

**MIAA Wrestling Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025 @ 10:00 AM  
**Minutes**

1. **Attendance:** Patrick Danby, Glenn Doulette, Ann Palumbo, Brian Brewer, Zach Blaszak, Keith Crowley, Phil Mombeleur, Jon Longley, Keith Poloskey, Chris Jones, Steve Rotondi, Eric Conti, Robert Pritchett, Nate Monteiro, Paul Shvartsman, John Speek, Phil Napolitano
  - a. Tournament Directors/Clerk: Desi Kaplan, Ryan Madden, Scott Tremlett
2. **Minutes 1/16/25** – Motion to accept – Paul S. Second – Patrick D., Unanimous approved
3. **New Business**
  - a) **Review of individual tournaments**
    - Thanked all host and individuals involved. Already looking into host schools for 2025-26 as well as other facilities.
    - **Feedback**
      - Coaches lanyards worked well but still a lot of people near the mats. Hard to control but looking into other ways to help the situation. It is very facility dependent. Larger facilities or facilities like the Tsongas Center have natural crowd control barriers with the hockey boards or elevated stands.
      - All-States seemed to be one of the biggest crowds in years and very congested. Looking at ways to improve the All-State tournament and alleviate the congestion issues.
      - Need to continue to communicate with the host schools and participating schools regarding arrival times for the tournaments. At a few sites teams were at the schools 45-60 minutes before the doors open times and sites were not ready for teams to arrive.
    - **Facilities for Divisional and All-State Tournaments** - It is getting harder and harder to find large enough venues for these tournaments. Some facilities can host but then there are ripple effects (parking, other teams/programs at the site are shutout, staffing, etc.).
      - Phil N. shared that it's not really a financial issue, it's an availability issue. Wrestling tournaments require a site for 2.5 - 3 days due to setup and the tournament itself. There are not enough large venues that can accommodate those needs.
      - Same issues are taking place at the collegiate level. There are colleges that host a basketball game, fill an arena, have high revenue while only using the facility for 4-5 hours. Wrestling requires multiple days and does not have the same crowds or revenue.
  - b) **Tournament related topics for discussion**
    - **Girls and Mixed Gender All-State Tournament**
      - Girls Wrestling has grown which has led to increased numbers and capacities issues at All-States.
      - Would it be possible to separate the Girls and Mixed Gender All-State Tournament? Would the separating be a different day and same venue or same day but different venue?
      - John S. – As girls' representative, preference would be same day but different venue.
      - Phil N. noted that holding the event on a separate day might seem more logical, but questioned whether it would actually alleviate the

capacity issues at All-States if the wrestlers and their coaches are still present.

- Logistics with moving Girl's All-State tournament
  - Can be 1 day tournament (approximately 6 hours of wrestling).
  - Coaches would prefer different day. Sunday following boys (Friday and Saturday).
  - Would separate day lead to increase costs for MIAA, schools and families with hotel costs?
  - If the tournament is on Sunday and there is a cancellation/postponement due to snow on Sunday, there's nowhere to move it and can affect NE meet.
  - Nate M. – It could be challenging to get officials for all-states if moved to Sunday especially to have quality officials. If moved to Saturday, it might still be a challenge, but might be easier than Sunday to get better officials.
  - Next 2 years are unique and similar to this year with All-State not falling on vacation week. Different venues by same day does not affect the staff from Kap Wrestling.

- **MOTION:** In the absence of a larger venue capable of fully accommodating a combined All-State Tournament, the Girls All-State Tournament will be held separately from the Mixed-Gender All-State Tournament. This motion does not specify dates—only that the tournaments will be held separately if a single, adequately sized venue is unavailable. Motion made by Paul S., seconded by John S., and **unanimously approved (16-0).**

- **Number of qualifiers for mixed gender All-States**

- Currently the Top 6 in each division (18 in each weight) which results in 56 extra matches (4 per weight class).
- Based on data from previous years, the 6<sup>th</sup> place qualifier has not had much, if any, success (especially the 6<sup>th</sup> place qualifiers from D2 and D3.).
- If All-States moves to a 16-person bracket, some of the current logistical issues would decrease.
- How would the 16-person bracket work?
  - Current 6-6-6 model increases number of qualifiers from States to All-States. Other tournaments trim down, All-States in wrestling increases. Track meet of champions is time-based instead of equal across divisions.
  - The recommendation to move to a 16-person All-States bracket is data driven.
  - Discussion:
    - Paul S. – D2 6<sup>th</sup> placers have had some success if you look further back at data. This topic was discussed at the coaches meeting and a suggestion would be to seed the 6<sup>th</sup> placers and take the top ranked 6<sup>th</sup> seed regardless of division. Take top 5 from each of the three divisional state tournaments, then top seeded 6<sup>th</sup> place across 3 divisions based on seeding criteria.
    - John S. – There is a possible disadvantage for D3 in that some of those programs do not compete as much or against the same level of competition as D1 or D2. Not as many seeding points possible.

