

# **2011-2012 NJSIAA/*THE STAR* LEDGER WRESTLING TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

## **ASSESSORS CERTIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **WRESTLING CERTIFICATION/RETESTING DATES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR NJSIAA CERTIFIED ASSESSORS 2011-2012**

**ATHLETES SHOULD BE ON A DESCENT PLAN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE PROPER WEIGHT LOSS. – THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY HAVING THE ATHLETE HYDRATED AND CERTIFIED AT THE INITIAL CERTIFICATION**

### **\*\*NEW FOR THIS YEAR\*\***

#### **DATES**

**CERTIFICATION MAY BEGIN NOVEMBER 7**

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**CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 16**

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#### **RETESTING**

**MUST WAIT A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS BETWEEN TESTING**

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**THERE IS NO APPEAL PROCESS THIS YEAR. THE LOWEST WEIGHT WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE INITIAL CERTIFICATION. THE 1.5%/3% IS NOW CALCULATED INTO THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT**

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**PRE-TESTING MAY BE DONE ANY TIME BUT NO LATER THAN TWO HOURS PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL TESTING. PRETESTING MAY BE DONE BY ASSESSOR/TRAINER, DOCTOR, NURSE OR COACH. IF COACHES GET INVOLVED WITH PRE-TESTING THEY MUST COMMUNICATE WITH THE ASSESSOR/TRAINER. IF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT IS USED TO PERFORM PRE-TEST, STEPS SHOULD BE**

**TAKEN TO INCLUDE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR THE SECURITY OF EQUIPMENT, i.e. SIGN IN SHEET, LOCKED AREA, COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

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**WRESTLER MUST WEIGH-IN AND STEP ON MAT IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE LOWEST POSSIBLE WEIGHT CLASS THAT WRESTLER CAN WRESTLE IN THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT**

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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE DESCENT PLAN IS NOW THE FRIDAY OF THE DISTRICTS.. THE 2LB ALLOWANCE WILL NOT BE CALCULATED INTO THE DESCENT PLAN.**

**SITE DIRECTOR MUST RETURN THE SIGNED MINIMUM WEIGHT CERTIFICATE INDIVIDUAL FORM TO THE ASSESSOR TO COMPLETE THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS. THE ASSESSOR WILL CHECK OFF ON THE ALPHA MASTER REPORT THAT THE WRESTLER IS NOW ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE**

## WEIGHT REDUCTION GUIDELINES

The NJSIAA and the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Association have developed guidelines for certifying the minimum weight classification at which a wrestler may compete.

The weight classes in New Jersey are those appearing in **Rule 4, Section 4, of the NFHS Wrestling Rules**.

Acute dehydration and crash dieting could lead to impaired health and inferior performances on the mat. Studies have documented the negative physiologic effects of rapid weight loss that are a decrease in maximum oxygen uptake and a decrease in maximal isometric strength.

Weight loss in wrestling, if it is to be done in a safe and rational manner, must be based on the ability of the participant to lose the weight in terms of total body fat rather than in body fluids. A minimum of seven percent (7%) for males and twelve percent (12%) for females of total body fat is set as the lowest standard at which a wrestler should be allowed to participate. A wrestler who is then actively engaged in workouts five days a week in addition to matches, and who has continued to grow in adolescence would need to be on a 2,000 to 3,000 calorie diet per day.

A wrestler's weight can be easily monitored throughout the wrestling season by impedance and daily weight measurements. When signing the weight form in the physician should be mindful of the length of the wrestling season and the typical growth pattern of adolescents.

Specific recommendations are:

1. Reasonable diet restriction as previously outlined beginning at least one month prior to the season can result in weight loss in terms of total body fat without the loss of strength and efficiency.
2. **Schools should purchase refract-o-meters to constantly monitor wrestler's (all athletes) hydration levels.**
3. Desired weight should be maintained as constant as possible by moderate restriction of food and avoiding alternate binges and crash diets.
4. Restriction of water intake for 8-12 hours before a weigh-in is reasonable only if it is necessary to drop about one pound or so.
5. Weigh-ins should be followed by re-hydration prior to the match by water only. Solutions that contain sugar should be avoided because of the delay in stomach emptying as well as the possibility of causing critical fall in blood sugar several hours later during a match.
6. Heavy eating between weighing and competition should be avoided because it may produce gastrointestinal distress and in the extreme degree pancreatitis. A light meal rich in complex carbohydrates, low in fat and protein might be desirable to relieve hunger and provide energy for later in the day.

