2026-2027 Boys Wrestling Individual Championships

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for any round of competition during NJSIAA state tournaments. Schools entering the tournament will not be granted a change of date/time due to any conflicts with school trips, proms, banquets, SATs, unless agreed upon by both schools. During the spring tournament season, we will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

Member schools will not be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Tournaments if it has violated the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Policies, or Procedures. Any student-athlete who transfers after the competition start date will not be eligible for this tournament.

State tournament sites will not be declared unsuitable merely because conditions are less than perfect unless Leagues or Conferences have ruled such sites unsuitable for League or Conference play. However, NJSIAA reserves the right to move an event to another facility if the playing conditions are not considered suitable for that competition, or if the facility will significantly limit anticipated attendance at the event.

Schools are to be reminded of the 3-team DQ rule for state tournament eligibility, which states “Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the team’s participation in the state tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament. The 3-team DQ rule is not applicable during participation in the state tournament.

The NJSIAA will follow the procedure below for schools that are disqualified from state tournament competition:

1. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded but prior to the bracket being final, then the bracket will be reseeded and the next ranked school who entered the tournament will be included.
2. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded and after the bracket is final, then the bracket will not be reseeded, and no additional school will be included.
3. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition due to the use of an ineligible player during the state tournament, then the school will be removed from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place.

Schools participating in any NJSIAA tournament are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their spectators. Schools are required to provide adequate staff security to ensure there is proper oversight of their spectators. In addition, schools are financially responsible for any damage to the property or premises caused by their student-athletes, staff, or spectators (spectators include, but are not limited to, cheerleaders, marching band participants, students, and other fans).

NJSIAA requires Certified Athletic Trainers at all its tournament events. The ATC must document all injuries on an injury report form. This form must be available to the NJSIAA upon request.

Member schools that are not willing or able to comply with NJSIAA tournament regulations and any relevant procedures found in the state tournament operating procedures handbook should not enter the tournament. Member schools are encouraged to review NJSIAA tournament regulations with the school administration. Coaches must have a copy of the tournament regulations as well as a copy of the rule modifications (if any) available at all contests. Copies of these documents are available on the NJSIAA website.

NJSIAA Wrestling Tournament Staff

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New For This Year's State Tournament

1. For the 2026-2027 season, the regular season match limit has reverted to 30-matches.
2. Practices during the 3-day tryout period will count towards the 6-days of practice/1-day of rest rule.
3. The District Pre-Seed chart has changed – the earliest level of achievement will begin with the district quarterfinals.
4. District wildcard procedures have changed – please see District Tournament Procedure.
5. Parents will no longer be allowed to be seated on the floor during the individual finals at Boardwalk Hall.
6. Virtual district seeding meetings are permitted. For district seeding meetings hosted in person, virtual attendance is prohibited – all coaches must be in attendance in-person.

Important Dates

Event	Date
Weight Certification Begins	November 2, 2026
Tryout Period*	November 23 - 25, 2026
First Practice	November 30, 2026
Allowable Scrimmage Date*	December 3 – 5, 2026
Competition May Begin**	December 7, 2026*
Two-Pound Growth Allowance	January 1, 2027
Transfer Sit Eligibility***	**
Tournament Entry Period (Team)	January 5 – 15, 2027
Team Tournament Cutoff	January 23, 2027
Power Points Close (12:00pm)	January 24, 2027
Team Tournament Seeding (Boys/Girls)	January 26, 2027
30-Match Limit Cutoff (Boys/Girls)	January 30, 2027
Regular Season Competition Ends (Boys/Girls)	February 7, 2027
District Seeding (Boys)	February 10, 2027
District Seeding (Girls)	February 11, 2027
Region Seeding (Boys)	February 15 – 16, 2027
Region Seeding (Girls)	February 16 – 17, 2027
Individual State Seeding (Boys/Girls)	February 23, 2027

* Practices during the 3-day tryout period will count towards the 6-days of practice/1-day of rest rule. Schools are allowed one scrimmage date on either December 3, 4, or 5, 2026 once the 6-days or practice/1-day or rest rule has been satisfied.
**Competition May Begin date indicates when a school may start to schedule regular season contests once the 6-days of practice/1-day of rest rule has been satisfied.
***Transfer sit period starts with the first regular season match wrestled by the team.

