

Chronology of the World Cross Country Championships

Year	No of Nations	No of Athletes	Significant Events
1903	4	41	The first International Cross Country Championships were held in Hamilton, Scotland.
1913	4		Jean Bouin (FRA) won his third consecutive title.
1934	6		Jack Holden (GBR) recorded the largest-ever winning margin: 56 seconds.
1935	7		Holden won his third consecutive title.
1939	7		Holden won his fourth title.
1949	7		Alain Mimoun (FRA) won his first title.
1956	8		Mimoun won his fourth title.
1962	10		Gaston Roelants (BEL) won his first title.
1967	12		Doris Brown (USA) won her first title.
1970	15		Brown won the race in Frederick, MD USA, while Paola Pigni (ITA) won the race in Vichy, France (same as the venue of the men's race)
1971	18		Brown won her fifth consecutive title (including the race she won in Frederick in 1970)
1972	15	197	Despite losing a spike at 4Km, Roelants won his fourth title.
1973	21	287	The first World Cross Country Championships were held under auspices of the IAAF in Waregem, Belgium. Smallest winning margin of 0 second was recorded by Paivarinta in the men's race.
1974	23	269	Paola Pigni-Cacchi (ITA) won her second consecutive title.
1975	26	316	Rabat (MAR) hosted the first World Cross Country Championships in the African continent. Including the International Cross Country Championships years, Mariano Haro (ESP) won his fourth consecutive silver medal.
1976	21	306	Bernie Ford (ENG) and Ann Yeoman (ENG), husband and wife, finished 3 rd and 4 th , respectively. USA junior men's team won by largest margin of 44 over ESP.
1977	22	346	Carmen Valero (ESP) won her second consecutive title.
1978	27	360	John Treacy (IRL) became the youngest-ever winner (20 years 295 days) of senior men's race. ENG junior men's team won by smallest margin, 0, over CAN The words "IAAF World Championships" appeared on bib numbers for the first time.
1979	27	383	In Ireland, Treacy became the first man to successfully defend a World Cross Country title. The winning score by ESP junior men's team, 57, is the highest in history.
1980	28	381	Grete Waitz (NOR) recorded the largest-ever winning margin: 44 seconds.
1981	39	460	Waitz won her (record) fourth consecutive title. Craig Virgin (USA) won his second consecutive title. Kenya and Ethiopia competed at their first World Cross Country Championships; the Ethiopian men won the team title, while Kenyan men won the team bronze medal. Mohamed Kedir (ETH), despite miscounting laps, won the silver medal, the first senior individual medal won by an African.
1982	33	382	Originally scheduled to be held in Warsaw, the championships were transferred to Roma after Warsaw withdrew because of a declaration of the martial law. Kedir won the gold medal, and thus became the first African senior individual gold medalist. Smallest winning margin of 1 second was recorded by Zurabachev Gelaw in men's junior race.
1983	35	432	Waitz won her fifth title. Smallest winning margin of 0 second was recorded by Bekele Debele in the men's race. Smallest winning margin of 1 second was recorded by Feyisa Abebe in men's junior race.
1984	40	443	The last championships at which Africans failed to win a medal in the senior men's race. Pere Casacuberta (ESP) became the last European World Cross junior men's champion. First World Cross Country Championships held on the U.S soil.
1985	50	574	Carlos Lopes (POR) defended his title at Lisboa; Lopes became the last European-born as well as the oldest (38 years 34 days) World Cross Country Champion South African born Zola Budd (GBR) ran barefoot and became the youngest-ever (18 years 302 days) winner. For the first time in the history of World Cross, African swept the medals in junior men's division
1986	57	671	Budd defended her title Africans swept the both men's divisions (senior as well as junior). John Ngugi won his first title. The Kenyan men's team began their winning streak. Highest winning score of 65 was recorded by ENG women's team.

