



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: May 8, 2023

RE: Boys Wrestling District/Region Realignment Plan

Historically, NJSIAA has realigned its boys' wrestling districts and regions on a two-year cycle – the 2022-2023 season is year 2 of the previously approved realignment plan. For your consideration, below is a summary of the methodology that will be used for the next realignment, as well as other changes to the tournament regulations. These changes are being submitted on behalf of a committee of current and former Executive Committee members who analyzed six years of historical data.

Rating Criteria

The committee recommends that the realignment use the following criteria to rank the teams:

1. 60% team power points – two-year average
2. 40% returning state wrestle back round 1 participants, or better

The previous realignment plan relied on 75% of team power points (two-year average) and 25% returning state wrestle back round 3 participants. The committee believes that the returning state wrestle back round 1 participants is a better indicator of a team's strength for the next season as it casts a larger net of participants. Therefore, the increase in the weighted percentage used in the criteria from 25% to 40% results in better ranking criteria.

Non-Public Schools

Based on the ranking criteria, the top 8 ranked non-public schools will be assigned one per Region – the realignment will rely on northing number. The next 8 ranked non-public schools will be assigned one per Region based on competitive balance and northing number. Competitive balance will strive to assign the higher ranked schools with the lower ranked schools.

District Alignments

The top 32 ranked schools (both non-public and public) will be assigned one per District and will represent the first line in the realignment. The second line in the realignment will be assigned based on northing number and competitive balance. All remaining schools will be assigned locally based on proximity to the host school and will strive to maintain both traditional rivalries, where possible, and a consistent competitive balance across each District within each Region.

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust this plan when needed to accommodate District and/or Region host sites. However, any adjustment will not compromise the competitive balance.

Realignment Cycle

To balance the anticipated strength of teams on a year-to-year basis, the committee recommends that the realignment be updated on an annual basis. Therefore, this methodology will be applied at the conclusion of each season and the realignment will be updated annually moving forward. The committee believes that an annual realignment is the best path to ensuring a competitive balance is maintained across all Districts and Regions.

4th Place Finishers

During the 2016-2017 season, 4th place finishers at each Region advanced to Atlantic City – this increased the total number of participants from 336 to 448. The committee has reviewed the success of these 4th place finishers to determine if they should continue to advance to Atlantic City. Before making a final recommendation, the Committee recommends that the 4th place finishers be seeded in the same manner as all other qualifiers – currently, they are unseeded and are placed between seeds #25 and #32. To ensure the integrity of the individual tournament, and in effort to assess the viability of the 4th place finishers, the Committee recommends that any forfeit (medical or other reason) during the District or Region tournaments be counted as a loss against the wrestler who forfeits.

Realignment Committee

Gregory Troxell, Superintendent, Phillipsburg High School
Kurt Karcich, Principal, Point Pleasant Borough High School
Brendan McGovern, Athletic Director, Bergen Catholic High School
Charles Klaus, Superintendent, Haddonfield High School
Howie O'Neil, NJSIAA Wrestling Tournament Director
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