



# ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## 2026 INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRESTLING STATE TOURNAMENT

Included in this mailing are several items pertaining to the state meet that will be held **March 13-14** at the Convocation Center on the campus of Northern Illinois University and information regarding the pass gate for state. **PLEASE READ ALL OF THE STATE INFORMATION SHEET VERY CAREFULLY AS THERE IS INFORMATION REGARDING WHERE CONTESTANTS AND COACHES ENTER THE NIU CONVOCATION CENTER.** Included are:

- State information sheet
- Tournament schedule
- Apparel Pre-order information
- On-Line Passgate List Instructions for state finals

### **LOCATION:**

The **2026** state wrestling meet will be held at the Convocation Center on the campus of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, on Friday and Saturday, **March 13-14.**

- Please go to [www.iesa.org](http://www.iesa.org) and go to the wrestling page for directions to the Convocation Center or go to [www.convocenter.niu.edu](http://www.convocenter.niu.edu) for information.

### **PASS GATE INFORMATION:**

- **The On-Line Passgate List must be completed by Noon on Tuesday, [March 10.](#)**
- **Your printed and signed copy of the list must be presented for entry into the Convocation Center.**
- **Athletes competing in the tournament will be automatically inserted into the form. You are required to input their correct grade and check spellings. You will not be able to add athletes to this form.**
- **1-4 wrestlers= 2 coaches passes. 5 or more wrestlers= 3 coaches passes.**
- **The Pass Gate form must be signed by your principal and presented at weigh-in to receive your admission tags. Only those listed on the form will receive admission tags.**
- **Lost tags will not be replaced. Anyone losing their tag will be required to pay admission.**
- **Failure to complete the form will result in tags being issued to only the school's competing wrestlers and one coach.**
- **ONLY COACHES WHO ARE APPROVED BY YOUR SCHOOL AND MEET ALL IESA COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING THE STATE MANDATED CONCUSSION COURSE MAY BE LISTED. ANY COACH ARRIVING AFTER THE TEAM ARRIVAL WILL PICK UP THEIR ADMISSION TAG AT ENTRANCE #5.**
- **Pre-approved Administrators and pre-approved media will collect their entry ticket at Will Call. Administrators will have to pay for parking.**

### **TEAM PARKING AND CHECK-IN:**

- Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for team packet pick-up and team check-in.
- All contestants and coaches must enter through the north entrance #5 of the NIU Convocation Center.
- School Buses should unload wrestlers on the north end of the building near lot C-3 so they can enter through entrance #5. Buses should then park in lot C-3. **Bus Drivers must pay admission.**
- **Team transportation Busses/Vans will be allowed to park free of charge and park in C-3. Any coach traveling separate from the team and is listed on their schools IESA PASS GATE LIST will need to provide first and last name and city/school to the parking attendant to park free of charge. Any coach not with team transportation and not listed on the IESA State Pass Gate list will have to pay for parking.**
- **There is now a spectator parking charge per vehicle: \$10.00 pre pay online - \$15.00 onsite charge.**
- **Link to pre pay for parking pass can be found at [iesa.org/wrestling/fanzone](http://iesa.org/wrestling/fanzone)**
- Weigh-ins for the state meet will be held on Friday only from **9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.** Wrestlers will be allowed to enter the Convocation Center arena starting at 10:00 a.m.

**ONLY WRESTLERS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED FOR STATE AND COACHES LISTED ON THE PASS GATE FORM CAN ENTER THROUGH ENTRANCE #5.**

- **IF YOU BRING ADDITIONAL STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE FINALS, THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER WITH YOUR TEAM.**
- **They must enter through Entrance #2 and pay to enter.**

- PLEASE MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS IF YOU BRING NON-QUALIFIERS TO THE MEET WITH YOU SO THOSE INDIVIDUALS ARE SUPERVISED WHILE YOUR TEAM IS GOING THROUGH WEIGH-INS.
- NON-QUALIFIERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER WITH YOUR TEAM NOR ARE THEY ALLOWED IN THE WEIGH-IN AREA

