



LAKE WYLIE HIGH SCHOOL CHARGERS CROSS COUNTRY

STATE QUALIFIER REPORT · EVIDENCE REVIEW 2020-2025 AND PROPOSED SOLUTION

FIXING THE ODD/EVEN PROBLEM IN SC CROSS COUNTRY STATE QUALIFIERS

Why unrated courses and poll-based seeding keep deserving teams home, and a four-layer fix the SCHSL can adopt

An evidence review of every SCHSL cross country state qualifier on MileSplit from 2020 to 2025, showing how strict Odd/Even seeding from the final SCTCCCA coaches' rankings sends some teams home while slower teams in the other race advance. For the SCHSL, the SCTCCCA rankings committee and South Carolina coaches. Companion to *Course Accuracy and Standards in SC Cross Country* (Final v1.1).

STATUS: FINAL V1.1 · TEAM SCORES COMPUTED FROM UNOFFICIAL MILESPLOT RESULTS

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About this report

This report is about a rule, not about any team, coach, host or athlete. Every athlete in these pages raced honestly, and every ranking coach did a hard job with the information available. The argument is that the information is not enough, and that the qualifier format magnifies what is missing.

THIS REPORT marks findings computed in this project from public MileSplit data. **COMPANION** marks findings from *Course Accuracy and Standards in SC Cross Country* (Final v1.1, Oct 21, 2026). Findings stay attributed to it. **INFERENCE** marks reasoning that links the two and is not separately proven.

Status. Team scores are computed from MileSplit finisher lists, not official SCHSL scores (Section 9); for 2021, 2023 and 2025 they match the official timer exactly (Appendix F). The companion report is a **public-record review**, so its Starlight findings are estimates.

Disclosure. The author previously coached at Clover High School, the team in the lead case study (Section 4). That case is one of 26 found statewide, and no conclusion depends on it. As the companion report discloses, the author also designed and measured two of the anchor courses in its speed index (Clover and Victory Bolt) and, with Coach Chris Ardis, laid out and wheel-measured the York County course at Catawba Bend.

SECTION 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The core problem. South Carolina's rankings committee has no insight into course accuracy and no published scoring standard, yet its final rankings decide which half of each state qualifier a team runs in. Every class and gender is split into an Odd race and an Even race, seeded strictly from the final SCTCCA coaches' rankings. The top 8 teams and top 20 individuals in each race advance. Both races run back to back on the same course on the same morning, so their times can be compared directly, but a team is only ever compared with its own race. When the poll misjudges a team, or one race is stronger at the cut, a team can be beaten on points in its own race and still be faster than teams that qualify from the other race.



Links 1–2 rest mainly on the companion report and this report's course-factor estimates. Links 4–5 are measured directly here. This report does not claim that any single team's ranking was caused by any single course (Section 9). The chain describes how the system turns missing course information into missed berths.

26 teams squeezed out, 2021–25: top 16 when both races are merged and re-scored, yet did not advance (plus 5 in 2020)	25 / 50 race pairs (class × gender × division) where the merged re-score changes a qualifier, at 18 of 23 meets	18 / 26 squeezed-out teams were ranked 17th or worse, just outside the 16 berths. All 26 were ranked.	25 / 26 would have qualified under the proposed 7 automatic + 2 at-large rule (backtest, unofficial scores)
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Who it happened to: 26 teams

From 2021 to 2025, 26 teams finished in the merged top 16 and stayed home: **2021** Blue Ridge, Blythewood, Central, Nation Ford; **2022** Boiling Springs, Fox Creek, Gilbert, Irmo, May River, York Prep; **2023** Clover, Crescent, East Clarendon, Fairfield Central, Laurens, North Central, South Pointe, Woodruff; **2024** Whale Branch Early College, Wilson; **2025** Cane Bay, Greenwood, Hartsville, James Island, Johnsonville, Strom Thurmond. Every class and both genders are on the list. **Every one of the 26 would have qualified had it been placed in the other race** (Section 1.1), and with the races seeded in the true order of the day only 2 top-16 teams would have stayed home instead of 26 (Section 1.2). Clover 2023 (Section 4) is one worked example.

What is asked

- Berths (SCHSL, for 2027):** the top 7 teams in each race qualify automatically, and the last 2 berths go to the best 2 remaining teams across both races by a merged re-score. This works even when seeding is imperfect. In the backtest it would have qualified 25 of the 26 squeezed-out teams. Individuals: top 18 per race + 4 at-large by time.
- Seeding (SCTCCA):** seed from a course-adjusted, data-driven virtual meet with serpentine placement, and use the coaches' poll only as a tiebreaker.
- Data standards (SCHSL, SCTCCA, hosts):** adopt the companion report's course accuracy tiers (A certified, B measured, C unverified, X irregular); require wheel-measured 5,000 m courses within a tight tolerance; publish annual course factors; down-weight unverified marks.
- Transparency:** publish ranking inputs and seeding by a fixed date with a 24-hour appeal window, and audit every qualifier after the season.

1.1 Every team that lost a berth, and what the other race would have done THIS REPORT

Clover 2023 is one case of 26. From 2021 to 2025, these 26 teams finished in the top 16 when both qualifier races were merged and re-scored, yet stayed home because they placed 9th or 10th in their own race. Every season, every class and both genders are on the list. The last two columns answer the question coaches ask most: **what if the team had been placed in the other race?** Each team was moved into the other race, the last team in from that race was moved the other way, and both races were re-scored using every runner's actual time.

Qualifier	Team left home	Final rank	Own race (pts)	Merged	Last team in from the other race	Swapped: team's place	Swapped: last-in team
2021 2A girls	Central	26	9th (219)	15th	Greenville Tech Charter (rank 13, merged 16th)	8th (238) ✓	9th
2021 3A girls	Blue Ridge	19	9th (230)	16th	Woodruff (rank 16, merged 17th)	8th (239) ✓	9th
2021 5A boys	Blythewood	17	9th (259)	16th	Ashley Ridge (rank 16, merged 17th)	8th (258) ✓	9th
2021 5A girls	Nation Ford	20	9th (228)	16th	Blythewood (rank 17, merged 17th)	7th (201) ✓	9th
2022 2A boys	York Prep	19	9th (225)	16th	Andrew Jackson (rank 20, merged 18th)	8th (191) ✓	10th
2022 2A girls	Fox Creek	13	9th (228)	16th	Abbeville (rank 20, merged 19th)	8th (173) ✓	11th
2022 3A boys	Gilbert	17	9th (223)	14th	Crescent (rank 10, merged 17th)	6th (172) ✓	9th
2022 4A boys	Irmo	15	9th (196)	13th	South Pointe (rank 20, merged 17th)	7th (187) ✓	10th
2022 4A girls	May River	11	10th (202)	16th	South Pointe (rank 20, merged 17th)	7th (204) ✓	10th
2022 5A girls	Boiling Springs	27	9th (263)	16th	Byrnes (rank 20, merged 17th)	8th (245) ✓	9th
2023 1A boys	East Clarendon	18	9th (232)	16th	Ridge Spring-Monetta (rank 27, merged 17th)	8th (238) ✓	9th
2023 2A boys	Fairfield Central	17	9th (247)	16th	Chesterfield (rank 18, merged 19th)	8th (248) ✓	10th
2023 2A girls	North Central	20	9th (220)	16th	Central (rank 23, merged 18th)	8th (230) ✓	9th
2023 3A boys	Crescent	19	9th (222)	16th	Woodruff (rank 14, merged 18th)	8th (214) ✓	9th
2023 3A girls	Woodruff	18	9th (212)	16th	Crescent (rank 15, merged 17th)	8th (230) ✓	9th
2023 4A boys	Laurens	19	9th (206)	14th	Riverside (rank 10, merged 17th)	6th (173) ✓	9th
2023 4A girls	South Pointe	20	9th (194)	16th	Ridge View (rank 15, merged 17th)	8th (195) ✓	9th
2023 5A girls	Clover	26	9th (228)	16th	Boiling Springs (rank 15, merged 17th)	8th (241) ✓	9th
2024 2A boys	Whale Branch	21	9th (247)	16th	Chesnee (rank 16, merged 17th)	8th (213) ✓	9th
2024 4A girls	Wilson	16	9th (240)	15th	Gilbert (rank 15, merged 14th)	8th (234) ✓	7th
2025 1A boys	Johnsonville	14	9th (215)	16th	Bamberg-Ehrhardt (rank 21, merged 17th)	8th (205) ✓	9th
2025 2A girls	Strom Thurmond	13	9th (253)	15th	Lake City (rank 24, merged 21st)	7th (173) ✓	13th
2025 4A girls	Hartsville	19	10th (239)	16th	York (rank 14, merged 18th)	8th (191) ✓	10th
2025 5A D2 boys	Greenwood	10	9th (191)	13th	Easley (rank 11, merged 16th)	6th (176) ✓	9th
2025 5A D1 boys	James Island	15	9th (210)	15th	Wade Hampton (rank 16, merged 16th)	8th (173) ✓	9th
2025 5A D1 girls	Cane Bay	17	9th (228)	16th	Wade Hampton (rank 14, merged 17th)	8th (208) ✓	9th

What the swap shows

All 26 would have qualified in the other race, placing 6th to 8th. In 25 of the 26 swaps, the team that took the berth would have fallen to 9th–13th and stayed home; the one exception is 2024 4A girls, where Gilbert still places 7th and both teams advance. 23 of the 26 qualify even if moved alone, with no team moved back. The race a team was placed in, which comes straight from its ranking, decided whether it went to state.

Exact re-score under NFHS rules using each runner's recorded time; it assumes every runner would have run the same time in the other race, and individual qualifiers are not re-modeled. Final rank = SCTCCCA final list released before the qualifier (full lists in Appendix G). Points are computed team scores; for 2021, 2023 and 2025 the actual race scores match the official timer. D1/D2 = 5A division. Two 1A girls teams (Lewisville 2022, McBee 2023) computed 9th but reached state with full teams and are not counted (Appendix C).

1.2 What an honest ranking would have changed THIS REPORT

The odd/even split is only as good as the ranking behind it. If the ranking put teams in their true order, the two races would be balanced and the top 8 in each would be the true top 16. To test that, each of the 50 race pairs from 2021–2025 was re-seeded in the **true order of the day**, the merged result, with 1st, 3rd, 5th and so on in one race and 2nd, 4th, 6th and so on in the other. Both races were then re-scored with the same runner times.

26 → 2

berths lost by top-16 teams, 2021–25

25 → 48

of 50 race pairs send exactly the merged top 16

26 of 26

squeezed-out teams qualify under true-order seeding

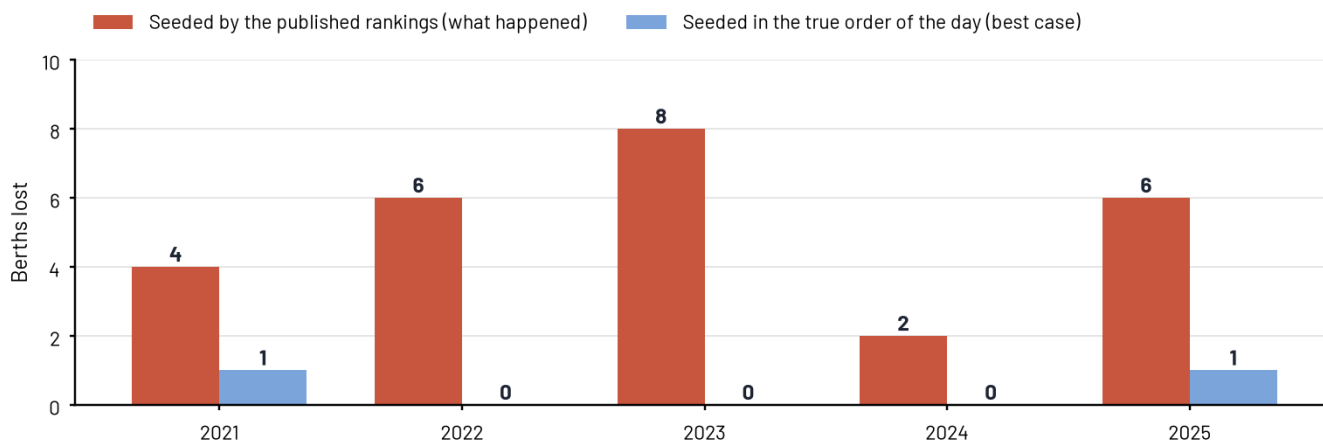


Figure 1. Top-16 teams left home each season: seeded by the published final rankings (what happened) and seeded in the true order of the day (best case). Excludes the two 1A roster cases.

Why course accuracy is part of the answer

The committee builds its ranking from season marks, and a mark is only as honest as the course it was run on. SC courses differ by several percent, most have no published measurement, and the companion report finds Starlight 2026 ran about 6.6% fast on its course index (Sections 6.1–6.4). A 3% course error is larger than the gap between the 16th and 17th teams in 43 of 46 race pairs. When marks from short or fast courses go into the ranking unadjusted, teams are misordered at exactly the place where berths are decided.

This test shows what correct order is worth: a perfectly ordered ranking would have cut lost berths from 26 to 2. Accurate courses will not get a ranking all the way there, because form changes and teams rest runners, but they remove one known, fixable source of error. Even perfect seeding left two top-16 teams home: Aiken (merged 16th, 2021 4A girls) and Stratford (15th, 2025 5A Division 1 girls). A fixed top-8 cut cannot absorb an uneven split, which is why this report pairs better seeding (Layer 2) with the 7 + 2 berth rule (Layer 1).

What these tests assume

Every runner runs the same time in a different race, although pace and tactics change with the field. True-order seeding uses hindsight, so it is the best case a ranking could reach, not a forecast. Neither test changes any official result.

THE CAUSAL CHAIN: WHY SOUTH CAROLINA NEEDS STANDARDS

The qualifier problem is the last link in a chain that begins on regular-season courses. Each link below is listed with its evidence and how strong that evidence is.

Link 1. Courses are unmeasured and unrated

THIS REPORT Athletes' regular-season races were matched by MileSplit ID to their qualifier times at The Farm (Newberry), giving a speed factor for 124 SC venues. Factors run from **0.920** (Saluda Shoals Park, about 95 s faster per 20:00) to **1.156** (Great Falls, about 187 s slower). That work found no published measurement for these venues; only a handful of SC courses have one (Section 6.3). A fast factor can mean a flat or firm course, good weather or a short course, and the method cannot tell them apart. Fast courses are therefore described here as *fast or possibly short, unverified*.

COMPANION South Carolina gives hosts "no strict, enforced measurement standard for invitational courses." That report proposes course accuracy tiers because no such rating exists today.

Link 2. Course speed distorts times and season-best lists

COMPANION In a paired-runner course speed index of 41 SC meets in 2026, eight fast, unverified (tier C) courses produced 20–24% of results but 76% of the boys' and 80% of the girls' all-class top-25 season bests. One meet, Starlight 2026, produced 64% and 56%. The companion report estimates (public-record review) that the 2026 Starlight course was most likely about 4,850–4,900 m, 2–3% short. Correcting only that meet for distance (about 3%) moves 7 boys and 5 girls out of the all-class top 25.

Link 3. The rankings committee has no course insight and no scoring standard

THIS REPORT The published final rankings are ordered lists. The 2022 rankings article says the "MileSplit SC database is analyzed to assist with the SCTCCCA rankings," but no course factor, measurement status or scoring formula is published with any list. Ranking coaches cannot know every course, and nothing in the published inputs adjusts for difficulty or distance.

COMPANION "Rankings and seeding have no field for whether a course was accurate."

Link 4. The rankings set the Odd/Even seeding

THIS REPORT In every 2021–2025 race pair checked, ranked teams' parity matched their race: consistency was 1.00 in every pair except 2021 3A girls (0.93). The 2025 rankings article adds that unranked schools "will be split evenly between the two qualifying races." The poll does more than describe the season. It decides who races whom for a berth.

Link 5. Bubble teams miss state

THIS REPORT From 2021 to 2025, 26 teams placed in the top 16 when both races were merged and re-scored but did not advance. 18 of the 26 were ranked 17th or worse. Those are the teams the poll placed just outside the berths, and a strict 8-per-race cut cannot rescue them.

INFERENCE How the links connect

A rankings committee working from raw times on unrated courses will misjudge some teams, especially mid-pack teams whose marks come mostly from very fast or very slow courses. Near the top of the poll, a misjudgment barely matters. Near the 16th/17th line, it decides which race a team runs in, and so which teams it must beat. Strict odd/even seeding cannot correct an error in its own input, and a fixed top 8 per race cannot correct an uneven split. That is why standards matter: the committee has no insight into these issues, and the qualifier format turns that blind spot into lost berths.

