How to score a high school cross country meet

Cross country meets usually have four or more teams running the course at the same time. If you ask your runner "who won" the meet, the answer will be something like, "we won two and lost one."

How does that work?

Let's look at an example meet with four schools: RJ, Midlakes, Marion and Newark. In this four-team meet, each team competes against three other schools. We will have the following races to score:

RJ vs Midlakes

Midlakes vs Marion

RJ vs Marion

Midlakes vs Newark

RJ vs Newark

• Newark vs Marion

As each runner crosses the finish line, the times are recorded in a form like this one:

Meet:	@	Red Jacket	Teams:	RJ, Midlakes, Marion, Newark					
Date:	September 12								
	Varsity B								
огоар.		ې، Finger Lakes Cross Country F	Doculto						
	wayiie	Filiger Lakes Cross Country I	Coulto					<u> </u>	
	-	****							
Place	Time	Athlete	Grade	School		Newark	Marion	Newark	RJ
1	17:15	Jason Bourne	10	RJ					
2	18:04	Jack Sparrow	11	Newark					
3	18:05	Ethan Hunt	12	Newark					
4	18:12	Indiana Jones	9	Marion					
5	18:13	James Bond	11	RJ					
6	18:18	Han Solo	11	RJ					
7	18:42	James Kirk	10 10	Midlakes		0	0	0	0
8	18:44	Tony Stark		Newark		U	U	U	U
9	18:55	John Hancock	9	Marion		Manage	NO.01-1	Marian	D.1
10	19:06	Inigo Montoya	11	RJ		Newark	Midlakes	Marion	RJ
11	19:08	Napoleon Solo	12	Midlakes					
12	19:09	Illya Kuryakin	9	RJ RJ					
13	19:29	Will Turner	12						
14	19:32	Dead Pool	11	Midlakes					
15	19:03	John McClane	11	Newark					
16	19:47	Russell Casse	9	Midlakes			<u> </u>		
17	19:58	Steven Hiller	10	RJ		_	^	0	
18	20:05	Bruce Banner	10	Marion		0	0	U	0
19 20	20:11	Nick Fury Dylan Rhodes	12	Marion		D.I	Midlakes	Marion	88:-11-1
21	20:12	,	10 11	Marion		RJ	Midiakes	Marion	Midlakes
22	20:23	Jack Reacher	12	Marion Midlakes					
		Cameron Poe Sherlock Holmes							
23 24	20:28	John Connor	9	Midlakes Newark	-				
25	20:30	Jack Traven	11	Midlakes					
26	20:32	Roger Murtaugh	10	Midlakes					
27	20:43	Mark Watney	10	RJ					
28	21:00	Clark Kent	9	RJ	-	0	0	0	0
29	21:03		11	Marion	1	U	U	U	0
30	21:06	Bruce Wayne Dirk Pitt	12	RJ					
31	21:14	Conan Barbarian	9	RJ					
32	21:14	John Carter	12	RJ					
33	21:19		11	RJ					
34	21:36	Jack Ryan Roy Miller	11	Newark					
35	21:40	Cody Banks	9	Newark					
36	22:09	Austin Powers	10	RJ					
37	22:12	Frank Moses	10	Midlakes	-				
38	22:12	Jeff Blue	12	Newark					
30	LL.LL	Dell Dine	12	Newalk					

Assigning points

For each race, we look at **one pair of schools.** We start assigning points. In high school varsity races, the first five runners from each team score points for their team.

- The first runner gets 1 point
- The second runner gets 2 points
- The third runner gets 3 points
- The fourth runner gets 4 points
- The fifth runner gets 5 points
- And so on

The sixth and seventh runner from each team can also earn points. However, these points are not added to their team's score. Instead, these runners can contribute to their team by "displacing" finishers from the other team, causing the other team to receive more points. (Remember, low scores are better).

Let's start by scoring Newark vs. Marion.

Ignoring all the other schools for now, we go down the list and start assigning points to Newark and Marion runners in the order they finished.

