

The Southern Showcase

Updated 9.14.2026

Hello all,

As you start thinking about your cross country schedule this coming fall, please know that you are invited to the Southern Showcase hosted by Jacksonville State University at John Hunt Park in Huntsville, AL. The meet will take place on Friday, September 18, 2026 and will certainly be a highly competitive early season competition between some of the best teams in the south/southeast.

John Hunt Park has developed a reputation as one of the fastest and best cross country courses in the country! The Southern Showcase will be an opportunity for your teams to preview the 2026 NJCCA National Championship course at John Hunt Park. John Hunt Park and the City of Huntsville has hosted several NCAA conference and regional championship meets as well as the 2023 NJCCA National Championships. Following the college meet is the high school portion of the Southern Showcase which will take place Friday evening and Saturday morning.

MEET INFORMATION WEBSITE: <https://jaxstatesports.com/sports/2009/9/5/JSUmeet.aspx>

DATE

Friday, September 18, 2026

COURSE LOCATION

John Hunt Cross Country Park, 2151 Airport Rd SW, Huntsville, AL 35801

SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 17:

2:00-5:00 PM: course preview

*Course setup will be taking place outside of the practice window. While the course will be open, please be respectful of areas where maintenance and setup are occurring.

3:00-5:00 PM: packet pickup

Friday, September 18:

6:15 AM: Packet pickup available

6:20 AM: Course opens for preview

7:20 AM: Course closed, no warmups permitted

7:30 AM: Men's Invitational 8k

8:10 AM: Women's Invitational 5k

8:45 AM: Men's Open 8k

9:35 AM: Women's Open 5k

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The championship caliber cross country course is a 10-meter wide, manicured grass surface course with multiple spurred loops. The course is located on the south side of John Hunt Park and accommodates high school, NCAA, and USA Track & Field needs for all their various training and competition events. There are approximately 2 miles of accessible walking trails that are great for coaches and spectators. There are great unimpeded views of the start and finish line.

ENTRIES

Team entries will go through [Direct Athletics](#). Entry fee must be paid online. Entries and payment are due by 5:00 PM (CST) on Monday, September 14.

Southern Showcase (University/College): team (limit 10 entries) & individual entry

\$450 per team (\$900 for both men and women)

Unattached athletes will need to request permission. If approved, the fee will be \$50 per entry.

**Unattached participants are responsible for ensuring participation will not affect eligibility status.*

Southern Showcase (ADDITIONAL ENTRIES ONLY): additional entries above 10

Teams can add additional entries. There will be a \$20 fee per entry.

**Additional entries will compete with the rest of the team unless a different request is made and approved by the meet director.*

We plan to contest an invitational and open race. Priority for the invitation race will be given to DI South Region teams and past participants. We anticipate around 25 teams in the invitational race.

SCRATCHES/DECLARATION

A coaching staff member of each institution will be allowed to complete the clerking process on behalf of their team and/or student-athlete(s). Any scratches must be reported during the schedule SCRATCHES/DECLARATION timeframe by turning in the bib of the student athlete being scratched. If the registered roster is good, simply declare the entire team as participating. Student athletes who are not scratched will be listed in the results as a DNF. Clerking will take place at the meet management tent near the entrance of ATHLETE VILLAGE.

Men's scratches (Invitational): Friday, September 18 @ 6:30-7:20 AM or at packet pickup Thursday.

Women's scratches (Invitational): Friday, September 18 @ 7:10-8:00 AM or at packet pickup Thursday.

Men's scratches (Open): Friday, September 18 @ 7:45-8:35 AM or at packet pickup Thursday.

Women's scratches (Open): Friday, September 18 @ 8:35-9:25 AM or at packet pickup Thursday.

AWARDS

Once results are final, top finishing individuals and the overall team champions can pick up awards at the clerking tent. A coaching staff member may also pick up awards. There will not be a formal awards ceremony.

Invitational: Top 20 individuals and overall team champions receive shirts.

Open: Top 20 individuals will receive shirts.

TENT RENTAL

Contact Philip with Mullins Special Occasions at philip@mullinsrentals.com or (256) 534-5701 (ask for Philip) and copy Cline Thompson (cline.thompson@huntsvilleal.gov). Please inform them that this reservation is for Southern Showcase (University/College), leave contact info, and provide a university name.

FACILITIES

There will be several portable bathrooms located near ATHLETES VILLAGE and close to the starting line. Limited shower access will be available upon request if your team would like to shower prior to leaving. Teams will be responsible for providing their own towels.