Tournament Dates

Boys Public Team Tournament	Date	Location
Rounds 1 & 2	February 1, 2027	Seeds #1 & #2 will Host
Sectional Finals	February 3, 2027	Higher Seed
State Semifinals	February 5, 2027	Higher Seed
State Finals	February 7, 2027	Phillipsburg High School
Boys Non-Public Team Tournament	**Date**	**Location**
Rounds 1 & 2	February 2, 2027	Higher Seed
State Semifinals	February 4, 2027	Higher Seed
State Finals	February 7, 2027	Phillipsburg High School
Girls Team Tournament	**Date**	**Location**
Rounds 1 & 2	February 2, 2027	Higher Seed
Sectional Semifinals & Finals	February 4, 2027	Higher Seed
State Finals	February 7, 2027	Phillipsburg High School
Boys Individual Tournament	**Date**	**Location**
Districts***	February 13, 2027	****
Regions***	February 19 – 20, 2027	****
Individual Championships	February 25 – 27, 2027	Boardwalk Hall
Girls Individual Tournament	**Date**	**Location**
Districts	February 14, 2027	****
Regions***	February 21, 2027	****
Individual Championships	February 25 – 27, 2027	Boardwalk Hall

**** Refer to Districts and Regions alignment on the NJSIAA website.

Withdrawal Policy for Tournament Participation

1. Schools that withdraw from the tournament before seeding will not be subject to any penalty.
2. Schools that withdraw from the tournament after having been seeded will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present.
3. Schools that withdraw from the tournament after the brackets have become official will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present. In addition, the program will be placed on probation for one year.
4. Schools that withdraw from the tournament at any point while on probation will be fined and barred from participating in the tournament for the following school year, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present. In addition, the program will be placed on an additional year of probation.
5. Schools that repeatedly withdraw from tournaments across multiple sports may be referred to the NJSIAA for review and may be subject to Athletic Department probation.

Tournament No-Show

Any school that fails to appear for an NJSIAA tournament contest will forfeit the contest, and the opposing team will advance to the next round. The school that fails to appear will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances warrant otherwise. In addition, the program will be placed on probation for a period of one year.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

To qualify for the District Tournament

1. Any member school sponsoring an interscholastic wrestling team will be permitted to enter District Tournament.
2. All Independent wrestlers from member schools that do not compete on an interscholastic basis are eligible to enter the District Tournament.
3. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, before the start of the District Tournament, will be unable to compete in the District Tournament.
4. The Districts and Regions will be aligned every year by a committee appointed by the NJSIAA Executive Director.

Independent Athletes

An Independent Athlete is a student enrolled in a NJSIAA member school that does not sponsor a particular sports program and would like to enter a state individual tournament. Independent athletes are permitted, provided the school follows all independent entry requirements listed in the tournament regulations for their sport. In addition to the sports-specific tournament entry regulations, the following general procedures for all sports must be followed.

Independent Athlete Procedures

1. Member schools with independent wrestlers may enter the individual tournament at the district level.
2. Please notify Dena Maggio (dmaggio@njsiaa.org) if you plan to enter an independent wrestler in a district tournament.
3. An account will be set up in Trackwrestling for both the assessor (if needed) and team administrator.
4. The wrestler will be assigned a district tournament by NJSIAA staff.
5. A weight assessment must be entered into Trackwrestling by an approved assessor prior to the seeding date for the district tournament – please contact a neighboring school to help secure an assessor.
6. The wrestler will be entered into the district tournament via Trackwrestling by the team administrator - same procedure as all other wrestlers.
7. The wrestler's weight certification must be entered into Trackwrestling before the individual can compete in any interscholastic event.
8. The wrestler is required to adhere to the weight descent plan and all rules regarding eligible weight classes.
9. If the independent wrestler competes in interscholastic events with other NJSIAA member schools (such as an open tournament or county/conference tournament) during the regular season, then all results must be entered into Trackwrestling.
10. All independent athletes must be accompanied by a certified faculty member (chaperone), or a coach approved by the school's administration.
11. The independent athlete will be disqualified if they are not accompanied by a certified faculty member (chaperone), or a coach approved by the school's administration.
12. The chaperone must have with them written authority from the school's administration and remain with the athlete throughout all contests.
13. Independent athletes will not be able to check-in to the event with a parent, a coach/chaperone must be present at the time of check-in.
14. Any properly appointed "coach" will be subject to all out-of-season practice rules.
15. The school district must be able to certify the independent athlete has met the required six (6) practices.
16. The school district must be able to certify the independent athlete has a completed physical on file.
17. The penalty for failure to comply will be the disqualification of the athlete.
18. The maximum number of independent athletes per school is four (4).
19. Independent athletes are eligible to advance but will not qualify for awards until the state individual finals.

