



National Master Cross Country Championships History 1992-2016

Introduction

Goal:

This history will focus on data from the USATF National Master (ages 40+) Cross Country Championships from 1992 to the present day. I will also attempt to fill in championship data and results for all National Master Cross Country Championships held under the governance of the AAU and TAC/USA from prior to 1992 as information becomes available.

Definitions:

Internationally, "**Athletics**" includes track and field, long-distance running, cross-country running, race-walking, and mountain, ultra, & trail running.

Cross country is basically a team sport.

Cross country courses shall be confined, to the extent possible, to open country, fields, parks, golf courses and grasslands. The traversing of paved roads should be kept to a minimum.

Governance History:

AAU (1887-1979): On January 30, 1878, rower and runner William B. Curtis founded what became the **Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)** in New York City. The name was formally adopted in 1887. The AAU governed the sport of athletics, among others, until 1979, when the first Amateur Sports Act decreed that the AAU could no longer hold international franchises for more than one sport.

TAC/USA (1979-1992): **The Athletics Congress/USA (TAC/USA)** became fully operational in late 1979 with its first annual meeting, conducted in Las Vegas in conjunction with that year's AAU Convention. A constitutional convention was held in Dallas/Fort Worth in 1980. The first stand-alone annual meeting of TAC/USA occurred in Atlanta, Georgia, in late fall of 1980.

USATF (1992-present): In 1992, the TAC/USA name was changed to **USA Track & Field (USATF)** to increase recognition for the organization and the sport of Athletics in the United States.

‘Open’ Cross Country National Championships

Under the auspices of the AAU, Senior or “Open” male runners ran in the “National Cross Country Championships of the AAU” annually from the late 1800’s until 1979. There was an overlap span from 1962 to 1978 where the NCAA supported “US Track & Field Federation” (USTFF) hosted its own Fall National Cross Country Championships in direct competition with the AAU National Cross Country Championships. Most recognized the AAU event as the “real” national cross country championships. The rival USTFF organization changed its name to “Track & Field Association, USA” (TFAUSA) and hosted two more Fall National XC Championships. The TFAUSA event in 1979 was held one month prior to the final AAU Championship. 1980 was the last year for competing cross country nationals and was the first year for the new TAC/USA Championships.

In 1975, the AAU established a separate Trial race to select the US team for the World Cross Country Championships. This USA World XC Trial race was usually run in January or early February. The rationale was to try to guarantee a better level of fitness for the US World XC team by holding the selection race closer to the date of the IAAF World XC Championships. The IAAF World Championships were begun in 1973 and were run annually until 2011. Between 1903 and 1973 the world meet was called the International Cross Country Championships. In 1961 the under-21 Championships were added. The IAAF XC event is usually held in March and is now run in odd-numbered years only. Between 1998 and 2006, the IAAF world meet, and thus the US qualifiers, featured a short course race and a long course race on separate days. The short course races were discontinued at the world level after 2006. In addition to the Senior Men, Senior Women, Junior Men and Junior Women’s races, the 2017 IAAF World Cross Country Championships will feature a mixed gender relay event for the first time.

Our history of women’s cross country championships begins with the addition of a women’s world championship race in 1967 after years of unsanctioned world events dating back to 1931. The US Women’s Championships began with advent of TAC/USA in 1979. The NCAA added women’s cross country in the fall of 1981.

With a few minor iterations over the years involving short course and long course races at the Worlds, TAC/USA and USATF have continued hosting two national cross country championship events each year. The fall event was renamed the Club Cross Country Championships in 1998 with its main focus on team competition while the winter event remains the US qualifier for the IAAF World XC Championships. Currently the World Championships are being held only in odd-numbered years. US Senior and Junior, men and women cross country runners have been given more international opportunities with the advent of the North America, Central America, Caribbean XC Championships (NACAC), the Pan-Am XC Cup event and the BUPA Great Edinburgh International XC Challenge. Given the vagaries of international scheduling, one or both of the US national cross country championship events have been used to select teams for these international events.