	Wayne	-Finger Lakes Cross Cou	ntry Results						
					points				
Place	Time	Athlete	Grade	School	1	Newark	Marion	Newark	RJ
1	17:15	Jason Bourne	10	RJ					
2	18:04	Jack Sparrow	11	Newark	1				
3	18:05	Ethan Hunt	12	Newark	2				
4	18:12	Indiana Jones	9	Marion	3				
5	18:13	James Bond	11	RJ					
6	18:18	Han Solo	11	RJ					
7	18:42	James Kirk	10	Midlakes					
8	18:44	Tony Stark	10	Newark	4	0	0	0	0
9	18:55	John Hancock	9	Marion	5				
10	19:06	Inigo Montoya	11	RJ		Newark	Midlakes	Marion	RJ
11	19:08	Napoleon Solo	12	Midlakes					
12	19:09	Illya Kuryakin	9	RJ					
13	19:29	Will Turner	12	RJ					
14	19:32	Dead Pool	11	Midlakes					
15	19:03	John McClane	11	Newark	6				
16	19:47	Russell Casse	9	Midlakes					
17	19:58	Steven Hiller	10	RJ					
18	20:05	Bruce Banner	10	Marion	7	0	0	0	0
19	20:11	Nick Fury	12	Marion	8				
20	20:12	Dylan Rhodes	10	Marion	9	RJ	Midlakes	Marion	Midlakes
21	20:23	Jack Reacher	11	Marion	10				
22	20:27	Cameron Poe	12	Midlakes					
23	20:28	Sherlock Holmes	9	Midlakes					
24	20:30	John Connor	11	Newark	11				
25	20:32	Jack Traven	11	Midlakes					
26	20:43	Roger Murtaugh	10	Midlakes					
27	20:57	Mark Watney	10	RJ					
28	21:00	Clark Kent	9	RJ		0	0	0	0
29	21:03	Bruce Wayne	11	Marion	12				
30	21:06	Dirk Pitt	12	RJ					
31	21:14	Conan Barbarian	9	RJ					
32	21:19	John Carter	12	RJ					
33	21:36	Jack Ryan	11	RJ					
34	21:40	Roy Miller	11	Newark	13				
35	21:51	Cody Banks	9	Newark	14				
36	22:09	Austin Powers	10	RJ					
37	22:12	Frank Moses	10	Midlakes					
38	22:22	Jeff Blue	12	Newark					
39	22:38	John Smith	9	Marion	15				

Scoring a race: Newark vs. Marion

Now we put the points into the scoring table. Each runner's points go into the column for his team.

	Wayne	-Finger Lakes Cross Cou	ntry Results						
					points				
Place	Time	Athlete	Grade	School	1	Newark	Marion	Newark	RJ
1	17:15	Jason Bourne	10	RJ	_	. 1	₂₇ 3		
2	18:04	Jack Sparrow	11	Newark	1/3	7 2,	5		
3	18:05	Ethan Hunt	12	Newark	2/	4	7		
4	18:12	Indiana Jones	9	Marion	3	6	8		
5	18:13	James Bond	11	RJ		11	9		
6	18:18	Han Solo	11	RJ			10		
7	18:42	James Kirk	10	Midlakes					
8	18:44	Tony Stark	10	Newark	4	24	32	0	0
9	18:55	John Hancock	9	Marion	5				
10	19:06	Inigo Montoya	11	RJ		Newark	Midlakes	Marion	RJ
11	19:08	Napoleon Solo	12	Midlakes					
12	19:09	Illya Kuryakin	9	RJ					
13	19:29	Will Turner	12	RJ					
14	19:32	Dead Pool	11	Midlakes					
15	19:03	John McClane	11	Newark	6				
16	19:47	Russell Casse	9	Midlakes					
17	19:58	Steven Hiller	10	RJ					
18	20:05	Bruce Banner	10	Marion	7	0	0	0	0
19	20:11	Nick Fury	12	Marion	8				
20	20:12	Dylan Rhodes	10	Marion	9	RJ	Midlakes	Marion	Midlakes
21	20:23	Jack Reacher	11	Marion	10				
22	20:27	Cameron Poe	12	Midlakes					
23	20:28	Sherlock Holmes	9	Midlakes					
24	20:30	John Connor	11	Newark	11				
25	20:32	Jack Traven	11	Midlakes					
26	20:43	Roger Murtaugh	10	Midlakes					
27	20:57	Mark Watney	10	RJ					
28	21:00	Clark Kent	9	RJ		0	0	0	0
29	21:03	Bruce Wayne	11	Marion	12				
30	21:06	Dirk Pitt	12	R.J					

Notice how Jack Reacher, the sixth finisher for Marion, "displaced" John Connor of Newark in the scoring table? Jack's 10 points do NOT get added to Marion's score. But by "displacing" John Connor, he causes Newark to score more points: 11 instead of 10.

Once each team has at least five scores in its column, we can stop entering points. The team's final score is the sum of its first five runner's points. Newark wins this one (low score wins).

