

Section Team Size: 7 (Same as now) 5 skiers will be assigned to the pursuit event, and 2 skiers will be assigned to the sprint relay event.

Pursuit Event: There will be two 5k distance races in the pursuit, as there are now. The order of those events would not need to model the order of the State Meet, just like it is done currently.

Pursuit Scoring: 3 of your 5 skiers will score team points. (Currently 4 pursuit skiers score)

Advancing to State: The Section winner and 2nd place team advance to State based on combined score from pursuit race and sprint relay.

Team Sprint Relay Event: Each of the two members of the sprint relay team will alternate in skiing 2 laps of the 1-1.25k course, for a total of 4 laps. There will NOT be a physical body to body contact exchange, rather once an incoming skier crosses the front exchange zone line, the outgoing skier can leave the exchange zone.

There will be two Semi-final Heats for the relay. All teams will participate in the Semi-finals. To advance to the finals, the fastest two teams from each heat will automatically advance into the finals, along with the next fastest **4** teams. **The teams not in the final will be ranked in order of semi-final time, and awarded team points corresponding to their place.** In the event that the semi-finals are NOT timed, either due to weather or time constraints, the top **4** from each semi-final would advance to the finals. **Teams not in the final will be ranked on their place from their semi-final, and they would share the points with the team from the other semi-final that finished in the same place that they did.**

Sprint Relay Scoring: Both of your sprint relay members would be scoring.

Advancing to State: **There will be three Sprint Relay Teams advancing to the State Meet. Two of them are from the first and second place section teams, PLUS the next fastest Sprint Relay Team will also advance.**

Individuals Advancing: The next **4** fastest pursuit skiers will still qualify for the state meet as individuals. They will not score team points, which is the same as our current policy. There is a concern expressed on behalf of the meet managers that having that many skiers in pursuit as a part of more packed program, may not be manageable. **Reducing the individual pursuit skiers from 6 to 4 will shorten the time needed to release skiers in the first leg, and lessen the crowding in the second leg.**

State Meet Schedule: Now for an even bigger change when you look at the big picture of the history of our sport. How does starting the State Meet immediately after the Charlie Banks Relay Sound to you? What that would look like is we would

bump the Charlie Banks Relay up to an 11:30 start time, and it would be a mixed gender relay, with each school allowed to bring two teams if desired, a Team A and a Team B. Then after the Relay is over, we would hold the first leg of the pursuit. The next day, we would start the meet with the Semi-finals of the Team Sprint Relay, followed by the second leg of the pursuit. The final event of the day would be the finals of the Team Sprint Relay. Those of us with a Track and Field background will eagerly await this event as we all did for the 4 x 400 to wrap up those big invitational track meets!

Awards: Top 10 pursuit skiers would receive medals, as well as the members of the top 3 relay teams. This would be an increase of 6 medals per gender, or 12 medals total for the meet.

State Meet Champion: The Champion would be awarded to the team with the most points combined between the pursuit points (**62%**) and the sprint relay points (**38%**)