District Entry Procedure

1. All wrestlers must compete in the District Championships to qualify for subsequent championships.
2. Coaches MUST enter their wrestlers for the districts via the trackwrestling program by 8:00 PM on the Monday of the district week.
3. The District Site Manager will receive an access code from trackwrestling and will be responsible for printing out a set of 14 sheets (each weight) for every team entered.

4. A wrestler is permitted to wrestle in any eligible weight class, providing their name appears as a contestant or alternate at any weight class on the properly signed trackwrestling official district weigh-In form.
5. Every wrestler, at every level, must have only one individual match summary form that shows all appearances by that wrestler, at all levels, where that wrestler represented the school in any match (i.e., weight, weight class, level, W/L, etc.)
6. Schools entering teams in the districts must submit a facility fee of **$175.00** to be made payable to the host school prior to the district seeding meeting. A team is defined as two or more athletes.
7. Girls entered into a District tournament must be certified in the Trackwrestling boys season and may not have wrestled in any girls events during the regular season or state tournament.
8. When entering a girl's certification in the Trackwrestling boys season, the assessor must check the "F" box – designating female.
9. Virtual district seeding meetings are permitted. If the district seeding meeting is hosted in-person, then no coach will be permitted to attend virtually.

Entry Fee

1. $25.00 per wrestler that weighs in at the districts regardless of whether they compete or not.
2. Make payments payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Wrestling Tournament).
3. Forward all entry fees to the NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691
4. DO NOT use certified mail

District Tournament Rules & Information

1. The District Tournament will consist of a one day qualifying tournament held at 32 different locations throughout the state.
2. The top 3 place winners in each weight class will advance to the regional championships.
3. A contestant shall weigh-in for only one weight class during the weigh-in period. If a contestant fails to make weight, he may move up to another weight class. The individual's descent plan must allow participation in the chosen weight class.
4. All weigh-ins will start 1.5 hours before the scheduled start time.
5. Only one wrestler per weight class will be given a pass for entry into the tournament.
6. Wrestlers receiving a forfeit must weigh-in and step on the mat for that round. Failure to do so eliminates a wrestler from the tournament and/or further competition.
7. All wrestlers will weigh-in in reverse seed order (10-9-8-7 etc.).
8. There is a two (2) scale minimum for weigh-ins. If weight checks are provided, the same scales must be used for both the weigh-ins and weight checks.
9. The actual weight of each contestant must be recorded by the weighmaster or designee on the district weigh-in sheet. Proper signatures must be recorded.
10. All schools entered in the individual tournament will be held responsible for the conduct of their coaching staff and all other school personnel. Member schools cannot expect the NJSIAA to assume responsibility for improper conduct at tournament events.
11. The site manager and/or the official, have the authority to address and correct any action of intimidation unethical, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
12. When severe weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances necessitate postponement, the site manager will make the final decision and should have an outlined procedure to inform the NJSIAA tournament director, the NJSIAA state assignor, NJ.com (hssupport@nj.com), event staff/personnel and potential opponents.
13. All matches, except finals, will follow regular match order: 108 through 287. If the finals will be wrestled following a random draw the random draw will take place prior to the weigh-ins Saturday when all coaches and wrestlers are present at the designated weigh-in time (per NFHS Rule 5-21.1).
14. By rule, a bye can only happen in the first round (round of 16) of any tournament. A bye is not the same as a forfeit provided there are not enough wrestlers to complete the round of 8, then the top seed receives a forfeit victory if they weigh-in in proper uniform, ready to wrestle (forfeit will count as a win for that individual) and have their hand raised.

District Tournament Seeding Information

1. The site manager will serve or appoint a Seeding Chairperson, who is not an active high school coach, to run the meeting, and to only vote in the case of a tie.