Let's look at the next race: Newark vs. RJ

(see next page)

Scoring a race: Newark vs. RJ

21 20:23 Jack Reacher 11 Marion 22 20:27 Cameron Poe 12 Midlakes 23 20:28 Sherlock Holmes 9 Midlakes 24 20:30 John Connor 11 Newark 11 25 20:32 Jack Traven 11 Midlakes 26 20:43 Roger Murtaugh 10 Midlakes 27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ		Wayne	-Finger Lakes Cross Cou	ntry Results							
1	Place	Time	Athlete	Grade	School		Newark	Marion		Newark	RJ
3	1	17:15	Jason Bourne	10	RJ	1					1
3	2	18:04	Jack Sparrow	11	Newark	2	2	5	_/	3	4
Section	3	18:05			Newark					6	5
S	4	18:12	Indiana Jones	9	Marion		6	8		a 11	7
The color of the	5	18:13	James Bond	11	RJ	4	11	9	_ \		8
18	6	18:18	Han Solo	11	RJ	5		10			- 9
9 18:55 John Hancock 9 Marion 10 19:06 Inigo Montoya 11 RJ 7 Newark Midlakes 11 19:08 Napoleon Solo 12 Midlakes 12 19:09 Illya Kuryakin 9 RJ 8 13 19:29 Will Turner 12 RJ 9 14 19:32 Dead Pool 11 Midlakes 15 19:03 John McClane 11 Newark 16 19:47 Russell Casse 9 Midlakes 16 19:47 Russell Casse 9 Midlakes 17 19:58 Steven Hiller 10 RJ 10 18 20:05 Bruce Banner 10 Marion 0 0 0 19 20:11 Nick Fury 12 Marion 10 Marion 10 Marion 10 0 0 19 20:12 Dylan Rhodes 10 Marion 10 Ma	7	18:42	James Kirk	10	Midlakes				X		7 10
9	8	18:44	Tony Stark	10	Newark	6	24	32		34	25
11	9	18:55		9	Marion				1		
11	10	19:06	Inigo Montova	11	RJ	7	Newark	Midlakes	/ /	Marion	RJ
12	11	19:08		12	Midlakes			,			
13	12	19:09	IIIya Kuryakin	9		8					
14 19:32 Dead Pool 11 Midlakes 15 19:03 John McClane 11 Newark 16 19:47 Russell Casse 9 Midlakes 17 19:58 Steven Hiller 10 RJ 18 20:05 Bruce Banner 10 Marion 19 20:11 Nick Fury 12 Marion 20 20:12 Dylan Rhodes 10 Marion 21 20:23 Jack Reacher 11 Marion 21 20:23 Jack Reacher 11 Marion 22 20:27 Cameron Poe 12 Midlakes 23 20:28 Sherlock Holmes 9 Midlakes 24 20:30 John Connor 11 Newark 11 25 20:32 Jack Traven 11 Midlakes 26 20:43 Roger Murtaugh 10 Midlakes 27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ<	13	19:29		12	RJ	9		1			
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19	17		Steven Hiller	10	RJ	10	1				
19	18	20:05	Bruce Banner	10	Marion		0 /	0		0	0
20 20:12 Dylan Rhodes 10 Marion 21 20:23 Jack Reacher 11 Marion 22 20:27 Cameron Poe 12 Midlakes 23 20:28 Sherlock Holmes 9 Midlakes 24 20:30 John Connor 11 Newark 11 25 20:32 Jack Traven 11 Midlakes 26 20:43 Roger Murtaugh 10 Midlakes 27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 0 0 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 <	19	20:11	Nick Fury	12							
22 20:27 Cameron Poe 12 Midlakes 23 20:28 Sherlock Holmes 9 Midlakes 24 20:30 John Connor 11 Newark 11 25 20:32 Jack Traven 11 Midlakes 26 20:43 Roger Murtaugh 10 Midlakes 27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 0 0 0 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 0 0 0 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 0	20		Dylan Rhodes	10	Marion		/RJ	Midlakes		Marion	Midlakes
22 20:27 Cameron Poe 12 Midlakes 23 20:28 Sherlock Holmes 9 Midlakes 24 20:30 John Connor 11 Newark 11 25 20:32 Jack Traven 11 Midlakes 26 20:43 Roger Murtaugh 10 Midlakes 27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 0 0 0 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 0 0 0 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 0	21	20:23	Jack Reacher	11	Marion		/				
23 20:28 Sherlock Holmes 9 Midlakes 24 20:30 John Connor 11 Newark 11 25 20:32 Jack Traven 11 Midlakes 26 20:43 Roger Murtaugh 10 Midlakes 27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ <td>22</td> <td>20:27</td> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>Midlakes</td> <td>,</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	22	20:27		12	Midlakes	,					
25 20:32 Jack Traven 11 Midlakes 26 20:43 Roger Murtaugh 10 Midlakes 27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ	23	20:28	Sherlock Holmes		Midlakes						
25 20:32 Jack Traven 11 Midlakes 26 20:43 Roger Murtaugh 10 Midlakes 27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ	24	20:30	John Connor	11	Newark	11					
27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ	25		Jack Traven		Midlakes						
27 20:57 Mark Watney 10 RJ 28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ	26	20:43	Roger Murtaugh	10	Midlakes						
28 21:00 Clark Kent 9 RJ 0 0 29 21:03 Bruce Wayne 11 Marion 30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ	27	20:57	Mark Watney	10							
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30 21:06 Dirk Pitt 12 RJ 31 21:14 Conan Barbarian 9 RJ 32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ	29		Bruce Wayne	11	Marion						
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32 21:19 John Carter 12 RJ 33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ			Conan Barbarian		RJ						
33 21:36 Jack Ryan 11 RJ 34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ	32	21:19	John Carter	12							
34 21:40 Roy Miller 11 Newark 12 35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ											
35 21:51 Cody Banks 9 Newark 36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ			-		Newark	12					
36 22:09 Austin Powers 10 RJ											
	37	22:12	Frank Moses	10	Midlakes						
38 22:22 Jeff Blue 12 Newark											

