



**BOYS WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**2025 – 2026 SEASON**  
April 22, 2026 @ 9:30am

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Colleen Maguire, Executive Director  
Kurt Karcich, Point Pleasant Borough HS Principal, Executive Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Howie O’Neil, Tournament Director  
Jack Kinner, Assistant Tournament Director  
Ken Rossi, Wrestling Coordinator  
Vinnie Russo, State Assignor  
Gary Kessel, State Rules Interpreter  
Joe Benvenuti, Passaic Valley HS Athletic Director  
Paul Morina, Paulsboro HS Athletic Director/Coach  
Matt Moscatello, West Morris Central 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 Gorbatuk, 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  
Guest – Chris Faytok, NJ Advance Media

1. Regular Season Review

- Dual meet event/tournament clarification – Ken Rossi proposed a clarification that teams that wrestle 3 matches at a dual meet event or dual meet tournament with more than four teams will be considered a wrestling quad. Therefore, these events will not count as an event with more than four teams for purposes of the rule prohibiting more than one event per week involving more than four teams during a week. The committee unanimously supported this clarification. Ken will draft an update to the NJSIAA Handbook and Colleen will seek approval of the Executive Committee.
- Trackwrestling updates – Greg Bauer addressed a few concerns with Trackwrestling regarding the furthest advancement setting, ability to rollover prior year data and auto-populate settings with “no post-season” for freshman or first-time wrestlers. Greg also raised concerns with coaches that are not inputting prior advancements until very late or not at all. Ken addressed a few of these concerns and has been communicating with Trackwrestling staff, some are unable to be fixed but for others Ken will continue to work with Trackwrestling to ensure some of the issues from this past season do not happen again.
- Power Points/Best 9 Matches – Colleen invited Chris Faytok, NJ.com, to the meeting – Chris is the primary point of contact for the wrestling power point data and calculations. Concerns had been raised that the power point values were too high and too many teams had the maximum value, making it difficult to differentiate the teams for state tournament seeding.

Chris provided a detailed review of the power points over the past few seasons. The increasing trend in the power point values is due to the change from 10-best matches to 9-best matches, coupled with an expanded regular season – more matches were wrestled prior to the cut-off. Chris provided data based on 9-match, 10-match, 11-match, 12-match and 13-match formats – the data indicated that the higher number of matches led to more accurate power point values. However, there is concern with increasing the number – schools may struggle to meet these match numbers, especially in light of a potentially shorter regular season.

Chris also provided an option to rely on a percentage of matches to replace a fixed number of matches. The 9-match minimum requirement against NJSIAA member schools will remain in place for qualification purposes. However, the power point values can be calculated based on a percentage of matches wrestled – with 9 matches remaining as the floor. The percentages presented were 70%, 80% and 90%. This means that if a school wrestles 20-matches at the cut-off, then either 14, 16 or 18 matches, respectively, will count. The Committee asked Chris for further data using the 70% option before making a final recommendation. Colleen will follow up with the Committee once Chris has been able to run the data from the past season using this option to make a final recommendation. Once a final recommendation has been made, Colleen will seek approval of the Executive Committee.

## 2. Post-Season Review

- Classifications – Non-Public – Colleen provided the committee with an alternate classification model for non-public schools; the model is currently used in the sport of football. Colleen is concerned with the non-public B tournament – this past season, 9 out of 15 schools entered the tournament and there were some lop-sided results in the first two rounds. Therefore, in an effort to push more competitive teams into the B tournament, Colleen proposes that the classifications be based on public school enrollment equivalents – not an equal division of total schools between the A and B group. Non-public schools with an enrollment equivalent to the public groups V, IV and III will be classified as the A group, while non-public schools with an enrollment equivalent to the public groups II and I will be classified as the B group. However, schools classified as non-public B may solicit a waiver to move to the non-public A group if they feel that group is a better competitive balance. The committee unanimously supported the new classification model, and Colleen will seek approval of the Executive Committee.
- District/Region realignment – Greg requested that the realignment committee place less emphasis on state medals and more emphasis on overall strength of the region (i.e., power points). There is concern that some districts were disproportionately top heavy relative to others within the same region. Ken addressed some concerns but will note these concerns when the alignment committee meets next month.
- District Wildcards – Steve Johnston proposed updates to the wild card procedure during district seeding. The committee members unanimously supported the updated language (underlined below) which will be included in the tournament regulations next year.

