

MIAA Wrestling Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 25, 2024 @ 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order by Phil at 10:03

- a. Attendance- Scott Tremlett, Amy Daniels, Mary Sokol, Ryan Madden, Jeff Longley, John Speek, Jeff Lareau, Joe Bianca, Brenda Kent, Nate Monterio, Andy Meier, Keith Poloskey, Steve Rotondi, Chris Jones, Brian Brewer, Paul Shvartsman, John Kanavich, Robert Pritchett, Phil Mombeleur,

2. [Minutes of January 18, 2024](#) - Motion to approve Paul 2nd by Jeff 16-0-0

- a. Mentioned the 2 rule changes that the committee voted on last meeting.

3. New Business

- a. Review of the 2024 Individual Wrestling Tournaments

- Thank you to our host schools
 - Heartfelt thank to all of our host schools. Huge time commitment for the schools, coaching staff, parents, teams, staff at school, boosters.
 - Old schools and new schools stepped up this year. More schools that we have is helpful. We couldn't do it without everyone's help
- Tournament Director's Reports
 - **Scott Tremlett- D3 and All-States**
 - Weigh-ins: Difficulty securing coaches for weigh-ins; coaches' rep handles paperwork—could a stipend be provided? Can we line up coaches before the day of weigh-ins?
 - Facilities: Fencing removal at finals was great; larger venues needed for All States; need a warm-up area as trainers cannot see.
 - Event Logistics: Better collection of girls' info needed; secure table workers for non-high school venues; ensure 6 uniform scales for divisional weigh-ins.
 - Check-in Process: Coach/wrestler check-in is improving, but ADs must send coach names beforehand.
 - Awards: Don't wait for girls' team awards; start giving medals 2-3 weight classes after the match.
 - Other: Monitor "3 coaches in the corner" rule starting at sectionals; finalist intros should include first name and more info during the match; consider coaches-only Wi-Fi.
 - **Andy Meier- Division 2**
 - Weigh-ins: Assign one scale per mat; lining up coaches ahead of time will streamline the process.
 - Security: Ensure 2 coaches in the corner; identify coaches with assigned seats and physical fencing. Hosts need designated staff for this, not just officials or the Tournament Director.
 - Announcer: Having an announcer improves tournament flow; address dead time between dual tournaments.
 - Network/Wi-Fi: Coordinate with the school on network access.
 - **Ryan Madden- Division 1**
 - Staff & Logistics: Clerks were great; Newton South was dealing with the strike and still managed to pull off a great tournament. Consider lanyards for host staff and wristbands for coaches.
 - Girls' Team Scoring: A work in progress; consider different approaches by weight class, starting at the same time, alternating 5th place matches, or reducing to 2 divisions instead of 3.

- Awards: Timing went well, fewer leftover medals, more recipients present; coach awards added confusion.
- Improvements: Better projection of upcoming matches, improved skin checks with medics instead of trainers, mats not properly positioned at sectional/divisional tournaments.
- **Girls Divisional State and All-States Feedback:**
 - Phil: The proactive approach to creating the Girls Divisional State Tournament was excellent. The growth of girls' wrestling has been incredible to watch.
 - Phil: A big thank you to the Tournament Directors for all their support. We had minimal issues this year, making it a very successful postseason.
- **Observations/Comments/Suggestions:**
 - Brendan: We convert our wrestling room into a cafeteria so people can grab food and take a break from the gym for a bit. Enhances the experience.
 - John: We open the library as a quiet room, which helps move people out of the gym for a while.
 - Phil: Regarding the Coaches Award, when Paul is present, things run smoothly, but when he isn't, it becomes quite difficult. Other sports host banquets for this.
 - Paul: Better communication on our part is needed, along with a script. We'd like to continue giving these awards. The Divisional VP should handle it.
 - Phil: No other sport gives out awards during the MIAA Tournament. Is there a better process for managing these awards?
 - Jon Speek: I'm so busy on tournament days that I find it hard to observe and gauge. I have enough to focus on with my team, which is why I don't vote.
 - Phil: Paul, Brendan, and I can meet to discuss how to streamline this process. I don't think we should eliminate the awards, but we may need to adjust how they are handled.
 - Joe: Maybe we could have nominees in advance?

b. Topics for discussion

- Number of qualifiers for mixed gender All-States
 - Phil- Rationale of where it comes from. Are we setting our setting ourselves up for this uncomfortable experience related to space in these venues?
 - Paul- Salem was a great venue before the creation of the girls tournament. With the growth of girls it has added the challenge. Once girls are able to have a stand-alone tournament this maybe change.
 - Maybe only take the top 6 from the States? 12 per weight class? We should eliminate pigtail rounds at the very least.
- Policy around alternates
 - Brendan- should we be letting alternates into tournament the day before? Most times alternates are not used but show up, adding to the capacity issues.
 - Paul- I would not have much of an issue with that. With most tournaments you know at least the day before if you are wrestling.
 - Scott- Change it for All States but not for States- and follow what they do for New England's. More alternates get in for States, but not for All States.
 - Phil- Because it is in the format we would need a motion
 - **Motion by Paul 2nd by Brendan – For All-States, adopt the New England alternate policy for Wednesday by 8:00PM- APPROVED unanimously**
 - How many athletes show up for States? 56- about 80% of those athletes are showing up
 - Keith- during vacation week is when we lose the most athletes.
- Number of coaches per team
 - Brendan-who is a coach and who is a parent? Do AD's submit the coaching staff to Phil so we know who is on the staff at the start of the season so we know who