2. The head wrestling coach and one designee may take part in the seeding discussions but only the head coach must vote. Every school must vote (no abstentions).
3. All districts must use the NJSIAA sponsored computerized program, trackwrestling.com, for the seeding meeting throughout the tournament.
4. All district seeding meetings must be held on the Wednesday of district week. Coaches must be made aware of the time and location.
5. Wrestlers will be pre-seeded by Trackwrestling points based on their best twenty (20) matches using the pre-seed chart for the district.
6. Trackwrestling will do all the calculations automatically when match results are recorded on trackwrestling, and a current listing of points will be available online as the season progresses.
7. The Pre-seed chart will be a combination of the following:
   a. **Prestige Points** - Points a wrestler starts the season with, by virtue of the best past performance in a previous NJSIAA State Tournament. These points will be displayed on trackwrestling so possible caliber points can be determined by opponents.
      - Use same advancement criteria as stated in the state tournament criteria- i.e., replacement wrestler does not have to win in the tournament to get credit for seeding next year
   b. **Caliber Points** - Points for competition earned for wins and some close losses (by a decision) during the current season.
      - Points are calculated for the best twenty (20) matches.
      - The district pre-seed chart can be used for out-of-state competition.
      - Any win against a non-NJSIAA member will earn two (2) points regardless of state or caliber of varsity competition.
      - The individual match record will show how many points are earned or lost for each match throughout the year.
      - A single pin-point will also be added when a match ends in a fall. (Not for md, tf, dq or ff).
      - A single point will be deducted for each loss to a non-regional competitor from a previous tournament.
      - Any forfeit win counts for 2 points but no extra pin-points
8. Coaches MUST enter their wrestlers for the districts via the trackwrestling program by 8:00 PM on the Monday of District week. This will allow trackwrestling to calculate the Pre-Seeds, and head-to-head data per weight class. Coaches will not have to print a copy of all their individual match summaries for all of the other coaches in the district.
9. The District Site Manager will receive an access code from trackwrestling and will be responsible for printing out a set of 14 sheets (each weight) for every team entered. This one (1) page per weight class print-out will be a list of wrestlers with their total Pre-Seed points listed (from highest to lowest) and will include the wrestler's record and grade and will list all head-to-head matches between any contestants in this weight class during this year and will be given out at the start of the seeding meeting. Any tie in the pre-seed points will be broken by (in order):
   a. Head-to-head
   b. Common opponents (Win vs Loss)
   c. Three best win(s) on a vote of the head coaches
10. Pre-seed point Calculations: Prestige Points + Caliber Points = Pre-seeds (see chart below)

District Pre-Seed Chart

Past year	Caliber Points		Current year	
Prestige Points Own Merit- (Caliber Pts x 2)	Furthest Advancement	Caliber Points	Beat a Participant (=Caliber Pts)	Lost by Decision (20% Caliber Pts)
125	S1	62.5	62.5	12.5
115	S2	57.5	57.5	11.5
110	S3	55	55	11
105	S4	52.5	52.5	10.5

100	S5	50	50	10
95	S6	47.5	47.5	9.5
90	S7	45	45	9
85	S8	42.5	42.5	8.5
80	Swb4	40	40	8
75	Swb3	37.5	37.5	7.5
70	Swb2	35	35	7
65	Swb1	32.5	32.5	6.5
50	R5	25	25	5
45	R6	22.5	22.5	4.5
40	Rwb1	20	20	4
35	Rpqtr	17.5	17.5	3.5
15	District 4	7.5	7.5	0
10	District Qtrs	5	5	-1
0	No Postseason	2	2	-1

District Tournament Seeding Procedure

1. All wrestlers will be seeded, and their names placed on a traditional 16-wrestler bracket with no wrestler seeded in more than one weight class.
2. Only individual varsity matches wrestled this season count towards seeding, with the winning of any previous titles made known to all.
3. Wild Card Procedure:
    - A coach must submit written documentation (via email) to the Region President by 12:00pm on Tuesday of the District tournament week
    - The documentation must include:
        - The reason for the wildcard
        - The weight class the wrestler will be wrestling and the seed they are intending to challenge
        - Signature of the school's athletic director verifying that all information is accurate
        - The Region President will then inform each of their Districts that there will be a wildcard to be discussed.
    - A wrestler with 20 or more varsity matches during the current season shall not be eligible for a wildcard.
    - Prior to the start of seeding the first weight class, all coaches that are considering using the wild card designation for any wrestler(s) 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.
    - Collectively, coaches will decide what they believe is a proper use of the wild card designation for any wrestler that can include injury, academic ineligibility, transfers or other unforeseen conditions AND coaches should be careful not to abuse the wildcard as it could lead to endless time-consuming debate.
    - A coach will challenge a seed and if voted yes by 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 is denied, then 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.
    - Coaches also can wildcard wrestlers on other teams, but doing so will require following the same procedures as wildcarding your own wrestler.
    - Mandatory wildcards 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 weight class
        - Example 2 – someone moving to another weight class AFTER the seeding meeting
4. An open or closed vote of all voting coaches is taken and is final and all discussions on that wrestler shall cease and shall not be reconsidered. The coach's late arrival is NOT grounds to re-seed.
5. Movement after the Pre-seed will only be by Head-to-Head results.

