

**IESA WRESTLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**June 4, 2020**

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches Dan Newkirk, Sean Mullen, Gary Rizzio, David Rush; Administrator Jeff Baughman; and IHSA Official Ron Coit.

**The IESA Wrestling Advisory Committee, in its meeting of June 4, 2020, submits the following recommendation to the Board of Directors for their June 19, 2020, meeting:**

**RECOMMENDATION #1**

**Current** NFHS rule 2-2-1 states that for dual meets all team personnel shall be restricted to an area 10 ft. from edge of the mat but 2-2-2 permits chairs in the corner of the mat for coaches during a tournament.

**Proposed** Add as an exception to the NFHS rules the following: For all dual meets and tournaments, a maximum of two personnel (coaches and/or non-participating contestants) will be permitted on chairs at the edge of the mat.

**Rationale** In some jr. high facilities, it is difficult to place benches 10 ft from the edge of the mat and the scorer's table. But, the biggest reason for the recommending an exception to allow chairs in the corner of the mat for dual meets is that practically all schools are putting chairs in the corners for coaches in dual meets. It is generally accepted, perhaps by coaches not knowing the rules, that chairs are supposed to be in the corners of the mat during dual meets even though by rule chairs are only permitted during tournaments. The committee feels as though since it is so widely accepted for chairs to be in place during dual meets that it makes sense to simply allow chairs in the mat corners for both dual meets and tournaments. Additionally, for some jr. high wrestlers who are learning the sport for the first time, having a coach in the corner allows the possibility to give instruction during a match that may be heard and understood since the coach is closer to the wrestling on the mat.

**T&C IX**

**Handbook 4.056**

**Admin Vote: 4-0 in favor**

**Board Action: Approved**

Items discussed without any recommendations:

\*\*Setting a later start time for wrestling sectionals. The current start time is 9:00 a.m. A request was received to start sectionals at 10:00 a.m. There was no support to do so.

\*\*The committee was in complete support that all regionals and sectionals must use a follow the leader format. A report was received where one regional used a full wrestleback.

\*\*The committee also discussed weight allowance. A request to give s 1 lb. weight allowance on Mondays only was received. There was no support to give the weight allowance. That discussion led to additional discussion and comments that there are some schools ignoring the no weight allowance rule and randomly giving weight allowances either because they are a new program, because they have a Monday meet, or just because. It was also reported that there

are “honesty weigh-ins” being done. In other words, coaches are not weighing in the wrestlers on site before a meet. They are simply saying that their wrestlers are making weight. Wrestlers must weigh-in at the site before each meet. The rules set by the IESA are the rules that have to be followed and changing them arbitrarily by the member schools only causes chaos. It’s not how a state association works. Mr. Endsley will address this with the wrestling coaches and administrators of the participating schools.

\*\*Apparently there is some confusion about regional and sectional hosts schools being able to check weight before weigh-ins begin. While it is true schools cannot check weight once they arrive at the host school, this does not imply that the host school cannot check their weight before weigh-ins begin. Just like schools that are travelling to the host school are checking their weight before leaving, the host school should also have the prerogative to check their weight before weigh-ins begin. The statement that there are no weight checks before weigh-ins begin does not exclude the host school from having the same opportunity to check weight as the other schools are doing at their school before travelling to the host school. The host school cannot check weight once weigh-ins begin.

\*\*The Grand Marshals selected for the 2020 state meet will be the Grand Marshals for the 2021 state meet. Those Grand Marshals are Tim Gipe, Steve Porter, and Bob Bell.

**2021 State Series dates:**

**Regional Seeding Meeting: February 24, 2021**

**Regionals: February 27, 2021**

**Sectionals: March 6, 2021**

**State: March 12-13, 2021, NIU Convocation Center**

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021