The following guidelines have been modified for 2011-12. It is mandatory that all wrestlers have their minimum weight certified along with their percent (%) of body fat recorded.

Other notes of importance:

1. Matches must be wrestled within the established guidelines **once the targeted weight is reached**, i.e.:
  - CL 1 (a) If a wrestler plans to be certified at 120 pounds, he may only weigh in for the 120 pound or 126 pound weight class without losing his 120-pound eligibility.
  - (b) If a wrestler weighs in at 126 pounds or less for the 126-weight class, the wrestler may wrestle 132 at meet time without losing eligibility to wrestle at 120 pounds.
  - (c) If a wrestler weighs in above 126 pounds, the wrestler may wrestle at the 132 weight class **BUT WILL LOSE** the eligibility at 120 since the weighed in is more than one weight class above the certified weight.
2. A (2) two-pound growth allowance takes place on **January 22nd**- example 106 becomes 108

## SUGGESTED PROCEDURE TO IMPLEMENT WEIGHT REDUCTION GUIDELINES FOR 2011-12

Over the past several years, there has been much concern, debate and research dealing with weight reduction in high school wrestling. From this, various safeguards have been instituted that deal with this problem. The NJSIAA attached guidelines will assist member schools in dealing with this situation. The main thrust behind all the debate and research is to protect the health and welfare of the student/athletes who are involved in the sport.

The NJSIAA suggests that further steps can and should be taken. Instituting additional safeguards and educational procedures to address this problem, the following procedures should be implemented:

1. During the first week of the wrestling season, the wrestling coach should have a joint meeting with the wrestlers and parents to educate and inform them about proper diet and weight control procedures.
2. There should be periodic weight checks throughout the year. At these checks, the athletes should have their weight, height and body fat test taken. The purpose of this is to monitor weight changes, growth and determine percent of body fat throughout the year. A minimum of 7% body fat for males (12% females) is allowed. These tests should be given in September (pre-season), November (winter physicals), January (weight certification), May (post-season) and periodically during the season when the wrestlers are maintaining weight. Such testing sessions must be restricted solely to the testing activity.

Through education and close monitoring, schools can prevent wrestlers from losing weight improperly.

### NJSIAA WRESTLING WEIGHT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

#### **OVERVIEW**

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) believes that one of the primary factors in promoting proper weight maintenance among high school wrestlers is the development of a weight control program that encourages safe weight loss. Many states have instituted body composition testing programs in the past several years. The primary purpose of a body composition-testing program is to determine the lowest certifiable, safe and healthy weight for each wrestler in order to provide a safe wrestling experience for all high school wrestlers. The wrestler's lowest certifiable weight may not be his or her optimal competitive weight; it is simply the lowest, safe weight at which a wrestler may compete. In addition to this Weight Certification Program, it is imperative that the school's wrestling coach monitors each athlete throughout the entire season to ensure they are maintaining or losing weight properly and in a healthy and safe manner. This program has been developed in response to the need for guidance of young wrestlers as they make decisions about diet, nutrition, and weight control. It has been documented that wrestlers frequently attempt to lose weight rapidly, often in an unhealthy and unsafe manner, to gain a perceived advantage over their opponent. This Weight Certification Program is designed to assist wrestlers and coaches in avoiding potentially harmful, rapid weight reduction practices utilized to achieve specific weight class participation.

#### **PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

When an individual is registered with the NJSIAA as an "Assessor" there is an automatic concern for professional responsibility. There is an expectation of the highest professional and ethical conduct relative to performing assessments on young wrestlers in New Jersey. These young wrestlers should be treated with the highest regard for their "right to privacy" and for the confidentiality of all data collected on them for this program. As a NJSIAA certified Assessor, you are expected to conduct yourself in a manner such that there will be no question about your positive contribution to the participants in the sport of wrestling. There will be times when professional judgment will be involved to clarify and validate the assessment process; the greater the depth of your understanding of body composition assessment, the better your ability in representing NJSIAA, serving our student-athletes and administering the program in a professional and consistent manner.

