

## **IESA WRESTLING AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

IESA Office, Bloomington, IL

January 17, 2018

The second meeting of the ad-hoc committee to study the set-up of the state wrestling series was held in the IESA Office on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The meeting was chaired by Brad Powell, wrestling coach at East Peoria Central. There were 14 schools represented at the meeting. Those coaches in attendance were: Christopher Saldaris, Monticello; Tom Unruh, Erie; Gary Rizzio, Barrington Prairie; David Rush, Homer Glen Homer; Dan Ganshaw, Morton JHS; Steve DeNeut, New Lenox, Martino; Pat Kiley, DeKalb; Alex Dawson, Lincoln JHS; Eric Wolters, Ingleside Big Hollow; Mike Jensen, Ottawa Shepherd; Bill Hamby, Seneca; Dan Newkirk, Litchfield; and Aaron Mullan, Sterling Challand. Also in attendance were Mike Manahan and Dan Fulscher as non-voting members of the committee and Steve Endsley, Executive Director of the IESA.

Discussion focused mainly on the two options for changing the set-up of the IESA state wrestling series that were discussed at the meeting on November 29. Those two options were:

Option 1: Continue with one class, 32 regionals 8 sectionals 1 state tournament. The regionals would have 5-6 teams assigned to them (based on the current number of schools entering the state series). There would be 3 qualifiers from each weight class from regionals to sectionals. Four regionals would feed into each of the 8 sectionals. Sectionals would be a 12 man bracket and the top 4 from each weight class would advance to state. That would make each state bracket have 32 wrestlers and there would be 8 wrestlers placing in the finals. Total number of wrestlers at state would be 608 and there would be 152 individuals who would place. The top four teams would receive a team trophy.

Option 2: Split the schools entering the state series into two classes based on enrollment. Each class would have the following: 16 regionals 4 sectionals 1 state tournament The regionals would have 5-6 teams assigned to them (based on the current number of schools entering the state series). There would be 3 qualifiers from each weight class from regionals to sectionals. Four regionals would feed into each of the four sectionals. Sectionals would be a 12 man bracket and the top 4 from each weight class would advance to state. That would make each state bracket have 16 wrestlers and there would be 6 wrestlers placing in the finals. So, for Class A there would be 304 total wrestlers and 114 would be place. Class AA would be 304 total wrestlers and 114 would place. Total number of wrestlers (including both classes) at state would then be 608 with 228 wrestlers placing. The top four teams in each class would receive a team trophy for a total of 8 team trophies. If this option were approved, the split between Class A and Class AA, using the enrollment figures for the schools entered in the 17-18 state series would be 388. Schools with a 7-8 enrollment of 388 and higher would be Class AA; schools with a 7-8 enrollment of 387 and lower would be

Class A. Schools that co-op have the enrollments of both schools added together to determine the enrollment number used for classification purposes.

Time was given for each coach in attendance to share their opinion on the two options that were discussed at the initial meeting. In addition, the IESA Office sent a survey to all 170 wrestling schools asking them to vote for either Option 1 or Option 2. Fifty-nine percent of the schools returned a valid vote. Of the 100 valid responses returned---56 schools (56%) of the schools voted for Option 2 and 44 schools (44%) voted for Option 1. The results of that survey voting were non-binding.

After discussion, the committee voted 11-3 to recommend Option 2 to the IESA Board of Directors for implementation starting with the 2019 state series. The basic format will move from a one class system to a two-class system based on a school's enrollment. Each class will have 16 regionals, 4 sectionals and one state tournament. There will be no changes to the state series dates and both state finals will be held at the same location. While many of the details will still need to be finalized, the committee agreed that the state series format will utilize a follow the leader format for regionals and sectionals but full wrestlebacks at the finals. It is anticipated that weigh-ins for the finals would begin around 9 a.m. with wrestling to begin at 11:00 a.m. It has not been determined the order of the matches in terms of whether Class A would wrestle their complete first round on eight mats before Class AA would wrestle or if Class A and Class AA would wrestle simultaneously---four mats for Class A and four mats for Class AA. Once those details are finalized, information will be shared with the participating schools.