



# FINISH LINE SUPPORT CREW GUIDELINES

National Interscholastic Cycling Association  
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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Finish Line Support Volunteers ensure NICA Student Athletes finish strong and make a smooth transition from competing to reuniting with parents, coaches and teammates. The finish line is often the most hectic and is the most crowded part of the racecourse. Parents and teammates are crowding around to see their athletes finish and athletes come through exhausted, fatigued, and in need of someone to corral them out of the way. Finish line support volunteers allow athletes a clear, safe exit from the race course. A quick training session meeting at the finish line will orient you in this unique part of the course.

## GOALS

- Provide support to finishing athletes
- Maintain a safe environment at the finish line
- Control spectators crossing the course
- Keep finish area traffic moving and congestion minimized
- Provide support to injured and other athletes in need of assistance

## PROCEDURE OVERVIEW

- Ask parents, teammates, coaches to keep the finish chute clear and make sure there is a path out of the finish area
- Move orange fencing gate to allow athletes a route off course after they finish
  - The Scoring Team will inform the Finish Line Support Crew when athletes should be directed off the course
  - Be sure to not leave any rebar stakes uncovered by PVC piping when moving gate
- Guide finishers towards you so they don't stop too early (still on the course)
- **Signal and call for them to slow down and stop, be visual and be very direct!**
- Congratulate athletes
- If athletes seem fine, ask them to move out of the finish area
- If athletes are in need of medical support (seem woozy, overheated, or are cramping severely) steady them, offer water, and move them out of the way of other finishers
  - Have someone escort them to EMT if necessary. Ideally this is a parent or coach from their team.
- If there is water at the finish, please ensure there is a good supply. If getting low please alert a Staff person
- If there is a pedestrian crossing area at the finish line, when there are no athletes and it is safe for people to cross open the gate. Open a gate, close a gate, when finished
- If the start of the race also goes through the finish line, you will direct racers through the finish line on their first lap, but direct them off the course when finishing
- Note: If there is more than one Finish Line Support Volunteer, we recommend these roles:
  - Scoring Contact Person/ Athlete Puller
  - Course Crossing Guard

- Finish Chute Manager

### **EQUIPMENT LIST**

- Race Official Vest
- Race Official Flag for communicating with athletes
- Fencing Gate

### **DO's and DON'TS:**

- Do be assertive in asking people to clear out of the finish area
- Do take action if an athlete is in need of physical support
- Do let the racer's coach step in to offer support
- Don't smother racers (most of us want some space after finishing a hard effort)
- Don't use unnecessary physical contact with racers (a high-five, a pat on the back or steadying hand is appropriate if you wish but generally more physical contact than that is not appropriate.)
- Don't have more than one Finish Line Crew members direct and approach a single athlete. This can be overwhelming for people.

### **VOLUNTEER LOCATIONS AND HOURS**

Check in with your volunteer coordinator for specific races and times.

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***