



IESA WRESTLING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

April 8, 2026

The following members were present: Jonathan Hauter (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Brian Wilcoxon (Canton Ingersoll, coach), Mike Mabry (Vandalia, coach), Mike Hurckes (Coordinator of Officials), Rob Zielinski (Official), Matt Grimm (Auburn, administrator), Connor Cummings (Woodridge Jefferson, coach), Jon Ryan (Minooka, coach), David Rush (Homer Glen Homer, coach), Brady Stromquist (Sherrard JHS, administrator),

The IESA Wrestling Advisory Committee, in its meeting on April 8, 2026, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their April 2026, meeting:

Recommendation 1: Regular Season Match Limit

Current: Exclusive of the IESA tournament series, individuals are limited to a maximum of 42 interscholastic matches per season (includes all school matches wrestled).

Proposed: Exclusive of the IESA tournament series, individuals are limited to a maximum of **45** interscholastic matches per season (includes all school matches wrestled).

Rationale: Many athletes get close to the match limit with the possibility of having to sit the last few meets of the season due to the current match limit of 42. Moving to 45 would virtually make sure no one would go over the proposed match limit in the regular season. This would align with the match limit of 45 with the IHSA to make it more consistent as wrestlers move to high school.

T&C: V. Season Limitations B.

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Failed**



Other Items discussed:

-Wrestlebacks at regionals: The committee discussed replacing the current follow-leader format at regionals with double elimination, to what is used at sectionals and state. While some benefits were mentioned, including providing more wrestling opportunities, the group expressed concerns about timing implications and the additional burden on hosts, officials, and schools. The discussion ended with an acknowledgment of the need to consider these factors further before making a decision. A recommendation is tabled until the June board meeting to provide more information for the board.

-Mandatory on-site trainer: The committee discussed the importance to have an onsite trainer, while understanding that requiring this will potentially hurt the pool of hosting schools. The committee had an issue with making trainers mandatory questioning what penalties will be imposed if a trainer is not on site. This could ultimately sway schools not to host since athletic trainers can be hard to find statewide. Implementing mandatory athletic trainers at regionals and sectionals was tabled due to concerns about costs and availability. The IESA will continue to strongly encourage host sites to have athletic trainers on site and better communicate the importance to host schools.

-Seeding criteria at regionals: The committee discussed eliminating the 8-match limit to be seeded, siting a state placer in the previous year was not seeded because of injury. The topic was tabled due to concerns about implementing such a policy due to its rarity.

-Seeding sectional winners at state: The committee discussed ranking seeds at state and the challenges involved. Discussed were the difficulties of implementing seeding at the state level due to data limitations and the limited time between sectionals. The committee agrees the randomization process is the fairest way given the challenges discussed. The committee will continue to review this for the future.

-State coach passes: The committee currently does not find a need to increase coaching passes at the state finals from the current formula 1-4 wrestlers = 2 coaching passes, 5 or more wrestlers = 3 coaching passes.

-Regional assignments: The IESA uses geographical location to assign regionals and sectionals. The committee understands the IESA tries to make the best decisions on assignments within the framework of location and schools that put in to host. Committee feels there is no easy way to rank schools from previous years to assign them evenly throughout the state given junior high programs can change drastically over the course of a year.

-Weight allowance: Committee discussed weight allowance and the understanding that in junior high kids can grow and mature over a course of a year. The committee does not want to move forward with weight allowance at this time for the junior high level.

-Alternates at Sectionals and State: The committee discussed the ability to bring alternates to sectionals and state to be added to the bracket day of. Though this could allow a few to be added into the tournament concerns were raised for schools and parents making



arrangements to bring kids that ultimately do not end up wrestling. The IESA allows for scratches and alternates to be added up until 4pm the Thursday before Sectionals, and the week of state on Tuesday by noon. The committee tabled the topic citing logistical concerns.

-**Live streaming:** The IESA will continue to look at ways to allow more spectators to watch the exciting action.

-Class split and the option of adding a 3A class to wrestling was discussed. This will continue to be looked for the future. The committee understands the growth in wrestling and all activities in the IESA and encourages the investigation into how adding a class or creating a 60/40 split opposed to a 50/50 split in the 2 classes would positively or negatively affect wrestling.

-Sectional tournament was discussed and the need to continue to use 4 mats throughout the event. This will help with the length of the day. Adding wording in the host material and communication to the hosts will be added.

-The 2026 State tournament and the logistical aspect of it was discussed. Items reviewed were table workers, volunteers, officials, seating, weigh in times and structure, check in procedure and overall experience for the athletes and coaches.

-The 2027 state schedule was discussed and adjusted with the girls state series being added in. This will be reviewed with the girls wrestling committee at their next meeting.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2027