PARKING

Personnel will be present to help direct traffic. Teams traveling via van/SUV/car will be able to park in the paved lots located near athletes' village and sand volleyball (go around the round about past the meet management building).

Teams traveling via bus will be instructed to drop off teams in the designated area located at the roundabout. After dropping off, buses will continue through the roundabout and will be instructed to park in the designated bus parking area located across Airport Road. On Thursday, please DO NOT have your buses enter the parking lot designated for van/SUV/car and please DO NOT have your bus wait at the roundabout.

ATHLETIC TRAINING

Water will be available for teams Thursday, September 17 at 2:00-5:00 PM located at the meet management tent. On Friday, September 18, athletic training personnel will be set up at the finish line starting at 6:15 AM. In the event the visiting team does not travel with a member of their athletic training staff, athletic training services will be provided with prior notification (preferably 2 days in advance) and the visiting team has appropriate supplies. Ice will be available after the meet.

TIMING INFORMATION

Xpress Timing will handle timing/results. Live results will be available at <https://xpresstiming.com/>. We will be utilizing three split points on course which means the women's 5k race will have splits/live scoring at the 1.6k, 3.2k, and finish and the men's 8k will have splits/live scoring at the 1.6k, 4.6k, 6.2k, and finish.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Meet Director: Jeremy Provence, (479) 462-6603, jprovence@jsu.edu

Athletic Training: Lindsey McDonnell, lmcilwain@jsu.edu

Sports Information: Dean Harrell, dharrell3@jsu.edu

Meet Day Operations: Noah Osborne, (941) 920-2647, nosborne@jsu.edu

HSC Operations: Cline Thompson, cline.thompson@gmail.com

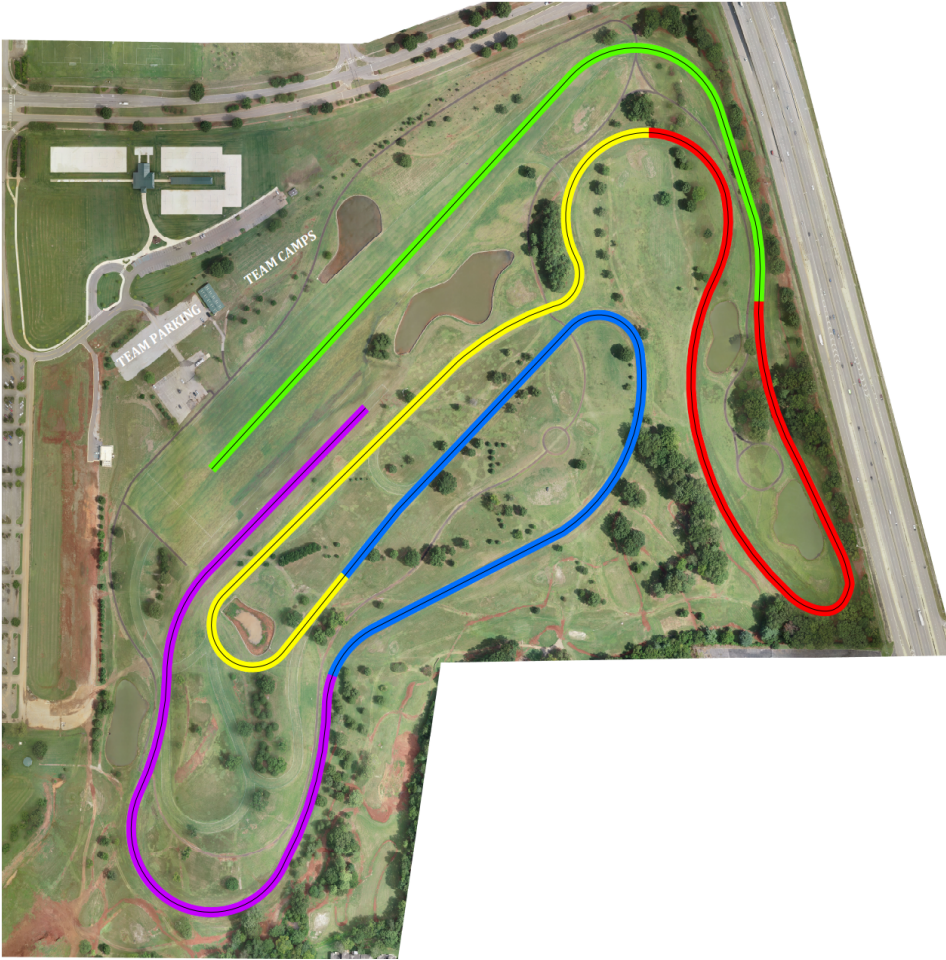
INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Lightening: Following NCAA protocol, we will be using a lightning detection and weather monitoring system. Once lightning enters the 30-mile radius of competition, we will begin preparations to protect the student-athletes and spectators. Once lightning enters within an eight-mile radius of our site, competition must stop, and student-athletes and spectators will be moved to safe areas. We will not begin any activity until 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike inside the warning ring.