1987	47	576	The first World Cross Country Championships held in Eastern Europe (Warsaw, Poland). For the final time, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland competed as the separate teams. Smallest winning margin of 0 second was recorded by Ngugi in the men's race. Smallest winning margin of 1 second was recorded by Wilfred Kirochi in men's junior race.
1988	41	443	The first World XC Championships held in the Southern Hemisphere (Auckland, New Zealand). Wilfred Kirochi (KEN) became the first to defend junior men's title. Kenya swept the medals in the senior men's race for the first time. Ingrid Kristiansen (NOR) won her first title after nine attempts.
1989	41	568	Ngugi won his fourth consecutive title. His winning margin was 28 seconds, a new record for this race. The junior women's race was inaugurated.
1990	59	618	Lynn Jennings (USA) won her first title, in her fifth attempt. Khalid Skah (MAR) won his first title; Ngugi's winning streak ended. Skah's winning margin was 0 second. USSR won the women's team title for the eighth time. Smallest winning margin of 1 second was recorded by Kipyego Kororia in men's junior race.
1991	51	633	Skah won his second consecutive title. Derartu Tulu (ETH) won a silver medal, the first senior individual medal by an African woman. A single country (KEN) swept the team titles for the first time. Smallest winning margin of 0 was recorded by KEN over ETH in women's team race.
1992	53	580	Ngugi won his fifth title. Jennings won her third consecutive title, at home (she lives near Boston). Paula Radcliffe (GBR) won the junior women's title. Highest winning score by junior women team, 55, was recorded by ETH
1993	54	653	Both Kenyan junior teams (men and women) swept the medals for the first time, and achieved another first: a perfect team score (swept first four places) of 10. KEN swept team medals for the second time.
1994	60	760	Philip Mosima (KEN) became the second, after Wilfred Kirochi in 1988, to defend junior men's title. William Sigei (KEN) won his second consecutive title. Helen Chepngeno (KEN) won the first-ever senior individual gold medal by an African woman. A single country (KEN) swept all individual titles for the first time. KEN junior women's team won by largest margin, 35, over ETH.
1995	58	619	Paul Tergat (KEN) started his winning streak. Catherina McKiernan (IRL) won her fourth consecutive silver medal. KEN swept team titles for the third time
1996	65	669	The World Cross Country Championships was held for the first time in South Africa. African women swept the medals in the senior women's race for the first time. KEN swept the team titles for the fourth time. A decision was made to award prize money in the IAAF Championships beginning in 1997.
1997	72	725	Prize money was awarded for the first time at the World Cross Country Championships. A decision was made in May of 1997 to add the short course at the World Cross.
1998	66	707	Short-course races (4km) were inaugurated in the championships. Sonia O'Sullivan (IRL) won both short- and long-course titles. The Kenyan short course team achieved perfect team score (swept first five places) Lowest team score, 12, was recorded by KEN men's team.
1999	66	759	Tergat won his fifth long-course title. Lowest team score, 12, was recorded by KEN men's team for the second consecutive year.
2000	76	806	Moroccan-born Mohamed Mourhit (BEL) became the first European to win the long-course title in 15 years. Tergat, who stayed up the previous night meeting with managers, finished third. The Kenyan junior men's team achieved perfect team score (swept first four places) for the second time. The Kenyan short course team achieved perfect team score (swept first five places) for the 2 nd time. Kutre Dulecha(ETH) won women's short course and thus became the first ever to win both the junior (won in 1996) and senior title.
2001	67	790	Paula Radcliffe (GBR) finally won the long-course title, on her eighth attempt, making her the first to win both the junior (won in 1992) and senior long title. Mourhit won his second consecutive long-course title. Kenenisa Bekele (ETH) recorded the largest winning margin in the history of the junior men's race: 33 seconds. Largest winning margin of 52 was recorded by ETH over KEN in women's team race.

