



IESA Wrestling

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

March 23, 2023

The following members were present for the zoom meeting: Charlie Shempf (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Connor Cummings (Woodridge Jefferson), Dan Levy (Wilmette JHS), Dan Newkirk (Litchfield), David Rush (Homer Glen Homer), Gary Rizzio (Barrington Prairie), Sean Mullen (McHenry MS), Rob Zielinski (Official), Mike Hurckes (Coordinator of Officials), and Jeff Baughman (LeRoy).

The IESA Wrestling Advisory Committee, in its meeting on March 23, 2023, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their April, 2023, meeting:

Recommendation 1: Sectional Format

Current: Regional and Sectional tournaments will use a *Follow the Leader* format.

Proposed: Regional tournaments will use a follow the leader format. Sectional tournaments will use a true wrestleback format.

Rationale: Using a true wrestleback format at the sectional level will make sure the best wrestlers in each sectional advance to the state tournament. The extra time needed to run a wrestleback double elimination tournament is worth it in the eyes of the coaches and student athletes. This format also matches the format used at the state tournament. The current *follow the leader* format is greatly impacted by what seed/draw the wrestler gets. Sectional hosts will have the opportunity to use four mats (if available) to cut down the additional time needed for a wrestleback tournament.

T&C: Section V

Handbook: 4.057- Seeding procedures and format

Admin. Vote: 4-0 in favor

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 2: Seeding Meeting

Current: It shall be the responsibility of the regional wrestling host to invite the coaches of the participating schools to a seeding meeting on **Wednesday** of Week 34 in the IESA standardized calendar.

Proposed: It shall be the responsibility of the regional wrestling host to invite the coaches of the participating schools to a seeding meeting on **Thursday** of week 34 in the IESA standardized calendar.

Rationale: Conducting the seeding meeting on Thursday of week 34 will limit the number of scratches for the regional tournament on Saturday. This will make the process of entering Track wrestling information easier for the tournament manager.

T&C: Section V; A

Handbook: 4.057

Admin. Vote: 4-0 in favor

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 3: The use of a 3rd official at the regional level

Current: Two officials shall be hired for all regional boys wrestling tournaments.

Proposed: For regional tournaments that have a large number of participants, a third official shall be hired. The IESA will use the previous year's participation numbers to determine whether a 3rd official is needed to be hired.

Rationale: Having only two officials at regional tournaments is causing the officials to be extremely fatigued and overworked. The officials arrive at 7:30am and officiate continuously with no break until 4:30-5:30pm. Having a third official at the regional level will allow officials to have proper rest and provide the best experience for wrestlers/schools.

T&C: XII; B

Handbook:

Admin. Vote: 4-0 opposed

Board Action: **No Action**

Recommendation 4: Officials pay

Current: Regional= \$160 / Sectional= \$175

Proposed: Regional= \$200 / Sectional= \$225

Rationale: Officials pay needs to be increased during IESA post season due to of the length of the tournaments at the regional/sectional level. The IESA post-season rate is significantly lower than other junior high level clubs/associations. Officials are receiving a higher rate for regular season events compared to post-season events. In order to maintain the highest quality of officials, the pay should be increased.

T&C: XII; E

Handbook: 5.042. 2.126

Admin. Vote: 4-0 in favor

Admin recommendation: Each regional will be assigned three officials. Three regional officials will be paid \$160 each. Sectional officials will be paid \$225 each.

Board Action: **Approved with Admin Recommendation**

Recommendation 5: Consistent weigh-in time at regional/sectional

Current: Regional hosts decide a weigh-in time and communicate to schools within their regional.

Proposed: A 60-minute weigh-in period shall be scheduled to start 90 minutes prior to all regional and sectional tournaments.. Adjust weigh in time from 45 minutes to 60 minutes. Example: 7:30-8:30am weigh in for 9:00am start time. // 8:30-9:30am weigh in for 10:00am start time.

Rationale: Having a consistent weigh-in time will allow officials to arrive at the same time no matter what regional they are assigned to. This will eliminate any discrepancy if a school does not weigh in on time. All schools will know in advance what time they need to arrive and can plan travel arrangements accordingly.

T&C: VIII; B

Handbook: 4.056

Admin. Vote: 4-0 in favor

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 6: Individual Limitations

Current: Individual contestants shall be limited to a maximum of five matches per day, with a minimum rest period of 30 minutes between each match

Proposed: Individual contestants shall be limited to a maximum of **six** matches per day, with a minimum rest period of **30** minutes between each match

Rationale: Match new NFHS guidelines. NFHS: allowing 6 matches in a day was more for meet management on one-day tournaments and is not to allow more matches in a season. Experiments were conducted by state associations last year, and there was no reported increase of injuries. Allowing six matches during the regular season events is a normal progression and will be monitored throughout the season.

T&C: IVI; B

Handbook: 4.055

Admin. Vote: 4-0 in Favor

Board Action: **Approved**

Points of Emphasis:

1. Enforcement of NFHS rules/guidelines of proper headgear
2. Seeding: Make sure regional hosts are aware they need to draw to the 8 seed and that byes go to highest seed in seed order.
3. No cross bracketing at the regional/sectional level.
4. Minimum of 30-minute rest between matches.
5. Host schools following the financial form instructions.
6. Utilizing Track wrestling software provided by the IESA.

Other items discussed:

- Weight allowance
- NIU facilities/ food
- Coaches' hospitality at the state tournament
- Pass list (managers)
- Regional/Sectional assignments
- Wrestleback at the regional tournament