



BOYS WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
2024 – 2025 SEASON
April 30, 2025 @ 9:30am

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Colleen Maguire, Executive Director
Howie O'Neil, Tournament Director
Jack Kinner, Assistant Tournament Director
Ken Rossi, Wrestling Coordinator
Vinnie Russo, State Assignor
Gary Kessel, State Rules Interpreter
Scott Agnew, Cherokee HS Athletic Director
Joe Benvenuti, Passaic Valley HS Athletic Director
Bryan Stoll, Delbarton HS Coach
Greg Bauer, Seneca HS Coach
Taylor Pevny, West Milford HS Coach
Billy Ashnault, Christian Brothers Academy Coach
Pat Gorbaturk, Manville HS Coach
Steve Johnston, South Plainfield HS Coach, President, NJ Wrestling Coaches Association
Rachel Daddio, East Brunswick HS Coach, President, NJ Girls Wrestling Coaches Association

1. 2025-2026 Season Dates

The committee reviewed the draft dates for the 2025-2026 season. Colleen informed the committee of a scheduling conflict at Boardwalk Hall and a request to move our individual state championship dates to March 12 – 14. As a result, the committee endorsed moving the team state tournament back one week to allow an extra week of regular season competition and keep the tournaments on the same schedule to avoid any significant gaps between events. Therefore, the team tournament will move to February 16 – February 22, the districts will be held February 28, and the regions will be held March 6 – 7.

2. Regular Season Review

- Trackwrestling.com update – prior to the start of the season, FloWrestling informed NJSIAA that they are moving to a new pricing model for the use of their Trackwrestling online program. The new pricing model will bundle all services across all member schools at a price of \$100.00/school. While this will result in an approximately \$22K increase in cost, the platform will now be available for member schools to use their platform for any events for free that they may host during the regular season.
- Virtual weigh-ins – the committee unanimously endorsed prohibiting virtual weigh-ins at any event starting with the 2025-2026 season. The tournament regulations will be updated to reflect this change in policy.
- Reporting weights – violations – Colleen, Howie and Ken expressed concern with coaches who continue to enter the wrong weights from weigh-ins into Trackwrestling. The committee endorsed a

two-week suspension and fine of \$200.00, which is commiserate with other fines levied on coaches for not following the rules and regulations. Mistakes made and discovered after the weights are committed can be fixed by NJSIAA or Trackwrestling staff when requested with appropriate documentation – so this is directed at coaches who are purposely not entering the correct weights. Colleen will seek the approval of the Executive Committee to add the suspension and fine to the tournament regulations starting with the 2025-2026 season.

- Seeding criteria/procedure updates – Steve proposed an update to the seeding procedure for round robins as follows (see underlined):
 - a. First Step - eliminate round-robin set of losses between 3 or more wrestlers. Use a singular loss as many times as needed to satisfy all round robins. A>B>C>A or A>B>C>D>A.
 - i. If a wrestler has multiple losses to the same opponent, only eliminate one of those losses to satisfy all possible round-robins.
 - ii. If there are multiple results between two wrestlers, then the earliest result is eliminated if they are part of a round robin series between two wrestlers A>B>A>B which is also part of a round robin A>B>C>A. Wrestler A's first win in the series with wrestler B would be eliminated.

Bryan Stoll made a motion to approve the proposal, and Billy Ashnault seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

- Power points – Steve discussed possible updates to the power point chart in the tournament regulations, there is concern that the current power point chart does not accurately distinguish wins against various levels of competition. Steve will convene a small working group who will meet with Ken to discuss possible updates. Colleen will host a meeting over the summer of the working group and NJ.com staff to review possible updates and will present any updates to the Executive Committee at their September meeting for their approval.
- Regular season match limit – On behalf of the coaches' association, Steve asked if an increase to the 30-match limit can be considered, especially due to the team state tournament being pushed back by one week. This will help ensure that wrestlers will be able to compete until the start of the team tournament. Colleen will consult the league and conference officers at their May meeting for feedback before possibly presenting a proposal to increase the 30-match limit to the Executive Committee.

3. Post-Season Review

- District entry fee – At its April meeting, the Finance Committee approved an increase to the district entry fee from \$16.00/wrestler to \$25.00/wrestler. This will result in an increase of \$126.00/school when entering 14-weight classes. The additional entry fees will be used to offset the increase in Trackwrestling bundled pricing – see previous discussion under Regular Season Review.
- Team Tournament – Colleen informed the committee that she will solicit the updated team championship date of February 22 from Rutgers staff but that there are no guarantees that the venue will be available – she will keep the committee updated once Rutgers confirms its availability.
- District/Region realignment update – Ken has been updating the data used in the realignment and the committee will be meeting later in May to review the updated data to recommend any changes. Colleen does not anticipate any changes to the methodology approved last year and any changes to the alignment will be proposed to the Executive Committee at its June meeting for its approval. Once approved, the new alignment will be sent to all schools and posted on the NJSIAA website.

- Trackwrestling points v. winning percentage tie break criteria – Steve proposed an update the Pre-Seeding Criteria #4 to replace winning percentage with total Trackwrestling points. Taylor Pevny made a motion to approve the proposal, and Greg Bauer seconded the motion. All present were in favor.
 - Status of parents in the corner – Colleen updated the committee that staff will no longer allow parents to be on the floor seated in the corner during the individual state championship finals. This change is recommended by tournament staff, and the committee members were unanimous in their support of this change.
 - Classifications – super section model – Colleen provided the committee a draft of public-school classifications using the same model as football – super sections with a modified snaking procedure. Steve agreed to solicit feedback from public school coaches within the coaches association and report back to Colleen.
4. NFHS Rules Changes for 2025-2026
 Gary informed the committee that the NFHS rules committee met earlier in the month and that a formal announcement of all approved rule changes is forthcoming. Gary commented that a lot of big changes were adopted for 2024-2025 that all have received positive feedback and does not anticipate any significant rule changes being approved for 2025-2026.
5. Review of Correspondences
 The committee reviewed five correspondences received from member schools, which were as follows:
- a. Concerns with unsportsmanlike conduct and head/neck safety. Gary plans to address this type of unsportsmanlike conduct as a point of emphasis with officials during his interpretation meetings.
 - b. Request an increase in the 30-match limit. This was previously discussed earlier in the meeting and will be further reviewed by NJSIAA staff.
 - c. Reduce the number of NJ matches needed to qualify for the team tournament – from 9 to 6. The committee was unanimously against any further decrease in the required number of NJ matches for qualification.
 - d. District/Region realignment proposals. The committee reviewed two proposals that would modify the current alignment methodology. One proposal consolidated the districts to 24 and advancing 4 per weight class to the region. The other proposal separated the non-public schools into 2 regions and the public schools into 28 districts and 7 regions. The committee discussed the proposals and expressed most interest in exploring the proposal to separate the public schools from the non-public schools. Colleen provided background information from 2015 when a similar proposal was passed by the membership but overturned by the Commissioner of Education. Steve agreed to solicit feedback within the coaches association and will report back to the committee to continue the conversation.

Howie closed the meeting with a draft of possible adjustments to the individual state championship schedule and asked committee members to contact him with feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Colleen Maguire,
 Executive Director