Master (ages 40+) Cross Country National Championships

Master national championship cross country races were added to the fall USATF Club XC Championships schedule in 1998 in Orlando, FL. This event has become highly successful bringing fields of over 2000 open and master runners in recent years. These numbers have also increased the team prize purses although in disproportionate amounts as master prize totals have lagged behind open money. Master races were added to the “Winter National” in 2000 in Greensboro, NC. Masters continue to race at both open championship events to the present day with minor changes over the years in the number of races and the distances raced.

Prior to the inclusion of masters in the two open cross country championship in 1998 and 2000, all previous National Master Cross Country Championships were “stand alone” events, that is, master only races. Master men and women raced the same course and same distance on the same day, often in the same race. Prize purses were minimal or nonexistent. Fields were often small, especially master women in the days before the NCAA instituted Title 9 funding equity. Distances raced were 5km, 8km and/or 10km, often with three separate championship events within one month of each other during the fall racing season. Master cross country prize purses for the “stand alone” events have also grown over the years but are not yet on par with the purses at the combined XC championships or master road championship prize purses.

Master team eligibility rules and team scoring rules have evolved and continue to evolve to meet the needs of the growing Master cross country constituency. While individual awards are broken down into 5-year age groups beginning at 40-44 and continuing to the age group of the oldest runner, team awards are broken into 10-year divisions. Currently master men 40+ and 50+ score the top 5 finishers by place with up to 9 runners declared on a team. All other team divisions, including all master women team divisions, score the top 3 finishers by place with up to 5 runners declared on a team. For the most part team members all reside within the Association where their club team is based with each team allowed one runner from outside their Association. All-star teams are discouraged. Cross Country is truly a grassroots club team sport. Age grading has also become part of championship race results and is currently used in the selection process for the Master Harrier of the Year awards.

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Master Cross Country National Championships

11/05/89	TAC/USA Master 5k XC Championships	Columbus, OH	Airport GC
10/07/90	TAC/USA Master 5k XC Championships	Fayetteville, NY	Green Lks. Pk
11/03/90	TAC/USA Master 10k XC Championships	Pasco, WA	Sun Willows GC
10/26/91	TAC/USA Master 10k XC Championships	Louisville, KY	Sawyer St. Pk
11/03/91	TAC/USA Master 5k XC Championships	Columbus, OH	Airport GC
11/30/91	TAC/USA Master 8k XC Championships	Boston, MA	Franklin Pk
11/08/92	TAC/USA Master 5k XC Championships	Columbus, OH	Airport GC
11/21/92	TAC/USA Master 8k XC Championships	Boston, MA	Franklin Pk
10/31/93	USATF Masters 10km XC Championships	Louisville, KY	Sawyer St. Pk
11/30/93	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Boston, MA	Franklin Pk
10/16/94	USATF Masters 10km XC Championships	Canandaigua, NY	Finger Lakes CC
11/06/94	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Columbus, OH	Airport GC
10/15/95	USATF Masters 10km XC Championships	Canandaigua, NY	Finger Lakes CC
11/11/95	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Cincinnati, OH	Landan Pk
10/27/96	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Louisville, KY	Sawyer St. Pk
11/03/96	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Columbus, OH	Ohio Sch. Of Deaf
09/01/97	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Pasco, WA	Sun Willows GC
10/11/98	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Rochester, NY	Genesee Valley Pk
10/25/98	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Louisville, KY	Sawyer St. Pk
12/05/98	USATF National Club XC Championships	Orlando, FL	Disney WWS
02/14/99	USATF Cross Country Championships	Tacoma, WA	Spanaway GC
10/17/99	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Louisville, KY	Sawyer St. Pk
11/21/99	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Holmdel, NJ	Holmdel Pk
12/05/99	USATF National Club XC Championships	Long Beach, CA	El Dorado GC
02/13/00	USATF Cross Country Championships	Greensboro, NC	Bryan Pk
11/04/00	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Pasco, WA	Sun Willows GC
11/19/00	Masters 5km XC Championships	Holmdel, NJ	Holmdel Pk
11/25/00	USATF National Club XC Championships	Boston, MA	Franklin Pk
02/17/01	USATF Cross Country Championships	Vancouver, WA	Ft. Vancouver Pk
09/18/01	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Deland, FL	Sperling Sports Pk
11/04/01	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Rochester, NY	Black Creek Pk
12/01/01	USATF National Club XC Championships	Mobile, AL	Battleship Pk