### **SPECTATOR INFORMATION:**

- The Convocation Center has a clear-bag policy: [www.convocenter.niu.edu/pages/prohibited-items](http://www.convocenter.niu.edu/pages/prohibited-items)
- All spectators must enter through the General Public Entrance (Entrance #2).
- Admission doors for spectators (entrance #2) will open at **10:00 a.m. on Friday – No early admissions.**
- Admission doors for spectators open at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday.**
- **Daily admission fees for all spectators - \$15.00.** (There is a \$2.95 fee added to the ticket price per NIU policy)
- **Share the wrestling tournament guide with your school and families for more information which can be found below or in the IESA Wrestling FanZone**  
Link: [https://www.iesa.org/xupload/guides/BWR\\_guide.pdf](https://www.iesa.org/xupload/guides/BWR_guide.pdf)
- **Tickets can be purchased starting Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> online at IESA.org, convocenter.niu.edu or in person at the NIU ticket office. Ticket office will open at 9am on Friday and 7am on Saturday**
- **Link for tickets and pre pay parking: <https://niuhuskies.event.net/events/IESA>**
- **There is no reserved seating.**
- **IESA Activity Passes will NOT be accepted at the State Final Tournament.**
- **ALL FANS ENTERING THE CONVOCATION CENTER WILL RECEIVE A WRISTBAND AND THIS WRISTBAND MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. SHOULD FANS LEAVE THE BUILDING AT ANY TIME DURING THE DAY, THEY WILL BE RE-ADMITTED AS LONG AS THE WRISTBAND IS STILL ON THE WRIST OF THE INDIVIDUAL. FANS LEAVING THE FACILITY AND RETURNING WITHOUT A WRISTBAND WILL HAVE TO PAY ADMISSION TO RETURN.**
- Spectators will NOT be allowed to bring in any outside food or drink.
- **Concession stands are cashless. No cash will be accepted at the concession stands.**
- A spot for spectators to take pictures/video will be provided at each end of the main level, in front of section 207-208 and 216-217 (East and West ends). **TRI-POD OR MONOPOD CAMERA STANDS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE CONVOCATION CENTER.**
- **Reminder: On Saturday spectators will not be allowed on the floor to take pictures for the award ceremony. Class A awards will be on the East end in front of section 207-208. Class AA awards will be on the West end in front of section 216-217. Spectators will be able to take pictures along the railings.**
- Handicap seating will also be available at each end of the main level.
- **STROLLERS** are not allowed in the Convocation Center
- **All spectators must sit in the upper bowl throughout the entire tournament. Parents will not be allowed to the lower level to take pictures during the awards ceremony. Awards presentation for Class A will be on the East end and face East towards the spectators and Class AA will be on the West end and face West towards the spectators.**
- **Suggested seating for spectators: Class A: 201-206, 218. Class AA: 209-216.**

### **SPECTATOR PARKING:**

- **DO NOT PARK IN RESTRICTED AREAS.**
- Parking fee per vehicle. **Be sure to pay online prior to the tournament to get a discounted price.**
  - Pre Pay Parking Fee \$10.00 – Link: <https://niuhuskies.event.net/events/IESA>
  - Pay Onsite Parking Fee \$15.00

### **STATE FINAL MERCHANDISE:**

- **You will need to go to the CubbyHole website to advance order your sectional and state merchandise.** Please use the online sale option as it will expedite the sale of T-shirts a great deal if you pre-order:  
[www.cubbyholeonline.com](http://www.cubbyholeonline.com)
- Pre-ordered merchandise will be picked up onsite at the Convocation Center.
- There is no longer a team pre-order.
- T-Shirts and other apparel will be on sale at the state site.

- **ALL PRE-ORDERS ARE DONE ON AN INDIVIDUAL. PLEASE GIVE YOUR PARENTS THE LINK TO THE CUBBYHOLE SO THEY CAN PRE-ORDER AND THEN PICK -UP ON SITE AT THE CONVOCATION CENTER**