- Keith-did we do this All States? Phil- Yes we do it for All-States but should considering doing it for all tournaments.
- Paul- are we limiting the number of coaches?
- Phil- Yes we are trying to limit the number of coaches due to limited space and crowded floors which creates an unsafe environment.
- Jeff- only a certain number of coaches should be getting lanyards per team.
- Phil- do we hold teams accountable for the language that is in the format- 3 lanyards per team.
- John S- are we limiting people to the mat or the door? Lanyards can be switched between the people.
- Phil- Lanyards can be switched. If you don't have a lanyard, you can't be on the floor
- Ryan-some venues do a great job, however when athletes are on deck and all the coaches are there.
- Robert- keep it at a strict number
- John S- Major congestion point was that coaches like to talk to each other behind the fencing

- Balancing of byes

- Brendan- The clerks have been great with balancing with the byes
 - Scott- usually happens in sectionals. Tournament have been won and lost because of the byes.
 - Paul- Usually the clerk/coach can fix the bracket, so this doesn't happen. I would like to keep doing things the way we are doing them
 - Phil- there is an NHFS rule that says random, if we are doing anything different, we need to spell it out in our format.

c. Host school site survey

- Search for larger venues

- Phil has been reaching out to DCU, New Balance, Bridgewater State, Western New England. Any other ideas please let me know. We have limited venues due to other sports.
 - Amy Daniels- what makes a quality site?- Phil I will send out an email with a list of what we are looking for.
 - Reggie
 - Springfield
 - Bentley
 - Endicott
 - Jon K- do they provide security? Set up mats? Etc
 - Paul- everyone I have spoken with will help with setting up mats

d. New process for selecting coach and official representatives on MIAA committees

- Phil- Each district to submit recommendation for an officials and coaches representative. The liaison and chair will then pick who will fill that position

e. Other

- Steve R- As a small school, we go through the middle school waiver process to keep our teams afloat. DAC process is you cannot have more than 14 student athletes in wrestling for a waiver to be considered. Should the recommendation number be higher?
 - Mary- you should go in with a number.
 - John Speek- how long is it to get waiver-
 - Phil- Deadline is prior to first allowable contest of that season.
 - Amy- up to 2 per weight class. You have the ability to go 2 per weight class, you don't need to use them all.
 - **Steve - I make a recommendation to the DAC to move the max number from 14 to 21**
 - **2nd by Mary – Approved 14-0-2**
 - Phil- I will pass this recommendation over to the DAC.
- Scott- NCAA Girls wrestling is free style- do we move in that direction?
 - Jon Speek- Are other states doing this?

- Andy- Only NY at this time
- Scott- is this something we look at for down the road
- Nate- many officials and coaches do not know anything about this. Maybe a survey needs to go out
- Keith- now you are looking at two different styles of coaching

4. 2024-25 Wrestling Tournament Format *(draft attached)*

- Reminder of late winter start (12/12/24 is first contest)
 - Phil- I made changes to the dates
 - Will add in the changes for the alternates language and changes that committee mentioned below
 - Andy- Number 6 – Remove
 - Jon K- Link to taunting policy page 6 letter c
 - Nate- Number 15- 8 out of the 15 have done it for 2 years? Cross out 2 consecutive years.
 - Scott- 13 G- 6 scales- weigh ins will be scheduled for states and all states by the coaches associations
 - 13E Skin checks will be conducted by all referees
 - Link to skin check procedure- add
 - Scott 14d-Top 6 at Sectionals and top 8 at states and all states/top 4 states and top 6 at all states
 - Nate- rationale behind 14 -A1 – remove
 - **Motion to approve Format by Joe Bianca 2nd by Chris- Approved 16-0-0**

5. TMC

- Update on 'hybrid sports' meeting with TMC – Brendan Kent
 - Do not see how wrestling can move away from sectionals due to lack of qualifying criteria.
 - Paul- D1 was a huge problem last year. Maybe we power rank the teams and go in that direction.
 - Phil- lets pull together a sub committee and break out a few ideas
 - John Speek- anything that ranks a school and not an individual is unfair.
 - Subcommittee - Paul, John L, Scott, Keith, Chris, Nate, Ryan, Andy
 - Brendan- talk about adding another division and getting rid of sectionals
 - Coaches are against that
 - Venues are still hard to find

Adjournment @ 12:00