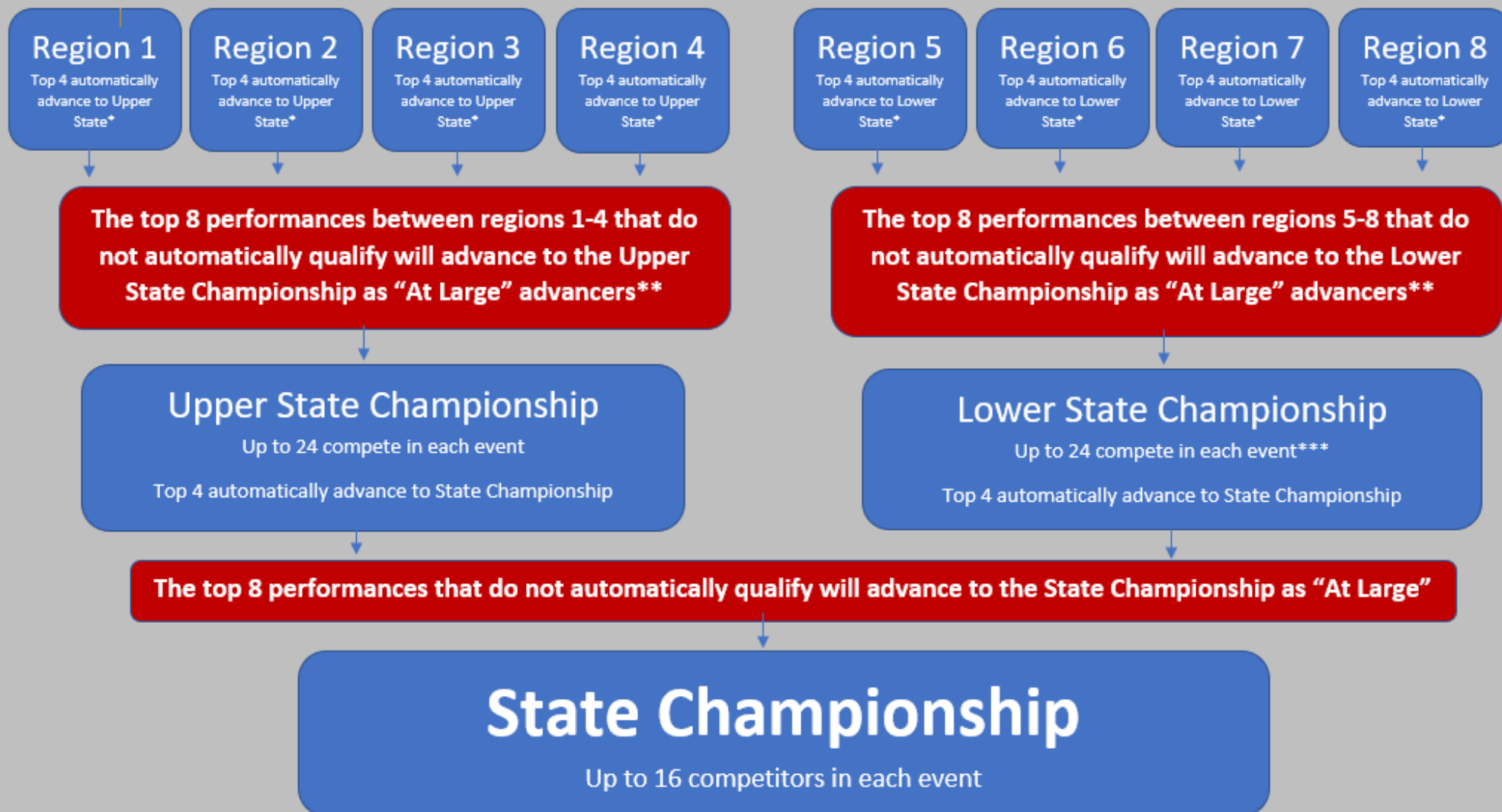
- Top 4 automatically advance
- The next 8 best performances between Upper and Lower sites will qualify “At Large” to get 16
- An Upper and Lower State Champion Team will be named for all classifications

4. Regions qualify 4 or 5 automatically to Upper and Lower State with At Large Advancers

- 4-6 team regions have 4 automatic qualifiers, 7-8 team regions have 5
- The next 8 best performances in the Upper or Lower State will advance “At Large” to the Upper or Lower State Meet

SUMMARY

- By allowing “At Large” bids and 16 at the state meet, we ensure the top 8 athletes or relay teams in each event have the best chance at making it to the state meet
- This model will reduce travel by sticking with an upper/lower state format for those teams not in Columbia
- This model will also avoid the idea of “the same state meet 2 weeks in a row” that can be the impression of the State Qualifier format
- This format drastically reduces the possibility of geography having an effect on state champions (especially in A and AAA)



*Regions with 4-6 teams will automatically advance 4, Regions with 7+ teams will automatically advance 5

**If there is a tie that would lead to more than 8 at-large bids being offered, none of those at-large bids will receive offers, making the field of competitors less than 24 for Upper/Lower or 16 for the State Championship

***Based on qualifying rules, for 2020-2022, 1A Lower State will have 27 competitors per event

This format will require a split of the State Championship either into 2 separate dates or 2 locations if the format is adopted.