



GIRLS WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
2022 – 2023 SEASON
May 17, 2023 – 10:00am

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Howie O'Neil, Tournament Director
Jack Kinner, Assistant Tournament Director
Joe Knipper, State Rules Interpreter
Ashely Iliff, Newton HS Coach
Dennis Murri, Ridgefield Park HS Coach
Matt Pazinko, East Brunswick HS Coach
Scott Pressman, President, NJ Wrestling Coaches Association
Mike Lamb, Rancocas Valley HS AD

1. Post-Season in Review

Colleen solicited feedback on the region tournaments. Members of the committee commented that all sites were suitable and that the tournaments were well run. Scott commented that moving forward we need to encourage coaches to provide more timely notice of changes to their entries as it is difficult to re-seed if changes are made upon arrival for weigh-ins. NJSIAA will plan to host four region tournaments again during the 2023-2024 season.

Colleen provided a brief overview of the financial results for the past season. A total net loss of approximately \$53,000 was recorded for the 2022-2023 season. This is a drastic increase in net loss from prior years which is due to the addition of two region tournaments. However, the increase in net loss (70% increase compared to the prior season) relative to the number of participants in the region tournaments (435 participants during the 2021-2022 season versus 590 participants during the 2022-2023 season) is of big concern with members of the Finance Committee. Colleen discussed measures that can be taken next year to minimize this net loss – such as soliciting an increase in entry fees and minimizing expenses at all region host sites.

2. 2023-2024 Season Dates

The 2022 – 2023 proposed season dates were reviewed. The committee recommended that an earlier date be used for the tournament decision deadline – the date will now correspond with the two-pound growth allowance date.

3. Regular Season Proposals

Ashley expressed interest in requiring a minimum number of matches against girl competition to be eligible to enter the girl's region tournament. The minimum number of matches will help provide better seeding criteria but also motivate schools to provide more opportunities for their girl wrestlers. After lengthy discussion, others on the committee felt this would be burdensome on current coaching staffs at schools that have not yet hired a girls only coach and could prohibit many girls from the opportunity to compete in the girl's region tournament through no fault of their own. In addition, there is not a minimum number of matches required to enter the boys District tournament. Some felt

it is discriminatory to require the girls have a minimum number of matches. The committee did not move to adopt a minimum number of matches.

The committee also discussed concerns with issues surrounding weigh-ins reported in the boys and girls season. Howie reported that they have been in touch with Trackwrestling regarding these concerns. Currently, the only solution available within Trackwrestling is for the coach to create an event for the boys match on the girls side of Track and retrieve a weigh-in sheet for the girl from there. After the match enter the weigh-in weight and results for her on the girls side.

Lastly, Dennis expressed concern with the regular season 30-match limit date for the girls and that last season it did not coincide with the boys 30-match limit date. This resulted in the girls not having the opportunity to wrestle additional matches during the week of the boys team tournament. The committee agreed that these dates should coincide and that girls can participate in additional matches beyond the 30-match limit during the week of the boys team tournament.

4. Post-Season 2023-2024

The committee was in support of hosting four region tournaments.

Colleen and Howie confirmed that they are currently looking at tournament formats that would allow the entire state individual tournament to be wrestled at Boardwalk Hall in conjunction with the boys individual state tournament. The tournament structure and details are still being evaluated but they are confident that the entire tournament will be held at Boardwalk Hall during the 2023-2024 season.

5. Review of NFHS Rules Changes

Joe Knipper highlighted some of the rules changes that have been recently approved by the NFHS wrestling rules committee – specifically the required rest time between matches has been reduced from 45 minutes to 30 minutes and that a wrestler may wrestle a maximum of 6 matches in one day but cannot exceed 10 matches over two consecutive days.

In addition, Joe expressed continuing concern among officials with properly outfitted girl's uniforms. NJSIAA will plan to message these concerns prior to the start of next season and put out recommended guidelines for girls to follow when using singlets and sports bras.

6. NJ Girls Wrestling Coaches Association

Dennis and Ashley are taking the lead on forming a girls wrestling coaches association. This association will be a valuable resource to assist with scheduling regular season competition and will provide awards at the region tournaments in the same manner as the boys region tournaments.

7. Correspondence

Ken Rossi, Wrestling Coordinator, previously reported to Colleen that he did not receive any correspondence for the committee's consideration.

8. New Business

Ashley expressed interest in completely separating the girls from the boys during the regular season – this would mean that a girl who plans to participate in the girls region tournament cannot wrestle against boys during the regular season. Ashley cited injury concerns but also that this will help grow the sport by providing more girls only competition opportunities. Committee members expressed concern that this could prove detrimental to girls wrestling at schools who are just starting to develop a girls program. Committee members also commented that this is a goal to strive for in the next 2 to 3 years but that participation in the sport is not there yet to consider a complete separation during the regular season. No motion was made to support a complete separation of the girls from the boys during the regular season.

Ashley also expressed concern with the current alignment of the regions and that depending on how you view the results, some regions are more competitive than others. Howie explained his view of the results and did not agree that the regions were significantly unbalanced. Colleen explained that stronger regions, or sections, exist in every sport and that geography plays an important role in the alignment of the regions.

9. Old Business

Non noted.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Maguire, Executive Director