

PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT BY-LAWS (2015)

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 who are members of PAISAA and who does not have an association with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). Exceptions:
 - 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.
 - In 2012, in order to provide a National Prep qualifying venue for Lake Forest (IL), it was decided that they would be accepted into the PAISWT.
- B. **Classes:**
 - Regular members - Schools who meet all eligibility requirements.
 - Associate members - 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.
 - 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 the PA representative on the National Prep Board.
 - One (1) member who is the Site 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. Terms for each Representative and for the PA Representative to the National Prep Board (as defined by the National Prep Board) will be three years. The Site Director's term is concurrent with the host school.

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GROUP	REPRESENTATIVE	END OF TERM
Site Director	Rick Hendrickson	2015
InterAc	Bruce Kennett	2017
Friends	Pacho Gutierrez	2017
Director of Competition	Jamie Mosteller	2015
PA Rep at National Preps	Steve Hill	2016
Independents	Scott Greene	2016

- 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 Site Director annually.
- C. All entrance fees and penalty fees will be paid in full at or before the annual seeding meeting.

Article V **Meetings**

- **Board of Directors Meetings** may 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;
 - one (1) on the Saturday of PAISWT;

A **quorum** shall be a simple majority of the regular members of the Board of Directors.
- **Special Meetings:** can be called by any three (3) members of the Board of Directors, or the Site Director. They are limited to specific reasons of that meeting, and no other business may be conducted during those meetings.
- **Seeding Meetings:** are for the express purpose of seeding the various weight. Other business is to be discussed at the coaches meetings.
 - Tuesday before Tournament – Initial Seeding meeting / conference call
 - Tuesday night / Wednesday – Seeds are sent out to all coaches
 - Thursday - Seeding concerns are reviewed and finalized
 - Thursday night – Final seeds are sent out to all coaches
- **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.
- **Voting:** is limited to regular members only. Associate members and new members may enter in discussions but may not participate in voting.

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- **Proxies:** are permitted for regular members only and must be in writing 24 hours prior to a designated meeting. The site director will vote the proxy.
- **Rules of order:** will be governed by “Robert’s Rules of Order” for all meetings.

Article VI **Officers, Duties, and Powers**

- Director of Competition:** 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 will preside 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 Director of Competition may only vote in board meetings or general meetings to break a tie. This executive privilege is optional.
- 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.
- Site Director:** The hosting school is to provide a tournament site director to satisfy site logistics.
- 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 is the responsibility of the Site Director.

Article VII **Tournament Governing Rules**

- 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**

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

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Article X **Seeding**

Seeding is conducted by the PAISWT Seeding Committee. This committee consists of one member from each qualifying league (Inter-Ac, Friends), National Prep representative, and one member representing the remaining member schools. The Director of Competition also participates in the seeding meeting as part of his responsibilities, but is a non-voting participant.

2015 Seeding Committee

Steve Hill (Pennsylvania Rep to National Preps, Germantown Academy)

Pacho Gutierrez (Friends League, Westtown School)

Bruce Kennett (InterAc)

Scott Greene (Remaining members, Wyoming Seminary)

Jamie Mosteller - Director of Competition

Seeding Process

Given the diversity of competition areas and the geographic extent of teams that participate in the PAISAA wrestling tournament, seeding presents certain challenges for the committee. The committee strives to construct the best grouping of seeded wrestlers in each weight based on the following guidelines. The guidelines are not set in ranked order, for the specific purpose of allowing the committee to set what it believes as the best seeding in each weight class. The committee seeds up to eight wrestlers in each weight class.

Seeding Guidelines/Considerations (listing only, not a ranked order)

- Overall record/ winning percentage
- Head-to-head competition result (current year only, last win takes precedence)
- Result vs. common opponent
- Strength of competition schedule (quality wins, quality losses)
- Regular season tournament placewinner
- Previous year National Prep placewinner
- Previous year PAISAA state placewinner
- Previous year state or sub-state (District, Regional) finish in another state public or private

Notes

- A wrestler must have a record of .500 or better to be considered for seeding.
- It is each coach's responsibility to provide the most detailed information on their wrestler, including knowledge of common opponents and results. Coaches should include common opponent/head to head losses as well as wins.
- Changes in seeding will not be made if new information is presented at the coaches' meeting that should have been included on the Final Roster-Seeding Form. Changes can be made if a relevant error is discovered on the committee's part.

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Article XI 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.
- December 25th will be the date in which PAISAA schools will be awarding the two-pound growth alliance.
 - A bracket will be redrawn if a scratch creates a double bye/ forfeit
 - Competition will include ninth through twelfth graders and PG's / 5th Year Seniors if they have not turned 19 before Sept. 1. PG's and 5th year Seniors are treated the same similarly to National Preps.
 - 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 a doctor random from out of the bleachers.
 - The only documentation that will be accepted as proof of a skin problem diagnosis and treatment is the NFHS form (see www.PIAA.org).
 - 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)
 - Medal round of the Consolations will be 2-2-2 instead of the normal 1-2-2.
 - 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.