Shelter Locations for Lightening: Teams will be directed back to their buses. Spectators will be directed back to their vehicles. With the absence of a substantial building, a hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed provides good protection. Note that small outdoor buildings including dugouts, rain shelters, sheds, etc., are NOT SAFE.

For Tornadoes: At John Hunt Park, take cover in the shallow ditches along the sides of the inactive runways. Lie flat on the upper half of the bank; do not go to the very bottom because water will flow there. Avoid the deep ditches as the lower banks are steep and they will be muddy and slick.

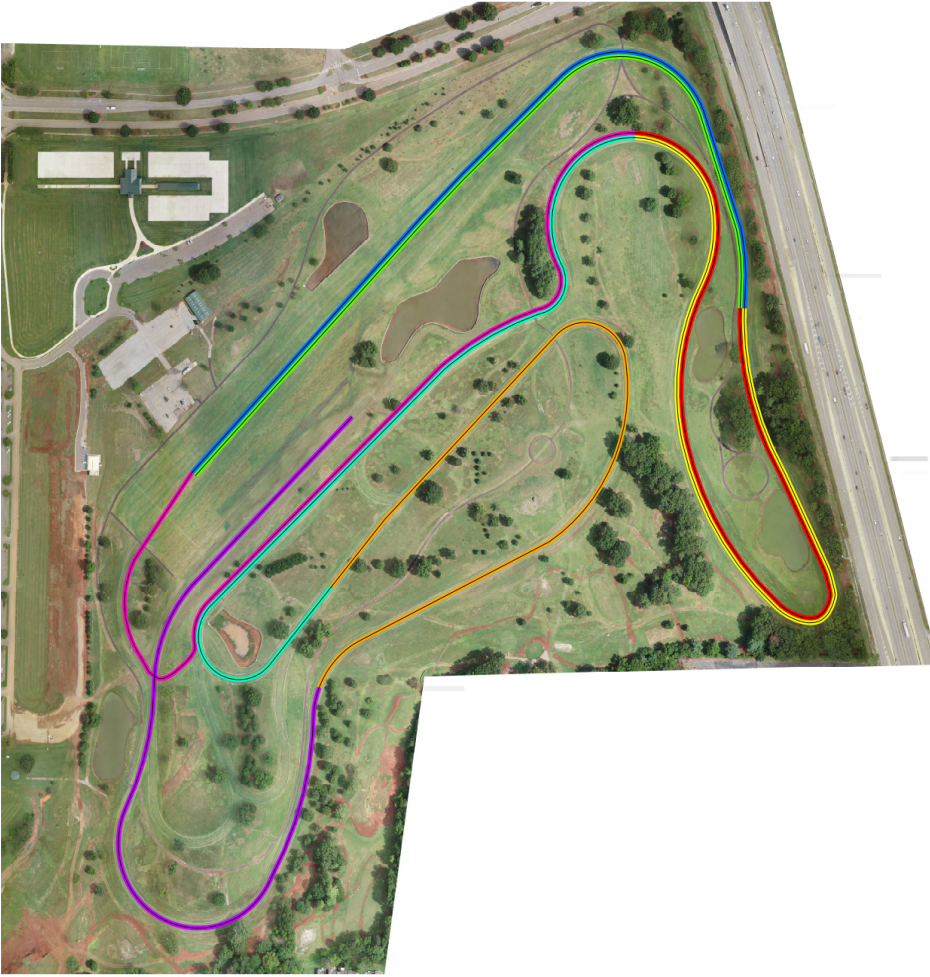
Updates on weather impacts and changes to the schedule will be posted on our social media channels.



John Hunt Park

5K
Cross Country
Running Course

START	1ST KM
	2ND KM
	3RD KM
	4TH KM
FINISH	5TH KM



John Hunt Park

8K
Cross Country
Running Course

START	1K
	2K
	3K
	4K
	5K
	6K
	7K
FINISH	8K