



BOYS WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
2022 – 2023 SEASON
April 27, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Colleen Maguire, Executive Director
Howie O'Neil, Tournament Director
Ken Rossi, Wrestling Coordinator
Vinnie Russo, State Assignor
Joe Knipper, State Rules Interpreter
Scott Agnew, Cherokee HS Athletic Director
Joe Benvenuti, Passaic Valley HS Athletic Director
John Gagliano, Howell HS Coach
Bryan Stoll, Delbarton HS Coach
Greg Bauer, Seneca HS Coach
Taylor Pevny, West Milford Coach
Scott Pressman, President, NJ Wrestling Coaches Association

1. Post-Season in Review

Colleen solicited feedback from the committee on all post-season tournaments. The committee did discuss whether the team tournament should continue to seed the #7 and #8 seed as these matches are typically very lopsided. The committee asked Scott Pressman to survey the NJ Wrestling Coaches Association for their feedback after the 2023-2024 season for future discussion at next year's committee meeting.

Vinnie requested that a standard start time be used for the public sectional finals, non-public semifinals and public state semifinals – the committee agreed a 7:00pm start time should be used for all rounds. The host school will have the discretion to set the start time for the 1st/2nd round doubleheader in both the public and non-public tournaments.

Lastly, Vinnie requested that the hosts of each Region tournament communicate with their officials the format to expect on Saturday – primarily, whether the finals will be wrestled at the same time as the other wrestle-back rounds or as their own round on one mat.

2. 2022-2023 Season Dates

The 2023 – 2024 proposed season dates were reviewed by the committee.

3. District/Region Realignment Updates

Colleen highlighted the efforts that have been underway to review the District and Region realignment methodology. A small committee of current and former Executive Committee members have been meeting with Colleen, Howie and Ken on a regular basis over the past several weeks. A proposal summarizing any changes to the methodology, as well as any other changes to the overall tournaments, will be submitted to the Executive Committee for their consideration at its May 10, 2023 meeting.

Colleen did provide key updates to address many rumors and concerns that have been looming. Colleen confirmed that the non-public schools will not be separated into their own Districts or Regions. There is consideration of an annual realignment moving forward, as opposed to the past practice of a two-year realignment. Lastly, there is conversation around the advancement of the 4th place Region finishers to Atlantic City. The proposal will include a recommendation that the 4th place finishers be seeded to monitor performance relative to performance over the past several years – currently, the 4th place finishers are placed as the #25 - #32 seeds in each weight class. More data is requested before any recommendation can be made.

4. Individual State Championships at Boardwalk Hall – Tournament Format Update

For the March 2024 tournament, the number of coaches credentials provided upon arrival at Boardwalk Hall will be determined based on the number of participants. The tournament regulations will provide the ranges for the number of participants and the corresponding number of coaches credentials to be provided. The range for coaches credentials per school will be between 2 and 4.

Howie highlighted changes to the tournament format that will allow for the entirety of the girls individual state championships to be wrestled at Boardwalk Hall. The tournament will start earlier on Thursday but will still conclude Saturday evening, the girls finals will precede the boys finals. Details are still being finalized but overall Howie is pleased that the format will still keep many of the traditions in place that the boys tournament has grown accustomed to.

Vinnie discussed the officials' assignments for the boys final rounds in Atlantic City. It was agreed that six officials would be assigned to the boys final rounds, and no more than three of the officials may officiate for successive years. This practice will ensure different officials can work the final rounds each year.

5. NFHS Rules Changes for 2023-2024

Joe Knipper highlighted some of the rules changes that have been recently approved by the NFHS wrestling rules committee – some of the rules changes are as follows: the required rest time between matches has been reduced from 45 minutes to 30 minutes; a wrestler may wrestle a maximum of 6 matches in one day but cannot exceed 10 matches over two consecutive days; and, the rule regarding facial hair was updated to simply state “facial hair is permissible”.

6. Review of Correspondences

The committee reviewed two correspondences received from member schools.

Cranford High School submitted a proposal to use the snake-seeding format currently used in football. The committee discussed the pros and cons of snake-seeding the team tournament, but agreed to table it to next years' meeting after more feedback is solicited from both the Coaches Association and the Leagues and Conferences. Scott Pressman will solicit feedback from members of the Coaches Association and Colleen will solicit feedback from the Leagues and Conferences officers during the 2023-2024 season. This will allow any possible change to the classifications to occur with the next classification cycle in 2024-2025.

Washington Township High School submitted a proposal that would require a student-athlete to have a minimum percentage of weigh-ins at the weight class he or she competes at during the NJSIAA post-season tournaments. The committee members did not feel such a rule is necessary, and the proposal did not receive a motion or a second therefore it did not move out of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Maguire, Executive Director