
PARTICIPATION LIMITS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are we limiting races to 320 athletes?

Our goal has always been to provide an opportunity to race for as many student athletes as possible. However, safety is an imperative that we consider at every single MiSCA event. Unfortunately, with current policy and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the State of Michigan, the Michigan High School Athletics Association, and local governments, it's simply not safe for us to execute our races as we have in the past. This has driven us to move to a time-trial format, limit or exclude spectators, and require masks and social distancing to protect the athletes, coaches, their families, and the communities that host us. MiSCA race staff explored countless scenarios for time intervals between riders, breaks throughout the day, and length of the race day. The most reasonable solution that balances safety is the one presented in our Plan for COVID-19 Compliance and Mitigation. This unfortunately requires us to limit the total number of student athletes participating to 320.

Why are we limiting new registrations to a maximum of 4 races?

Again, our goal is to provide an opportunity for as many student athletes as possible. With over 600 annual student registrations but a max of 320 riders at each race, it's possible that a large number of our student athletes could be excluded from our race series. By limiting registrations to a maximum of 4 races, this provides the opportunity for more student athletes to compete this race season. This has been a year where many opportunities have been wrestled away from youth, and we as a race staff want to try our best to shape our policy to enable opportunities, not take them away.

Why will some student athletes be able to attend all 6 races?

None of us can predict the future. When registration opened for our race series, we were optimistic that we would be able to accommodate significantly more riders at each race. However, at the current point in time, we can not safely execute our race series without limiting participation. The race staff and Board of Directors opted to not alter the registrations for those who have already signed up for more than 4 races as of the cutoff date of August 12. We would have had to basically start registration all over again with very short notice. That didn't seem fair to those that registered early. Additionally, it would have been a ton of work for the part-time staff and as things change day-by-day with our race venues, our focus needs to be on the future and safely executing races, not on altering the past, so to speak. For that reason, those that registered for more than 4 races prior to August 12 will not be forced to drop any races.

Why does Sports Sign Up allow me to register for more than 4 races?

Our registration system is not able to implement total participant caps per race or limit the number of races you can register for. As such, our race staff has to manually monitor each registration and each race and manually close or alter registrations. Therefore, just because the system lets you register for more than 4 races does NOT mean you can attend more than 4 races. You WILL receive a notification from the race staff requiring you to drop registrations until you are below the maximum amount. As noted above, this is incredibly resource intensive for the race staff in a time when we need to focus on working with our venues to safely execute our race series. Please do not contribute to the problem or attempt to take opportunities away from other student athletes and limit your registrations to a maximum of 4.

If I am limited to 4 races, how will I be eligible for series awards?

For this race season, only your top 3 races will count towards series points. If circumstances change, forcing us to cancel or significantly change some of our races, then we may opt to drop series awards completely and focus only on race awards. We will communicate any additional changes regarding series points to you as soon as any changes are made, if the need arises.

How does the waitlist work?

If a race reaches capacity, a wait list will be opened for that race. If spots become available, you may be notified that you can participate in that race. Note that the waitlist is only for athletes that have not met their 4 race maximum! If you are already signed up for 4 races and add your name to the waitlist, you will not be called up if a spot opens. Spots that open up will be provided to athletes who were unable to register for up to 4 races. If a spot opens up prior to the Monday before the race, then you will be notified. After the Monday before the race, the start order will be determined and additional participants can not be added or swapped.

If I can no longer attend a race, can I cancel my registration, receive a refund, and offer my spot to someone on the waitlist?

Yes! If you would like to drop your registration for a race, please notify us by emailing registration@miscabike.org. If done by end of day on the Monday before the race AND there are eligible athletes on the waitlist, MiSCA will provide a full refund. If you drop a race, you will not be allowed automatic entry back into that race or given preferential treatment on the waitlist.

What happens to the other races if MiSCA has to cancel a race?

There is no guarantee that we will be able to run all 6 races this year. Obviously, we're attempting to put on events during the Coronavirus outbreak and while we're confident in our plan to keep kids, staff, and volunteers safe, that doesn't mean everyone will agree with the plan. Certain venues may opt for us to cancel, the state could release new guidance that makes it impossible to put on an event, or we could get rained out. If a race is canceled, it has no effect on the other race participation limits, meaning, we won't be able to "squeeze you in" to a race so you can get your 4 races in. We may adjust series awards if required to cancel more than 1 race, but that will be reevaluated if that occurs.

Will there be refunds if a race is cancelled due to COVID?

Yes. At this time, we can only guarantee a 50% race refund of monies paid to MiSCA. We hope to be able to refund more, but that is contingent on how the overall race season goes. As we get closer, MiSCA has to pay out more and more non-refundable expenses for the event. If our financial situation allows, we will refund more than 50%. If not, then the refund will be capped at 50%. No refund will be offered if a race is canceled due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

What is the Race Insurance SportsSignUp Play offers me, does it cover COVID cancellations, and can I get that money refunded?

The race insurance that is offered to you is wholly through Sports Sign Up and MiSCA has no control or influence over it. Monies for this insurance are not paid to MiSCA. Therefore, we can not comment on coverage or refund any monies paid for race insurance. Please read and understand the limitations prior to purchase.