

San Diego to Host USA Cross Country National Championships



The San Diego/Imperial Association of USATF will again play host to the USA Cross Country National Championships. The championships will be held on February 5, 2011 on the same Mission Bay course where the 2008 championships were held. The 2008 meet was a huge success with large crowds cheering on the victories by Dathan Ritzenhein and Shalane Flanagan.

Six national championships will be contested on a grand day for cross country fans and participants. In addition, the day will start off with the Road Runner Sports Community Race over the same course as the championships. The schedule will be:

9:00 a.m.	Road Runner Sports Community 4km
9:45 a.m.	Master's Women's 8km
10:45 a.m.	Master's Men's 8km
11:45 a.m.	Junior Women's 6km
12:30 p.m.	Junior Men's 8km
1:15 p.m.	Open Women's 8km
2:00 p.m.	Open Men's 12km

The course is located in Mission Bay Park at the very south end of East Mission Bay Drive, adjacent to the Hilton San Diego Resort and Spa. If you are driving, the course can be reached by taking Interstate 5, exit at Sea World Drive and go west, turn right on East Mission Bay Drive and drive approximately 1/3 mile to park.

The races will be run over a spectator-friendly, European-style 2,000 meter grass loop running along East Mission Bay Park. The terrain during the first 1,000 meters of the loop is primarily flat and very fast. During the second 1,000 meters of the loop the course includes a series of five small hills. The average width of the course is 15 meters and there are a few sections where the course narrows to about 5 meters in width. This is the same course used for the 2008 USA Cross Country National Championships. A map of the course can be found at www.sdusatf.org

The meet hotel is the Hilton San Diego Resort and Spa – Mission Bay. The hotel is located at 1775 East Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA, 92109. The hotel is adjacent to the cross country course. For reservations at a special rate of \$119 per night you must call the reservation line at 1-800-445-8667. To receive this special rate, refer to the USATF Cross Country Championships when making your reservation. Be advised that after Tuesday, January 11th the room block will be released. After this date, rooms under the special rate will be based upon availability.

The top six open men and women, as well as the top six junior men and women will be selected to represent the USA in the IAAF World Cross Country Championships to be held in Punta Umbria, Spain on March 20, 2011. In addition, the meet will also select the national teams for the NACAC Cross Country Championships to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in late February. There will be over \$38,000 in prize money and stipends distributed at this event. The prize purse will be announced soon.

To enter any of the national championship races visit the national web site at <http://www.usatf.org/events/2011/USAXCChampionships/>



Eventual winner Jordan Hasey runs alongside Alex Gits from Stanford en route to a victory in the 2008 Junior Women's Championship at Mission Bay.



Eventual winner Dathan Ritzenhein has company in Scott Radinsky (643), Ryan Hall (563) and Jorge Torres (671) during the 2008 USA Cross Country National Championships which will again be held on San Diego's Mission Bay course.