



# IESA Wrestling

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

April 3, 2024

The following members were present for the zoom meeting: Charlie Shempf (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Connor Cummings (Woodridge Jefferson), Steve Alfredson (Wilmette JHS), Dan Newkirk (Litchfield), David Rush (Homer Glen Homer), Gary Rizzio (Barrington Prairie), Sean Mullen (McHenry MS), Mike Hurckes (Coordinator of Officials), and Matt Grimm (Auburn).

The IESA Wrestling Advisory Committee, in its meeting on April 3, 2024, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their April 2024, meeting:

### **Recommendation 1: Team limitations**

Current: No wrestling team representing a member school shall, in any one season exclusive of the IESA series, participate in more than: (a) 15 dates and 1 tournament; or (b) 14 dates and 2 tournaments; or (c) 13 dates and 3 tournaments; or (d) 12 dates and 4 tournaments; or (e) 11 dates and 5 tournaments. A wrestling team representing a member school is further limited to a maximum of 25 regular season matches, exclusive of all regular season and IESA series tournaments. All interscholastic competitions shall be considered a match.

Proposed: Remove restrictions on the numbers of dates for duals and tournaments. Only enforce the individual 42-match limit for regular season. (Varsity/JV/Forfeit)

Rationale: This will allow coaches and administrators to adjust their schedule to their geographical area. This will take away any confusion for what is considered a dual and what is considered a tournament. Allowing coaches to adjust their schedule will increase participation numbers and provide their wrestlers with more matches. In the case of inclement weather, this will allow administrators to re-schedule without any limitation obstacles. Adjusting the scheduling limitation will mirror the IHSA wrestling team limitation rules.

T&C: IV

Handbook: 4.053

Admin. Vote: 4-0

Board Action: **APPROVED**

**Recommendation 2: Allow wrestlers to be added to the roster at the seeding meeting.**

Current: Teams without contestants listed on a Regional Entry Form at the seeding meeting shall not be allowed to compete in regional competition.

Proposed: Allow wrestlers to be added to the official roster at the seeding meeting. Wrestlers must be added before seeding begins for that weight class.

Rationale: If a coach were to make a clerical error on their official roster, this would allow them to add a wrestler before seeding begins. Coaches don't want the student athlete to be punished because of a clerical error. Also, if there is an injury to a wrestler, allowing coaches to add a wrestler at the seeding the meeting would give the opportunity for a different wrestler to take that student's spot on the roster. If the student is added before the seeding begins, it will not give any competitive advantage from leaving them off the original roster.

T&C: V

Handbook: 4.057

Admin. Vote: 3-1

Board Action: **APPROVED**

**Recommendation 3: Allow three mats at the regional tournament.**

Current: Regional Equipment: Two wrestling mats are required---you may not use three mats

Proposed: Allow an optional third mat to be used during the regional tournament.

Rationale: Allowing a third mat at the regional level will shorten the length of the tournament. Officials and coaches agree that a third mat will make the day go quicker and allow the tournament to be run more efficiently. Regional hosts are not required to have three mats but will be allowed a third mat if they have the proper equipment.

T&C: Host Book

Handbook: Host Book

Admin. Vote: 4-0

Board Action: **APPROVED**

**Recommendation 4: Increase admission fee at regionals and sectionals.**

Current: K-8 Student and Senior Citizens- \$3.00. Adults and High School Students- \$7.00

Proposed: K-8 Student and Senior Citizens- \$5.00. Adults and High School Students- \$10.00

Rationale: Wrestling is an expensive activity especially for post-season hosts. This will help offset the costs to run a high-level postseason wrestling event. Admission prices are currently causing hosts the hassle of having the correct amount of bills. Hosts agree that it would be much easier to have prices match standard bills. These prices are still low compared to other wrestling events around the state.

T&C: VII

Handbook:

Admin. Vote: (Athletic Director Advisory Committee Recommendation)

Board Action: **NO ACTION NEEDED**

**Recommendation 5: Assign a 5<sup>th</sup> official for sectionals.**

Current: Four officials shall be hired for all sectional boys wrestling tournaments.

Proposed: Assign a 5<sup>th</sup> official for each sectional tournament.

Rationale: Four officials on four mats is making for a long day for officials. Officials have no built-in breaks throughout the day. Officials provided feedback from this year's sectional tournaments stating that 5th official is crucial for their health and safety. Officials were run down by the end of the day and couldn't provide their best abilities. Hiring a fifth official will allow officials to have a built-in rotation and keep them fresh throughout the day.

T&C: XII

Handbook: 2.126

Admin. Vote: 3-1

Board Action: **APPROVED**

**Recommendation 6: Allow a roster spot for team student manager and student statistician.**

Current: There is currently no spot on the regional entry form for a manager or statistician.

Proposed: Allow one roster spot for a manager and allow one roster spot for a statistician for regional and sectional competition.

Rationale: The coaches use the statistician to video and keep stats for matches. These students are an important part of the team. They have been with the team the whole season and feel left out when it comes time for post-season play. Some coaches rely heavily on their managers and feel as if they should be allowed to enter for free with the team.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote: 4-0

Board Action: **APPROVED**

**Other Items discussed:**

- 8 match minimum
- Regional brackets adjustment the day of the tournament
- Wrestlebacks at regionals
- Mandatory on-site trainer
- Increase AA state bracket
- Three levels of competition
- Seeding criteria
- State coaches pass
- Trackwrestling brackets
- Sportsmanship awards
- Girls wrestling division
- Proper skin forms