



IESA Girls Wrestling

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

January 22, 2026 - Virtual

The following members were present: Jonathan Hauter (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Mike Hurckes (Coordinator of Officials), Todd Hallaron (Software), Tony Clark (NFHS), Jen Harris (Administrator), David Rush (Homer Glen Homer), Jim Chelsvig (Jacksonville MS), Sean Mullen (McHenry MS): Not in attendance: JD Sylvanus (Johnsburg JHS), Mike Hare (Advisor).

The IESA Girls Wrestling Advisory Committee, in its meeting on January 22, 2026, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their January 2026 meeting:

Recommendation 1: Girls Wrestling Season Schedule

Current: N/A

Proposed:

GIRLS WRESTLING	
Item	2026-2027
Entry Deadline (Mon.)	Oct. 5, 2026
Final Entry Deadline	Dec. 1, 2026
Cooperative Agreement Due	Dec. 1, 2026
Practice/Tryouts may begin (Mon.)	Nov. 30, 2026
Season Schedule Deadline (Mon.)	Dec. 7, 2026
Meets may begin (Mon.)	Dec. 7, 2026
Online Roster Deadline (Mon.)	Mar. 1, 2027
Sectional Seed Meetings (Wed.)	Mar. 3, 2027
Sectionals (Fri, Sat.)	Mar. 5, 6, 2027
State (Fri. & Sat.)	Mar. 12, 13, 2027
Season must end (Sat.)	April 3, 2027

Rationale: Our aim is to keep the schedule as consistent as possible with the boys' schedule, as the two will be run concurrently. The girls' final entry deadline has been extended to December 1 to provide schools additional time to promote girls' wrestling as they navigate a new activity.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**



Recommendation 2: Weight Classes

Current: N/A

Proposed: 15 weight classes

65, 70, 76, 82, 89, 96, 103, 111, 120, 130, 140, 151, 165, 185, 235

Rationale: After reviewing other associations and organizations, the committee believes the weight classes listed above are well represented and will help maximize participation. Multiple girls' tournaments across the state have already used these proposed classes and have received positive feedback.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 3: Sectional Tournament

Current: N/A

Proposed: Sectionals will be conducted with the potential of a two-day tournament starting on Friday and ending on Saturday. Once a Sectional has been determined to have a Friday start, all participants in all weight classes must be present on Friday to weigh in. There shall be only one weigh-in period for the sectional. Two-day sectional weigh-ins will be held on Friday, and one-day sectional weigh-ins will be held on Saturday. A Friday start will be determined at the conclusion of the Sectional seed meeting if any weight class bracket has 17 or more participants. The bracket size of each weight class will determine how many rounds must be completed in each individual weight class on Friday. If there is a Friday start time, any weight class containing a preliminary round and a quarterfinal round must wrestle on Friday. Saturday will begin with consolation matches.

Rationale: Per NFHS rules, no athlete may wrestle more than six matches in a single day. To remain at or below this limit, the maximum bracket size is 16. Once a tournament has begun, all weight classes must complete weigh-ins on the same day. Having this format would allow for more wrestling to those who weighed in and could make for a shorter Saturday.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote

Board Action: **Approved**



Recommendation 4: Sectional Seeding

Current: N/A

Proposed: In order to be seeded, a wrestler must have at least eight (8) matches completed. Eight contestants in each weight class shall be seeded from entries on the Regional Entry Form in the following manner:

- a) Head-to-head
- b) Common opponents
- c) Overall record at any level regardless of weight class or division. (varsity, sub-varsity, exhibition, j.v, or boys etc.).
- d) Vote by the coaches if the eight seeds cannot be determined through steps a through c above.

Rationale: Keeping the format consistent with the boys' criteria ensures smoother management of sectional seeding. The only difference is in item (c), where "Varsity" has been removed and replaced with the overall record, regardless of the level at which the athlete wrestles. Since all matches count toward the 42-match limit, the committee believes that, at this time, all girls' matches should be included for seeding purposes. This approach provides hosts and coaches with more complete information about each participant during the seeding process.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 5: Officials pay at Sectionals

Current: N/A

Proposed: Sectional pay for each official will be \$225.

Rationale: Keeping the same pay as boys will provide consistency between the two activities.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**



Recommendation 6: Schedule Deadline

Current: N/A

Proposed: Each school must enter 3 meets in which their girls will be competing by the season-schedule deadline of December 7, 2026.

Rationale: The season schedule deadline encourages schools to enter meets on the schedule to increase participation and support the seeding process at the end of the year. The committee recognizes that, initially, scheduling girls-only events may be challenging, as participation levels are still unknown in many parts of the state. This recommendation reduces pressure on schools in areas with lower participation while still encouraging them to seek opportunities at boys' meets where girls will be present and competing.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**

Other Items discussed:

- NFHS Rules and where any exceptions to the rules may be applied.
- Continuing to establish the terms and conditions and finalize the 26-27 version.
- TrackWrestling school accounts if multiple accounts are needed or can schools have one account for both boys and girls.
- Continuing to explore sectional hosts and continue to search for hosting possibilities.
- Work on Sectional Host Book for hosting sectionals, provide clear and simple rules for hosts.

Next Meeting: TBD



IESA Girls Wrestling

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

August 22, 2025 - Virtual

The following members were present: Jonathan Hauter (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Mike Hurckes (Coordinator of Officials), Todd Hallaron (Software), Tony Clark (NFHS), Mike Hare (Advisor), Jen Harris (Administrator), David Rush (Homer Glen Homer), JD Sylvanus (Johnsburg JHS), Jim Chelsvig (Jacksonville MS), Sean Mullen (McHenry MS).