6. Final seeding for the districts:
    a. Head-to-head competition this season.
    b. 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.
        - If a wrestler has multiple losses to the same opponent, only eliminate one of those losses to satisfy all possible round-robins.
        - 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.
    c. Next start with the best pre-seed and work down. Discuss every head-to-head match, with the best challenge, heard first. Continue until all losses are satisfied and vote only with extenuating circumstances.
        - Majority of victories receives preference. Split decisions will be decided with the later win receiving preference
    d. The vote will result in the challenger moving ahead of the higher, pre-seeded wrestler, moving the remaining wrestlers down, OR to remain in the pre-seed placement.
7. Replacement – Any wrestler named at the seeding meeting that cannot wrestle in that weight class for any reason can be replaced prior to the conclusion of that weight class's weigh-in by an "eligible" replacement or alternate and a re-seed must occur.
8. Unfair Seeds – Where it can be substantiated that an unfair seed has occurred, the tournament director must email the NJSIAA Tournament Director by 12:00 Noon, Friday to have the matter presented to the State Tournament Committee of the seeding meeting with this committee's ruling final.
9. Forfeiture – Occurs after the initial weigh-in period and a subsequent reseeding meeting is over. If a wrestler successfully weighs in and subsequently does not appear on the mat to wrestle, a forfeit will be declared. Any forfeiture for not appearing on the mat eliminates that wrestler from the tournament unless as provided for in NFHS Wrestling Rules Book. Failure to provide the Tournament Committee with an acceptable reason for default or forfeit could result in Executive Committee action.
10. Re-seeding – Any Replacement will necessitate a re-seed using the same initial district seed procedure. This re-seeding must occur prior to the start of the first session.

Athletic Trainers Assignments & Payment - District Tournament

The host school will assign and pay all Athletic Trainers & Blood Personnel.

Officials Assignments & Payment - District Tournament

a. The NJSIAA State Assignor will assign all officials for the districts.
b. The host school is responsible for paying all officials via any means they prefer - $300.00 per official and $55.00 per weighmaster.
c. Two officials will be assigned to each mat after the quarterfinals.
d. Officials will alternate as the bout official and the assistant official for each match starting with the semifinals.
e. One of the officials will also handle the weighmaster duties.

Awards - District Tournament

a. NJSIAA - The top three (3) place winners in each weight class will receive a medal.
b. NJ Wrestling Coaches Association (NJWCA) Awards:
    - District Most Outstanding Wrestler
    - District Coach of the Year – District Assistant Coach of the Year
    - Designation of the #1 Team in the District

REGION TOURNAMENT

Region Tournament Rules & Information

1. The region tournament will consist of a two-day, 3-round qualifying tournament held at eight different locations throughout the state.
2. The top 4 place winners in each weight class will advance to the State Championships.

3. The weight class order will be 108 to 287. A random draw may be used for the final matches only (per NFHS Rule 5-21.1).
4. No weigh-in form is needed. All weigh-ins will start 1.5 hours before the scheduled start time.
5. Wrestlers will wrestle-back to 3rd through 6th place in the regions.
6. Tickets for wrestlers, administrators, and coaches will be given in a packet following the District Tournament
7. All schools entered in the individual tournament will be held responsible for the conduct of their coaching staff and all other school personnel. Member schools cannot expect the NJSIAA to assume responsibility for improper conduct at tournament events.
8. The site manager and/or the official, have the authority to address and correct any action of intimidation unethical, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
9. When severe weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances necessitate postponement, the site manager will make the final decision and should have an outlined procedure to inform the NJSIAA tournament director, the NJSIAA state assignor, NJ.com (hssupport@nj.com), event staff/personnel and potential opponents.

