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**HIGH SCHOOL CROSS INITIATIVE**

OBRA, in partnership with select High Schools/school districts and local promoters and advocates, proposes to start a cyclocross training series and youth cyclist development program.

**PURPOSE and INTENT**

Since 2006 cyclocross has been the fastest growing bicycle racing discipline. Racers often cite cyclocross as their entry point into bicycle racing, and often continue on to participate in the other disciplines of road, track and mountain bike.

While the sport of cycling is witnessing a large increase in interest and participation, we are looking for a proportional increase in the number young cyclists.

We believe that cyclocross is a great way to introduce young athletes to the sport of cycling. Cyclocross races are an excellent way for racers to improve their bicycle handling skills because they are short in duration, intense in effort and executed on technical courses. Athletes can effectively train for cyclocross races without the long hours one would dedicate to training for road races. Cyclocross races are very exciting to watch and have great spectator appeal. Most importantly, cyclocross is participatory and fun.

**STRATEGY**

The High School Training and Racing Program would start small and build gradually. Initially, it will be organized like a "club sport" with volunteer coaches and trainers. Each participating high school would field teams of 4-8 students. Training clinics and would be held on high school grounds.

High School custodians would be first to be contacted as school facilities and grounds are involved. Each school would have a point person who would be responsible for the program and serve as coordinator of clinics and events.



## **LOCATIONS**

Likely first communities to participate are:

Bend  
Eugene/Corvallis  
Newport  
Salem/Keizer  
Portland  
Hood River  
Medford

## **RACE FORMAT**

Races would be in a “Short Cross” format that would be 20 minutes in duration. This will allow racers to compete in multiple events per day.

## **RACE SERIES**

A three (3) race series is envisioned, occurring in September. The 3<sup>rd</sup> race, the championship, is proposed for Thanksgiving Weekend.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

Entry fees  
Officials – volunteer  
Coaches – volunteer  
Course length/time  
Equipment: barriers, course makers etc.  
Sponsorship: bikes etc  
Jerseys (for teams) (for leaders/winners)  
Scrimages

## **NEEDS**

Identity/logo  
Media  
Website  
Social media presence