- Ann P. – If the seeding criteria is published, coaches may want to participate in a bigger tournament or stronger non-league matches to help strengthen their seeding.
- Phil N. – What would the alternate process be if we don't use the seeding criteria to seed the top ranked 6<sup>th</sup> place finisher?
- If D1 6<sup>th</sup> gets in, but moves up, then who gets the alternate, D1 7<sup>th</sup> or next seeded 6<sup>th</sup>?
- Chris J – Do we need to seed/rank the 7<sup>th</sup> placers in the event of all 6<sup>th</sup> placers are used as alternates?
- **After discussion, the alternates are 6<sup>th</sup> place finishers in seeding order then 7<sup>th</sup> place finishers are ranked in the same order.**

○ **Motion by Ann. P, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris J.**

Beginning with the 2025–26 wrestling season, the top five finishers in each weight class at each Divisional State Championship will automatically qualify for the All-State Tournament.

The sixth-place finishers in each weight class will be ranked using established seeding criteria, and the top-ranked sixth-place finisher will advance to the All-State Tournament. The remaining sixth-place finishers will serve as alternates.

If any or all of the sixth-place finishers are advanced as alternates or are otherwise unavailable, the seventh-place finishers from the Divisional State Tournaments will be used as alternates, following the same seeding order.

For example, if the sixth-place finishers in the 106 lb weight class are seeded in the order D2–D1–D3, then the seventh-place finishers will also be ranked in that same order: D2–D1–D3.

**Unanimously approved 16-0**

- Note that the All-States alternate policy will still be in effect as alternates are final by Wednesday at 8:00 PM

● **Balancing of Byes**

- No other states balance byes. Many tournaments do not score the first round.
- If we do not balance the byes, no bonus points in the first round matches if there is a bye, and all matches including byes get advancement in the first round.
- Discussion tabled

c) **Alignments for 2025-26 and 2026-27 are final**

d) **MIAA membership topics of discussion**

● **Standardized calendar**

- There is a group of District 7 Athletic Directors currently exploring having a standardized athletic calendar within the school year. The proposed calendar would have the following:

- All Fall sports begin on the second Monday before labor day.
  - All Spring sports end by the third Sunday in June
  - Winter sports starting on the Wednesday following Thanksgiving instead of the current Monday start day.
  - No weekend seedings
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Winter season is very important to wrestling and the wrestling schedule. A start on Wednesday would eliminate that 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday for wrestling due to the preseason requirements (10 practice days)
  - Wrestling committee does not want to move off of that Saturday participation, so if this were to move forward, the committee would like to examine the 10-practice policy.
- **Objective process to adopt and/or remove a MIAA sponsored sport.**
    - There is a group currently looking into having an objective process for adopting and/or removing a sport (example: Flag Football). It is currently part of the rules change process but may be moved from rules change process and moved to objective process adopted by the MIAA Board of Directors.

#### **4. 2025-26 Wrestling Tournaments**

- Already working on securing venues for the 2025-26 tournament

#### **5. TMC – Possible Statewide Wrestling Format**

- Discussion about the possibility of a statewide wrestling format.
- Currently sectionals are the qualifier for the State Championships. In D1, the North section has a high number of all-state finishers (significantly more than any other section).
- A possible proposal would be to power rank all the teams in each division and then split into 4 sections/quadrants. The power ranking/seeding criteria would have some challenges but can be figured out.
  - Venues could be predetermined but short notice could be tough on some programs that require long travel and hotel stays.

#### **6. Coaches Representative Input**

- Girls – Some of the bigger programs would like to increase the number of the additional girls-only matches. That number is currently 4 additional girls-only matches.

#### **7. Officials Representative Input**

- Sectional, State, All-state payment structure has been great.
- With the new rule regarding tris, quads, etc. during the week, there have been questions about end-times but that is up to the schools involved.

#### **8. Other**

- In the event that the team scoring for sectionals, divisionals or All-States results in a tie, there will be co-champs.
- Girls Wrestling & Free-style rules - New York adopted free style girls with modifications to be close to NFHS rules. If MIAA moves to free style, we would be one of the first and sending a message to rest of country to align with college.
- Next meeting will discuss Girls All-state date and balancing of byes discussion

Meeting adjourned