

To: OHSAA Wrestling School Athletic Directors & Head Coaches

From: Tyler Brooks, Director of Officiating & Sport Management

Re: January Update - Part 2

1 - Expanding Search for State Tournament Sites in Division 2 & 3

I have begun discussions with a high school site in central Ohio for the Division 1 State Tournament. I will notify all D1 schools if / when this site becomes finalized so that you may begin your travel arrangements.

There are a couple of potential sites in central Ohio that may work for Divisions 2 and 3, however it is prudent at this time for me to expand my search for a tournament site beyond central Ohio.

If your school is interested in potentially hosting either the D2 or D3 state wrestling tournament, please review the items below and have your athletic director email me your school's responses. Sites will need to be able to accommodate a 4-mat setup in their primary competition gymnasium and preference will be given to sites with larger spectator capacities and location within the state. Also, please note that if the school has event staffing concerns, please reach out to me as I anticipate being able to provide additional tournament workers if needed.

1	Division Hosting	Would you be willing to host a division different from your school?
2	Physical Layout	Do you have the ability to have a 4-mat layout in your gym?
3	Auxiliary Spaces	Please list any pertinent auxiliary spaces such as fieldhouses, auxiliary gyms, lobbies, etc. that would be useful for warm-ups, weigh-ins, alternates holding area, etc.
4	COVID Capacity	Please submit your COVID capacity for spectators with a 4-mat setup.
5	Medical Coverage	Who is your school's athletic medical coverage provider? Would you need any assistance in staffing an adequate number of athletic trainers and doctors for this event?
6	Streaming	Please include any familiarity / experience with streaming events at your school (NFHS Network, Trackwrestling, YouTube, etc.)
7	Cost of Hosting	Please submit an estimated cost of hosting. Estimate should not include game officials' fees.
8	Dates Available	Please include availability for 3/11 - 3/14, and 3/18 - 3/21

2 - Individual Wrestling Tournament Regulations Approved

On January 14, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved the 2021 Wrestling Tournament Regulations for sectional and district. The tournament regulations are posted on the wrestling webpage and the link is below:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Wrestling/WRindTourneyRegs.pdf>

There are some significant changes to the tournament regulations this year. Changes to the tournament regulations are noted in **grey highlight**. Additionally, an addendum was created to help highlight some of the significant changes to both the tournament regulations and recommendations of changes to sectional and district tournament session formats. This addendum may be updated with adjustments and clarifications, if it is, it will be highlighted and noted with a timestamp for date of revisions. The link to the addendum document is below:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Wrestling/2020-21/2021WrestlingTournamentAddendum.pdf>

Please note that the session structures stated in the addendum are recommendations, and that ultimately each sectional / district tournament site will determine the days of competition and session structure that best fits their facility's capabilities. You should have received, or will be receiving shortly, information from your respective District Athletic Boards with details on which sectional you are assigned to and all pertinent details on that sectional.

A few important notes to review:

- Alternates at District / State
 - Alternates will not be admitted into the tournament unless they become participants. I understand that this feels harsh compared to previous years' practice, but this is not a normal year, and we cannot admit an extra 28-56 wrestlers to the tournament if they are not participants. I don't like it, but this is the only logical approach this year. If the transportation logistics are not feasible for a school or individual wrestler, then they should not travel to the site because there is no guarantee they will be admitted as a participant. Alternates may arrive and enter the facility, and they will remain in a location until the conclusion of weigh-ins and skin checks. If they are not used, they will be asked to leave the facility.
Alternates are not participants unless officially informed by the tournament manager. Coaches of qualifiers that are known to be unable to participate in the next round should contact the tournament manager ASAP! The manager will follow-up with the alternate to determine availability. If a wrestler fails to make weight or pass skin check and there is no alternate available to fill the spot, then the vacated line on the bracket will become a bye.
- Warm-Up Partners
 - Warm-up partners will not be admitted to any tournament facility unless they are participants in that tournament. Again, I know this feels harsh but similar to the alternate situation above, there is no justification for essentially allowing double the number of athletes in the facility that are not participants.
- Spectators at the Tournaments
 - The number of spectators per wrestler will be determined by the spectator capacity of each site. All tickets will be distributed digitally via HomeTown Ticketing, just as we did with all OHSAA fall sport tournaments. Additional details will be provided to participating schools at the tournament approaches. Regardless of the size of the facility, all indoor athletic venues are limited to the lesser of 15% fixed seating capacity or 300, whichever is fewer, by the Ohio Department of Health. Wrestlers and their families should not anticipate receiving any more than 2-4 tickets for a given session. Some tournaments will not be able to admit 2 ticket per wrestler.