Region Tournament Seeding Information

1. We will be using the past advancements in the previous state tournaments to pre-seed the regions.
2. Committee chaired by the Regional Tournament Director, or designated seeding chairperson, who will break any tie votes, and four (4) District Representatives – one from each District in the Region.
3. Each District Rep may bring a non-voting, non-speaking assistant/coach. No other coaches.
4. The region seeding meeting will take place no later than Tuesday of the region week. There will be only one seeding meeting.
5. The purpose of the seeding meeting is to:
   a. To ensure that the criteria for seeding is correctly followed
   b. Provide the district champions with a BYE in the first round
   c. Pre-Seed, Head-to-Head movement and seed all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place district place winners and/or replacement
6. To ensure that district champs get a BYE in the first round all champs must be seeded in the top eight (8) spots.
   a. If a champ is seeded outside the top eight, that wrestler will be placed at the 8th seed and the other wrestlers will be moved to accommodate that placement. If multiple, use 7th and 8th spots, etc.
   b. The lowest four, 2nd/3rd seeds, will be paired with the highest four, 2nd/3rd • The best-seeded 2nd/3rd will be paired with the lowest-seeded 2nd/3rd
      - The 2nd best 2nd/3rd vs. the 2nd lowest 2nd/3rd, etc.
7. If a wrestler medically forfeits during the District tournament, then the forfeit will be considered a loss for seeding purposes only.

Region Tournament Pre-Seeding Criteria

1. Own Merit in a Previous Tournament – this level or better
   - Higher placement(s) or further advancements(s) in wrestle-backs will earn the better pre-seed.
   - NOTE: All wrestlers get credit for being here, minimum advancement if out
   - Greater number of appearances – with the most recent advancement receiving preference.
2. Defeated a seeded wrestler(s) – in this weight class during this season
   - NOTE: The better the pre-seed the better the victory. Use other victories using this criterion, if needed. Wins vs. multiple opponents with the same criteria is better than beating the same opponent twice
3. Defeated any tournament participant(s) from a previous year during this season.
   - NOTE: Better the defeated wrestler's advancement the higher the pre-seed. Use other victories using the criterion if needed. Wins vs. multiple opponents with the same criteria is better than beating the same opponent twice
4. Use total Trackwrestling points – combination of prestige points and 20 best caliber points – points earned in the districts can be used.
5. Winning percentage

Region Tournament Final Seeding

1. Head-to-head competition this season.
    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.
    b. Next start with the best pre-seed and work down. Discuss every head-to-head match, with the best challenge, heard first. Continue until all losses are satisfied and vote only with extenuating circumstances.
        • Majority of victories receives preference. Split decisions will be decided with the later win receiving preference
    c. If Trackwrestling points are tied, then the District Representative and the seeding chairman will vote.
2. Unfair Seeds - Where it can be substantiated that an unfair seed has occurred, the tournament director must email the NJSIAA Tournament Director by 12:00 Noon, Thursday to have the matter presented to the State Tournament Committee of the seeding meeting with this committee's ruling final.
3. Re-seeding - Any replacement will necessitate that district treat their three (3) remaining wrestlers as 1st, (best remaining and receives a bye 1st round) 2nd (next best remaining), and 3rd place finishers (3rd best remaining).
    a. Replacement - Any wrestler named at the seeding meeting that cannot wrestle in that weight class, for any reason, can be replaced prior to the conclusion of that weight class's weigh-in by an "eligible" replacement alternate. A re-seed must occur using the same initial region seed procedure. Whether replacement or not there must be a reseed.
4. Replacement - The replacement must have competed in the finals or consolations IN THE DISTRICTS unless injured. Only someone placing 1st through 4th may be a replacement for the Region. The coach of the withdrawn or possibly withdrawn wrestler must notify the coach of the 4th place finisher so that wrestler may be the third representative from that district.
5. Forfeiture - Occurs after the initial weigh-in period and a subsequent reseeding meeting is over. If a wrestler successfully weighs in and subsequently does not appear on the mat to wrestle, a forfeit will be declared. Any forfeiture for not appearing on the mat eliminates that wrestler from the tournament unless as provided for in NFHS Wrestling Rules Book. Failure to provide the Tournament Committee with an acceptable reason for default or forfeit could result in Executive Committee action.

