



BOYS WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
2021 – 2022 SEASON
April 27, 2022 – 10:00am

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Howie O'Neil, Tournament Director
Ken Rossi, Wrestling Coordinator
Vinnie Russo, State Assignor
Joe Knipper, State Rules Interpreter
Mohammed Abdelaziz, Chatham HS Athletic Director, NJSIAA Executive Committee Representative
Kurt Karcich, Point Pleasant Borough HS Principal, NJSIAA Executive Committee Representative
John Gagliano, Howell HS Coach
Dan Geleta, Clifton HS Coach
Bryan Stoll, Delbarton HS Coach
Scott Pressman, President, NJ Wrestling Coaches Association

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Doug Bower
Bob Frederick

1. Season in Review

Overall feedback from the committee members was positive, the regular season went well. Scott Pressman presented a proposal on behalf of the NJ Wrestling Coaches Association that recommends two modifications to the weight descent plan.

Descent plan – Trackwrestling will calculate the wrestler's eligible weight to one tenth of a pound and not one hundredth of a pound, which is currently in place. Bryan Stoll made a motion to approve this recommendation, and Dan Geleta seconded the motion. All committee members were in favor, motion passes. Colleen will work with Trackwrestling to have this change updated in their system.

Weight variance – Recommendation is to apply a two-pound weight variance to the descent plan at each weigh-in. This variance is in line with the NFHS-permitted 2lb weight allowance for consecutive days of competition. Committee members agreed this proposal needs additional feedback from the Sports Medical Advisory Committee and Trackwrestling to determine if the system can accommodate such variance. Colleen will work with Trackwrestling to determine the viability of such weight variance before soliciting feedback from the Sports Medical Advisory Committee.

2. Post-Season in Review

Committee members commented there were no issues with the use of the local assignors for the preliminary rounds of the tournament. Vinnie Russo recommended that the rounds for both the public and non-public tournament be better aligned to minimize confusion as to who is assigning which round (local v. state). Colleen agreed that the tournament regulations moving forward will reflect the need to minimize confusion.

Scott Pressman presented a proposal on behalf of the NJ Wrestling Coaches Association the recommends a modification to the state/region seeding process.

State/region seeding process - the recommendation is to eliminate "1C" in the pre-seed process which is "returning at the same weight...". Removing 1C from the pre-seed process will also affect pre-seed criteria #3 which is "defeated any tournament participant(s) from a previous year during this season." When looking at the defeated opponent's advancement the same phrase in 1C will no longer apply. The region/state seeding committee feels the use of this criteria is arbitrary and not a good indicator to be used during seeding. Removing this criteria will allow subsequent criteria to be used which will provide a better picture of a wrestler's body of work during the current season. Bryan Stoll made a motion to approve this recommendation, and Dan Geleta seconded the motion. All committee members were in favor, motion passes.

3. 2022-2023 Season Dates

The 2022 – 2023 proposed season dates were reviewed and agreed to by the committee.

4. Review of Rule Changes for 2022-2023

Joe Knipper updated the committee that the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee met earlier in the month and that a few rule changes are anticipated but will not be announced until sometime in May. NJSIAA currently has approval for three rule experiments which address the need for student-athletes to be properly equipped to wrestle when reporting to the table, allow up to ½” of facial hair and address the appropriate use of a stall penalty during the UTB period. The properly equipped rule experiment is in its third and final year while Joe expects the other two rule experiments will be in place during the 2022-2023 season.

Joe solicited feedback on these experiments from the committee members.

5. Proposed Changes for 2022-2023

Colleen proposed changes to the Non-Public classifications. The current classifications have four (4) sections and two (2) groups with 7 teams in each section, for a total of 28 non-public teams. This past season, one section only had 4 teams enter the state tournament. Colleen proposed that the non-public classifications go to two statewide groups (A and B) based on enrollment. This framework is consistent with other sports that have similar participation numbers, such as football with 32 non-public teams. There will be 14 teams per classification group so any school wishing to enter the tournament will be seeded – which is consistent with current practice. Bryan Stoll made a motion to approve this proposal, and Scott Pressman seconded the motion. All committee members were in favor, motion passes.

NJSIAA staff have received growing concerns with the transfer rule as it applies to the sport of wrestling. The transfer sit period can be manipulated by schools since it is not based on a maximum number of matches, or 30 days – which is required in almost every other sport. The transfer sit period is based on half of the number of matches scheduled at the start of the season. Therefore, schools can add matches during the season in order to avoid an increased sit period. The committee recommends that the transfer sit be 30 days for all student-athletes that are subject to the transfer sit. This ensures that every student-athlete is subject to the same transfer sit period.

The committee also recommends the transfer eligibility date be the same date as the 2lb growth allowance – this will avoid confusion among coaches and administrators. Therefore, the transfer eligibility date and 2lb growth allowance will be the 31st day after the NJSIAA start of competition date. For the 2022 – 2023 season, this date will be Saturday, January 14, 2023.

Joe Knipper made a motion to approve the recommendations to fix the transfer date and 2lb growth allowance date as the 31st day after the NJSIAA start of competition date, and Kurt Karcich seconded the motion. All committee members were in favor, motion passes.

6. Review of Correspondences

The committee reviewed correspondences received from member schools. Four proposals were reviewed by the committee, but none were endorsed for further consideration by NJSIAA staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Maguire, Executive Director