

PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT BY-LAWS (2024)

Article I. Name and Acronym

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

Article II. Objective

Section 2.01 The purpose is to provide an organized, statewide, 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.

Section 2.02 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

Section 3.01 **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.
- In 2016, in order to provide a National Prep qualifying venue for The Linsly School (WV), it was decided that they would be accepted into the PAISWT.

Section 3.02 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.

Section 3.03 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.

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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.

| GROUP | REPRESENTATIVE | END OF TERM |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| InterAc | Damon Kuzemka | 2025 |
| Friends | Paul Hammond | 2025 |
| Independents | Matt Shirk | 2025 |
| Director of Competition | Jamie Mosteller | 2025 |
| PA Rep at National Preps | Nathan Lautar | 2025 |

Section 3.04 **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

Section 4.01 Team entrance fees and individual wrestler fees (from all member schools) will be established annually by the tournament host.

Section 4.02 Penalty fees will be established by the Board of Directors and administered by the Site Director annually.

Section 4.03 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.

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- **Seeding Schedule:** are for the express purpose of seeding the various weights. Other business is to be discussed at the coaches' meetings. All days are for the week before the Tournament.

(This schedule does not allow for wrestle off / changes the week of the tournament)

- Sunday – Line-ups need to be entered (5:00PM)
 - Tuesday –
 - Seeding info needs to be entered (5:00PM)
 - Initial Seeding meeting / conference call
 - Tuesday night / Wednesday – Seeds are sent out to all coaches
 - