

**PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT  
BY-LAWS  
2012**

**Article I      Name and Acronym**

This organization shall be known as The Pennsylvania Independent Schools State Wrestling Tournament (*PAISWT*).

**Article II      Objective**

- A. The purpose is to provide an organized, state wide, independent school wrestling championship to help independent schools and independent school wrestlers, reach the highest possible level of competition for them in Pennsylvania. The PAISWT is also a regional qualifying tournament for National Preps.
- B. To achieve this, the PAISWT Tournament Committee will provide a supervised program of competitive wrestling under the National Federation of High School Athletics rules for competition, with exceptions that are listed in article X, once per year.

**Article III      Membership**

- A. **Eligibility:** Any private or parochial school within the borders of the State of Pennsylvania and who does not have an association with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). Exception: In 2010, in order to provide a National Prep qualifying venue for Western Reserve Academy (OH), it was decided that they would be accepted into the PAISWT.
- B. **Classes:** Regular members - Schools who meet all eligibility requirements. Associate members - are previous members who do not meet all of the requirements of the tournament committee. New members - are accepted schools without previous stature or who, for whatever reason, have been unable to qualify.
- C. **Board of Directors:** One (1) designated member from each participating league that has had four or more participating schools for three or more years, and one (1) member from the group of schools who are not represented by league competition (independents). One (1) individual who is in charge of competition. One (1) member who is in charge of records and seeding who is appointed by the board for a one year term to be reaffirmed each year. One (1) member who is the tournament director who is not a current wrestling coach within the tournament. Each league will appoint a representative and that representative will be affirmed by a vote of a representative of each of the member schools. The coaches of the independent schools must appoint a representative from their ranks. All board members must be affirmed by a vote of a representative of each of the regular member schools. The members remain on the board of directors for a length of time to be determined by their representative group or until they resign. The year ends after the spring meeting.
- D. **Suspension or Termination:** A two-thirds vote by the Board of Directors is required for a suspension, termination or action taken against any regular member, associate member, or new member school or any team representative or wrestler.

**Article IV      Entrance Fees and Penalty Fees**

- A. Team entrance fees and individual wrestler fees (from all member schools) will be established annually by the tournament Board of Directors.
- B. Penalty fees will be established by the Board of Directors and administered by the Tournament Director annually.
- C. All entrance fees and penalty fees will be paid in full at or before the annual seeding meeting.

## Article V

### Meetings

- A. **Board of Directors Meetings** will take place four (4) times per year. One (1) in the spring, March/April, after the tournament; one (1) in the fall, September/October, before the next tournament; one (1) on the Friday of PAISWT, during weigh ins; and one (1) Saturday of PAISWT, during weigh ins. **A quorum** shall be a simple majority of the regular members of the Board of Directors.
- B. **Special Meetings:** can be called by any three (3) members of the Board of Directors, or the Tournament Director. They are limited to specific reasons of that meeting, and no other business may be conducted during those meetings.
- C. **Seeding Meetings:** are for the express purpose of seeding the various weight classes the night before the tournament begins. Other business is to be discussed at the coaches meetings.
- D. **Coaches meetings:** will take place prior to wrestling on both days of the tournament. The Friday meeting is set aside to discuss issues of the current tournament. The Saturday meeting is set aside to discuss the current tournament and issues for the next year's tournament.
- E. **Voting:** is limited to regular members only. Associate members and new members may enter in discussions but may not participate in voting.
- F. **Proxies:** are permitted for regular members only and must be in writing 24 hours prior to a designated meeting. The tournament director will vote the proxy.
- G. **Rules of order:** will be governed by "Robert's Rules of Order" for all meetings.

## Article VI

### Officers, Duties, and Powers

- A. **Tournament Director:** Is appointed by a majority of the Board of Directors and may be terminated only by his resignation or a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors. He is responsible for conducting the affairs of the Tournament and for executing the policy of the Board of Directors at all times. He presides at all regular and special meetings and investigates complaints, irregularities, and conditions detrimental to the tournament and takes appropriate action as outlined by the National Federation of High School Athletics or the by-laws of this tournament. The Tournament Director may only vote in board meetings or general meetings to break a tie. This executive privilege is optional.
- B. **Secretary:** is responsible for recording all minutes at regular and special meetings, and keeps a logbook of these recordings. The secretary is voted by a majority of the members of the Board of directors. The secretary must be a current member of the board of directors and is given a one year term to be reaffirmed each year.
- C. **Treasurer:** is responsible for all tournament entry fees, late or penalty fees, and revenue generated from all tournament activities. In addition he is responsible to pay all bills in a reasonably timely manner. The treasurer will establish a tournament checking account with one signature required on each check but three signatures available. The treasurer is elected by majority of the Board of Directors to a one-year term. The treasurer must be a current member of the board of directors and is given a one year term to be reaffirmed each year.
- D. **Site Director:** The hosting school is to provide a tournament site director to satisfy site logistics.

## Article VII

### Tournament Governing Rules

- A. The tournament shall be governed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules book. The current wrestling years' rules book shall be enforced. Any special tournament rules (Article X) shall be voted on and adopted each year during the September/October board meeting, and shall be communicated to the coaching staffs in the first tournament mailing each year.

## Article VIII **Amendments**

- A. Amendments to these by-laws must be proposed by a board member majority. After a waiting period of thirty days the proposed amendment will automatically be placed on the agenda. Final vote for passage will require a two-thirds majority. Upon passing, any changes to the tournament by-laws will be forwarded to the PAISAA Executive Board for final consideration and to be sure that all by-laws are in keeping with the PAISAA guidelines.

## Article IX **Appeals**

- A. A three-member appeals committee will hear all appeals. That committee will be named each year by affirmation of the board of directors. The tournament director will chair that committee. Appeals involving tournament matches must be filed immediately with the tournament director. If he is unavailable the appeal must be directed at his designate. All other appeals must be made in writing to the tournament director within fourteen days of the dispute.

## Article X **Special Tournament Rules**

- A. Special tournament rules are to be reviewed and discussed each year by the tournament board of directors. This includes accepting different options on the National Federation Rule Book. The Board of Directors should take council from the member coaches and vote on these Special Tournament Rules each year.
1. ***Competition will include ninth through twelfth graders and PG's or 5th Year Seniors if they have not turned 19 before Sept. 1.***
  2. Skin checks are to be performed at the scale by the scale official. Suspicion of a skin problem is to be referred to the head medical officer, either appointed or hired by the tournament (Doctor, trainer; depends on the host school's set up). This **CANNOT** be doctor random from out of the bleachers.
  3. The only documentation that will be accepted as proof of a skin problem diagnosis and treatment is the PIAA form (see PAISWT website or visit [www.PIAA.org](http://www.PIAA.org)).
  4. Seeding will be performed by a committee, consisting of one member from each qualifying league, the Inter-Ac schools, the Friends schools, and one member from the remaining member schools. Board members are not excluded. This group will be chosen by the board member responsible for seeding and records.
  5. Awards
    - i. Medallions will be given to the top eight places in each weight class.
    - ii. A team championship trophy shall be awarded
    - iii. A team runner-up trophy shall be awarded
    - iv. An outstanding wrestler award shall be voted on by the coaches and given to that wrestler.
    - v. A Ronald K. Nelson award shall be given to the graduating senior who has earned the most team points over a four-year period at the PAISWT. (Current tournament and three consecutive/previous years shall be considered)
  6. In addition to these exceptions the tournament board reserves the right to make additional exceptions that are determined to be necessary and are not reasonably foreseen.