			<p>Viola Kibiwot won junior women's race by smallest margin ever, 0 second. Originally scheduled to be held in Dublin, the championships were transferred to Oostend after the breakout of foot-and-mouth disease. Team prize money was awarded for the first time at World Cross.</p>
2002	59	664	<p>Kenenisa Bekele won both long- and short-course races for the first time, thus became the first to win all available titles (junior and senior long and short). Kenenisa is the first to win both junior and senior men's race. Paula Radcliffe won the long course for the second consecutive year. African women were shut out of the medals in the long-course race. Viola Kibiwot became the first to defend junior women's title. Smallest winning margin of 1 second was recorded by Gebre Gebremariam in men's junior race.</p>
2003	65	605	<p>Ethiopia won four individual titles, while Kenya won only two. Kenya won four team titles, while Ethiopia won two.</p>
2004	72	673	<p>The Kenyan senior men's winning streak came to an end after 18 years. Ethiopia swept the medals in men's short, long and women's junior races. Edith Masai (KEN) won women's short-course title, thus became the oldest (36 year 352 days) woman's champion at the World Cross Country Championships. Benita Johnson became first AUS to win World Cross Country Championships Ethiopia won five team titles and four individual (men's short, long, men and women's junior) titles. ETH junior women's team achieved the perfect score of 10</p>
2005	72	695	<p>Kenenisa Bekele won both short and long courses for the fourth consecutive year. Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH) won both short and long courses, thus became the first to win all available titles (junior and senior long and short). Gelete Burika (ETH) recorded the largest winning margin ever in the junior women's race: 27 sec. The Kenyan junior men's team achieved perfect team score (swept first five places) for the third time. Smallest winning margin of 1 second was recorded by Augustine Choge in men's junior race.</p>
2006	59	574	<p>Kenenisa Bekele won both short and long courses for the fifth consecutive year. Smallest winning margin of 1 second was recorded by Mangata Ndiwa in men's junior race. Pauline Korikwiang won the junior women's race by smallest margin, 0 second. KEN junior women's team achieved the perfect score of 10 for the second time (first in 1993) Short races were held for the final time. European failed to win men's short course individual medal.</p>
2007	63	470	<p>Zersenay Tadesse (ERI) ends Kenenisa Bekele's winning streak. Lornah Kiplagat won the Netherland's first ever World Cross Country gold. Highest winning margin of 123 was recorded by KEN men's team KEN men's junior team scored 10 (lowest possible score for the fourth time)</p>
2008	57	448	<p>Kenenisa Bekele won record sixth 12Km title. Ethiopia won all four individual titles for the first time in history. Dibaba sisters, Tirunesh & Genzebe, won senior and junior women's title, respectively.</p>
2009	59	461	<p>Genzebe Dibaba defended junior women's title, first to do so since Viola Kibiwot did so in 2002 Smallest winning margin of 0 was recorded by KEN men's team over ETH. Smallest winning margin of 0 was recorded by ETH women's junior team over KEN Smallest winning score of 14 was recorded by KEN women team.</p>
2010	51	437	<p>For the first time since 1994, Kenyan won all four individual titles. And for the first time since 1996, Kenyan won all four team titles. First time in the history of World Cross Country, a single country (KEN) won all eight titles (four individual as well as four team titles). On the other hand, Ethiopia won only one individual medal, bronze in senior women's race by Melkamu. Smallest winning margin, 1 second, was recorded by Emily Chebet in women's race. Smallest winning score of 14 was recorded by KEN women team. KEN men's and women's junior team scored perfect 10 (lowest possible score) (for the junior men it was fifth time, while for junior women it was third time)</p>
2011	51	423	<p>Shlane Flanagan became the first non-African born runner to win a medal since 2004 when Benita Johnson won the women's long race. Linet Masai won silver for the third consecutive years. (record is 4 consecutive silver by McKiernan)</p>
2013	41	398	<p>Faith Kipyegon became third junior woman (after Viola Kibiwott and Genzebe Dibaba) to defend the title. The winning margin of 0 second in junior women's race ties the minimum winning margin recorded in 2001 and 2006 KEN failed to win junior men's team title for the first time since 1998</p>

			BRN won first team medal in senior women's race For the first time since 1984 KEN senior men's team failed to finish in top two. For the first time since 2001 US senior men won a team medal.
2015	51	410	For the second time (after 2009) in men's senior team race 0 point separated first and second and thus tie breaker rule came into effect. 20 points for KEN is the lowest second place score in the men's senior race. Previous minimum was 23 points in 2003 by ETH 19 by ETH is the lowest ever score for the second place team in the women's senior race. Previous minimum was 22 points in 3 occasions (2005 by KEN, 2008 by KEN and 2010 by ETH) Geoffrey Kamworor became on the third man (after Kenenisa and Gebremariam) to win both junior and senior World Cross titles. Kamworor is also the fourth (after Skah, Tergat and Zersenay Tadese) to win both World Cross and World Half Marathon championships. For the second time (after 2004) in history ETH swept the medals in junior women's race. In the past KEN swept the medals sixth times.
2017	60	557	One point difference between first and second place team is the second lowest in the history of men's senior race. 22points is the second lowest team score for the second place team in the men's senior race. 21 sec difference between 3rd and 4th is the largest ever in the senior women's race. Winning score of 10 points is the smallest ever in the history of senior Women's race. First medal sweep (actually first six places) in women's senior race. 1 point difference between 3rd and 4th place team tied the smallest ever in history of junior men's race. Jacob Kiplimo won first individual gold for UGA in junior men's race 23 sec winning margin is the second largest in the history of junior women's race. 1 point difference between first and second place team is the second smallest difference in the history of junior women's race.
2019	63	520	Joshua Cheptegei won first gold in senior men's race for UGA (previously Kiplimo won gold in junior men's race) UGA won first team gold Largest difference between 3 rd and 4 th places, 23 seconds, was recorded by Gidey in senior women's race Largest difference between 3 rd and 4 th places, 96, was recorded by UGA in senior women's team race Largest difference between 3 rd and 4 th places, 110, was recorded by KEN in junior men's team race Smallest difference between 3 rd and 4 th places, 1, was recorded by JPN in junior women's team race For the first time since 2006, difference between 1 st and 3 rd is zero in junior women's race
2023	48	453	Smallest difference between 3 rd and 4 th places, 24 sec, was recorded by AUS team in mixed relay race