RJ's Will Turner and Steven Hiller finish 9^{th} and 10^{th} , displacing Newark's John Connor, who scores 11 points.

With Steven Hiller we have entered points for seven RJ runners, so we stop counting the rest of the RJ runners for scoring purposes. The fifth finisher for Newark, Roy Miller, gets 12 points.

(see next page)

Team win-loss results

And here is the completed score sheet.

	Wayne	-Finger Lakes Cross Cour	ntry Results					
Place	Time	Athlete	Grade	School	Newark	Marion	Newark	RJ
1	17:15	Jason Bourne	10	RJ	1	3	2	1
2	18:04	Jack Sparrow	11	Newark	2	5	3	4
3	18:05	Ethan Hunt	12	Newark	4	7	6	5
4	18:12	Indiana Jones	9	Marion	6	8	11	7
5	18:13	James Bond	11	RJ	11	9	12	8
6	18:18	Han Solo	11	RJ		10		9
7	18:42	James Kirk	10	Midlakes				10
8	18:44	Tony Stark	10	Newark	24	32	34	25
9	18:55	John Hancock	9	Marion				
10	19:06	Inigo Montoya	11	RJ	Newark	Midlakes	Marion	RJ
11	19:08	Napoleon Solo	12	Midlakes	1	3	2	1
12	19:09	Illya Kuryakin	9	RJ	2	5	5	3
13	19:29	Will Turner	12	RJ	4	6	10	4
14	19:32	Dead Pool	11	Midlakes	7	8	11	6
15	19:03	John McClane	11	Newark	11	9	12	7
16	19:47	Russell Casse	9	Midlakes		10		8
17	19:58	Steven Hiller	10	RJ				9
18	20:05	Bruce Banner	10	Marion	(25)	31	40	21)
19	20:11	Nick Fury	12	Marion				
20	20:12	Dylan Rhodes	10	Marion	RJ	Midlakes	Marion	Midlakes
21	20:23	Jack Reacher	11	Marion	1	4	1	2
22	20:27	Cameron Poe	12	Midlakes	2	6	3	4
23	20:28	Sherlock Holmes	9	Midlakes	3	9	7	5
24	20:30	John Connor	11	Newark	5	10	8	6
25	20:32	Jack Traven	11	Midlakes	7	12	9	11
26	20:43	Roger Murtaugh	10	Midlakes	8		10	
27	20:57	Mark Watney	10	RJ	11			
28	21:00	Clark Kent	9	RJ	18	41	28	28
20	24.02	D 1/1	4.4	NAi				

Breaking the tie

Marion and Midlakes seem to have tied. In the event of a tie, the team with the best 6th place finisher wins. Marion's 6th place finisher is Jack Reacher with a time of 20:23, faster than the Midlakes 6th place finisher Sherlock Holmes with a time of 20:28. Marion wins. (If neither team has a 6th place finisher, only the top four runners from each team will be scored.)

So for this meet, we have win-loss results as follows:

•	Newark	2-1	wins vs Marion and Midlakes, loss to RJ
•	Marion	1-2	win vs. Midlakes, loss to Newark and RJ
•	Midlakes	0-3	loss to Newark, RJ and Marion
•	RI	3-0	wins vs. Newark, Marion and Midlakes

Incomplete teams can compete

But they can't win. If a team has fewer than five finishers, the score will be 15-50 (the complete team gets 1+2+3+4+5=15 and the incomplete team gets 8+ 9+10+ 11+12=50). If two incomplete teams run against each other, their race is not scored. No teams, no race, no score.

What about mods?

Mod scoring works the same way, but with (yes) a modification: the first **three** finishers score, and **two** finishers can displace. Boys and girls are scored separately, even though they may run the course at the same time.