

MIAA Wrestling Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2023 @ 10:00 AM



1. Call to Order

- a. Introductions/Attendance- Desi Kaplan, Scott Tremlett, Keith P, Rielly Christie, Jon Kanavich, Nate Monteiro, John Longley, Brian Brewer, John Speak, Jeff Lareau, Joe Bianca, Ann Palumbo, Brendan Kent, Paul Shvartsman, Amy Daniels, Robert Pritchett, Chris Jones, Phil Napolitano, Katie Kampersal
- b. Election of Officers
 - Chair- Brendan Kent (Ann, 2nd by Keith) – unanimously approved
 - Vice Chair- Ann Palumbo (Brendan, 2nd by Keith)- unanimously approved
 - Secretary- Joe Bianca (Brendan, 2nd by Brian B)- unanimously approved

2. New Business

- a. Phil provided the committee with an update on the hearing from April 25, 2023. Committee is satisfied with response from school leaders.
- b. Next steps in guide to alter poor treatment of officials.
 - Brendan-had a lengthy discussion in the spring about this topic.
 - Phil- we have some documents that we would like to send out to schools prior to the start of the season to help schools work with officials- informational packet to be created by subcommittee.
- c. [NFHS Rule Changes](#) – Paul Shvartsman
 - No major changes with on the mat rules.
 - Rest time has been reduced to 30 minutes.
 - Scott- with the new inbounds rule we can not lose mat space especially in D3
 - Ann- With respect to in-season tournaments, how can AD's find out how many mats are needed for the number of teams they want to invite?
 - They should communicate with Desi and he can give them an idea of how many mats per team and how long it will take them.
 - Joe- should we create a chart with an estimations of mat/teams/time?
 - Desi will consider creating one but there are many variables w/teams vs wrestlers vs quality of wrestling
- d. Additional rule changes/clarifications- make sure coaches are aware of these changes
 - New NFHS weight classes are in effect for this winter. All forms have been updated.
 - Scratch weight for girls discussion:
 - i. Desi- request on entry form they verify the weekend they certified at the weight
 - ii. Paul- this is not good enough- both signatures are needed on these forms
 - iii. Phil- we will come up with an official process
 - iv. On tournament entry form, we can add a verification for scratch weight date.
 - New weight class reminders:
 - Mixed Gender (14)- 106 lbs., 113 lbs., 120 lbs., 126 lbs., 132 lbs. 138 lbs., 144 lbs., 150 lbs., 157 lbs., 165 lbs., 175 lbs., 190 lbs., 215 lbs., 285 lbs.
 - Girls' wrestling (12) 100 lbs., 107 lbs., 114 lbs., 120 lbs., 126 lbs., 132 lbs., 138 lbs., 145 lbs., 152 lbs., 165 lbs., 185 lbs., 235 lbs.
 - MIAA Rule 84.4.6 – includes scratch weight requirements for MIAA Girls' postseason tournaments
- e. FloArena – Desi Kaplan
 - Training coming up this weekend
 - Virtual training for ADs and Coaches being look at for the winter.
 - i. Scott- is it worth having something for the Refs as well?
 - ii. Desi- I have something recorded for the Refs and it would be helpful if it was shown to them.
- f. TMC Update – [2023-25 Wrestling Alignments](#) (final)
 - Martha's Vineyard Regional was added to D3 South

- Phil- Remind schools to look at the alignments as we are in a new cycle and teams were shifted around.