Athletic Trainers Assignments & Payment - Region Championships

a. The host school will assign all Athletic Trainers & Blood Personnel.
b. Two Athletic Trainers and two blood personnel will be assigned
c. The NJSIAA will pay all Athletic Trainers & Blood Personnel.

Officials Assignments & Payment - Region Championships

a. The NJSIAA State Assignor will assign all officials for the regions.
b. Two officials will be assigned to each mat.
c. Officials will alternate as the bout official and the assistant official for each match.
d. One of the officials will also handle the weighmaster duties.
e. The NJSIAA will pay all officials.

Awards - Region Championships

NJSIAA - The top four (4) place winners in each weight class will receive a medal.
NJ Wrestling Coaches Association (NJWCA) Awards:

- Region Most Outstanding Wrestler
- Region Coach of the Year – Region Assistant Coach of the Year
- Designation of the #1 Team in the Region

STATE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE

Please note: All wrestling times listed below are approximate – it is the responsibility of the wrestler and coach to be ready to wrestle when called.

Thursday, February 25, 2027		
Weight Check	8:00 am	Girls
Weigh-Ins	8:30 am	Girls
Weight Check	9:00 am	Boys
Weigh-Ins	9:30 am	Boys
Wrestling	10:00 am	Girls: Pre-Quarters – Quarters – WB 1 ***
Wrestling	11:25 am	Boys: Preliminaries – Pre-Quarters – WB 1
*** Continuous wrestling alternating with girls and boys rounds ***		
Friday, February 26, 2027		
Weight Check	7:00 am	Boys
Weigh-Ins	7:30 am	Boys
Weight Check	8:30 am	Girls
Weigh-Ins	9:00 am	Girls

Friday, February 26, 2027 (continued)		
Wrestling	9:00 am	Boys: WB 2 – Quarters – WB 3
Wrestling	10:45 am	Girls: WB 2
Break – 2:30 pm		
Wrestling	3:45 pm	Girls: Semis – WB 3
Awards – 5:40 pm		
Wrestling	6:00 pm	Boys: Semifinals – WB 4
Wrestling	8:00 pm	Girls: Consolation Semifinals
Wrestling	8:40 pm	Boys: WB 5
Saturday, February 27, 2027		
Weight Check	7:00 am	Boys
Weigh-Ins	7:30 am	Boys
Weight Check	7:30 am	Girls
Weigh-Ins	8:00 am	Girls
Wrestling	9:00 am	Boys: WB 6
Wrestling	9:45 am	Boys and Girls: 3rd – 5th – 7th place
Girls Parade – 12:45 pm (approximately)		
Girls Finals – 1:00 pm (not before)		
Boys Parade – 3:20 pm (approximately)		
Boys Finals – 3:30 pm (not before)		

State Individual Championships Rules & Information

a. The state championships will consist of a three-day tournament that is held at the Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall.
b. Thirty-two (32) wrestlers per weight class will be seeded.
c. Medals will be given to the final eight wrestlers.
d. Weigh-in Procedures:
    a. The weight class order will be 108 to 287. A random draw may be used for the final matches only per NFHS Rule 5-21.1.
    b. Weight check will be a ½ hour prior to the weigh-in period, WRESTLERS ONLY in the room, no coaches
    c. Weight allowances: Thursday 108, Friday 109, Saturday 110.
    d. Thursday –Starts at 9:30am at 108 and concludes with 287 lb. weight class in the ballroom
    e. Friday - Starts at 7:30 am at 109, concludes with the 288 lb. weight class in the ballroom
    f. Saturday - Starts at 7:30 am at 110, concludes with the 289 lb. weight class in the ballroom
    g. Weigh-ins for each weight class will be in alphabetical order.

State Individual Championships Seeding Information

1. The committee is chaired by the Wrestling Coordinator and will consist of the NJWCA eight Region Presidents. The Wrestling Coordinator will break any tie votes.
2. The seeding meeting will take place at the NJSIAA office in Robbinsville, NJ.
3. All Region Presidents will pre-seed assigned weight classes to present to the entire seeding committee.
4. Goal of the state seeding meeting:
    a. To ensure that the criteria for seeding is correctly followed
    b. Pre-seed, head-to-head movement and seed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place region medal winners.