02/09/02	USATF Cross Country Championships	Vancouver, WA	Ft. Vancouver Pk
11/03/02	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Rochester, NY	Black Creek Pk
11/24/02	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Holmdel, NJ	Holmdel Pk
12/14/02	USATF National Club XC Championships	Rocklin, CA	Sierra College
02/15/03	USATF Cross Country Championships	Houston, TX	Buffalo Bayou Pk
11/02/03	USATF Masters 8km XC Championships	Rochester, NY	Black Creek Pk
11/23/03	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Holmdel, NJ	Holmdel Pk
12/07/03	USATF National Club XC Championships	Greensboro, NC	Bryan Pk
02/07/04	USATF Cross Country Championships	Indianapolis, IN	Fall Cr./16 th Pk
10/17/04	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Saratoga Spgs., NY	Saratoga St. Pk
12/04/04	USATF National Club XC Championships	Portland, OR	Portland Meadows
02/12/05	USATF Cross Country Championships	Vancouver, WA	Ft. Vancouver Pk
10/16/05	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Saratoga Spgs., NY	Saratoga St. Pk
11/19/05	USATF National Club XC Championships	Rochester, NY	Genesee Valley Pk
02/18/06	USATF Cross Country Championships	New York, NY	Van Cortlandt Pk
10/15/06	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Saratoga Spgs., NY	Saratoga St. Pk
12/09/06	USATF National Club XC Championships	San Francisco, CA	Golden Gate Pk
02/10/07	USATF Cross Country Championships	Boulder, CO	Flatirons GC
10/14/07	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Saratoga Spgs., NY	Saratoga St. Pk
12/08/07	USATF National Club XC Championships	West Chester, OH	Voice of Amer. Pk
02/16/08	USATF Cross Country Championships	San Diego, CA	Mission Bay Pk
10/12/08	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Greensboro, NC	Hagan Stone Pk
12/13/08	USATF National Club XC Championships	Spokane, WA	Plantes Ferry Pk
02/07/09	USATF Cross Country Championships	Derwood, MD	Ag.History Farm Pk
Cancelled	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	St.Petersburg, FL	
12/12/09	USATF National Club XC Championships	Lexington, KY	Masterson Station
02/13/10	USATF Cross Country Championships	Spokane, WA	Plantes Ferry Pk
10/23/10	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Vancouver, WA	Ft. Vancouver Pk
12/11/10	USATF National Club XC Championships	Charlotte, NC	McAlpine Pk
02/05/11	USATF Cross Country Championships	San Diego, CA	Mission Bay Pk
10/22/11	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Fairport, NY	Center Pk
12/10/11	USATF National Club XC Championships	Seattle, WA	Jefferson Pk GC
02/11/12	USATF Cross Country Championships	St. Louis, MO	Forest Pk
10/13/12	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	San Diego, CA	Balboa Pk
12/08/12	USATF National Club XC Championships	Lexington, KY	Masterson Station

02/02/13	USATF Cross Country Championships	St. Louis, MO	Forest Pk
10/20/13	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Flemington, NJ	Deer Path Pk
12/14/13	USATF National Club XC Championships	Bend, OR	River's Edge GC
02/15/14	USATF Cross Country Championships	Boulder, CO	Flatirons GC
11/08/14	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Carmel, IN	Northview Church
12/13/14	USATF National Club XC Championships	Bethlehem, PA	Lehigh Univ.
02/07/15	USATF Cross Country Championships	Boulder, CO	Flatirons GC
10/18/15	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Saratoga Spgs., NY	Saratoga St. Pk
12/12/15	USATF National Club XC Championships	San Francisco, CA	Golden Gate Pk
02/06/16	USATF Cross Country Championships	Bend, OR	River's Edge GC
11/06/16	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	Tallahassee, FL	Apalachee Reg. Pk
12/10/16	USATF National Club XC Championships	Tallahassee, FL	Apalachee Reg. Pk
02/04/17	USATF Cross Country Championships	Bend, OR	River's Edge GC
xx/xx/17	USATF Masters 5km XC Championships	tbd	
12/09/17	USATF National Club XC Championships	Lexington, KY	Masterson Station

To be continued.

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