

Minutes of the IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee Meeting

March 12, 2025

The IHSA Wrestling Advisory Committee met Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Matthew Yan, Chicago (Lane Tech); Mark Jolcover, Fox Lake (Grant); Mark Masters, Coal City; Andrew Walters, Rockton (Hononegah); Andy Moore, Monticello; Chris Lindsay, Mascoutah; Blake Ohren, Official; and Sam Knox, IHSA.

Guests Tony Clarke and Rich Montgomery (IWCOA) were also present.

Scott Sullivan, Macomb, was absent.

The committee discussed and approved the minutes from the March 6, 2024 meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. II. Dates & Sites

Recommendation: Starting in the 2025-26 school year, follow this state series schedule.

Boys Regional Saturday of IHSA Week 31
Girls Regional..... Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 32
Boys Sectional Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 32
Girls Sectional Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 33
Boys Individual State Finals Thursday, Friday, & Saturday of IHSA Week 33
Dual Team Sectional Tuesday of IHSA Week 34
Girls Individual State Finals Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 34
Dual Team State Finals Friday & Saturday of IHSA Week 34

Rationale: The committee realizes state series dates were adjusted last year and were to go into effect in the 2025-26 school year. However, the committee heard from several coaches around the state who did not favor last year's changes that flip-flopped the Boys Regional and Girls Regional and moved the Dual Team Sectional to a Thursday. The newly proposed schedule creates a state series where each gender will wrestle on three consecutive weekends. It is also less intrusive on the traditional regular season schedule.

2. VI. Tournament Structure & Time Schedules

Recommendation: Adjust the Boys Individual State Finals schedule to start one hour earlier on Thursday and 30 minutes later on Friday morning.

Thursday

11:00 1A Preliminaries on 6 mats
1:00 (approx.) 2A Preliminaries on 6 mats
3:15 (approx.) 3A Preliminaries on 6 mats
5:30 (approx.) 1A-2A-3A Winner's Bracket Quarterfinals (each class on two mats)

Friday

9:00 1A-2A-3A First Round Wrestlebacks (each class on two mats)
1:00 (approx.) 1A-2A-3A Second Round Wrestlebacks (each class on two mats)

Rationale: This change means all wrestlers who win their preliminary bouts will wrestle again on Thursday. Currently, only 1A and 2A winners wrestle twice on Thursday. This change also creates a consistent schedule for all three classes throughout the weekend and should encourage better attendance Thursday evening since all three classes are wrestling simultaneously.

3. II. Dates & Sites

VII. Advancement of Winners: B. Team Advancement

Recommendation: Double the number of Dual Team Sectionals to eight total Sectionals in each class.

The top two teams from each Boys Regional will advance to a Dual Team Sectional.

Each Sectional will have two rounds – semifinals and championship.

The team that wins both duals will receive a Sectional championship plaque and will advance to the Dual Team State Finals.

Dual Team Sectional Schedule

Semifinals (5:00 p.m.): Regional A Champion vs. Regional B Runner-up

Semifinals (5:00 p.m.): Regional B Champion vs. Regional A Runner-up

Championship (7:00 p.m.): Semifinal winners

Eight Sectional champions will qualify for the Dual Team State Finals in each class.

This is the same number of teams that currently qualify for the State Finals.

The traditional rolling of the peas will determine the State Finals bracket.

Rationale: This recommendation allows more teams and wrestlers to participate in the Dual Team state series. It also allows the IHSA to recognize Sectional championship teams without affecting the State Finals format.

Administrative Recommendation

Recommendation: Create a training video to educate head coaches on how to use TrackWrestling. Head coaches are required to watch the training video in the IHSA Schools Center. Head coaches who don't watch the video and/or don't enter their wrestlers' weights and results in TrackWrestling throughout the season are not allowed to coach in the Regional.

Rationale: The IHSA requires coaches to use TrackWrestling for event scheduling and roster and weight management. Coaches who aren't properly trained or don't completely utilize the program are putting their wrestlers at risk of participating in weight classes where they aren't certified to compete. Requiring coaches to watch a training video and enter weights and results throughout the season provides the safest and healthiest experience for our wrestlers and makes the Regional seeding process much simpler.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee discussed the OPC in TrackWrestling and how those details can improve next year.
2. The committee discussed the growth in Girls Wrestling participation numbers.

2021-22: 1,249 girls had their body fat assessed

2022-23: 2,215 girls had their body fat assessed

2023-24: 2,804 girls had their body fat assessed

2024-25: 3,675 girls had their body fat assessed

517 girls participated in the Sectional

908 girls participated in the Sectional

1,426 girls participated in the Regional

1,758 girls participated in the Regional

3. The committee discussed the difference in participation numbers at Girls Regionals in different areas of the state.
4. The committee discussed wrestling the 3rd and 5th place matches simultaneously at the Girls State Finals.
5. The committee discussed amending the weight control plan for girls. IHSA staff will review potential options with the Sport Medicine Advisory Committee.
6. The committee discussed a proposal to potentially change details in the weight control program for all wrestlers.
7. The committee discussed concerns about State Finals mat sizes and ideas to obtain new mats.
8. The committee discussed NFHS rule change proposals.
9. The committee recognized outgoing members Matthew Yan, Chicago (Lane Tech), Mark Masters, Coal City, and Andy Moore, Monticello.