



**GIRLS WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**2023 – 2024 SEASON**  
May 22, 2024 – 10:00am

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Howie O'Neil, Tournament Director  
Jack Kinner, Assistant Tournament Director  
Joe Lemke, Jackson Memorial HS Coach  
Eric Bollette, Newton HS Coach  
Rob Lerner, Greater Egg Harbor Township School District Coach  
Rachel Daddio, East Brunswick HS Coach, President, Girls Wrestling Coaches Association  
Mike Lamb, Rancocas Valley HS AD  
Billy Snyder, Pennsauken HS AD

1. Post-Season in Review

The committee provided feedback across all four region sites. Overall, all region sites ran on schedule and the facilities were well suited to host. Howie reviewed the state championship schedule and discussed possible adjustments to the schedule, primarily around Thursday, the first day of the championships. The schedule will be finalized and shared with all coaches during the 2024-2025 season.

2. 2024-2025 Season Dates

The committee reviewed the proposed dates for the 2024-2025 season. Rachel suggested two changes to the proposed dates, which were supported by the committee. The first to move the 30-match limit cutoff date from Sunday, February 16, 2025, to Saturday, February 15, 2025. The second was to move the state tournament seeding date from Monday, March 3, 2025, to Tuesday, March 4, 2025. These updated dates will be posted on the NJSIAA website and in the tournament regulations.

The committee discussed the date of the girls region tournament – the options being Sunday, February 23, 2025, or Sunday, March 2, 2025. Colleen asked Rachel to survey the girls coaches and report back to the committee with their feedback to help the committee decide which is the best date.

3. Regular Season Proposals

During May 2023 girls wrestling committee meeting, the committee discussed at length whether a minimum match requirement should be adopted for entry into the girls region tournament. The committee also discussed whether there should be a move towards a complete separation of the girls from the boys during the season. The committee tabled these decisions last year as most committee members commented that more time is needed before minimum requirements and/or complete separation should be considered.

The committee revisited both topics and discussed at length an appropriate minimum match requirement and timing of a complete separation. Ultimately, the committee recommended an 8-match minimum match requirement – girls must wrestle a minimum of 8-matches against girls to be eligible to enter the girls region tournament. The committee recommended that NJSIAA have a

waiver process in place for factors beyond the control of the student-athlete, such as injury or medical illness, that may prevent a girl from obtaining the required 8-matches. The committee also recommended that a complete separation of the girls from the boys during the season start with the 2025-2026 season – this will provide adequate notice to schools and student-athletes.

Rob made a motion, and Mike seconded the motion, to approve an 8-match minimum requirement for the girls region tournament (girls will be required to wrestle a minimum of 8-matches against girls) and a complete separation of the girls and boys during the 2025-2026 school year. The committee voted 8-0 to approve both recommendations.

#### 4. Post-Season 2024-2025

Joe presented a proposal to host a girls team tournament during the 2024-2025 season. The proposal provided a summary of the number of girls teams in place during the past season, as well as a scheduling framework for the tournament. Committee members were complimentary of the presentation and agree that a girls team tournament is a goal. Colleen commented that a girls team tournament will be easy to adopt as the preliminary rounds can run concurrent with the boys tournament, and there is a mat available at the boys team championships held at Rutgers University. However, Colleen expressed concern with the timing for the 2024-2025 season and suggested that a team tournament is best suited after there is a complete separation of the girls and boys during the season.

In addition, Colleen commented that data is needed to qualify and seed a tournament – this data can start to be gathered during the 2024-2025 season. Colleen will work with staff at NJ.com to set up teams and schedules prior to the season that can be used to run power points so that girls teams and coaches can start to get familiar with how their scheduling impacts their power points.

The committee will review updated information after the 2024-2025 season before making a recommendation as to when NJSIAA should sanction a girls team tournament.

#### 5. Review of NFHS Rules Changes

Gary Kessel, State Rules Interpreter, was unable to attend the meeting. Colleen provided the committee members with a copy of the NFHS press release announcing the rule changes for the 2024-2025 season and encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to Gary directly.

#### 6. Correspondence

The committee reviewed a correspondence from Ashley Gocklin, Vernon Township HS coach. Ashley expressed concern with the current alignment of the regions and that some regions are more competitive, or stronger, than others. Ashley recommended that the tournament advance the top 4 finishers from each region to the state championships and that the committee consider redistributing certain teams among regions to better balance the regions.

Overall, committee members were not in agreement that the data proves that some regions are more competitive, or stronger, than others and that a redistribution of teams is not necessary nor practical. In addition, committee members expressed concern with possibly making schools travel further for the region tournament. Rachel commented that coaches do think there should be a 16-wrestler bracket at the state championships. Howie expressed concern with the competitiveness of a 16-wrestler bracket at this time, in addition he will need to review the schedule to ensure that the additional matches will fit in the current timeframes. Colleen commented that based on current participation, approximately 6.7% of girls advance to the state championships while 3.9% of boys advance to the state championships. She would like to see participation growth before they look to advance additional girls to the state championships.

7. New Business  
None noted.

8. Old Business  
None noted.

Billy made a motion to adjourn, Mike seconded the motion – all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Maguire, Executive Director