### **INFORMATION FOR COACHES & WRESTLERS:**

- A meeting of all coaches and officials will be held at **10:45** a.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- Wrestlers and coaches will be admitted to the main floor with a pass only.
- **HOSPITALITY ROOM/FOOD WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FOR COACHES**
- **Athlete friendly food options available in the South Lobby**
- Only coaches and wrestlers with appropriate tags will be admitted to the mat side area. The coach tag will be a different color than the participant tag. Each school will receive a maximum of three coach tags.
- Replacement cost for lost tags is the same as for regular admission. This includes any wrestler who loses their tag.
- Pairings for the state tournament will be released on the IESA website after the sectional results have been reported to the IESA Office. Hopefully, this will be no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, **March 9**.
- **Reminder: Coaches and wrestlers will now be seated in the upper bowl. Class A coaches and wrestlers will be in section 207-208. Class AA coaches and wrestlers will be in section 216-217.**
- Wrestlers will be allowed to bring in coolers with food and drink **on Friday only**. Once the weigh-in process is completed, no cooler of any type will be allowed. Wrestlers will be allowed to eat and drink the food brought in on Friday until 11:30 a.m. Coolers must remain with the wrestlers in **sections 207-208, 216-217**. **NOTE---NO GLASS CONTAINERS OF ANY TYPE WILL BE ALLOWED AT ANY TIME**. Please make sure to take all materials with you by the end of the day. The area will be cleared at the end of the night.
- Wrestlers will NOT be permitted to bring in coolers on Saturday. Duffle bags brought into the Convocation Center on Saturday will be checked for outside food and drink.
- **Coaches, please make sure to use the provided trash bags and clean up your area of garbage and debris at the end of each day. Please pick up all trash!**
- Each coach must have in his possession parental **permission for emergency medical care (form provided by your school, not the IESA)** for each contestant.
- Medical personnel will be on hand during the tournament. If you have any wrestlers who have had to complete a skin condition form, please be sure that you bring that form with you in case a mat official should question a skin condition during weigh-in.
- There is not a will-call window for coaches. Coaches must enter the Convocation Center with the team. Coaches who are not able to enter with the team should have the head coach leave a coaches tag at Entrance #5. Envelopes will be provided by the IESA for this. Coaches who fail to leave a tag for assistant coaches not with the team will require the assistant coach to pay admission at the main entrance (Entrance #2)
- Wrestlers and coaches must enter and exit through the Entrance #5 only. Pass-outs for wrestlers and coaches will not be given at any other gate.
- **Reminder: There will be no seating in the lower bowl.**
- **Wrestlers and coaches will go to entrance #5 stairwell or the stairwells on the east and west ends of the arena and enter the mat area through the tunnels. Coaches, please make sure you are listening and watching TrackWrestling on the video boards and on your phone to know who is next up to wrestle. Those who are on deck, and in the hole can access the tunnels through the stairs at Entrance #5 and by the large stairwells on the East and West ends.**
- Event Pro Photography will be on hand to photograph each team and individuals. They will have information regarding purchase of photographs displayed all weekend.
- No signs, banners or balloons of any type are allowed in the Convocation Center

### **WEIGH-INS**

**Weigh-ins will be held on Friday between 9:30-10:30 a.m. for all contestants. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for team packet pick-up and team check-in.**

### **THERE ARE NO SATURDAY WEIGH-INS.**

- You will receive a number at check-in. When that number is called, your wrestlers will be called to weigh-in. **Wrestlers will not be able to check their weight prior to the official weigh-in.**
- If a wrestler does not make weight, they will have the opportunity to immediately step on each scale one time to make weight. No dehydration activities may take place once weigh-ins have started.
- If your state qualifier will not compete at the finals because of injury, illness, or ineligibility, please notify the IESA Office as soon as possible. {See By-Law 4.054.}

### **SATURDAY CHECK-IN**

- On Saturday, teams will be allowed to enter beginning at 7:45 a.m. through Entrance #5 and proceed to the gymnasium where weigh-ins were held on Friday.
- Security checks will be conducted in the gym.
- NO DRINKS OR FOOD WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE CONVOCATION CENTER ON SATURDAY. \*\*\*\*SHOULD YOU OR ANY WRESTLER LEAVE DURING THE DAY, YOU WILL BE CHECKED EVERY TIME YOU RETURN FOR FOOD AND DRINK\*\*\*\*
- We suggest that wrestlers eat prior to arrival on Saturday
- **Athlete friendly food options available in the South Lobby**

**Tournament Contacts:**

**Matt McIntyre, Tournament Manager:** (815)-375-0473

**Jen Parker, Event Coordinator for NIU Convocation Center:** (815) 752-6818