5. If a wrestler medically forfeits during the Region tournament, then the forfeit will be considered a loss for seeding purposes only.

State Individual Championship Pre-Seeding Criteria

1. Wrestlers own merit in a previous tournament – this level or better
    - Higher placement(s) or further advancements(s) in wrestle-backs will earn the better pre-seed.
    - Greater number of appearances – with the most recent advancement receiving preference.
        i NOTE: All wrestlers get credit for being here, minimum advancement if out
2. Defeated a seeded wrestler(s) – in this weight class during this season
    - NOTE: Better the defeated wrestler's advancement the higher the pre-seed. Use other victories using the criterion if needed. Wins vs. multiple opponents with the same criteria is better than beating the same opponent twice
3. Defeated any tournament participant(s) from a previous year during this season
    - NOTE: The better the pre-seed the better the victory. Use other victories using this criterion, if needed
4. Use total Trackwrestling points – combination of prestige points and 20 best caliber points – points earned in the districts and regions can be used
5. Winning percentage

State Individual Championship Final Seeding

1. Head-to-head competition this season.
    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.
    b. Next start with the best pre-seed and work down. Discuss every head-to-head match, with the best challenge, heard first. Continue until all losses are satisfied and vote only with extenuating circumstances.
        i. The majority of victories receive preference. Split decisions will be decided with the later win receiving preference
    c. The vote will result in the challenger moving ahead of the higher, pre-seeded wrestler, moving the remaining wrestlers down, OR to remain in the pre-seed placement.
2. Replacement - The replacement must have competed in the finals or consolations in the Regions unless injured. Only someone placing 1st through 6th may be a replacement for the State Finals in Atlantic City. The coach of the withdrawn or possibly withdrawn wrestler must notify the coach of the 5th or 6th place (if needed) finisher so that wrestler may be the fourth representative from that Region.
3. Forfeiture - Occurs after the initial weigh-in period and a subsequent reseeding meeting is over. If a wrestler successfully weighs in and subsequently does not appear on the mat to wrestle, a forfeit will be declared. Any forfeiture for not appearing on the mat eliminates that wrestler from the tournament unless as provided for in NFHS Wrestling Rules Book. Failure to provide the Tournament Committee with an acceptable reason for default or forfeit could result in Executive Committee action.
4. Re-seeding - All appeals must be made by 12:00pm on Wednesday. A re-seed/re-draw of wrestlers will occur before this time.
    a. If a wrestler is out of the tournament for any reason prior to 8:00 pm Wednesday, a reseed will occur.
    b. Any replacement will necessitate that Region to treat their four (4) remaining wrestlers as 1st (best remaining) 2nd (next best remaining) 3rd and 4th best remaining for reseeding purposes.
5. Failure to make weight in Atlantic City
    a. A re-seed WILL NOT occur after the initial weigh-in.
    b. If there is a legal replacement from that Region, the replacement will occupy the spot(s) of the withdrawn wrestler(s).

c. After 8:00pm on Wednesday, if a 5th or 6th place Region finisher cannot replace an injured wrestler or someone fails to make weight and there is no legal wrestler for replacement, wrestlers will be moved up and the forfeit will be to the highest seed.

Officials Assignments & Payment – State Championships

NJSIAA will assign and pay all officials for the state individual championships.

a. Two officials will officiate each bout (official & assistant).
b. Officials will alternate as the bout official and the assistant official for each match.
c. Four officials will be assigned to every mat prior to the semi-finals.
d. Three officials will be assigned to every mat for the semi-finals (Friday) and consolation rounds (Saturday).
e. Six officials will be assigned to the finals (Saturday).
f. NJSIAA will pay all officials.

Athletic Trainers Assignments & Payment – State Championships

NJSIAA will assign and pay all athletic trainers & blood personnel.

Awards – State Championships

NJSIAA:

a. The top eight (8) place winners in each weight class will receive a medal.
b. Donald Ringler Award will be given to the Most Outstanding Wrestler.

NJ Wrestling Coaches Association (NJWCA) & NJ Wrestling Officials Association (NJWOA):

a. Ernie Finizio/Pug Williams Award – No. 1 Boys Team in New Jersey
b. Vincent Russo Golden Whistle Award - Excellence in Officiating
c. Richard Mirshak Award - Premium Award for Officiating
d. Harry E. Lake Award – Contributions to Wrestling