3 - Deadline for Weight Assessments

The annual deadline for weight assessments is January 15. After January 15, I still approve assessments to be conducted on a case-by-case basis. I believe I have approved every request that has ever been sent to me, we want kids participating in wrestling! If you have a wrestler who, for whatever reason, is just now interested or able to join the team, please email me to have an assessment conducted!

4 - Correction to Dislodged Facial Covering Approach

In my update earlier this month, I discussed the occurrence of a wrestler wearing a facial covering during competition and when that facial covering becomes dislodged during competition. I stated:

...This is similar to how officials handle headgear that repeatedly comes off, with the exception that repeated stoppages of the match to allow the mask wearer to readjust a facemask that has become dislodged will not be placed on injury time after multiple occurrences (match stoppages).

However, I should have stated:

...If a Facial Covering becomes dislodged due to wrestling, treat it in the same manner as a dislodged headgear. Repeated match stoppages due to facial covering dislodgement can trigger the injury clock.

Please email me if you have any concerns or questions about this correction.

5 - Review of Takedowns

I wanted to share the passage below between our wrestling Director of Officiating Development (DOD) Toby Dunlap and a coach regarding takedowns and how they should be enforced:

It appears...that some officials are requiring restraining control to be established at or above the knees before a takedown is awarded. That criterion is incorrect, and our officials and coaches were informed of that last season. Confusion arose among some officials when we sought to eliminate the "shoe-string" takedown at the ankles (particularly at the edge of the mat when the feet of the attacking wrestler finish in-bounds). The key to establishing control over an opponent is demonstrating the ability to restrain the opponent. Merely wrapping the arms around both ankles is not considered restraining control as the defending wrestler can kick-out or hip-heist and throw-in a deep whizzer to defend the attack. For such situations, we offered the following guidepost: "restraining control can be (not must be) established by wrapping the arms around both knees or above both knees". Notice we did not say that restraining control is only established by wrapping the arms around both knees or above both knees. Unfortunately, some officials took this as gospel and turned this guidepost into the only criterion for determining whether an attacking wrestler has gained restraining control over an opponent.

This thinking was clearly erroneous and in a subsequent communication to officials and coaches in February of last year, we addressed this issue again by stating (paraphrased here): "... guideposts for awarding edge of mat takedowns when restraining control is established and at least the feet of the scoring contestant finish down on the mat inbounds pursuant to NFHS Rule 5-24-3 needs to be clarified." It appears that some of us are erroneously using these guideposts as criteria for establishing whether a takedown is awarded while both wrestlers are clearly inbounds on the mat. NOTHING HAS CHANGED FOR AWARDING A TAKEDOWN WHEN BOTH WRESTLERS ARE INBOUNDS (e.g., wrestling in the center of the mat). The intent...was to provide a guidepost for awarding edge of mat takedowns only, and to eliminate the so-called "ankle" or "shoelace" takedown at the edge. For an edge takedown to be awarded a guidepost for establishing restraining control "at or above the knees" was offered. The phrase "at or above the knees" does not require the knees of the defending wrestler to be literally wrapped-up by the attacking wrestler. Restraining control of the knees may be established if the attacking wrestler has wrapped both arms below both knees (e.g., at the calves) with suitable pressure (e.g., by the upper body, neck and head) to ensure that a kick-out or hip-heist and whizzer and the like by the defending wrestler could not be executed. Again, NOTHING HAS CHANGED FOR AWARDING A TAKEDOWN other than offering guideposts for defining restraining control for edge of mat takedowns per NFHS Rule 5-24-3. For potential takedown situations that occur on the mat proper, there are a multitude of other factors that must be taken under consideration by the official. The adage "one size fits all" does not apply here. Exercising good judgement, being cognizant of body positioning, restraining pressure, acquiescence of the defending wrestler, as well as a "feel" for restraining control beyond reaction time is paramount. As set forth in Section 4, paragraph 4 of the 2019-20 NFHS Case Book: "Control is felt as well as observed."

6 - Student-Athlete Eligibility Questions

If you have any questions regarding student-athlete transfer eligibility, transfer consequences, transfer exceptions, etc., then please first direct your inquiry to your athletic director. If your athletic director

needs any additional guidance in answering your question completely, they will then contact our OHSAA Compliance Department for assistance. I am not authorized, nor knowledgeable enough, to provide guidance on anything related to transfers / eligibility.

7 - Webpage for Past Updates

Here is a link to the webpage that contains all past wrestling updates:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Wrestling/Athletic-Director-Coach-Updates>



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