

**IESA WRESTLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**IESA Office, Bloomington, IL**  
**April 25, 2017**

The following members were present for the meeting: Coaches TJ Austin, Charlie McCluskey, Brad Powell, Chad Hicks, Brady Knop, Chris Prostka and IHSA Official Shane Morgan.

**The IESA Wrestling Advisory Committee, in its meeting of April 25, 2017, submit the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for their June 16, 2017, meeting:**

1. For the IESA Board of Directors to approve the formation of an ad-hoc committee that would study possible changes to the state series set-up. **Rationale: With almost 170 schools entered in the state series, it is becoming very difficult to host a regional with the number of schools assigned to each regional given that IESA allows 2 wrestlers at each weight class from each school to be entered. The ad hoc committee would look at possible changes to the regional set-up and can do that in much greater depth than the advisory committee can in a 3 hour meeting.**
2. To change by-law 4.054 regarding changes after the seeding meeting so the section reads as follows:

During the state series, all teams shall weigh-in together with their coach present. If even one wrestler is absent, the team shall wait until all members are present before they begin their weigh-in. If a wrestler fails to make weight at the regional meet, the wrestler cannot move up to the next weight class and must be scratched. No wrestlers can replace a wrestler who scratches or misses weight at regional weigh-in. After the seeding meeting, no re-seeding will be done when a contestant is scratched or if a wrestler misses weight at the regional weigh-in. **Rationale: The main reason for the change is to make hosting a regional tournament easier. For some regionals, there seems to be quite a few wrestlers who scratch for a variety of reasons but mostly because they miss weight. This places the host school in a difficult position of trying to accommodate a new wrestler to replace the scratched wrestler and re-drawing the brackets and starting the tournament on time. These changes are done the morning of the regional which causes delays to the start of the regional tournament. If the recommendation is approved, in essence, any and all wrestlers who scratch for any reason after the seeding meeting on Wednesday night, including missing weight on Saturday morning of the regional, are treated as a straight scratch and there is no replacement and no re-drawing of the bracket. By not allowing any replacements after the seeding meeting, the host school can print bout cards immediately after the seeding meeting and not have to wait to see if there are scratches reported or someone misses weight on Saturday morning.**

3. To change the replacement criteria listed in by-law 4.054 for a wrestler who qualified for sectional but is scratched as follows:

The first alternate shall be the wrestler who loses in the consolation semifinal to the eventual 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner. The second alternate shall be the wrestler who loses in the consolation semifinal to the eventual 4<sup>th</sup> place winner. The third alternate shall be the wrestler who had the higher seed who did not place. **Rationale: The current replacement criteria is that the first alternate is the wrestler who wins the most matches in the championship bracket but fails to qualify as a place winner. Many times this results in a wrestler who was not even seeded but won a**

**pigtail match as the alternate leaving out wrestlers who were seeded but did not place. The new criteria will almost always result in a seeded wrestler being the alternate if a replacement is necessary.**

The wrestling advisory committee will discuss with the coaches in their area about possible changes to the number of tournaments and match limitations. Given that many schools already have their schedules complete for the 2017-18 school year, the committee felt it would be better to gather feedback from coaches about changing the limitations before recommending any changes.

The committee also discussed NFHS uniforms. Support for allowing a two piece uniform was expressed. Given that the NFHS was discussing allowing two piece uniforms, the committee did not make any recommendation for an exception to the current NFHS rule. **Executive Directors Note: Since the meeting, the NFHS has approved an alternate two-piece uniform consisting of compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling and a form-fitted compression shirt. Wrestlers have the choice of wearing a traditional singlet or the new two-piece uniform.**

The process by which teams are assigned to regional and sectionals was explained. The responsibility to make the assignments rests solely with the IESA wrestling administrator.

Discussion was held about Grand Marshals and lifetime passes to attend the state wrestling meet. The Association will announce the person(s) selected as the Grand Marshal earlier but will not provide lifetime passes.

State Series dates for 2018 are as follows:

Regional Seeding Meeting---February 21  
Regionals---February 24  
Sectionals---March 3  
State---March 9-10 @NIU Convocation Center

Shane Morgan, Chris Prostka, and TJ Austin were recognized for their service to the committee.

The next meeting of the committee is set for Tuesday, April 17.