## TRAINING THE ASSESSOR

### **It is considered a "conflict of interest" for an active wrestling coach, at any level, to become an NJSIAA Assessor**

1. Persons eligible to be trained as NJSIAA approved Assessors include licensed physicians, registered nurses, licensed athletic trainers, licensed physical therapists, licensed physician assistants, registered nutritionists, licensed dieticians and exercise physiologists.
2. The Assessor may be subject to random sample test to substantiate the quality and consistency of his/her measurements.
3. EXAMPLE: 2 or more schools may get together to do the assessments. A Certified Assessor may assess his/her own school
4. Suggested number of Assessors per school:

1- 20	athletes	One (1) assessor
21 - 50	athletes	Two (2) assessors
50 or more	athletes	Three (3) assessors

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSESSMENT SITE

1. Each site must have an administrator present, i.e., principal or athletic director to act as Site Director
  - i. Site Director's Responsibilities:
    - a. Coordinate times with Assessor
    - b. Distribute hydration information and diet tips to wrestlers
    - c. To be present at site
    - d. Collect paperwork prior to testing to be presented to Assessor
    - e. Collect paperwork after testing
    - f. Supervising athletes and personnel during hydration testing
    - g. Available to Assessors with concerns regarding testing
    - h. Report any questionable conduct or incidents to NJSIAA

### **The timeframe for hydration/weight certification is approximately 2 hours per school**

2. Tanita TBF Model 300WA scale
3. Refractometer
4. Latex or Rubber Gloves (do not have to be changed after every hydration test)
5. Paper cups (used for collection of urine samples)
6. Stir straws or pipettes (for obtaining drops of urine for hydration test)
7. Towel(s) (to clean feet)
8. Tissues (for wiping clean the refractometer after each individual reading)
9. Tape measure (for measuring height)
10. Right angle square (used for accuracy in measuring height)
11. Masking tape
12. Clipboards or a suitable hard surface on which athletes can complete their forms
13. Extra rolls of thermal tape for readout unit
14. Extra individual Profile Forms
15. Black pen, pencil, and black marker
16. Stapler – staples
17. Hand Sanitizer
18. Disinfectant cleaning spray (for cleaning scale)
19. Eye shields/face shields (optional)
20. Food coloring or tidy bowl or dry urinals to protect the integrity of the sample
21. School to provide administrator to oversee taking of urine samples and have at least one professional female present (not a coach) on a case-by-case basis

## BODY COMPOSITION

The human body can be represented as composed of at least two components:

1. Lean Body Mass {LBM} = the muscle and bone mass predicted to be in the body.
2. Body Fat (BF) = essential and non-essential fat storage predicted to be in the body. To some, this is an over simplification. The actual composition of an individual's body is probably not truly known, nor can it actually be determined.

## THE PROGRAM

### Components

The program consists of three components:

1. NJSIAA Assessors
2. The Body Composition Assessment Program
3. The Nutrition Education Program

### NJSIAA Assessors

1. In-service Instruction for Assessors:
  - a. The NJSIAA will conduct the in-service education program in order to certify Assessors
  - b. The NJSIAA Assessor program is designed to identify, select, train, certify and register individuals capable of training the Assessors for the administering of the hydration testing and bioelectrical impedance aspect of the program.
  - c. Assessors will be registered with the NJSIAA and will be the only individuals qualified to conduct assessments for member schools.
  - d. All Assessors must have background check in compliance with New Jersey State Law.
2. Professionalism/Privacy
  - a. When an individual is certified and registered as a NJSIAA Assessor, it is his/her professional responsibility to protect the integrity of the testing program, and ultimately, our student-athletes. There is an expectation of the highest professional and ethical conduct relative to performing assessments on our high school wrestlers in New Jersey. These student-athletes should be treated with the highest regard for their "right to privacy" and for the confidentiality of all data collected about them for this program.
  - b. Assessors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner above reproach in regards to the professional standards of those working with athletes. There will be times when professional judgment will be necessary to clarify and validate the assessment process.
3. Financial responsibility
  - a. Schools will be responsible to pay \$65.00 per unit with a minimum of two (2) units. Each unit is 2 ½ hours **FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL**
  - b. It is recommended that a \$5.00 fee be charged for **RETESTING**. (**FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL**) as outlined in NJSIAA Rules & Regulations

