



GIRLS WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2024 – 2025 SEASON

April 30, 2025 – 12:00pm

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
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
Steve Johnston, South Plainfield HS Coach, President, NJ 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.

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 an estimated price of \$25.00/school listed in the girls season. While this will result in an approximately \$22K increase in cost for both the boys and girls season, 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.
- Tri-cooperative sport programs – Colleen updated the committee on the process in place to request cooperative sport programs and that deadline dates will be flexible for girls wrestling requests next school year. Colleen also informed the committee that upon adoption of a sanctioned team state tournament, then schools will need to adhere to the cooperative sport Bylaws that do not allow for tri-op programs. If a school is interested in submitted a proposal to allow tri-op programs in the sport of girls wrestling, then the school will need to submit legislation to the Advisory Committee in December to eventually be voted on by the membership at its Annual Meeting.

- Separation of girls season – The committee reviewed the proposal that was passed last year that will no longer allow girls to wrestle against boys during the regular season if they plan to enter the girls state tournaments. The committee is unanimously in support of this proposal and confirmed that starting with the 2025-2026 season, girls can only be entered into one season in Trackwrestling – the girls or the boys season.
- Dual meet status – The committee recommended that a dual meet be defined as a match with a minimum of 7 bouts wrestled, which means 5 or fewer forfeited weight classes. Therefore, Colleen will request that NJ.com only report results for dual meets under this criteria.

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 \$108.00/school when entering 12-weight classes. The additional entry fees will be used to offset the increase in Trackwrestling bundled pricing – see previous discussion under Regular Season Review.
- Status of team tournament – The committee unanimously recommended adoption of a team tournament for the girls season. For the 2025-2026 season, the recommendation is a minimum of 9 dual meet matches to enter the state tournament. Colleen will solicit approval of the Executive Committee.
- Individual tournament expansion – The committee unanimously recommended that the tournament be expanded to allow for districts. Due to the increase in participation at the region tournaments, there is a need to add districts to allow for continued growth in participation. The committee recommended that 12 districts be hosted – 3 aligned per region. The top 4 will advance to each region and the top 4 from each region will advance to the individual state championship finals, representing an increase from a 12-wrestler bracket to a 16-wrestler bracket. Rachel agreed to start soliciting interest from those schools currently hosting a boys district tournament. Colleen reminded the committee that the girls district tournament will be handled in the same manner as the boys – the schools will be responsible for hosting the tournament which means they keep all gate receipts and cover all expenses. Colleen will solicit approval of the Executive Committee.
- Prestige points for seeding – Eric requested that the girls tournament use prestige points for seeding in the same manner as the boys. The committee unanimously supported this request. Ken confirmed that with the expansion to a district tournament, prestige points will be used in seeding moving forward.

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 two correspondences received from member schools, which were as follows:

- a. Concerns with the region tournament seeding and relying on randomization v. using prestige points. This will no longer be applicable with the expansion of district tournaments.
- b. Feedback on numerous aspects of the girls tournament was provided. The committee reviewed the feedback, some of which was no longer applicable with the expansion of the girls individual tournament. The committee was not supportive of the other suggestions, such as moving the girls out of Boardwalk Hall to its own two-day tournament in a different venue.

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 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Maguire,
Executive Director