3. 2023-24 Wrestling Tournament

a. Subcommittee report on qualifying criteria/tournament for girls' wrestling

- Addition of Girls' New England Tournament (Paul)
 - Growth of the girls tournament- want to get ahead of growth and develop qualifying criteria
 - What were the numbers like last year? 177 girls at All States last year, 134 were underclassman.
 - Other states limit the number per weight class when it has not been big enough for a qualifier;
 - Phil- Qualifier at Divisional Tournament, need to decide if top 3 or 4 in each division advance?
 - If you qualify for the Mixed Gender Divisional States, do you automatically qualify for Girls All States?
 - Are there alternates allowed? Then what happens if you are an alternate for the Mixed Gender Divisional States, when do you have to choose which tournament you are entering?
 - Medals and awards- Team champion and runner-up, and Top 4 individuals at each weight
 - Brendan- we need to institute some qualifier at some point
 - We should attempt to avoid having 30+ girls in a single weight class, like we did last year.
 - Could we set a minimum number of matches you must compete in to qualify?
 - Phil- this would be inconsistent with the mixed gender tournaments. Plus the lack of girls opportunities could be out of the athletes control.
 - Ann- adding the girls to the sectional tournament provides an opportunity for the girls be highlighted.
 - Jon K- I think this is awesome that so many girls wanting to compete
 - John S- Maximum number of competitions hurts the smaller schools trying to provide girls opportunities- not enough coaches to help, in the end this hurts both programs.
 - Scott- Can we allow schools to have 2-3 girls only competitions that do not impact the seasonal limit of 20 competitions?
 - Phil- That would require a rule change to be proposed.
 - Joe- we need to let the sport grow, but eventually it will need to split between men's wrestling and women's wrestling
 - Desi-if time ends up being a deciding factor can you have them all sign up and then anyone who qualifies will not have to wrestle (could be 2 to 4 hours).
 - Phil- with distribution of awards and seeding we can't do this.
 - **Ann- motion that the top 4 girls per weight class at Girls Divisional States qualify for the Girls All-States**
 - **2nd by Joe B**
 - **14-1-0 Approved**
 - **Paul- motion that we do not have alternate in the Girls All-State Tournaments**
 - **2nd by Ann**
 - **15-0-0 Approved**
 - **Alternates for the Mixed Gender Divisional States must make the decision on which tournament they will compete in after sectionals (Mixed Gender Divisionals or Girls Divisionals)**
 - **Motion made by Paul 2nd by John Speek**
 - **13-0-0 Approved**
 - **When does the alternate need to make the decision by?**
 - **There are only a handful a girls that this effects**
 - **The Wednesday before Divisionals at 12:00- motion by Reilly 2nd by Paul- 15-0-0**
 - **Medals – 1st through 4th**
 - Girls Divisional Championship matches must run along side the Mixed Gender Divisional Championship matches.
 - Phil-With respect to tournament entries, ADs and coaches should enter all girls they think will want to wrestle in the Girls Divisional tournament and then can withdraw if they need to.
 - Brendan- as many girls can enter per school per weight class- only 1 girl can earn points per school.
 - Desi- need to see the numbers to date, need to balance-but I think we will be running the Girls Divisional Tournaments on Saturday. It may be venue specific.
 - **Paul- round robin vs brackets?**
 - **4 or less in a weight class it should be round robin style motion by Paul 2nd by Brendan 15-0-0**

- Desi- if it's a weight class of 2 is it best 2 out of 3 or is it just 1 and done?
 - Paul- 1 is enough.
- Wrestling to 6th place at Girls All states for Girls since top 4 qualify for New England's

b. 2023-24 Wrestling Format

- Incorporate new Girls' Divisional Tournament Information
 - Discussion on selecting a hard date for tournament entry deadline
 - "Week of" is the language wrestling is using now. To be consistent with other sports, should we have a hard entry date?
 - Paul- don't all teams go to sectionals?
 - Phil- this creates consistent practice for AD's
 - January 30, 2023 (*this was retracted and the old language of 'week of' remains*).
 - Discussion to reseed a weight class if a champion cannot compete. Motion by Paul (2nd by Brandon) **"If a Sectional champion cannot compete, the champions are reseeded in that weight class."** Approved 14-0
 - Under the 'Weigh-in Procedure' section, we allow for a +3lb allowance on day 2 of our tournaments. Why do we allow this when the NFHS Rule 4-5-5 allows for only +1.
 - +3 because some teams are staying over night and they are eating out. We need to think about that
 - All other states are still just doing +1 for their tournaments.
 - What is the safest thing for our students? Most kids are not worried about their weights at this point.
 - **Motion by Paul to change the format language to match the NFHS rule of +1lb allowance on day 2 of our tournaments. (Paul 2nd by John) – APPROVED 6-3-6**
 - Discussion about snow/cancellation of practice-adopt NHFS rule and list in format. Agreed by all
 - Page 6 F- Is dress code enforced? Committee agreed to leave it in as most coaches follow
 - Page 9- Tournament compliance policy- will put as a link
 - **Motion to adopt the Wrestling format- Joe 2nd by Chris 15-0-0 Approved**
 - Skin Checks on day 2 of tournaments are required per NFHS rule.
- c. Update on sites-Scott is working on the sites
- a. Girls should be running together for the last few matches. Let them run the 1,2,3,4 run and then run the boys 1,2,3,4 after. 2 Tournaments sharing a space.
 - b. All-State
 - i. Discussion on if we should highlight the Mixed Gender Championship match and Girls All-State Championship match on two mats? No motion or recommendation to alter current process of running a 6 mat final at this tournament.
 - c. Medal Round going forward for Girls All States for officials
 - i. We will need more officials
- d. Search for Division 1 and Division 2 Tournament Directors

4. Coaches Input

- a. Paul-awards at post season tournament should give them right after each weight class, without stopping wrestling (Methuen is an example of how this works successfully). This will be added to the tournament schedule document.

5. Officials Input

- Update on MIWOA fee structure proposal
 - It was approved for this coming year
 - It is a flat stipend and we will increase the host school stipend
 - Struggle with AD's using certified officials for JV's matches-they want to use high school kids

6. Adjournment