Wild Card Procedure - A coach must submit written documentation (via email) to their Region President by 12:00 PM Tuesday, the week of the district tournament. The documentation must include:

a. The reason for the wildcard.

b. The weight class the wrestler will be wrestling and the seed they are intending to challenge for.

c. Signature of the school's athletic director for verification that all information is accurate.

The Region President will then inform each of their districts that there will be a wildcard being discussed.

A wrestler that has 20 or more varsity matches this season shall not be eligible for a Wildcard. The coach will be heard (2 minutes), discussed, and voted on, with that vote final as no other wild cards will be entertained once the seeding starts. Coaches will decide if a wildcard is justified from the document provided by the coach. Proper use of a wildcard can include injury, academic ineligibility, transfers or other special circumstances. Coaches should not abuse the wildcard as it could lead to endless time-consuming debates. A coach will challenge for a seed and if that wildcard is voted yes by a majority of the Head Coaches in the seeding meeting, the wrestler will take over that spot before head-to-head movement takes place. If the challenge for the seed is denied, the challenge will move to the next lower seeded wrestler. The procedure takes place until the challenging wrestler wins or returns to their original pre-seed position. Example: A coach's wrestler is pre-seed 6th and challenges for the 2nd seed. If the challenge gets denied, the coach can challenge for the 3rd seed, then 4th seed, then 5th seed.

Coaches also have the ability to wildcard wrestlers on other teams, but doing so will require following the same procedures as wildcarding your own wrestler.

- a. Mandatory wild cards simply mean that coaches must talk about why these situations have happened and a vote will be taken as to where these wrestlers should be seeded. Seeding points are not mandatory for these situations.
  - Example 1: Moving two or more weight classes over a wrestler's lowest wrestled weight class.
  - Example 2: Someone moving to another weight class AFTER the seeding meeting.
- District Prelims – Steve proposed that district prelims be eliminated from the district pre-seed chart – the earliest level of advancement will begin with the quarters in districts. The committee members unanimously supported this proposal; the tournament regulations will be updated next year to reflect this change.
- District Seeding – Steve proposed that we allow virtual district seeding meetings, which will be held on Wednesday of district week. However, if the district seeding meeting is to be hosted in person, then no coach will be allowed to attend virtually. Steve also requested that this requirement be removed from the seeding procedures - *Coaches must hand in a completed trackwrestling generated Individual Match Summary Form for all of their wrestlers participating in the tournament, at the start of the seeding meeting to the district site manager.* In addition, the following sentence will be removed from the district entry procedure – *The trackwrestling weigh-in form is to be given to the site manager at the district seeding.* The committee members unanimously supported these proposals; the tournament regulations will be updated next year to reflect these updates.

### 3. Season Dates 2026-2027

Prior to the meeting, Colleen provided 3 date options for future seasons and surveyed coaches and leagues/conferences – this all due to the 5-year contract between the MAAC basketball tournament and Boardwalk Hall. Colleen provided a summary of results from both the coaches survey and leagues/conferences meeting – both of which supported option #2, the individual state tournament will be held the weekend prior to the MAAC tournament and practices will start the same corresponding date as prior seasons.

The committee did request consideration to allow the 3-day tryout period (prior to Thanksgiving) to count towards the 6-day practice/1-day rest rule – this will allow teams the opportunity to scrimmage prior to the competition start date. The option #2 scheduling model results in two less weeks of regular season competition relative to prior seasons. Colleen commented that this was a reasonable request and that she will discuss it internally before seeking Executive Committee approval.

### 4. Review of Officials/Assignments

Vinnie Russo notified the committee that he is planning to increase the number of officials from 18 to 24 for the boys semifinals, boys wrestle back 4 and girls consolation semifinal round on Friday

evening. Vinnie solicited feedback on a move to 13-weight classes. Based on review of the NFHS 13-weight class model, the committee was not supportive as an upper middle weight class would be eliminated, which is a populous weight class. Lastly, Vinnie discussed the need to increase the weighmaster fee which has remained unchanged for many years. Colleen agreed that she will discuss an increase further with Vinnie.

5. NFHS Rules Changes for 2026-2027

A copy of the NFHS press release was provided to all committee members. Gary Kessel made mention of a rule change which will include bleeding that results of an illegal hold/maneuver, unnecessary roughness, unsportsmanlike conduct as recovery time and will allow two-minutes – bleeding as a result of these circumstances will no longer fall under the five-minute injury time.

6. Review of Correspondences

The committee reviewed one correspondence received from a member school:

- a. Millville High School – use an odd number of weight classes to ensure matches do not need to use criteria to determine a winner. The committee reiterated its concern with moving to a 13-weight class model and did not support the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Maguire,  
Executive Director