This report does not attribute any individual team's ranking to a specific course. That would require the committee's working inputs, which are not published. The fix in Section 8 is designed to work even if rankings stay imperfect.

SECTION 3

HOW STATE QUALIFYING WORKS TODAY

Since 2020, each SCHSL class has held a single-site state qualifier. Before 2020, South Carolina used Upper State and Lower State qualifiers on different courses and days, so those years are not compared here.

Element	Current practice
Race split	Each class/gender qualifier is run as two races, Odd and Even. In 2024–25, 5A had two divisions, each split in two; in 2026 5A is one division of 35 schools.
Seeding	Strictly by the final SCTCCCA coaches' rankings: odd-ranked teams run the Odd race, even-ranked teams the Even race. In 2026 the final list is released Sunday, Nov 1. Unranked schools are split evenly.
Team berths	Top 8 teams per race (16 total); 6 per race in 2020.
Individual berths	Top 20 individuals per race. This analysis assumes the cut is by overall place (Section 9).
Conditions	Both races on the same course, back to back, on the same day, so times are directly comparable.
Cross-race comparison	None. A team is compared only with the teams in its own race.

Source: SCHSL, Cross Country State Qualifier (2026), https://schsl.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/cross_country_state_qualifier.pdf, and the SCTCCCA final-rankings articles on MileSplit SC (Appendix E).

Why a fixed 8-per-race cut is fragile

Strict odd/even seeding is meant to balance the two races, and on average it does: no Odd/Even bias was found (Section 5.5). But balance on average is not balance at the line. Around the cut, the two races hold different numbers of the 16 strongest teams. In 23 of the 26 squeezed-out cases from 2021–2025, the team's own race held more of the merged top 16 (9 or 10) than the other race (7 or 6). A fixed 8 per race then sends the 9th-best team in the stronger race home and lets the 8th team from the weaker race in, even when that 8th team is slower.

A simple way to see it

Suppose the merged top 16 split 9–7. The stronger race can send only 8, and the weaker race must send 8, so its 8th team, really 17th overall, takes the 9th team's place. Unless seeding is perfect at the 16/17 line, this will happen. In the data, it happened in at least one race pair in every season analyzed.

SECTION 4

CASE STUDY: 2023 5A GIRLS

The 2023 5A girls qualifier (MileSplit meet 579199) is the clearest example in the data. As disclosed, it involves a team the author coached at the time. It is shown because its numbers are unusually clean, not because it is unique: 25 other teams statewide faced the same structure from 2021 to 2025.

26th

Clover's final SCTCCCA ranking, which placed it in the Even race

9th · 228

Clover's place and points in its own race

60.0 s

by which Clover's top 5 (107:48.7) beat the Odd race's last qualifier, Boiling Springs (108:48.7)

16th · 17th

merged re-score: Clover in, Boiling Springs out

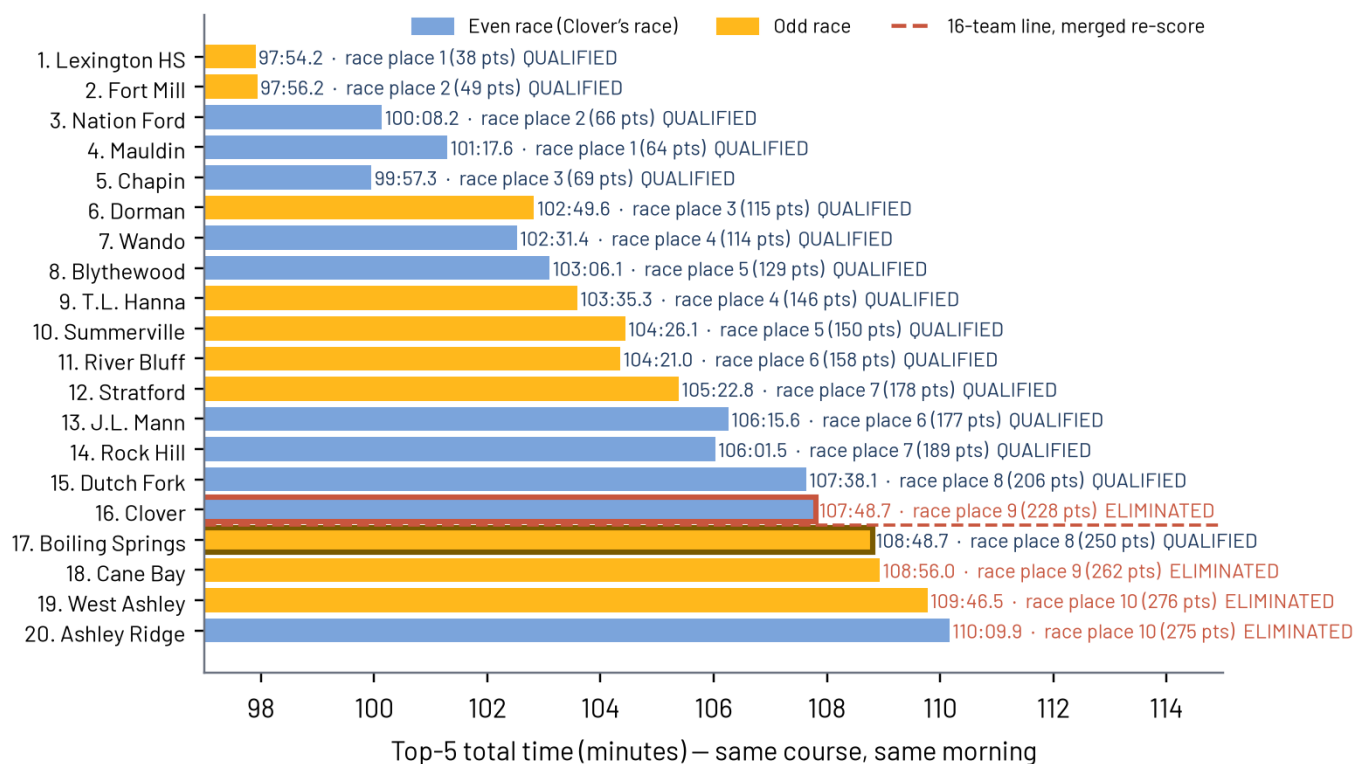
2023 5A Girls qualifier: both races merged and re-scored

Figure 2. Top-5 totals of the merged top 20, colored by race. Clover (red outline) is 16th in the merged re-score; Boiling Springs (dark outline) is 17th. Computed from MileSplit finisher lists; the 2023 race scores match the official timer.

Even race (Clover's race)

Pl.	Team	Pts	Top-5 total	Merged	Result
1	Mauldin	64	101:17.6	4	Advanced
2	Nation Ford	66	100:08.2	3	Advanced
3	Chapin	69	99:57.3	5	Advanced
4	Wando	114	102:31.4	7	Advanced
5	Blythewood	129	103:06.1	8	Advanced
6	J.L. Mann	177	106:15.6	13	Advanced
7	Rock Hill	189	106:01.5	14	Advanced
8	Dutch Fork	206	107:38.1	15	Advanced
9	Clover	228	107:48.7	16	Eliminated
10	Ashley Ridge	275	110:09.9	20	Eliminated
11	Spartanburg	296	110:59.2	21	Eliminated
12	Byrnes	301	111:16.9	23	Eliminated
13	St. James	342	114:27.5	25	Eliminated
14	Socastee	409	118:33.4	28	Eliminated
15	Woodmont	441	123:10.2	30	Eliminated

Odd race

Pl.	Team	Pts	Top-5 total	Merged	Result
1	Lexington HS	38	97:54.2	1	Advanced
2	Fort Mill	49	97:56.2	2	Advanced
3	Dorman	115	102:49.6	6	Advanced
4	T.L. Hanna	146	103:35.3	9	Advanced
5	Summerville	150	104:26.1	10	Advanced
6	River Bluff	158	104:21.0	11	Advanced
7	Stratford	178	105:22.8	12	Advanced
8	Boiling Springs	250	108:48.7	17	Advanced
9	Cane Bay	262	108:56.0	18	Eliminated
10	West Ashley	276	109:46.5	19	Eliminated
11	Sumter	310	112:15.1	22	Eliminated
12	Carolina Forest	324	113:28.6	24	Eliminated
13	Hillcrest	367	114:33.7	27	Eliminated
14	Spring Valley	369	115:34.7	26	Eliminated
15	White Knoll	444	122:03.7	29	Eliminated
16	Berkeley	460	121:26.5	31	Eliminated

Dashed line under 8th place = the qualifying cut in each race. "Merged" = place when both races' full-team runners are merged and re-scored by standard XC rules.

What the case shows, and what it does not

- **Clover was beaten fairly in its own race.** Dutch Fork placed 8th with 206 points to Clover's 228. Under the rules, Clover did not earn a berth in that race.
- **The berth went to a slower team in the other race.** Boiling Springs (ranked 15th) placed 8th in the Odd race with 250 points, more than Clover's 228, and a top-5 total 60 seconds slower.
- **The Even race was the stronger one at the line.** It held 9 of the merged top 16; the Odd race held 7.
- **The ranking was far off.** Ranked 26th, Clover finished 16th of 31 when the races were merged. The poll had no way to see that.
- **Proposal 1 fixes it without touching anyone's own-race result.** Under 7 automatic + 2 at-large, the top 7 in each race qualify, and the 2 at-large berths go to the best remaining teams in the merged re-score: Dutch Fork (15th) and Clover (16th). Boiling Springs (17th) is the first team out. No team that placed 7th or better in its race loses anything.

At state, on a different day, Clover's qualifier top 5 would have placed about 15th of 17 in a virtual insertion. This report does not claim Clover would have contended for a medal. The point is the berth, not the podium.

What a race swap would have changed THIS REPORT

Put Clover in the Odd race and Boiling Springs in the Even race, keep every runner's time, and re-score both races under NFHS rules.

Clover places 8th in the Odd race with 241 points and qualifies. Boiling Springs places 9th in the Even race and stays home. Nothing about either team changed except the race the ranking put it in.

Clover is not unusual. The same exact test was run for all 26 teams left home from 2021 to 2025, and every one of them qualifies in the other race (Section 1.1). Each team's final ranking beside its result, race by race, is in Appendix G.

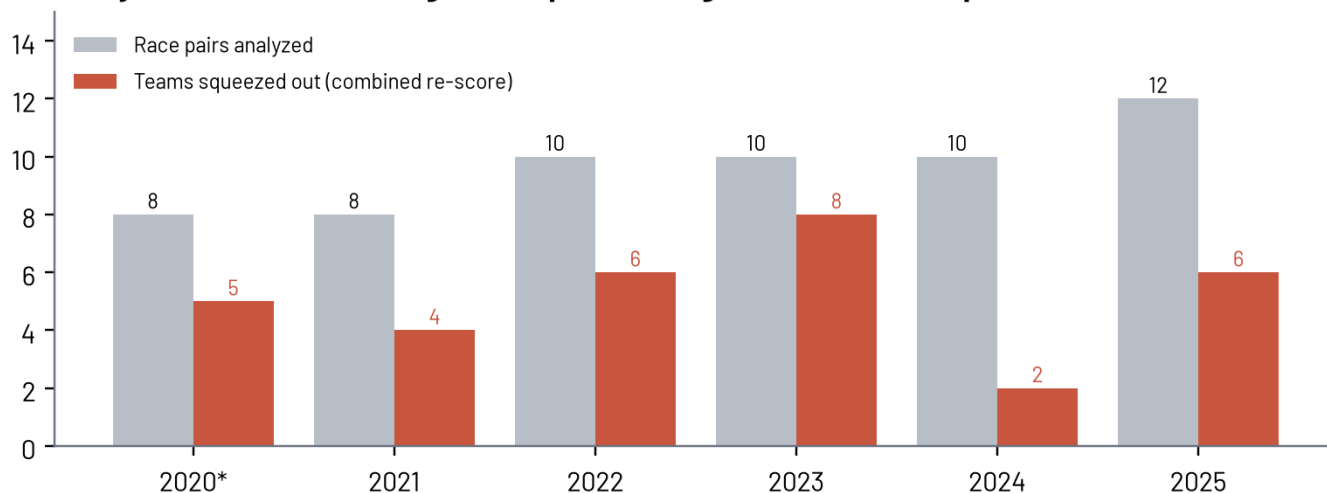
The swap assumes each runner runs the same time in the other race. The 2023 race scores used here match the official timer.

STATEWIDE EVIDENCE, 2021-2025

5.1 How often, and how many

All 23 single-site qualifier meets from 2021 to 2025 that MileSplit splits into two races were analyzed (2024 1A had no split on MileSplit and was skipped). That is 50 race pairs (class × gender, and 5A division in 2024–25). In **25 of 50** pairs, at 18 of the 23 meets, the merged re-score changes at least one qualifier. In total, **26 teams** would have advanced on a merged re-score but did not. With 2020 included (6 per race, no final rankings found), the six-season total is 31.

Every season since the single-site qualifier began, teams were squeezed out



* 2020: six teams per race advanced; no final SCTCCCA list found. 2024 1A had no split on MileSplit and is not included.

Figure 3. Race pairs analyzed and teams squeezed out per season (corrected data; Section 9).

5.2 Who gets squeezed out: the bubble

All 26 squeezed-out teams were on the SCTCCCA final list; Whale Branch Early College (2024 2A boys) was ranked 21st. **18 of the 26** were ranked 17th or worse: the bubble just outside the 16 berths, where a ranking error decides the seeding. Median rank: 18.

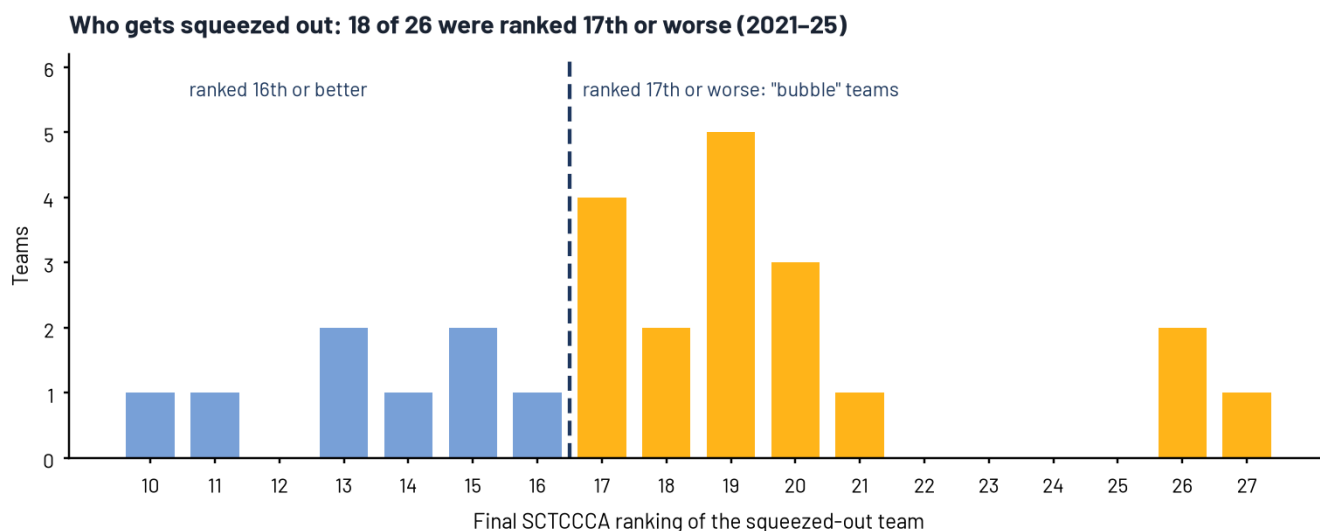


Figure 4. Final SCTCCCA ranking of each squeezed-out team, 2021–25.

5.3 Rankings vs results

Figure 5 sets each squeezed-out team's final ranking beside its merged re-score place. Several were badly underrated: **Clover 2023** (ranked 26th, merged 16th), **Boiling Springs 2022** (27th → 16th), **Central 2021** 2A girls (26th → 15th), **Nation Ford 2021** (20th → 16th), **Laurens 2023** 4A boys (19th → 14th), **South Pointe 2023** (20th → 16th), **North Central 2023** (20th → 16th) and **Whale Branch 2024** (21st → 16th). On the other side, several teams that advanced ranked well below their poll position in the merged result: **Crescent 2022** 3A boys and **Riverside 2023** 4A boys (each ranked 10th, merged 17th), **Woodruff 2023** 3A boys (14th → 18th), **York 2025** 4A girls (14th → 18th) and **Easley 2025** 5A boys (11th → 16th).

The poll said "outside the top 16"; the race said "inside"

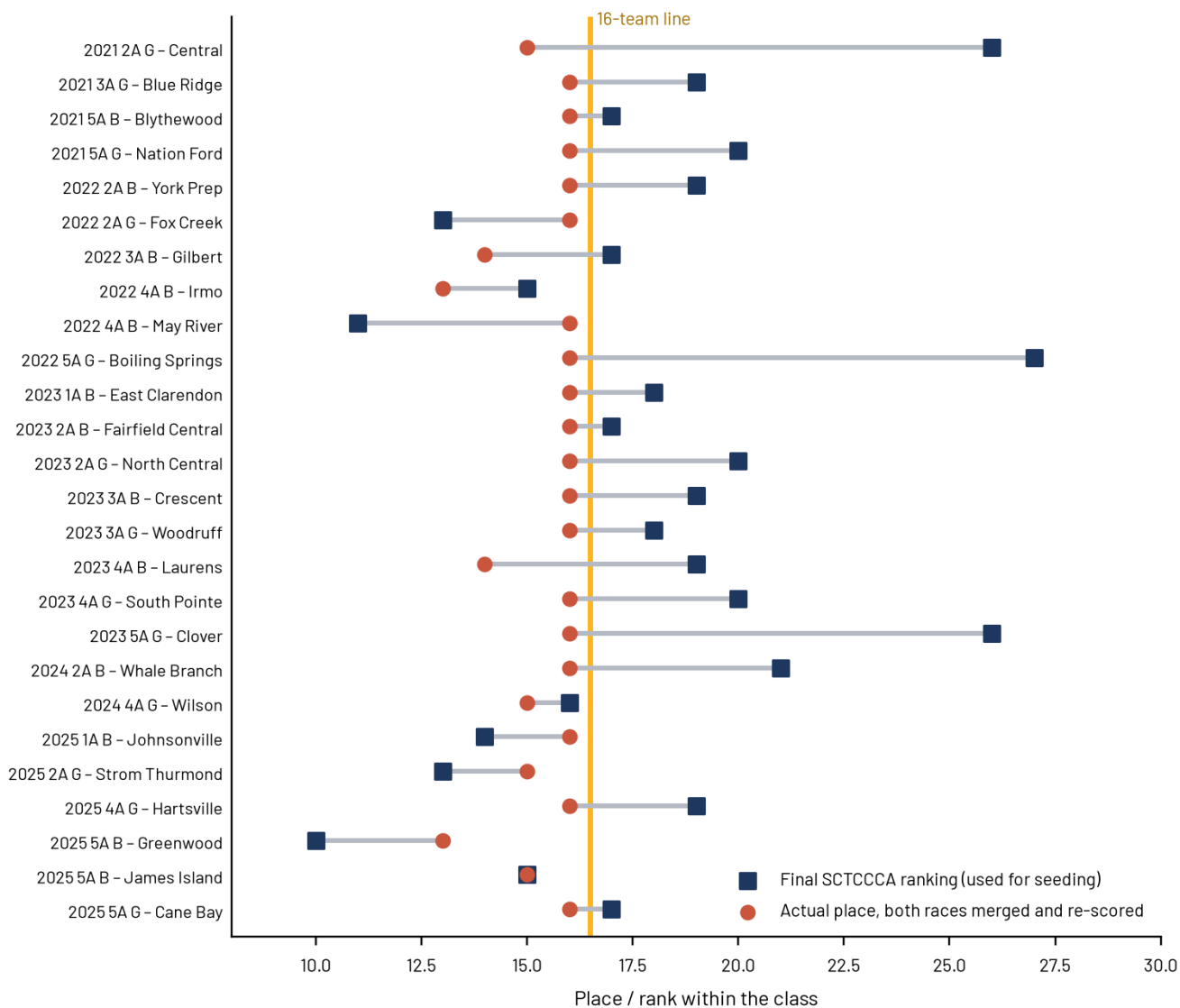


Figure 5. Final ranking (square) vs merged re-score place (circle) for every squeezed-out team, 2021–25. The gold line marks the 16 berths. A circle left of the line means the team raced its way into the top 16 but stayed home.

Not every case is a ranking error. Some squeezed-out teams were ranked inside the top 16 (for example Greenwood 2025, ranked 10th) and lost out only because their race was stacked. A berth rule that compares the races (Section 8) handles both kinds of case; better seeding alone handles only the first.

5.4 Time gaps on the same course

Test 1 asks a narrower question: did a team that missed run a faster top-5 total than a team that advanced from the other race, on the same course that morning? It did for 28 teams in 2021–2025. The largest gaps came from thin fields where the 8th qualifier was far back: Lake City (2025 2A girls) qualified with a top 5 more than 10 minutes slower than four eliminated teams (and 8 minutes slower than a fifth), and Abbeville (2022 2A girls) more than 8 minutes slower than Fox Creek and York Prep. Among boys: **York Prep 2022 2A** (233 s faster than Andrew Jackson), **Gilbert 2022 3A** (132 s faster than Crescent), **Central 2023 2A** (124 s faster than Chesterfield), **Laurens 2023 4A** (81 s faster than Riverside) and **Irmo 2022 4A** (78 s faster than South Pointe).

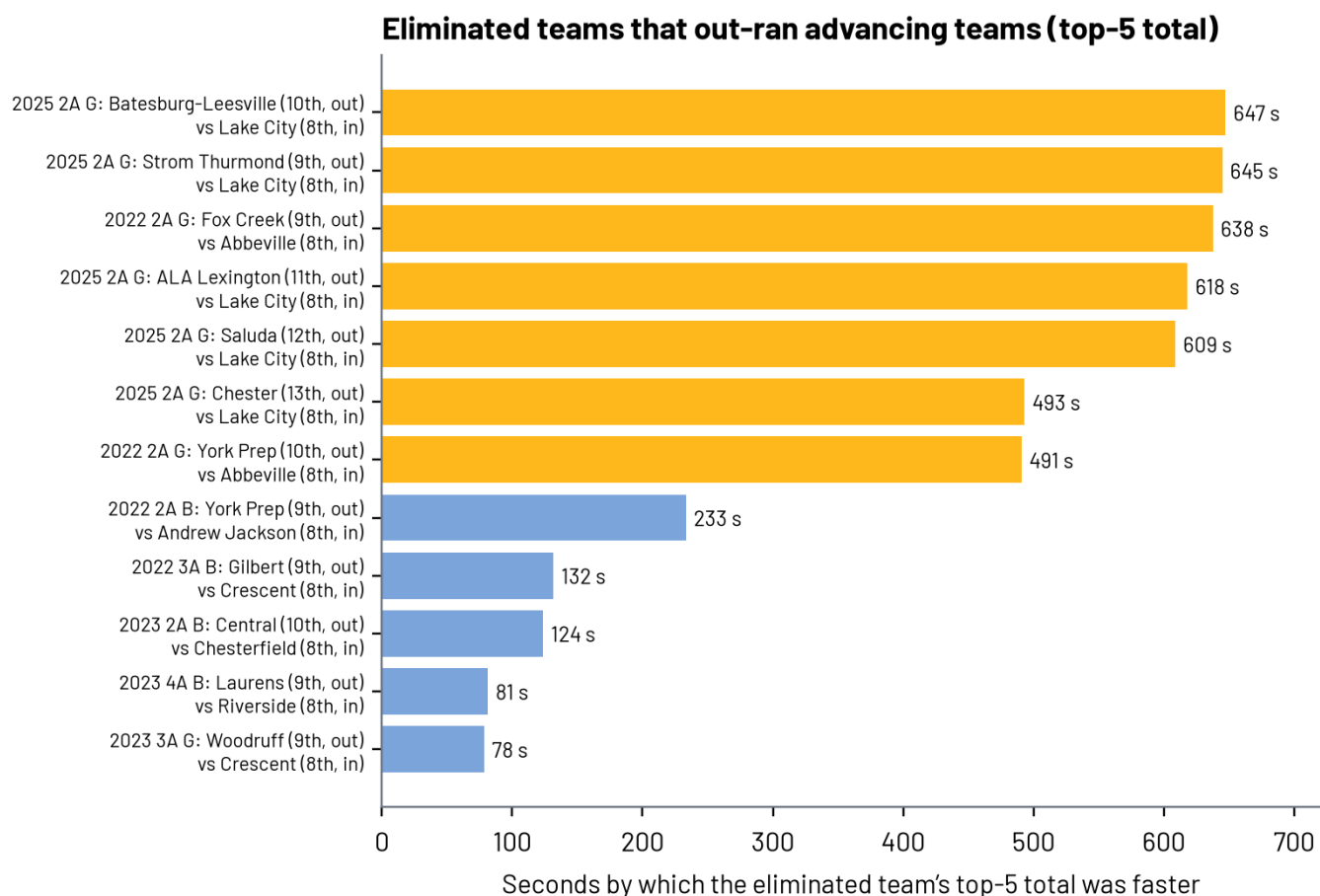


Figure 6. Largest top-5 time gaps, one row per eliminated team (largest gap shown). Gold: gaps over 5 minutes. Placing is by points, not time, so some flagged teams were legitimately behind on points in their own race.

5.5 No Odd/Even bias; individuals; state-meet context

No Odd/Even bias. The 26 squeezed-out teams split 16 from Odd races and 10 from Even races. Neither race is systematically harder. The problem is variance at the line, not a tilted draw.

Individuals. 28 runners from non-advancing teams (22 in 2021–25) placed 21st or worse but ran faster than the 20th-place time in the other race. The gaps are usually small (median 10.2 s) but reach 43 s (2022 3A boys) and 100 s (2025 1A girls). Names are omitted; schools and times are in Appendix C.

State-meet context. Each squeezed-out team's qualifier times were also inserted into that year's state race. The best virtual placements in 2021–25 were about 11th of 17 (Nation Ford 2021, Irmo 2022 4A boys, South Pointe 2023). These comparisons cross days, and often courses, so they are context only. This report's argument is about fair access to the start line, not about medals.

Data-quality correction (read before citing earlier working figures)

Earlier working summaries of this analysis listed 28 squeezed-out teams for 2021–25, including **Irmo 2024 5A boys** (virtual state about 7th) and **Wade Hampton 2024 5A girls** (about 8th), plus 35 individual cases. A record-by-record audit for this report found that MileSplit's performances file for the 2024 5A qualifier (meet 643753) had 34 boys' finishers (places 61–94) filed inside a girls' race, plus two other misfiled finishers; a similar single misfiled record exists for 2022 2A. With those records returned to their races, the 2024 5A computed qualifiers match the state-meet rosters exactly, five earlier roster mismatches disappear, and the Irmo 2024 and Wade Hampton 2024 cases and 7 individual cases no longer appear. **This report uses the corrected figures throughout:** 26 teams, 25 of 50 race pairs, 28 individual cases, 9 roster mismatches (corrected after Version 1; Appendix F).

SECTION 6

COURSE STANDARDS: WHAT THE RANKINGS COMMITTEE CANNOT SEE

6.1 Course speed across 124 SC venues THIS REPORT

For the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2025 seasons, when the qualifiers were on the Newberry course, each athlete's regular-season time was matched to the same athlete's qualifier time. For each race, the median ratio was taken and corrected for in-season improvement (a fitted trend of about 0.9% per week before the qualifier, from 1,415 races). For each venue, the median of those ratios is its course factor: 1.00 equals The Farm, and 0.95 means about 60 s faster per 20:00. The Farm's own regular-season meets validate at **1.002**. The 2024 season is excluded because its qualifiers were at Fort Jackson.

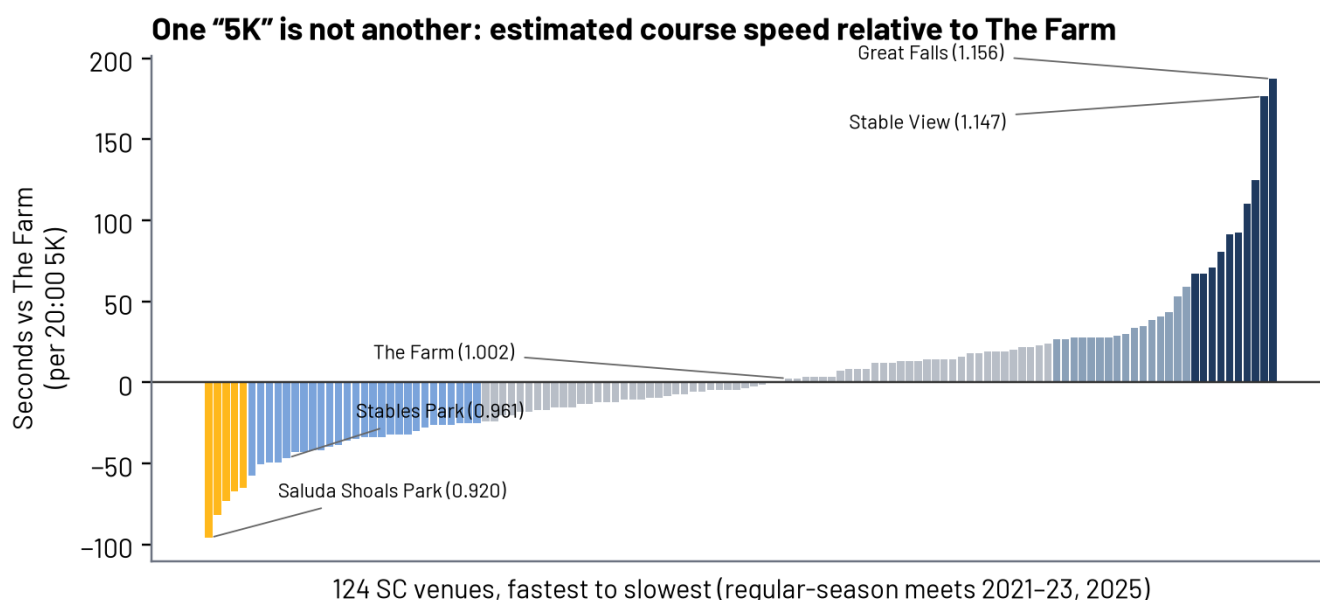


Figure 7. Estimated course factor for 124 SC venues, as seconds vs The Farm on a 20:00 5K. Gold: 5% or more faster (fast or possibly short, unverified). Navy: 5% or more slower.

Fastest (fast or possibly short, unverified)

Venue	Factor	per 20:00	Matches
Saluda Shoals Park	0.92	-95 s	305
McCormick High School	0.932	-82 s	125
Ridge-Spring Monetta HS	0.939	-73 s	138
Greenville	0.944	-67 s	99
Turbeville	0.946	-65 s	111
Pickens High School	0.952	-58 s	528
Green Sea Floyds High School	0.958	-51 s	221
Wren	0.959	-50 s	221

Slowest (hilly, soft, hot or possibly long)

Venue	Factor	per 20:00	Matches
Great Falls HS XC Course	1.156	+187 s	133
Stable View	1.147	+177 s	67
The Preserve	1.104	+125 s	292
Lake City Hs	1.092	+111 s	85
Darlington High	1.077	+93 s	101
Hampton	1.076	+91 s	203
Lancaster High School	1.067	+80 s	375
Christ Church	1.059	+71 s	164

A fast factor is not proof that a course is short. It can reflect flat or firm ground or good weather, and one MileSplit venue may host several layouts. Saluda Shoals Park, for example, hosts a USATF-certified, mostly paved route (per the companion report), so its fast factor reflects surface, not distance. Many samples are small; see Appendix D.

The spread is about 24 percentage points, roughly 4¾ minutes for a 20:00 runner. Two teams of equal fitness, one racing mostly on courses near 0.96 and the other on courses near 1.05, could post season marks about 1:50 apart per runner. Nothing in the published ranking inputs corrects for that.

6.2 Companion report: Starlight 2026, the speed index and the rankings COMPANION

Course Accuracy and Standards in SC Cross Country (Final v1.1, Christopher Young, Oct 21, 2026) studies the 2026 season in depth. Its findings are summarized here, attributed to it, and should be read with its own caveats. **It is a public-record review.**

Starlight 2026 case study (public-record review)

- The 2026 Run In Starlight Invitational (10/17/2026, Riverside HS, Greer) was listed as 5,000 m. The companion report's most likely about 4,850–4,900 m, 2–3% short (plausible 4,780–4,950 m, or 1–4.4%).
- Evidence it cites: the layout changed (it has differed every year, and in 2026 the host's description went from 3 loops to 4); 39 public watch recordings had a median of 3.01 mi, against 3.15 mi at the same venue in 2025; runners were a median 6.2% faster than their 2026 season bests; and 84% ran lifetime XC 5K PRs (30% in 2025).
- It states plainly that *no misconduct is claimed*, that places and team scores stand, that GPS is corroboration rather than measurement, and that a published wheel measurement would replace every estimate.
- Its interim recommendation: treat Starlight 2026 marks as non-standard for PRs, rankings and seeding. If a correction is used, make it distance-only, about 3%.

A season-wide course speed index (41 SC meets, 2026)

The companion report fits a paired-runner model (log time = athlete effect + meet effect – season trend) to 21,306 results from 41 SC meets in 2026, anchored to courses trusted for distance. Starlight 2026 ran 6.6% faster than the reference in the base case (about 5–9% across assumptions), the largest outlier in the state. It stays the largest when the author's own courses are removed from the reference. Other fast tier-C meets included Pickens County (–4.2%), Warrior at Pawleys Island (–3.9%), Lights Out (–3.7%), Beaufort County (–2.9%) and Yellow Jacket (–2.8%); the slowest included Electric City (+7.4%) and SCA (+6.0%). Single years are noisy: year-to-year values correlate at only $r = 0.54$.

Course accuracy ranking

To separate terrain from distance, the companion report compares each meet's speed with what its climb predicts (about +3.0% per 100 ft, approximate). Starlight's residual (–6.9%) is "the clearest outlier in the state and the only finding." Other fast residuals are labeled "check distance," not "short."

How course speed distorts the rankings

Companion finding (2026 data set; indicative, not official rankings)	Value
Share of 2026 results from the 8 fast, unverified courses	20–24%
Share of all-class top-25 season bests from those courses (boys / girls)	76% / 80%
From Starlight 2026 alone (boys / girls)	64% / 56%
Leave the all-class top 25 when only Starlight is corrected for distance (3%)	7 boys / 5 girls (range 2–13 / 1–5)
4A girls top 25 from the 8 courses	80%

The companion report proposes course accuracy tiers: **A** certified, **B** measured and documented, **B*** measured by a coach with no public record yet, **C** unverified (not proof of short) and **X** irregular race. It adds a surface/terrain tag, a re-measure trigger when a course moves more than 2 points between years, and a numeric tolerance such as Missouri's ±30 m. Section 8 uses the same terms.

6.3 What the committee has, and what it lacks

Input a fair seeding needs	Available to the rankings committee today	Proposed (Section 8)
Course distance status	None published; outside a few courses in the companion report, no measurement was found.	Course tier (A/B/B*/C/X) on every meet page and result

Input a fair seeding needs	Available to the rankings committee today	Proposed (Section 8)
Course difficulty / speed	None. Coaches rely on personal knowledge of the courses they have seen.	Annual published course factors with sample sizes
A scoring standard for rankings	None published. Final lists are ordered names; MileSplit data is "analyzed to assist" (2022 article).	A course-adjusted virtual meet, with the poll as tiebreaker only
Head-to-head results	Known informally	Captured inside the virtual meet
Accountability afterward	None. Past polls are not compared with qualifier results.	Annual audit, as in Sections 4-5

Why this is not a criticism of the ranking coaches

Ranking 30 or 40 teams per class and gender from raw times on courses that vary by several percent, many of which the ranking coaches have never seen, is close to impossible. The 2023 5A girls ranking missed Clover by 10 places. That kind of miss comes from the structural blind spot, not from anyone's judgment. The fix is to give the committee data, and to stop asking a poll to carry the full weight of the qualifier.

Even a perfect, course-adjusted ranking would leave variance at the line: a team can have a bad day, and race strength around the cut will never balance exactly. That is why the first and strongest layer of the proposal acts at the qualifier itself, where both races run on the same course on the same morning.

6.4 Why course accuracy decides berths THIS REPORT

Sections 6.1–6.3 show that SC courses differ by several percent and that the committee cannot see it. How big a difference does it take to move a team across the 16th-place line? Much less than the course differences already documented.

The margin at the bubble

Across the 46 race pairs from 2021–2025 with 19 or more full teams, the merged 16th- and 17th-place teams were separated by a median of **9.3 seconds per runner** (middle half 0.4–19.9 s). The six teams from 14th to 19th were separated by a median of 54 seconds per runner.

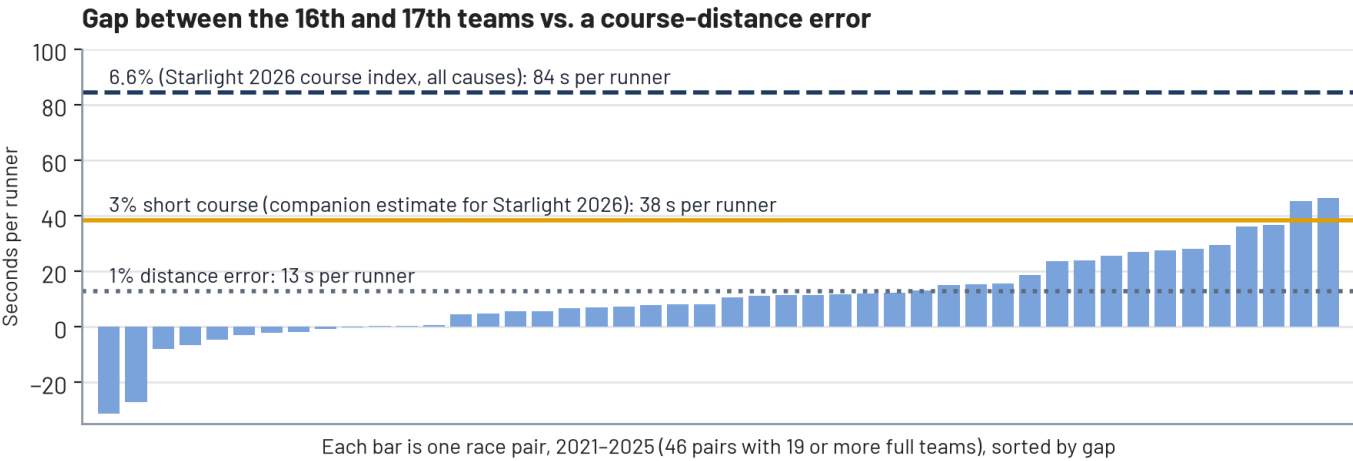


Figure 8. Per-runner gap (top-5 total + 5) between the merged 16th and 17th teams in each race pair. Bars below zero mean the 16th team on points had a slower top-5 total, which can happen because teams are placed by points. Lines use the median 16th-place runner time, 21:18. Computed from MileSplit finisher lists; for 2021, 2023 and 2025 the race scores match the official timer.

A course 3% short takes about 38 seconds off a 21:18 runner. That is more than the 16th/17th gap in **43 of 46** race pairs. A 1% error, about 50 m on a 5K, is more than the gap in 28 of 46. Starlight 2026's full course index (–6.6%, all causes, from the companion report) is larger than the gap in all 46.

The poll is good, but not at the line

For 2021–2025, the SCTCCCA final rankings could be matched to 48 race pairs (1,340 ranked teams). Overall, the poll tracks the merged result well (Spearman $p = 0.94$), and the top 4 are rarely off by more than a place. At the line it is a different story: **93 teams finished on the other side of the 16th line from their ranking**, about 2 per race pair. Of these, 55 ranked 17th or worse finished in the merged top 16, and 38 ranked in the top 16 finished outside it.

Final rank	1–4	5–8	9–12	13–16	17–20	21–24
Teams	189	195	192	186	175	157
Median places between rank and merged result	1	2	2	2	1	2
Off by 4 or more places	7%	16%	22%	20%	25%	26%

What this means for 2026 INFERENCE

The 2026 qualifiers are at The Farm, Newberry, on November 6–7. The SCTCCCA list released Sunday, November 1 sets the Odd and Even races, and the top 8 teams and top 20 individuals in each race advance (SCHSL). The committee "researches meets, virtual meets and more on MileSplit SC" (MileSplit SC). The November 1 list is the first one released after Starlight 2026 (October 17). The companion report estimates that course was about 2–3% short, and it supplied 64% of the boys' and 56% of the girls' all-class top-25 season bests. A 2–3% error is larger than the bubble margin in most race pairs. The companion report asks that Starlight 2026 marks be treated as non-standard in the November 1 inputs.

SECTION 7

HOW OTHER STATES AND BODIES HANDLE THIS

None of the associations or systems reviewed for this report fills cross country team berths by comparing two races of the same qualifier on time or merged score. But each element of the proposal has precedent somewhere.

Body	Relevant practice	Lesson for SC
Georgia (GHSA)	Sectionals advance 12 teams and the first 20 individuals per sectional. Races are grouped by region (geography), not by poll; for example, the 2026 6A sectional at FoxHall runs two race groups by region.	Splitting races need not depend on a poll.
North Carolina (NCHSAA)	Geographic regionals advance the top 6 teams and the top 7 individuals not on those teams (2026–27; formerly top 25% or top 4). A school that qualifies 5 or more individuals but not a team is scored as a team at state.	Score 5+ individual qualifiers as a team.
Michigan (MHSAA)	The top 3 teams per regional qualify. A 4th qualifies if it has 4 or more runners in the top 20 and at least 8 complete teams ran; maximum 4.	A conditional, performance-based extra berth is workable.
Florida (FHSAA)	Cross country: top 8 teams and 4 individuals per regional, by place. Track and field (from 2018): top 4 per region plus 8 wildcards by time or mark across four regionals held at the same time.	Time-based at-large berths across simultaneous races already exist next door.
Kansas (KSHSAA); Missouri (MSHSAA)	Kansas requires a 5K at sub-state and state, measured along the shortest route. Missouri's district guidelines set a ± 30 m tolerance (cited in the companion report).	Written measurement standards and tolerances exist.
NCAA Division I	Regional automatic berths plus 14 at-large selections on head-to-head and common opponents, supported by the Kolas tool and the USTFCCA CCRI.	Automatic + at-large is the national norm.
Rating systems	Tully Runners speed ratings (race corrections from runners' prior ratings); MileSplit's Course Rating System (multiplicative course factors with a season trend); the XCStats course converter; Racecast (venue difficulty solved jointly).	Course adjustment is established, published method.

Sources are in Appendix E. GHSA, NCHSAA, MHSAA and FHSAA provisions were checked against their public documents on Oct 19, 2026. Associations change rules yearly; confirm against the current handbook before citing.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

8.1 The four-layer framework

The layers are ordered by how directly they protect a berth. Layer 1 alone would have fixed almost every case in the data, and it costs nothing. Layers 2–4 reduce how often Layer 1 is needed and make the whole system checkable.

LAYER 1 · SCHSL BERTHS	• Top 7 teams in each race qualify automatically (14 total). • The last 2 berths go to the best 2 remaining teams across both races by a merged re-score of both races' full-team runners, with fixed tie rules. • Individuals: top 18 per race + 4 at-large by time across both races. Schools with 5+ individual qualifiers are scored as teams at state.
LAYER 2 · SCTCCCA SEEDING	• Seed from a course-adjusted, data-driven virtual meet (each team's adjusted top 5). • Serpentine placement (1-4-5-8-9... / 2-3-6-7-10...) instead of strict odd/even. • Coaches' poll used only as a tiebreaker and for teams with too little data.
LAYER 3 · ALL DATA STANDARDS	• Course accuracy tiers (companion report): A certified · B measured · B* coach-measured · C unverified · X irregular. • Wheel-measured on the shortest legal route (NFHS 8-1-1): 5,000 m, never knowingly short, within a tolerance no wider than +1% (Missouri's ±30 m as the model). • Annual published course factors with sample sizes; unverified (C) marks down-weighted; re-measure check when a course moves more than 2 points year to year.
LAYER 4 · SCHSL + SCTCCCA TRANSPARENCY	• Publish the virtual-meet inputs, course factors and seeding by a fixed date, with a 24-hour appeal window for data errors. • Annual audit: rerun the Section 5 analysis on official results and publish it.

8.2 Layer 1, Berths: 7 automatic + 2 at-large

Why 7 + 2. Seven automatic berths per race keep the value of racing your own race: every team that places 7th or better is unaffected. Two at-large berths cover the realistic imbalance at the line, a 9-7 or 10-6 split of the merged top 16. The total stays at 16.

Why a merged re-score, not raw top-5 time. Cross country is scored by place, and a merged re-score keeps that principle: every full-team runner from both races goes into one result, ordered by time, and the result is scored normally. Raw top-5 time is simpler, but it ignores the 6th and 7th runners' displacement, and in the backtest it picked a different team in several cases (Section 8.3). Top-5 time is kept as the second tiebreaker.

Tie rules. (1) Merged re-score points; (2) the merged place of each team's 6th runner, the standard XC tiebreak; (3) the lower combined top-5 time; (4) the better place in the team's own race; (5) a coin toss by the meet referee.

Worked example: 2023 5A girls under 7 + 2

Automatic (14): the Even race's top 7 (Mauldin, Nation Ford, Chapin, Wando, Blythewood, J.L. Mann, Rock Hill) and the Odd race's top 7 (Lexington, Fort Mill, Dorman, T.L. Hanna, Summerville, River Bluff, Stratford). **Remaining teams by merged re-score:** Dutch Fork 15th (440 pts), Clover 16th (466), Boiling Springs 17th (483), Cane Bay 18th (496). **At-large (2):** Clover and Dutch Fork. **Result compared with today:** Clover in, Boiling Springs out. Dutch Fork qualifies either way.

8.3 Backtest, 2021–2025 THIS REPORT

The 7 + 2 rule was applied to all 50 race pairs, using scores computed from MileSplit finisher lists. **These are unofficial scores.**

Backtest 2021–25: squeezed-out teams that would have qualified

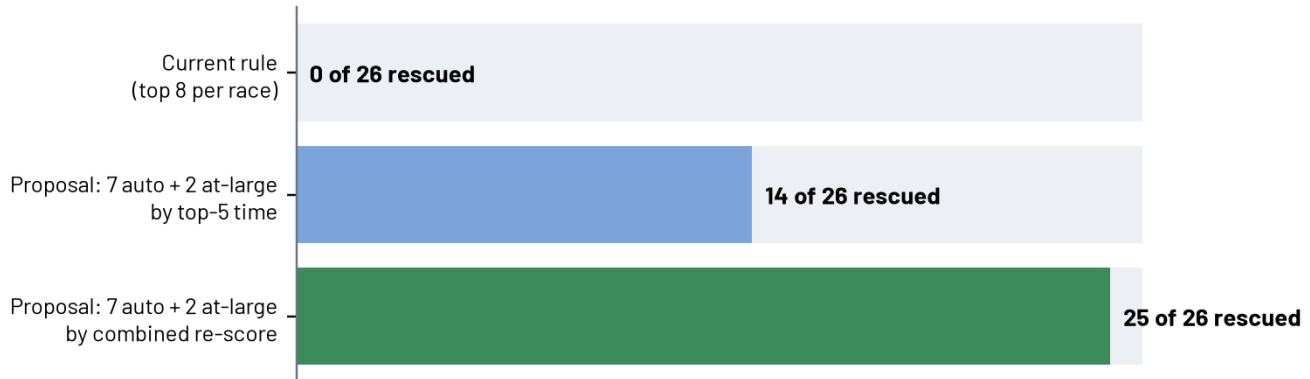


Figure 9. Squeezed-out teams (2021–25) that would have qualified under each version of the rule. Computed from MileSplit results; 2021, 2023 and 2025 match the official timer.

- **Merged re-score at-large: 25 of 26** squeezed-out teams would have qualified, and no team outside the merged top 16 would have been added. The one exception is **May River, 2022 4A boys** (merged 16th). Its race also held Irmo (merged 13th) and James Island (merged 14th, 8th in race), while West Florence placed 7th in the other race and keeps an automatic berth despite a merged 18th. Two at-large berths cannot cover a 10–6 split; a 6 + 4 variant would, at the cost of weaker automatic berths.
- **Top-5 time at-large: 14 of 26**, and it would have admitted 6 teams that do not rank in the merged top 16. Time alone is a weaker test than a re-score.
- **2020** (6 per race, so 5 automatic + 2): 5 of 5 rescued.
- **Individuals (18 + 4)**: all 22 flagged 2021–25 individuals would have advanced. Total individual berths are unchanged; up to 4 per race pair move from 19th–20th place in one race to faster runners from the other.

Per-team results: Appendix B and data/corrected/proposal_simulation.csv.

8.4 Layers 2–4: Seeding, Data standards, Transparency

Layer 2. Seeding: a course-adjusted virtual meet

1. **Inputs.** Each runner's 5,000 m marks: tier A, B and B* at face value; tier C adjusted by the published course factor and down-weighted (for example, counted only when no A/B mark exists in the runner's last 3 races); tier X excluded.
2. **Season adjustment.** Adjust each mark to the qualifier date with a published in-season trend. This project's estimate is about 0.9% per week; the companion report uses –2.5% per 30 days as its base case and shows the range.
3. **Team value.** Each team's top 5 adjusted marks, using either the best or the average of the last 2–3 races, fixed in advance.
4. **Order and split.** Rank teams by virtual-meet score and break ties with the coaches' poll. Assign races by serpentine: Race A gets 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16...; Race B gets 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15...
5. **Exceptions.** Teams with too few qualifying marks are placed by the poll, as today.

Layer 3. Data standards (aligned with the companion report)

- **Measure:** a calibrated wheel on the shortest legal route (NFHS Rule 8-1-1), measured twice or by two people. No GPS, phone apps or online maps as the final measure. Re-measure after any layout change.
- **Publish:** the map, measured distance, measurer, method and date on the meet page before the meet (the USATF Rule 251.2 principle).
- **Tier and flag:** results platforms (MileSplit SC, SCRRunners) show the A/B/B*/C/X tier and a surface/terrain tag next to each mark. Safety re-routes are reported at the actual distance and listed as X, as the 2026 Clover Classic boys' varsity race was (reported as 3 miles).
- **Factor:** the SCTCCCA publishes paired-runner course factors each October, with sample sizes. A course that runs more than 2 points faster than its terrain explains, or moves more than 2 points year to year, gets a re-measure check: a prompt to check, not a verdict.

- **Championship courses:** qualifier and state courses must be tier A or B.

Layer 4. Transparency

- Publish the virtual-meet inputs, course factors, rankings and race assignments by a fixed time (for example, 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday the final list is released), with a **24-hour appeal window** limited to data errors: a wrong mark, a wrong course tier or missing results.
- Score schools with 5 or more individual qualifiers as teams at state.
- After each season, publish an audit of how many teams the seeding and berth rules cost, or gave, a berth, computed from official results.

8.5 Draft rule language

A starting text for the SCHSL rules process. Bracketed numbers are policy choices.

Cross Country State Qualifier: Advancement

1. Races. Each classification and gender qualifier shall be run as two races on the same course on the same day. Teams shall be assigned to races as provided in Section 3.

2. Automatic team qualifiers. The first [seven (7)] placing teams in each race shall advance to the State Championship.

3. At-large team qualifiers. The remaining [two (2)] team berths shall be awarded as follows. Immediately after both races are final, the official timer shall produce a combined result of all runners from both races who are members of teams with five or more finishers, ordered by time, scored by NFHS cross country rules (the first seven runners of each team are placed; the first five score). Of the teams that did not qualify under paragraph 2, the [two] with the lowest combined scores shall advance.

4. Ties. Ties in the combined result shall be broken by (a) the combined place of each team's sixth runner; (b) the lower combined time of each team's first five runners; (c) the better place in the team's own race; (d) a coin toss conducted by the meet referee.

5. Individual qualifiers. The first [eighteen (18)] individuals in each race shall advance. The [four (4)] individuals with the fastest times across both races who do not otherwise advance shall also advance. A school that qualifies five or more individuals but not a team shall be scored as a team at the State Championship.

6. Results. The race results and the combined result shall be posted together and become official together. Places, scores and awards within each race are not affected by the combined result.

7. Conditions. If the meet referee declares a material change in conditions between the two races (for example, a weather delay), paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not apply and the first [eight (8)] teams in each race shall advance.

Section 3. Race assignment

Teams shall be ordered by a seeding list published by [the SCTCCCA] no later than [6:00 p.m. on the Sunday before the qualifier]. The list shall be based on a published virtual meet of each team's top five season marks, adjusted for course and season as set out in the published method. The coaches' poll shall be used to break ties and to place teams without sufficient marks. Teams shall be assigned in serpentine order (1, 4, 5, 8, 9... to Race A; 2, 3, 6, 7, 10... to Race B). Data-error appeals may be submitted for 24 hours after publication.

Course standard (for marks used in seeding, and for qualifier and state courses)

A course listed as 5,000 m shall be measured with a calibrated wheel along the shortest possible route a runner may take (NFHS 8-1-1) and shall be not less than 5,000 m and not more than [5,050 m]. The measurer, method, date and map shall be posted with the meet information. Results from courses without a posted measurement shall be identified as unverified.

8.6 Implementation timeline and responsibilities

When	Action	Responsible
Now (2026, before the Nov 1 release)	Publish the inputs used for the final 2026 list. Follow the companion report's interim treatment of Starlight 2026 marks (non-standard).	SCTCCCA rankings committee; companion report author
Nov-Dec 2026	Post-season audit of the 2026 qualifiers with official results (Section 5 method); share with SCHSL staff.	SCTCCCA, using this report's code
Jan-Mar 2027	Take Layer 1 (7 + 2, 18 + 4) and the 5+ individuals rule through the SCHSL rules process for the 2027 season; confirm the timer can produce a combined result.	SCHSL cross country staff and rules process; timing contractor

When	Action	Responsible
Spring–Summer 2027	Course-measurement clinic; public registry of measured courses; course-tier field added on MileSplit SC and SCRRunners.	SCTCCCA; meet hosts; results platforms
Aug–Oct 2027	Hosts post measurement statements and maps; first published course factors (October); virtual-meet seeding run alongside the poll.	Meet hosts; SCTCCCA
Nov 2027	First qualifiers under 7 + 2; seeding list and inputs published on the fixed date, with the appeal window.	SCHSL; SCTCCCA
2028 onward	Virtual-meet seeding becomes primary, with the poll as tiebreaker; qualifier and state courses tier A/B; annual audit published.	SCHSL; SCTCCCA

8.7 Objections and responses

Objection	Response
"The two races run at different times, so conditions differ."	They run back to back on the same course, minutes apart. That gap is far smaller than the gaps between the regular-season courses the poll compares today. Only 2 berths depend on the comparison, and only among teams already outside their race's top 7. If the referee declares a material change in conditions, the draft rule falls back to 8 + 8 for that meet.
"XC is scored by place, not time."	The merged re-score is place scoring: one combined result, scored by NFHS rules. Time only orders runners from the two races into that result, exactly as it orders runners within one race.
"It devalues winning your own race."	Places 1–7 in each race are untouched; only the 8th berth becomes competitive across races. In the backtest, the rule never removed a team that placed 7th or better.
"Cost."	Layer 1 costs nothing, because timing software already produces combined results. Wheel measurement needs a calibrated wheel, a modest one-time purchase per host or region, and a few hours per layout. Course factors can be computed from public results.
"Course measurement is a burden on hosts."	Many hosts already know their distance; the standard asks them to post it. Hosts can move from C to B at any time by publishing a measurement. Tier C is a label, not a penalty, and marks are down-weighted for seeding only.
"Just fix the rankings."	Better seeding helps (Layer 2) but will never be perfect at the 16/17 line. Several squeezed-out teams were ranked inside the top 16 and lost only because their race was stacked (for example, Greenwood 2025, ranked 10th). A berth rule that compares the races is needed either way.
"Results will take longer to become official."	The combined result is one extra report from the same timing data, available as soon as the second race is final.
"Teams could game it."	Teams still run to place as high as possible in their own race, and a better own-race place also improves the merged score. Virtual-meet inputs are published and appealable, which leaves less room for gaming than an unpublished poll does.
"These numbers are unofficial."	Partly: 2021, 2023 and 2025 match the official timer (Appendix F). The SCHSL can rerun the method on official results; correct this report wherever they differ.
"Fast courses are legitimate."	Agreed. A flat, fast course is legitimate when its distance is documented (companion report). The standard asks for documentation, not for slower courses.

METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Data

The data cover every "State Qualifier" meet on sc.milesplit.com for 2020–2025 (28 meets) and every SCHSL state championship for those years, used to check who advanced. They were downloaded from MileSplit's public meet pages and per-meet performances data (name, team, time and place for every finisher). Final pre-qualifier SCTCCA rankings for 2021–2025 were parsed from MileSplit SC articles; the 2021 and 2025 lists came from the PDFs linked there. No 2020 list was found.

Method

1. **Races.** The performances data carry no race label, so finishers were grouped into races wherever the place resets to 1, and gender was assigned by median time. Odd/Even labels were inferred: in each pair, the race holding the #1-ranked team is Odd. The 5A divisions of 2024–25 were paired by which state-meet division their teams went to.
2. **Scoring.** Standard XC: teams with 5 or more finishers score; the first 7 runners per team are placed; places 1–5 score; ties are broken by the 6th runner.
3. **Who advanced.** The computed top 8 per race (top 6 in 2020), checked against teams with 5+ runners at the state meet.
4. **Test 1 (top-5 time).** For each team that missed: every advancing team from the other race with a slower top-5 total.
5. **Test 2 (merged re-score).** Both races' full-team runners were merged and re-scored, and the top K (K = berths) compared with who advanced. A team is "squeezed out" if it ranks in the merged top K but did not advance.
6. **Individuals.** A runner from a non-advancing team who placed 21st or worse but ran faster than the other race's 20th-place time.
7. **Backtest.** Proposal 1 applied to the same computed results (Section 8.3).

Limitations

- **Unofficial scores.** Team scores are computed from MileSplit finisher lists, not official SCHSL scores. For 2021, 2023 and 2025 they match the official timer exactly. In 2022 and 2024, all places match in the 33 of 40 races with official files.
- **Roster mismatches.** In 7 race-pair checks (9 team rows; Appendix C), the computed qualifiers differ from the full teams at state. The usual cause is a qualifier that brought fewer than 5 runners to state, or missing data. These are unverified.
- **2025 1A girls** state data: MileSplit's performance file for that state meet is out of order, but the official results show every computed 1A girls qualifier except Great Falls ran as a full team. **2020** data are partial, and 2020 had no final rankings list.
- **2024 1A** had no Odd/Even split on MileSplit and is excluded.
- **Race labels are inferred** (Odd/Even), though seeding parity was consistent: 1.00 in every pair except 2021 3A girls (0.93).
- **Individual cut.** The individual test assumes the top 20 by overall place advance. If the SCHSL excludes runners on qualifying teams from the 20, the counts would differ.
- **"Plausible mis-seed" flags** in Appendix A are heuristics, not proof; "stacked race" is nearly built into the definition of a squeezed team.
- **Course factors** cannot tell a short course from a fast (flat or firm) course or from good weather. One venue ID may cover several layouts, and many venues have small samples. They cover the 2021–23 and 2025 regular seasons; 2024 was excluded because its qualifiers were at Fort Jackson.
- **Causation.** This report shows that rankings near the cut were often far from race results, and that the format cannot correct them. It does not show that any specific team's ranking was caused by any specific course.
- **Companion findings** are summarized from that report and carry its caveats. It is a public-record review.
- **Race-swap and true-order tests** (Sections 1.1–1.2) assume every runner runs the same time in a different race. True-order seeding uses hindsight: it shows the best case a ranking could reach, not a forecast. Individual qualifiers are not re-modeled.

Data-quality correction applied in this report

An audit of every performances file for out-of-order places found misfiled records in two meets. **2024 5A (643753):** boys' places 61–94 of one race were filed after a girls' race; one boys' finisher (place 17) sat in the other boys' race; one girls' finisher (place 81) sat in another girls' race. **2022 2A (500043):** one boys' finisher (place 9) sat in a girls' race. Each record was returned to the race whose place sequence it completes; the patch is in report/src/seg.py. After the correction, all 2024 5A computed qualifiers match the state rosters. Corrected outputs are in report/data/corrected/; the original project files are unchanged.

CONCLUSION

This is why South Carolina must have better standards: our ranking committee has no insight into these issues. It cannot see which courses are a full 5,000 m, which run fast or slow, or how far apart two "5K" marks really are, and it has no published scoring standard for turning those marks into an order. Yet that order decides which race a team runs at the state qualifier, and a fixed top 8 in each race then turns any error at the bubble into a lost berth.



The evidence from 2021 to 2025 is consistent. In 25 of 50 race pairs, merging the two races, run on the same course on the same morning, changes who should advance. The teams hurt are mostly bubble teams the poll placed just outside the cut, and the cause is variance at the line, not a tilted draw. The 2023 5A girls case, in which a team ran 60 seconds faster than a qualifier and stayed home, is one of 26.

The solution does not require anyone to have been wrong, and it takes nothing from any team that places 7th or better in its race. Award 7 automatic berths per race and 2 at-large berths by a merged re-score, and the backtest rescues 25 of 26. Then fix the inputs: measured and tiered courses, published course factors, data-driven, course-adjusted seeding, and a public, appealable process with an annual audit. These standards give the rankings committee the insight it now lacks, and give every South Carolina team a fair chance to earn its place on the state-meet start line.

Invitation

Corrections, official scores and course-measurement data are welcome. The code and data needed to reproduce every number in this report are available from the author on request (Appendix E). This version was re-verified independently (Appendix F), and the author will gladly rerun the analysis on official SCHSL results.

APPENDIX A

ALL FLAGGED TEAMS, 2020-2025 (CORRECTED DATA)

One row per team flagged by Test 1 or Test 2 (45 rows). "Merged top-K" = inside the merged re-score's qualifying places. Virtual state = the team's qualifier times inserted into that year's state race (different day; context only). Seeding signals are heuristics. Scores are unofficial. Source: data/corrected/affected_teams_full.csv.

Qualifier	Team	Rank	Race	Pl.	Pts	Top-5	Merged	Merged top-K	Last qualifier, other race (top-5)	Virtual state	Seeding signal (heuristic)
2020 3A B	Clinton	-	unknown	7	151	91:35.1	10	IN	Waccamaw (91:44.1)	12 of 13	stacked: 7 of combined top 12 in its race vs 5 in other
2020 3A G	Oceanside Collegiate Academy	-	unknown	7	183	116:33.3	12	IN	Southside (115:23.0)	13 of 13	stacked: 7 of combined top 12 in its race vs 5 in other
2020 4A B	Hartsville	-	unknown	7	163	89:00.6	11	IN	Irmo (89:00.3)	8 of 13	no clear seeding signal
2020 4A B	Walhalla	-	unknown	7	159	88:54.5	13	out	Greenville (89:27.0)	7 of 13	no clear seeding signal
2020 4A B	West Florence	-	unknown	8	164	89:13.4	15	out	Greenville (89:27.0)	7 of 13	no clear seeding signal
2020 4A B	Lucy Beckham	-	unknown	9	177	89:18.9	17	out	Greenville (89:27.0)	8 of 13	no clear seeding signal
2020 5A G	Mauldin	-	unknown	7	167	104:28.7	11	IN	Hillcrest (104:43.5)	10 of 13	stacked: 7 of combined top 12 in its race vs 5 in other
2020 A/AA G	Palmetto Scholars	-	unknown	7	193	121:36.1	12	IN	Wade Hampton (H) (120:29.0)	9 of 12	stacked: 7 of combined top 12 in its race vs 5 in other
2021 2A G	Central	26	Even	9	219	133:36.7	15	IN	Greenville Tech Charter (132:32.5)	13 of 17	underrated: ranked 26 but combined place 15
2021 3A G	Blue Ridge	19	Odd	9	230	119:11.9	16	IN	Woodruff (120:27.6)	12 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2021 5A B	Blythewood	17	Odd	9	259	90:05.2	16	IN	Ashley Ridge (90:01.7)	15 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2021 5A G	Nation Ford	20	Even	9	228	106:11.2	16	IN	Blythewood (106:51.9)	11 of 17	underrated: ranked 20 but combined place 16 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2022 2A B	York Prep	19	Odd	9	225	102:47.4	16	IN	Andrew Jackson (106:40.7)	17 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2022 2A B	Chesnee	15	Odd	10	236	106:39.6	17	out	Andrew Jackson (106:40.7)	16 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2022 2A G	Fox Creek	13	Odd	9	228	128:58.7	16	IN	Abbeville (139:36.4)	16 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2022 2A G	York Prep	25	Odd	10	240	131:25.6	17	out	Abbeville (139:36.4)	16 of 17	underrated: ranked 25 but combined place 17 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2022 3A B	Gilbert	17	Odd	9	223	95:33.1	14	IN	Crescent (97:44.6)	13 of 16	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other Crescent overrated: ranked 10, combined 17
2022 4A B	Irmo	15	Odd	9	196	92:44.9	13	IN	South Pointe (94:03.1)	11 of 17	stacked: 10 of combined top 16 in its race vs 6 in other
2022 4A B	May River	11	Odd	10	202	93:01.2	16	IN	South Pointe (94:03.1)	14 of 17	stacked: 10 of combined top 16 in its race vs 6 in other
2022 5A G	Boiling Springs	27	Odd	9	263	110:58.4	16	IN	Byrnes (110:42.7)	16 of 17	underrated: ranked 27 but combined place 16 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2023 1A B	East Clarendon	18	Even	9	232	115:22.9	16	IN	Ridge Spring - Monetta (116:03.8)	15 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2023 2A B	Fairfield Central	17	Odd	9	247	106:48.7	16	IN	Chesterfield (106:35.9)	14 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2023 2A B	Central	23	Odd	10	268	104:32.3	17	out	Chesterfield (106:35.9)	16 of 17	underrated: ranked 23 but combined place 17 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2023 2A G	North Central	20	Even	9	220	134:12.8	16	IN	Central (134:48.9)	16 of 17	underrated: ranked 20 but combined place 16 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2023 3A B	Crescent	19	Odd	9	222	95:33.9	16	IN	Woodruff (96:30.7)	12 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other Woodruff overrated: ranked 14, combined 18
2023 3A B	Belton-Honea Path	17	Odd	10	234	96:08.2	17	out	Woodruff (96:30.7)	13 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other Woodruff overrated: ranked 14, combined 18
2023 3A G	Woodruff	18	Even	9	212	117:23.3	16	IN	Crescent (118:41.7)	15 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other

Qualifier	Team	Rank	Race	Pl.	Pts	Top-5	Merged	Merged top-K	Last qualifier, other race (top-5)	Virtual state	Seeding signal (heuristic)
2023 4A B	Laurens	19	Odd	9	206	90:27.8	14	IN	Riverside (91:49.1)	13 of 17	underrated: ranked 19 but combined place 14 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other Riverside overrated: ranked 10, combined 17
2023 4A G	South Pointe	20	Even	9	194	109:51.5	16	IN	Ridge View (110:19.4)	11 of 17	underrated: ranked 20 but combined place 16 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2023 5A G	Clover	26	Even	9	228	107:48.7	16	IN	Boiling Springs (108:48.7)	15 of 17	underrated: ranked 26 but combined place 16 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2024 2A B	Whale Branch Early College	21	Odd	9	247	102:27.9	16	IN	Chesnee (99:51.2)	12 of 17	ranked 21st tacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2024 2A G	Central	17	Odd	9	222	126:16.6	17	out	East Clarendon (126:56.8)	14 of 17	no clear seeding signal
2024 4A G	Wilson	16	Even	9	240	115:05.7	15	IN	Gilbert (112:08.3)	13 of 17	no clear seeding signal
2025 1A B	Johnsonville	14	Even	9	215	115:32.5	16	IN	Bamberg-Ehrhardt (115:23.3)	-	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2025 1A B	McBee	18	Even	10	224	115:19.0	18	out	Bamberg-Ehrhardt (115:23.3)	-	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2025 2A G	Strom Thurmond	13	Odd	9	253	141:50.9	15	IN	Lake City (152:35.8)	13 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2025 2A G	Batesburg-Leesville	23	Odd	10	275	141:48.4	17	out	Lake City (152:35.8)	16 of 17	underrated: ranked 23 but combined place 17 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2025 2A G	American Leadership Academy - Lexington	19	Odd	11	290	142:17.6	18	out	Lake City (152:35.8)	17 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2025 2A G	Saluda	25	Odd	12	295	142:27.0	19	out	Lake City (152:35.8)	17 of 17	underrated: ranked 25 but combined place 19 stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2025 2A G	Chester	21	Odd	13	307	144:22.7	20	out	Lake City (152:35.8)	17 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other
2025 4A G	Hartsville	19	Odd	10	239	120:27.4	16	IN	York (121:32.3)	17 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other York overrated: ranked 14, combined 18
2025 4A G	Gilbert	17	Odd	9	239	120:25.5	17	out	York (121:32.3)	17 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other York overrated: ranked 14, combined 18
2025 5A B	Greenwood	10	Even	9	191	96:37.3	13	IN	Easley (97:06.5)	14 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other Easley overrated: ranked 11, combined 16
2025 5A B	James Island	15	Odd	9	210	92:13.7	15	IN	Wade Hampton (92:00.3)	16 of 17	no clear seeding signal
2025 5A G	Cane Bay	17	Odd	9	228	113:43.3	16	IN	Wade Hampton (113:32.4)	16 of 17	stacked: 9 of combined top 16 in its race vs 7 in other

APPENDIX B

SQUEEZED-OUT TEAMS AND THE BACKTEST, 2021-2025

The 26 teams that ranked in the merged top 16 but did not advance, with the 7 + 2 backtest result under each at-large method. Highlighted: the Section 4 case. Scores are unofficial.

Qualifier	Team squeezed out	Final rank	Race	Place in race (pts)	Top-5 total	Merged place	Last qualifier from other race	Rescued: re-score at-large	Rescued: top-5 time at-large
2021 2A Girls	Central	26	Even	9 (219)	133:36.7	15	Greenville Tech Charter (rank 13, merged 16)	Yes	No
2021 3A Girls	Blue Ridge	19	Odd	9 (230)	119:11.9	16	Woodruff (rank 16, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2021 5A Boys	Blythewood	17	Odd	9 (259)	90:05.2	16	Ashley Ridge (rank 16, merged 17)	Yes	No
2021 5A Girls	Nation Ford	20	Even	9 (228)	106:11.2	16	Blythewood (rank 17, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2022 2A Boys	York Prep	19	Odd	9 (225)	102:47.4	16	Andrew Jackson (rank 20, merged 18)	Yes	Yes
2022 2A Girls	Fox Creek	13	Odd	9 (228)	128:58.7	16	Abbeville (rank 20, merged 19)	Yes	Yes
2022 3A Boys	Gilbert	17	Odd	9 (223)	95:33.1	14	Crescent (rank 10, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2022 4A Boys	Irmo	15	Odd	9 (196)	92:44.9	13	South Pointe (rank 20, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2022 4A Boys	May River	11	Odd	10 (202)	93:01.2	16	South Pointe (rank 20, merged 17)	No	No
2022 5A Girls	Boiling Springs	27	Odd	9 (263)	110:58.4	16	Byrnes (rank 20, merged 17)	Yes	No
2023 1A Boys	East Clarendon	18	Even	9 (232)	115:22.9	16	Ridge Spring - Monetta (rank 27, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2023 2A Boys	Fairfield Central	17	Odd	9 (247)	106:48.7	16	Chesterfield (rank 18, merged 19)	Yes	No
2023 2A Girls	North Central	20	Even	9 (220)	134:12.8	16	Central (rank 23, merged 18)	Yes	Yes
2023 3A Boys	Crescent	19	Odd	9 (222)	95:33.9	16	Woodruff (rank 14, merged 18)	Yes	Yes
2023 3A Girls	Woodruff	18	Even	9 (212)	117:23.3	16	Crescent (rank 15, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2023 4A Boys	Laurens	19	Odd	9 (206)	90:27.8	14	Riverside (rank 10, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2023 4A Girls	South Pointe	20	Even	9 (194)	109:51.5	16	Ridge View (rank 15, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2023 5A Girls	Clover	26	Even	9 (228)	107:48.7	16	Boiling Springs (rank 15, merged 17)	Yes	Yes
2024 2A Boys	Whale Branch	21	Odd	9 (247)	102:27.9	16	Chesnee (rank 16, merged 17)	Yes	No
2024 4A Girls	Wilson	16	Even	9 (240)	115:05.7	15	Gilbert (rank 15, merged 14)	Yes	No
2025 1A Boys	Johnsonville	14	Even	9 (215)	115:32.5	16	Bamberg-Ehrhardt (rank 21, merged 17)	Yes	No
2025 2A Girls	Strom Thurmond	13	Odd	9 (253)	141:50.9	15	Lake City (rank 24, merged 21)	Yes	No

Qualifier	Team squeezed out	Final rank	Race	Place in race (pts)	Top-5 total	Merged place	Last qualifier from other race	Rescued: re-score at-large	Rescued: top-5 time at-large
2025 4A Girls	Hartsville	19	Odd	10 (239)	120:27.4	16	York (rank 14, merged 18)	Yes	No
2025 5A Boys	Greenwood	10	Even	9 (191)	96:37.3	13	Easley (rank 11, merged 16)	Yes	Yes
2025 5A Boys	James Island	15	Odd	9 (210)	92:13.7	15	Wade Hampton (rank 16, merged 16)	Yes	No
2025 5A Girls	Cane Bay	17	Odd	9 (228)	113:43.3	16	Wade Hampton (rank 14, merged 17)	Yes	No

ROSTER RECONCILIATION AND INDIVIDUAL CASES

Roster reconciliation (9 rows)

Teams computed as qualifiers that were not full teams at state, and vice versa (corrected data; the five 2024 5A rows in earlier working files are resolved by the Section 9 correction).

Qualifier	Team	Issue	Runners at state
2020 A/AA Girls	Greenville Tech Charter	computed qualifier but not a full team at state	4
2022 3A Boys	Beaufort High School	computed qualifier but not a full team at state	4
2022 1A Girls	Palmetto Scholars	computed qualifier but not a full team at state	3
2022 1A Girls	Lewisville	full team at state but computed 9th in its qualifier race (score 220)	7
2023 1A Girls	Ware Shoals	computed qualifier but not a full team at state	4
2023 1A Girls	McBee	full team at state but computed 9th in its qualifier race (score 210)	7
2025 5A Girls	Hillcrest	computed qualifier but not a full team at state	4
2025 3A Boys	Oceanside Collegiate Academy	computed qualifier but not a full team at state	0
2025 1A Girls	Great Falls	computed qualifier but not a full team at state	3

Version 1 listed five more 2025 1A girls rows (Dixie, Governor's School, Latta, McBee, Riverwalk Academy). They came from an out-of-order MileSplit performance file. The official 2025 1A state results posted on MileSplit show that all five ran full teams, so the rows were removed (Appendix F). Race-pair checks with a mismatch: still 7.

Individual cases (28)

Runners from non-advancing teams who placed 21st or worse but ran faster than the other race's 20th place. Names omitted. "Advances under 18 + 4" = backtest of the proposed individual rule.

Qualifier	Runner's team (name omitted)	Time	Place in own race	20th place, other race	Advances under 18 + 4
2020 5A Girls	Byrnes	20:26.9	21	20:31.8	Yes
2020 5A Girls	Wando	20:27.7	22	20:31.8	Yes
2020 4A Boys	Easley	17:20.2	22	17:24.3	Yes
2020 3A Boys	Emerald	17:46.2	21	18:07.5	Yes
2020 3A Boys	Mid-Carolina	17:48.8	22	18:07.5	Yes
2020 A/AA Boys	Timberland	18:22.4	28	18:39.3	Yes
2021 4A Boys	May River	17:29.0	21	17:35.2	Yes
2021 2A Boys	Edisto	18:43.4	22	18:55.8	Yes
2021 2A Girls	Andrews High School	23:04.6	21	23:09.4	Yes
2022 5A Boys	Hillcrest	17:21.9	30	17:22.0	Yes
2022 5A Girls	Dutch Fork	20:42.2	22	20:46.0	Yes
2022 5A Girls	Boiling Springs	20:42.8	23	20:46.0	Yes
2022 4A Boys	May River	17:44.5	21	17:49.1	Yes
2022 4A Girls	Eastside	21:26.9	21	21:46.2	Yes
2022 3A Boys	Gilbert	17:52.1	22	18:35.3	Yes
2022 3A Boys	Lake City	17:56.8	23	18:35.3	Yes
2022 3A Boys	Gilbert	18:28.9	32	18:35.3	Yes
2022 2A Boys	Chesnee	18:58.5	21	19:08.3	Yes
2022 2A Girls	Central	23:23.1	25	23:31.1	Yes
2022 1A Girls	Governor's School	24:38.8	26	25:13.7	Yes
2023 5A Boys	Byrnes	17:01.6	30	17:02.0	Yes

Qualifier	Runner's team (name omitted)	Time	Place in own race	20th place, other race	Advances under 18 + 4
2024 4A Boys	Lancaster	17:01.7	21	17:23.2	Yes
2025 5A Boys	Socastee	18:15.5	23	18:26.1	Yes
2025 3A Girls	Aynor	22:54.6	26	23:12.1	Yes
2025 2A Boys	Saluda	19:11.2	29	19:18.1	Yes
2025 2A Girls	Columbia	24:02.0	31	24:19.1	Yes
2025 1A Boys	McBee	21:00.7	24	21:18.7	Yes
2025 1A Girls	Charleston Charter for Math and Science	26:38.0	24	28:18.2	Yes

APPENDIX D

COURSE-FACTOR EXTREMES

Factor 1.000 = The Farm (Newberry). A fast factor means fast *or possibly short*, unverified; a slow factor can mean hills, soft ground, heat or a long course. Full table: course_factor.csv (124 venues).

12 fastest

Venue	Factor	vs Farm per 20:00	Meets	Races	Athlete matches	Seasons
Saluda Shoals Park	0.92	-95 s	2	5	305	2023, 2025
McCormick High School	0.932	-82 s	2	4	125	2025
Ridge-Spring Monetta HS	0.939	-73 s	1	2	138	2025
Greenville	0.944	-67 s	3	6	99	2021, 2022, 2025
Turbeville	0.946	-65 s	3	6	111	2023, 2025
Pickens High School	0.952	-58 s	12	24	528	2021, 2022, 2023, 2025
Green Sea Floyds High School	0.958	-51 s	5	10	221	2023, 2025
Wren	0.959	-50 s	3	6	221	2021, 2022
Hammond School	0.959	-49 s	4	8	303	2021, 2022, 2023, 2025
Stables Park	0.961	-47 s	8	23	1130	2021, 2022, 2023, 2025
Pelion High	0.964	-43 s	7	16	977	2021, 2022, 2023, 2025
Chesterfield High School	0.964	-44 s	4	8	231	2021, 2022, 2025

12 slowest

Venue	Factor	vs Farm per 20:00	Meets	Races	Athlete matches	Seasons
Great Falls HS XC Course	1.156	+187 s	4	6	133	2021, 2022, 2023
Stable View	1.147	+177 s	1	2	67	2025
The Preserve	1.104	+125 s	1	5	292	2022
Lake City Hs	1.092	+111 s	1	2	85	2025
Darlington High	1.077	+93 s	2	4	101	2021
Hampton	1.076	+91 s	3	6	203	2023, 2025
Lancaster High School	1.067	+80 s	10	20	375	2021, 2022, 2023, 2025
Christ Church	1.059	+71 s	3	6	164	2021, 2022
Ducworth Sports Complex XC Course	1.056	+67 s	2	3	95	2023, 2025
Rock Hill	1.056	+67 s	10	19	346	2021, 2022, 2023, 2025
Prosperity Lakefest	1.049	+59 s	2	4	91	2022
Clover	1.044	+53 s	6	10	251	2021, 2022, 2023, 2025

SOURCES AND REPRODUCIBILITY

Sources

1. **SCHSL, Cross Country State Qualifier (2026).** https://schsl.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/cross_country_state_qualifier.pdf
2. **Case study: MileSplit SC, AAAAA State Qualifier 2023 results.** <https://sc.milesplit.com/meets/579199-aaaaa-state-qualifier-2023/results>
3. **Qualifier and state meets analyzed (MileSplit meet IDs in raw/meets.txt and raw/champs.txt).** <https://sc.milesplit.com/meets/<id>/results> ; <https://www.milesplit.com/api/v1/meets/<id>/performances>
4. **SCTCCCA final rankings 2021.** <https://sc.milesplit.com/articles/305189/final-sctccca-south-carolina-cross-country-rankings-released>
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12. **NCHSAA 2026–27 Handbook, cross country state qualifying.** <https://www.nchsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/26-27-Handbook-For-Website.pdf>
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Reproducibility

File (under sc_xc_qualifier_discrepancies/)	Contents
raw/	MileSplit downloads (performances data and pages) for all qualifier and state meets
analyze.py, affected.py, seg.py, course_factor.py	Original project pipeline (unchanged)
report/src/seg.py, analyze.py, affected.py	Pipeline copies with the misfiled-record correction (Section 9)
report/src/proposal_sim.py	7 + 2 and 18 + 4 backtests; 2023 5A girls tables
report/src/charts.py, build_report.py	Figures and this PDF
report/data/corrected/	Corrected summary.txt, affected_teams_full.csv, flagged_*.csv, roster_reconciliation.csv, proposal_simulation.csv, individual_backtest.csv, case_2023_5A_girls.csv
course_factor.csv	124 venue factors (unaffected by the correction)

To rebuild: `cd report/data/corrected; PYTHONPATH=../../src python3 ../../src/affected.py; PYTHONPATH=../../src python3 ../../src/proposal_sim.py;` then from `report/:` `python3 src/charts.py; python3 src/build_report.py`. The Final v1.1 checks (Sections 1.1–1.2, Appendices F–G) are in a separate package with its own README, available from the author on request.

Prepared by Coach Christopher Young, Lake Wylie High School, Director of Cross Country & Track and Field. Shared in the interest of a fair state-meet start line for every South Carolina team.

APPENDIX F

INDEPENDENT RE-VERIFICATION

Before this version, every count in Sections 4–5 and Appendices A–C was recomputed from MileSplit's public data, independently of the original project code. Finishers were grouped into races, misfiled records were repaired, teams were scored by NFHS rules, and computed qualifiers were checked against each state meet. Rankings came from the SCTCCCA articles, and rules from each body's own documents.

Item	Version 1	Recomputed, Oct 19, 2026 (2022/24 check: Oct 21)	Status
Squeezed-out teams, 2021–25	26	26, the same teams. Each sent 0–3 runners to state, while the last qualifier from the other race sent a full team	Confirmed
Race pairs / meets affected	25 of 50 / 18 of 23	25 of 50 / 18 of 23	Confirmed
Own race held 9–10 of the merged top 16	23 of 26	23 of 26	Confirmed
2020 cases (6 per race)	5	5	Confirmed
Test 1 teams (faster top 5 than an advancing team)	28	28	Confirmed
Individual cases, 2021–25	22, median 10.2 s	22, median 10.2 s	Confirmed
2023 5A girls case	Ranks 26 / 15; 228, 206, 250 pts; 60.0 s; merged 440 / 466 / 483	Same. Ranks match the SCTCCCA 2023 final list	Confirmed
2024 5A misfiled records	34 + 1 + 1 records	Reproduced: places 61–94 filed after a girls' race; one boys' place 17; one girls' place 81	Confirmed
Named time gaps (York Prep, Gilbert, Central, Laurens, Irmo)	233, 132, 124, 81, 78 s	233.3, 131.5, 123.6, 81.3, 78.2 s	Confirmed
Lake City, 2025 2A girls	"more than 10 minutes slower than five eliminated teams"	Four teams by 10:09–10:47; the fifth (Chester) by 8:13	Corrected (§5.4)
Roster mismatches	14 rows	9 rows. The five 2025 1A girls rows for Dixie, Governor's School, Latta, McBee and Riverwalk came from an out-of-order MileSplit data file. The official 2025 1A results posted on MileSplit show all five ran full teams	Corrected (§9, App. C)
Seeding parity	1.00 except 2021 3A girls	Same, in all 48 race pairs, 2021–2025 (2021 3A girls 0.93). The 2025 list prints Conway twice (9th and 26th); the race used 9th	Confirmed
Team ranks named in the report	Appendix B, Figure 4 (now Figure 5)	52 match the SCTCCCA final lists. Whale Branch Early College (2024 2A boys) was listed as unranked; the 2024 list ranks it 21st	Corrected (§5.2)
Race-swap test (new, §1.1)	Not in Version 1	Exact re-score with each team moved into the other race: 26 of 26 qualify; the last-in team drops out in 25 of 26	New
True-order seeding (new, §1.2)	Not in Version 1	Lost berths fall from 26 to 2; 48 of 50 pairs send the merged top 16	New
Official team scores	Computed (unofficial)	2021, 2023, 2025: all 825 rows in 60 races match TimingInc in place and points. 2022, 2024: 33 of 40 races found; all 448 places match; 1 race differs by 2–4 pts (top 8 same).	Confirmed (7 races pending)
"No measurement record for any SC course"	Sections 2, 6.3	Conflicts with the companion report: Mike Moore (Saluda Shoals) is USATF-certified, and four courses have a measurement stated by a coach or host	Corrected
NCHSAA rule (Section 7)	Top 25% of teams or top 4	2026–27 handbook: top 6 teams and top 7 individuals not on those teams; 5+ individual qualifiers are scored as a team. The 25% rule is from 2023–24	Corrected
GHSA, MHSAA, FHSAA, KSHSAA, NCAA DI	Section 7 table	Match their current public documents	Confirmed
SCHSL 2026 format	Top 8 + top 20; Nov 1 list	Matches; The Farm, Nov 6–7; 5A is one division of 35 schools in 2026	Confirmed
Companion figures	Section 6.2	Match: 76% / 80%, 64% / 56%, 7 / 5, $r = 0.54$, residual –6.9%, index values	Confirmed

Partly verified

- **Official scores for 2022 and 2024.** Timer files on MileSplit (checked Oct 21, 2026) cover 33 of 40 races: all 448 team places match; points match in all but 2022 1A girls Odd (5 teams differ by 2–4 points; top 8 unchanged). The other 7 race files were not found.
- **Merged re-scores.** No official body has scored the combined field. The merged results are hypothetical by design, built from official race results.
- **The 124-venue course factors (Section 6.1).** Recomputed Oct 21, 2026 from stored data; all 124 reproduce exactly. They remain estimates that cannot separate a short course from a fast one.

Sources: SCHSL 2026 qualifier schedule (schsl.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/cross_country_state_qualifier.pdf); MileSplit performances data (milesplit.com/api/v1/meets/<id>/performances); official 2025 1A state results (sc.milesplit.com/meets/711686-schsl-a-state-championship-2025/results); SCTCCCA articles 305189, 323279, 341022, 353325, 395460 and 715918 on sc.milesplit.com (2021 and 2025 lists from the PDFs linked there); official timer results, timinginc.com/results (2021, 2023) and live.timinginc.com/meets/58996 (2025); NCHSAA 2026–27 handbook (nchsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/26-27-Handbook-For-Website.pdf).

APPENDIX G

FINAL RANKINGS VS RESULTS

For each of the 25 race pairs where a top-16 team was left home, this appendix lists the SCTCCCA final ranking released before the qualifier, ranks 1-20 plus any other team that qualified or finished in the merged top 16. Race = the race the ranking assigned (odd ranks in one race, even ranks in the other). Own = place in its own race. Merged = place when both races are combined and re-scored. **red** = top-16 team left home; **gold** = qualified but finished 17th or worse merged; NR = not ranked. "No team score" = the listed school did not post a five-runner team score in that qualifier. Lists: SCTCCCA articles on MileSplit SC, numbers 305189 (2021), 323279 (2022), 341022 (2023), 353325 (2024) and 395460 (2025), at sc.milesplit.com/articles/<number>; the 2021 and 2025 lists are the PDFs linked there.

2021 5A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	T.L. Hanna	Odd	2	5	Qualified
2	Fort Mill	Even	1	1	Qualified
3	Wando	Odd	3	6	Qualified
4	Lexington	Even	2	2	Qualified
5	Dorman	Odd	1	3	Qualified
6	Wade Hampton	Even	3	4	Qualified
7	Chapin	Odd	7	13	Qualified
8	J.L. Mann	Even	4	7	Qualified
9	River Bluff	Odd	4	8	Qualified
10	Spartanburg	Even	6	11	Qualified
11	Mauldin	Odd	5	9	Qualified
12	Spring Valley	Even	5	10	Qualified
13	Nation Ford	Odd	6	12	Qualified
14	Riverside	Even	7	14	Qualified
15	Carolina Forest	Odd	8	15	Qualified
16	Ashley Ridge	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
17	Blythewood	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed
18	Hillcrest	Even	9	18	Out
19	Summerville	Odd	10	21	Out
20	Stratford	Even	11	20	Out

2021 5A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	J.L. Mann	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Lexington	Even	1	2	Qualified
3	Riverside	Odd	3	6	Qualified
4	Fort Mill	Even	2	3	Qualified
5	Mauldin	Odd	4	7	Qualified
6	Chapin	Even	3	5	Qualified
7	Wando	Odd	2	4	Qualified
8	River Bluff	Even	5	9	Qualified
9	Northwestern	Odd	5	11	Qualified
10	Dorman	Even	4	8	Qualified
11	T.L. Hanna	Odd	7	15	Qualified
12	Byrnes	Even	6	10	Qualified
13	Summerville	Odd	6	13	Qualified
14	Wade Hampton	Even	7	12	Qualified
15	Clover	Odd	10	20	Out
16	Stratford	Even	8	14	Qualified
17	Blythewood	Odd	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
18	Spring Valley	Even	10	19	Out
19	Spartanburg	Odd	12	22	Out
20	Nation Ford	Even	9	16	Out: squeezed

2021 3A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Bishop England	Odd	1	3	Qualified
2	Waccamaw	Even	1	1	Qualified
3	Daniel	Even	2	2	Qualified
4	Wren	Odd	3	6	Qualified
5	Seneca	Odd	2	5	Qualified
6	Pendleton	Even	3	4	Qualified
7	Hanahan	Odd	4	7	Qualified
8	Mid Carolina	Even	5	10	Qualified
9	Powdersville	Odd	5	9	Qualified
10	Academic Magnet	Even	4	8	Qualified
11	Southside	Odd	6	11	Qualified
12	Oceanside Coll.	Even	6	12	Qualified
13	Georgetown	Odd	7	13	Qualified
14	Gilbert	Even	7	15	Qualified
15	Clinton	Odd	8	14	Qualified
16	Woodruff	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
17	Belton Honea Path	No team score in this qualifier			
18	Broome	Even	9	18	Out
19	Blue Ridge	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed
20	Chapman	Even	10	19	Out

2021 2A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Greer Middle College	Odd	2	3	Qualified
2	Philip Simmons	Even	1	1	Qualified
3	Christ Church	Odd	1	2	Qualified
4	Landrum	Even	2	4	Qualified
5	St. Josephs	Odd	4	7	Qualified
6	Crescent	Even	3	6	Qualified
7	Fountain Inn	Odd	3	5	Qualified
8	Timberland	Even	6	11	Qualified
9	Latta	Odd	7	14	Qualified
10	Pelion	Even	7	12	Qualified
11	Brashier	Odd	6	13	Qualified
12	Wade Hampton	Even	4	9	Qualified
13	Greenville Tech	Odd	8	16	Qualified
14	Chesterfield	Even	5	10	Qualified
15	Saluda	No team score in this qualifier			
16	Eau Claire	No team score in this qualifier			
17	Chesnee	Odd	10	19	Out
18	Abbeville	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
19	Gray Collegiate	Odd	11	20	Out
20	Batesburg-Leesville	No team score in this qualifier			
23	York Prep	Odd	5	8	Qualified
26	Central	Even	9	15	Out: squeezed

2022 5A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Lexington	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Chapin	Even	2	4	Qualified
3	Fort Mill	Odd	2	3	Qualified
4	J.L.Mann	Even	1	2	Qualified
5	Dorman	Odd	3	7	Qualified
6	Mauldin	Even	3	5	Qualified
7	Wando	Odd	5	9	Qualified
8	Nation Ford	Even	4	6	Qualified
9	Blythewood	Odd	6	11	Qualified
10	River Bluff	Even	5	10	Qualified
11	T.L. Hanna	Odd	7	13	Qualified
12	Summerville	Even	6	12	Qualified
13	Stratford	Odd	4	8	Qualified
14	Carolina Forest	Even	7	14	Qualified
15	Spartanburg	Odd	10	18	Out
16	Spring Valley	Even	9	20	Out
17	Dutch Fork	Odd	11	19	Out
18	West Ashley	Even	11	23	Out
19	Cane Bay	Odd	15	28	Out
20	Byrnes	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
21	Rock Hill	Odd	8	15	Qualified
27	Boiling Springs	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed

2022 4A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Greenville	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Eastside	Even	3	5	Qualified
3	Riverside	Odd	5	8	Qualified
4	Wade Hampton(G)	Even	2	3	Qualified
5	Bluffton	Odd	2	4	Qualified
6	Hilton Head	Even	1	2	Qualified
7	Lucy Beckham	Odd	3	9	Qualified
8	A.C.Flora	Even	4	7	Qualified
9	Catawba Ridge	Odd	4	6	Qualified
10	West Florence	Even	7	18	Qualified (merged 17th+)
11	May River	Odd	10	16	Out: squeezed
12	Ridge View	Even	6	12	Qualified
13	Easley	Odd	7	15	Qualified
14	Westwood	Even	5	10	Qualified
15	Irmo	Odd	9	13	Out: squeezed
16	Pickens	Even	11	21	Out
17	James Island	Odd	8	14	Qualified
18	Aiken	Even	13	23	Out
19	Lancaster	Odd	6	11	Qualified
20	South Pointe	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)

2022 3A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Dreher	Odd	2	2	Qualified
2	Philip Simmons	Even	1	4	Qualified
3	Walhalla	Odd	3	3	Qualified
4	Daniel	Even	2	6	Qualified
5	Powdersville	Odd	1	1	Qualified
6	Wren	Even	3	7	Qualified
7	Travelers Rest	Odd	6	10	Qualified
8	Waccamaw	Even	4	8	Qualified
9	Clinton	Odd	4	5	Qualified
10	Crescent	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
11	Seneca	Odd	5	9	Qualified
12	Pendleton	Even	5	11	Qualified
13	Beaufort	Odd	7	13	Qualified
14	Blue Ridge	Even	6	15	Qualified
15	North Charleston	Odd	10	20	Out
16	Chapman	Even	7	16	Qualified
17	Gilbert	Odd	9	14	Out: squeezed
18	Palmetto	Even	9	19	Out
19	Fountain Inn	Odd	8	12	Qualified
20	Belton Honea Path	Even	10	18	Out

2022 2A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Greer Middle College	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Bishop England	Even	1	3	Qualified
3	Academic Magnet	Odd	2	2	Qualified
4	Timberland	Even	2	4	Qualified
5	Landrum	Odd	3	5	Qualified
6	Pelion	Even	4	8	Qualified
7	Ninety Six	Odd	6	11	Qualified
8	Liberty	Even	7	13	Qualified
9	Fox Creek	Odd	4	7	Qualified
10	Fairfield Central	Even	5	9	Qualified
11	Greenville Tech	Odd	7	12	Qualified
12	Central	Even	3	6	Qualified
13	Batesburg Leesville	Odd	8	15	Qualified
14	Oceanside Collegiate	Even	10	19	Out
15	Chesnee	Odd	10	17	Out
16	Mid-Carolina	Even	6	14	Qualified
17	Silver Bluff	Odd	5	10	Qualified
18	Gray Collegiate	Even	12	23	Out
19	York Prep	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed
20	Andrew Jackson	Even	8	18	Qualified (merged 17th+)

2022 2A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Bishop England	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Greer Middle College	Even	1	3	Qualified
3	Academic Magnet	Odd	2	4	Qualified
4	Landrum	Even	2	2	Qualified
5	Mid Carolina	Odd	3	5	Qualified
6	Oceanside Collegiate	Even	3	6	Qualified
7	Timberland	Odd	6	9	Qualified
8	Pelion	Even	4	10	Qualified
9	Fairfield Central	Odd	5	8	Qualified
10	Wade Hampton(H)	Even	5	11	Qualified
11	Chesterfield	Odd	4	7	Qualified
12	Chesnee	Even	6	12	Qualified
13	Fox Creek	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed
14	Greenville Tech	Even	7	15	Qualified
15	Gray Collegiate	Odd	8	14	Qualified
16	Eau Claire	No team score in this qualifier			
17	Andrew Jackson	Odd	7	13	Qualified
18	Saluda	Even	9	20	Out
19	Woodland	Odd	12	21	Out
20	Abbeville	Even	8	19	Qualified (merged 17th+)

2023 5A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Fort Mill	Odd	2	2	Qualified
2	Mauldin	Even	1	4	Qualified
3	Lexington	Odd	1	1	Qualified
4	Chapin	Even	3	5	Qualified
5	Dorman	Odd	3	6	Qualified
6	Nation Ford	Even	2	3	Qualified
7	T.L.Hanna	Odd	4	9	Qualified
8	J.L.Mann	Even	6	13	Qualified
9	River Bluff	Odd	6	11	Qualified
10	Blythewood	Even	5	8	Qualified
11	Summerville	Odd	5	10	Qualified
12	Wando	Even	4	7	Qualified
13	Stratford	Odd	7	12	Qualified
14	Rock Hill	Even	7	14	Qualified
15	Boiling Springs	Odd	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
16	Spartanburg	Even	11	21	Out
17	Cane Bay	Odd	9	18	Out
18	Dutch Fork	Even	8	15	Qualified
19	West Ashley	Odd	10	19	Out
20	Ashley Ridge	Even	10	20	Out
26	Clover	Even	9	16	Out: squeezed

2023 4A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Greenville	Odd	2	2	Qualified
2	West Florence	Even	3	5	Qualified
3	Catawba Ridge	Odd	1	1	Qualified
4	A.C.Flora	Even	1	3	Qualified
5	James Island	Odd	3	4	Qualified
6	Bluffton	Even	2	6	Qualified
7	Eastside	Odd	6	10	Qualified
8	Easley	Even	6	15	Qualified
9	Ridge View	Odd	7	11	Qualified
10	Riverside	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
11	Hilton Head	Odd	5	9	Qualified
12	Pickens	Even	7	16	Qualified
13	May River	Odd	4	8	Qualified
14	Northwestern	Even	5	12	Qualified
15	Lucy Beckham	Odd	10	18	Out
16	South Pointe	Even	4	7	Qualified
17	Aiken	Odd	8	13	Qualified
18	Wade Hampton	Even	12	23	Out
19	Laurens	Odd	9	14	Out: squeezed
20	Lugoff-Elgin	Even	10	21	Out

2023 4A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	James Island	Odd	1	2	Qualified
2	Greenville	Even	1	1	Qualified
3	Easley	Odd	2	3	Qualified
4	Riverside	Even	2	4	Qualified
5	Northwestern	Odd	3	5	Qualified
6	Bluffton	Even	3	6	Qualified
7	Lucy Beckham	Odd	4	7	Qualified
8	West Florence	Even	5	10	Qualified
9	North Myrtle Beach	Odd	5	8	Qualified
10	Pickens	Even	8	14	Qualified
11	May River	Odd	6	11	Qualified
12	A.C.Flora	Even	7	13	Qualified
13	Wade Hampton	Odd	7	15	Qualified
14	Catawba Ridge	Even	4	9	Qualified
15	Ridge View	Odd	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
16	Westwood	Even	10	18	Out
17	Hilton Head	Odd	11	22	Out
18	Hartsville	Even	6	12	Qualified
19	Eastside	Odd	10	19	Out
20	South Pointe	Even	9	16	Out: squeezed

2023 3A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Waccamaw	Odd	2	5	Qualified
2	Philip Simmons	Even	1	1	Qualified
3	Travelers Rest	Odd	1	3	Qualified
4	Wren	Even	2	2	Qualified
5	Clinton	Odd	3	6	Qualified
6	Walhalla	Even	3	4	Qualified
7	Dreher	Odd	4	7	Qualified
8	Daniel	Even	5	9	Qualified
9	Fountain Inn	Odd	5	11	Qualified
10	Powdersville	Even	4	8	Qualified
11	Chapman	Odd	8	14	Qualified
12	North Charleston	Even	6	10	Qualified
13	Gilbert	Odd	6	12	Qualified
14	Woodruff	Even	8	18	Qualified (merged 17th+)
15	Palmetto	Odd	7	15	Qualified
16	Blue Ridge	Even	7	13	Qualified
17	Belton-Honea Path	Odd	10	17	Out
18	Hanahan	Even	9	19	Out
19	Crescent	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed
20	Emerald	Even	12	25	Out

2023 3A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Philip Simmons	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Daniel	Even	1	2	Qualified
3	Waccamaw	Odd	6	10	Qualified
4	Travelers Rest	Even	2	6	Qualified
5	Belton-Honea Path	Odd	4	5	Qualified
6	Hanahan	Even	4	9	Qualified
7	North Charleston	Odd	2	3	Qualified
8	Dreher	Even	5	11	Qualified
9	Wren	Odd	3	4	Qualified
10	Pendleton	Even	3	8	Qualified
11	Walhalla	Odd	5	7	Qualified
12	Gilbert	Even	8	15	Qualified
13	Powdersville	Odd	7	14	Qualified
14	Seneca	Even	6	12	Qualified
15	Crescent	Odd	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
16	Fountain Inn	Even	7	13	Qualified
17	Palmetto	Odd	9	18	Out
18	Woodruff	Even	9	16	Out: squeezed
19	Clinton	Odd	13	25	Out
20	Beaufort	Even	10	21	Out

2023 2A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Greer Middle College	Odd	1	2	Qualified
2	Bishop England	Even	1	1	Qualified
3	Academic Magnet	Odd	2	3	Qualified
4	Landrum	Even	2	4	Qualified
5	Greenville Tech	Odd	3	5	Qualified
6	Timberland	Even	3	7	Qualified
7	Fox Creek	Odd	5	8	Qualified
8	Pelion	Even	4	9	Qualified
9	Liberty	Odd	4	6	Qualified
10	Batesburg-Leesville	Even	6	12	Qualified
11	Oceanside Collegiate	Odd	7	13	Qualified
12	Ninety-Six	Even	7	14	Qualified
13	Chesnee	Odd	6	10	Qualified
14	Mid-Carolina	Even	5	11	Qualified
15	Hampton County	Odd	8	15	Qualified
16	Eau Claire	No team score in this qualifier			
17	Fairfield-Central	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed
18	Chesterfield	Even	8	19	Qualified (merged 17th+)
19	Gray Collegiate	Odd	12	23	Out
20	Silver Bluff	Even	10	20	Out

2023 2A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Bishop England	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	. Greer Middle College	Even	2	5	Qualified
3	Academic Magnet	Odd	2	2	Qualified
4	Pelion	Even	1	3	Qualified
5	Oceanside Collegiate	Odd	3	4	Qualified
6	Landrum	Even	4	8	Qualified
7	Hampton County	Odd	4	6	Qualified
8	Gray Collegiate	Even	3	7	Qualified
9	Timberland	Odd	5	11	Qualified
10	Mid-Carolina	Even	6	12	Qualified
11	Greenville Tech	Odd	7	10	Qualified
12	Andrew Jackson	Even	5	9	Qualified
13	Fox Creek	Odd	6	13	Qualified
14	Chesnee	Even	7	14	Qualified
15	York Prep	No team score in this qualifier			
16	Chesterfield	Even	8	15	Qualified
17	Abbeville	Odd	11	20	Out
18	Ninety-Six	No team score in this qualifier			
19	Saluda	Odd	10	19	Out
20	North Central	Even	9	16	Out: squeezed
23	Central	Odd	8	18	Qualified (merged 17th+)

2023 1A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Southside Christian	Odd	2	3	Qualified
2	Christ Church	Even	1	2	Qualified
3	Brashier	Odd	1	1	Qualified
4	St. Josephs	Even	2	4	Qualified
5	Green Sea-Floyds	Odd	4	7	Qualified
6	Riverwalk Academy	Even	3	5	Qualified
7	Whale Branch	Odd	3	6	Qualified
8	Palmetto Scholars	No team score in this qualifier			
9	Latta	Odd	6	10	Qualified
10	Dixie	Even	4	8	Qualified
11	Ware Shoals	Odd	5	9	Qualified
12	Chas. Math & Science	Even	10	19	Out
13	Bridges Prep	Odd	7	11	Qualified
14	Governor's School	Even	6	13	Qualified
15	Lamar	No team score in this qualifier			
16	Bamberg Ehrhardt	Even	5	12	Qualified
17	Johnsonville	Odd	9	20	Out
18	East Clarendon	Even	9	16	Out: squeezed
19	Hannah Pamplico	Odd	10	18	Out
20	Carvers Bay	Even	7	14	Qualified
22	Thornwell	Even	8	15	Qualified
27	Ridge Spring-Monetta	Odd	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)

2024 4A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Bluffton	Odd	1	2	Qualified
2	Bishop England	Even	1	1	Qualified
3	Daniel	Odd	5	9	Qualified
4	Hilton Head	Even	3	6	Qualified
5	South Pointe	Odd	2	3	Qualified
6	May River	Even	2	4	Qualified
7	Wren	Odd	3	5	Qualified
8	Travelers Rest	Even	4	8	Qualified
9	Dreher	Odd	4	7	Qualified
10	A.C. Flora	Even	5	10	Qualified
11	Pickens	Odd	6	12	Qualified
12	Fountain Inn	Even	6	11	Qualified
13	Blue Ridge	Odd	7	13	Qualified
14	Aiken	Even	7	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
15	Gilbert	Odd	8	14	Qualified
16	Wilson	Even	9	15	Out: squeezed
17	Camden	Odd	9	18	Out
18	York	Even	8	16	Qualified
19	Gray Collegiate	Odd	10	19	Out
20	Seneca	Even	10	20	Out

2024 2A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Philip Simmons	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Academic Magnet	Even	1	2	Qualified
3	Brashier MC	Odd	2	3	Qualified
4	Landrum	Even	3	5	Qualified
5	Greenville Tech Charter	Odd	3	6	Qualified
6	Clinton	Even	2	4	Qualified
7	Pelion	Odd	4	7	Qualified
8	Mid-Carolina	Even	4	8	Qualified
9	Timberland	Odd	5	11	Qualified
10	Liberty	Even	6	10	Qualified
11	Hampton County	Odd	7	13	Qualified
12	Ninety-Six	Even	5	9	Qualified
13	American Leadership	Odd	8	15	Qualified
14	Batesburg-Leesville	Even	9	19	Out
15	Cheraw	Odd	6	12	Qualified
16	Chesnee	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
17	Central	Odd	11	20	Out
18	Bridges Prep	Even	7	14	Qualified
19	York Prep	Odd	10	18	Out
20	Fairfield-Central	Even	12	24	Out
21	Whale Branch	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed

2025 5A (Division 1) boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Lexington	Odd	3	3	Qualified
2	J.L. Mann	Even	3	7	Qualified
3	Spring Valley	Odd	2	2	Qualified
4	Wando	Even	1	5	Qualified
5	Summerville	Odd	1	1	Qualified
6	Mauldin	Even	2	6	Qualified
7	Clover	Odd	5	8	Qualified
8	River Bluff	Even	5	10	Qualified
9	Ashley Ridge	Odd	6	13	Qualified
10	Dorman	Even	7	12	Qualified
11	Blythewood	Odd	4	4	Qualified
12	Dutch Fork	Even	6	11	Qualified
13	Cane Bay	Odd	7	14	Qualified
14	Boiling Springs	Even	4	9	Qualified
15	James Island	Odd	9	15	Out: squeezed
16	Wade Hampton	Even	8	16	Qualified
17	Spartanburg	Odd	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
18	Ridge View	Even	9	18	Out
19	Fort Dorchester	Odd	10	19	Out
20	Stratford	Even	10	21	Out

2025 5A (Division 2) boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Fort Mill	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Eastside	Even	3	6	Qualified
3	Catawba Ridge	Odd	2	3	Qualified
4	Chapin	Even	1	4	Qualified
5	Nation Ford	Odd	3	2	Qualified
6	Hillcrest	Even	5	10	Qualified
7	Northwestern	Odd	4	7	Qualified
8	Riverside	Even	2	5	Qualified
9	Conway	Odd	5	8	Qualified
10	Greenwood	Even	9	13	Out: squeezed
11	Easley	Odd	8	16	Qualified
12	Greenville	Even	6	11	Qualified
13	Woodmont	No team score in this qualifier			
14	St. James	Even	8	14	Qualified
15	Lucy Beckham	Odd	6	15	Qualified
16	Lugoff-Elgin	Even	4	9	Qualified
17	Westwood	Odd	11	21	Out
18	West Florence	Even	7	12	Qualified
19	Indian Land	Odd	10	18	Out
20	Irmo	Even	11	22	Out
23	Berkeley	Odd	7	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)

2025 5A (Division 1) girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Mauldin	Odd	2	3	Qualified
2	Lexington	Even	1	2	Qualified
3	Clover	Odd	1	1	Qualified
4	River Bluff	Even	3	6	Qualified
5	Dorman	Odd	3	5	Qualified
6	Wando	Even	2	4	Qualified
7	Spartanburg	Odd	4	7	Qualified
8	Summerville	Even	4	8	Qualified
9	Blythewood	Odd	5	9	Qualified
10	James Island	Even	5	11	Qualified
11	Boiling Springs	Odd	6	10	Qualified
12	J.L. Mann	Even	6	12	Qualified
13	Dutch Fork	Odd	8	14	Qualified
14	Wade Hampton	Even	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
15	Ridge View	Odd	7	13	Qualified
16	Stratford	Even	7	15	Qualified
17	Cane Bay	Odd	9	16	Out: squeezed
18	Ashley Ridge	Even	9	18	Out
19	Spring Valley	Odd	10	19	Out
20	Byrnes	Even	11	21	Out

2025 4A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Bluffton	Odd	1	2	Qualified
2	Bishop England	Even	1	1	Qualified
3	May River	Odd	2	3	Qualified
4	Hilton Head	Even	2	5	Qualified
5	Travelers Rest	Odd	3	4	Qualified
6	Daniel	Even	3	8	Qualified
7	Wren	Odd	4	6	Qualified
8	Pickens	Even	5	10	Qualified
9	A.C. Flora	Odd	6	11	Qualified
10	Dreher	Even	4	9	Qualified
11	Gray Collegiate	Odd	5	7	Qualified
12	Fountain Inn	Even	6	13	Qualified
13	South Pointe	Odd	7	12	Qualified
14	York	Even	8	18	Qualified (merged 17th+)
15	Blue Ridge	Odd	8	14	Qualified
16	Aiken	Even	7	15	Qualified
17	Gilbert	Odd	9	17	Out
18	Camden	Even	9	19	Out
19	Hartsville	Odd	10	16	Out: squeezed
20	Beaufort	No team score in this qualifier			

2025 2A girls

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Philip Simmons	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Landrum	Even	1	4	Qualified
3	Academic Magnet	Odd	2	2	Qualified
4	Brasher	Even	3	7	Qualified
5	Pelion	Odd	3	3	Qualified
6	Bridges Prep	Even	2	5	Qualified
7	Greenville Tech	Odd	4	6	Qualified
8	Hampton County	Even	4	8	Qualified
9	Mid-Carolina	Odd	6	10	Qualified
10	Andrew Jackson	Even	5	11	Qualified
11	Chesterfield	Odd	5	9	Qualified
12	East Clarendon	Even	7	16	Qualified
13	Strom Thurmond	Odd	9	15	Out: squeezed
14	Liberty	Even	6	12	Qualified
15	Central	Odd	8	14	Qualified
16	Chesnee	No team score in this qualifier			
17	Clinton	Odd	7	13	Qualified
18	Woodland	No team score in this qualifier			
19	ALA	Odd	11	18	Out
20	Ninety-Six	Even	9	22	Out
24	Lake City	Even	8	21	Qualified (merged 17th+)

2025 1A boys

Rank	Team	Race	Own	Merged	Outcome
1	Green Sea-Floyds	Odd	1	1	Qualified
2	Riverwalk Academy	Even	1	2	Qualified
3	Ridge Spring-Monetta	Odd	2	3	Qualified
4	Ware Shoals	Even	2	4	Qualified
5	Governor's School	Odd	5	10	Qualified
6	Dixie	Even	3	6	Qualified
7	Green Upstate	Odd	3	5	Qualified
8	Carvers Bay	Even	4	7	Qualified
9	Calhoun County	Odd	4	9	Qualified
10	Abbeville	Even	5	8	Qualified
11	Latta	Odd	6	12	Qualified
12	Thornwell	Even	6	11	Qualified
13	Charleston Charter	Odd	7	13	Qualified
14	Johnsonville	Even	9	16	Out: squeezed
15	Hannah-Pamplico	Odd	9	19	Out
16	Lewisville	Even	7	14	Qualified
17	Lamar	Odd	10	21	Out
18	McBee	Even	10	18	Out
19	Midland STEM	Odd	12	23	Out
20	Low. Leadership	Even	11	20	Out
21	Bamberg-Ehrhardt	Odd	8	17	Qualified (merged 17th+)
22	Horse Creek Academy	Even	8	15	Qualified