The IESA Girls Wrestling Advisory Committee, in its meeting on August 22, 2025, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their September 2025 meeting:

Recommendation 1: Girls Wrestling State Series

Current: N/A

Proposed: Start Girls Wrestling State Series in the 2026-2027 school year.

Rationale: The committee believes this is the right time and we have numbers to begin a new activity for the IESA in Girls Wrestling. Numbers in the last survey done in 2024 showed over 700 would be interested in participating in a state series and we believe the numbers will continue to grow.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**



Recommendation 2: Season Format for Girls Wrestling

Current: N/A

Proposed: The schedule would align with the boys' state series.

Girls State Wrestling	2026-2027
Entry Deadline (Mon.)	Oct. 5, 2026
Final Entry Deadline	Nov. 1, 2026
Cooperative Agreement Due	Dec. 1, 2026
Practice/Tryouts may begin (Mon.)	Nov. 30, 2026
Season Schedule Deadline (Mon.)	Dec. 7, 2026
Meets may begin (Mon.)	Dec. 7, 2026
Online Roster Deadline (Tue.)	Mar. 2, 2027
Sectional Seed Meetings (Wed.)	Mar. 3, 2027
Sectionals (Fri, Sat.)	Mar. 5, 6, 2027
State (Fri. & Sat.)	Mar. 12, 13, 2027
Season must end (Sat.)	April 3, 2027

Rationale: This will make it easier for wrestling coaches to manage both programs by keeping dates and practices consistent. Since the boys and girls state tournaments will be held together, aligning the schedules ensures consistency and should minimize conflicts. One of the possible differences is a Friday and Saturday Sectional. Depending on bracket size within each weight class and sectional, (which will be known after the roster deadline on Tuesday, March 2) there could be a Friday start and a Saturday finish to a sectional.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 3: State series format

Current: N/A

Proposed: Sectionals and state would run as a true wrestleback (same as boys in sectionals).

Rationale: Keeping the format consistent with the boys ensures smoother management of sectionals and state, making TrackWrestling more efficient for both the tournament operator and the software.



T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 4: State series format

Current: N/A

Proposed: 4 Sectionals and a state tournament. Sectionals and state would run as a true wrestleback (same as boys in sectionals and state). Each sectional would produce 1 team winner awarded with a sectional championship plaque. The top 3 individuals would be medaled in each weight class at each sectional. At the state tournament 4 teams would be awarded trophies, with the top 6 in each weight class being medaled.

Rationale: Keeping the format consistent with the boys ensures smoother management of sectionals and state, making TrackWrestling more efficient for both the tournament operator and the software. Awards at sectionals and state mirrors the boys' format to ensure consistency and fairness. It simplifies tournament operations and maintains competitive standards by awarding a team champion at each sectional and the top 3 individuals being medaled in each weight class, and the top 4 teams at state and the top 6 individuals being medaled per weight class

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 5: State series entries

Current: N/A

Proposed: Each entered team into the sectionals would be able to enter 1 wrestler per weight class.

Rationale: Limiting entries to one wrestler per weight class per team provides better control over the currently uncertain numbers. This approach allows sectionals to maintain more predictable weight class sizes compared to permitting two entries per class.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**



Recommendation 6: Weight Classes

Current: N/A

Proposed: 15 weight classes for the Girls Wrestling State Series.

Rationale: This number was settled on by research into local club policies and other middle school girl state tournaments along with surveys the IESA has done on participation and weight classes. Each weight class among the 15 has not been finalized to date.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 7: State qualifiers

Current: N/A

Proposed: Sectional qualification in each weight class would qualify 3 individuals for the state tournament. This would send 180 girl wrestlers to the state tournament.

Rationale: Advancing the top three wrestlers in each classification ensures that the strongest competitors qualify for the state tournament, maintaining the right balance between participation and high-level competition.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 8: State Tournament Schedule

Current: N/A

Proposed: The state tournament would run concurrently with boys in a 2-day tournament.

Rationale: With our current state venue at NIU, we have the capacity to place 8 mats on the floor. This setup allows us to run the girls' and boys' state tournaments concurrently under the proposed 15 weight classes and 180 qualifiers. By doing so, we can avoid adding an additional day to the tournament, which significantly reduces expenses related to officials, athletic trainers, and other



venue costs. Other options will need to be explored as girls wrestling grows. The detailed tournament schedule for the two-day format is still being finalized.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote:

Board Action: **Approved**

Other Items discussed:

- Sectionals run on Friday and Saturday. With numbers being unknown the first few years, brackets could be larger than 16 in each weight class. With this in mind sectional hosts would need to be selected with the understanding that a Friday afternoon start time is possible. This will be known if a sectional must start on Friday after the roster deadline.
- Seeding rules/criteria for sectionals will be established for how seeding would be done at the sectional level. This may be tricky starting out because of the unknown in participation. We have a good idea that parts of the state will not have high numbers in girls wrestling. Seeding criteria has not been finalized.
- Girls wrestling terms and conditions will begin to be established after the board decision on the girls state series.
- State tournament finals on Saturday will have the possibility to run on 6 mats to account for girls wrestling finals. Currently it is on 4 mats for the finals.

Next Meeting: TBD