### **COMPENSATION FOR ASSESSORS WITHIN THE SCHOOL IS TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND ASSESSORS**

4. Assessor's Responsibility: Assessors shall:
  - a. **Urine, height and weight testing must be conducted by Assessor.**  
**NOTE: Putting information into the OPC can be assigned to designee appointed by Assessor**
  - b. Return **Minimum Weight Certificate Individual Form** to Site Director after completion of testing
  - c. Make themselves available to provide the assessment process for schools in their area in a reasonable time frame for the conduct of school academic and wrestling programs.
  - d. Coordinate and schedule dates, times and appropriate locations for assessments of member schools.
  - e. Conduct the assessments in a professional manner, treating each participant with respect, dignity and honesty.
  - f. Insure the availability of the proper equipment in good working order prior to any scheduled assessment.
  - g. Collect and account for the assessment fees collected, distributing the breakdown of the fee as required.**NOTE: Each NJSIAA Assessor and school should discuss what supplies the school must provide (e.g., if on-school site, computer hookup, tables, etc.)**
5. Set-Up for Assessment
  - a. School shall provide volunteers to help with the assessment process, (school nurses, biology or health teachers, athletic trainers or persons with similar training are excellent assistants). At no time should the wrestling coach be allowed to assist in the assessment except to control wrestlers.

- b. Prior to the assessment of the wrestlers the Assessor should set-up and/or inspect the area where testing will occur
  - c. It is critical that the Assessor insure the security of the facility and quickly evaluate the best way to protect the integrity of the assessment process.
  - d. During the testing, wrestlers should move in an assembly style fashion through the testing process.
  - e. Wrestlers should enter a secured restroom supervised by school personnel without being out of the sight of any monitors or being in a position to pass urine samples among other wrestlers. The wrestler shall then proceed to the NJSIAA Assessor who will determine, with a refractometer, if the wrestler is properly hydrated.
6. Meeting with All School-Provided Personnel  
It is suggested that after the set-up is completed, the Assessor shall meet with all personnel who will be involved with the assessment process and review their location and responsibilities during the assessment process.
  7. All sites will follow the same procedure, which is to measure hydration levels with a refractometer and record body fat as indicated on the electronic scale print out. All coaches will receive the **Minimum Weight Certificate Individual Form** at the end of the testing, which must be reviewed and signed by the school physician and parent.
  8. On certification date, wrestlers must first be hydrated with a urine specific gravity reading not to exceed 1.025. Hydration levels will be measured by using refractometers. Once the wrestler demonstrates that he is hydrated, he will proceed to the bioelectrical impedance analyzer scale to determine body composition. The impedance scale will provide a printout of the recommended lowest weight for the wrestler. If the wrestler is not hydrated, he must be rescheduled for another day with the Assessor. The wrestler's height, in their stocking feet, will be measured and rounded down to the nearest ½ inch and recorded on the form as well.
  9. **The Assessor needs to input the (1) one-pound allowance into the scale to account for the clothing allowance.** The Bio-impedance lowest weight may be rounded down (i.e. 120.8 = 120). Assessors will staple the printout to the **Individual Form**.
  10. If the lowest certified weight is equal to one of the fourteen weight classes, the wrestler may not wrestle below that weight. If a wrestler's weight falls between two weight classes, the lowest weight class to be certified will be at the higher weight class.
  11. No wrestler is eligible to wrestle in interscholastic competition until he/she has successfully completed the certification process and certified by the school physician. A wrestler who competes without certification will lose by forfeit with the team score adjusted accordingly.
  12. A **MINIMUM WEIGHT CERTIFICATION TEAM FORM** must be completed and **FILED WITH THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE BY DECEMBER 16, 2011. After filing deadline, all matches in which a wrestler competes without certification on file with the Principal will be forfeited**
  13. Once a wrestler reaches their target weight, the weight management guideline will be **Rule 4-4-2 of the NFHS Wrestling Rules** which states that a wrestler shall not wrestle more than one weight class above the class for which the actual weight, at the time of weigh-in, qualifies that wrestler.
  14. Should a wrestler attempt to falsify the hydration or body fat composition readings, this will be considered flagrant misconduct and a two dual meet/tournament suspension will be imposed. The wrestler will have to re-schedule the certification before competition is permitted.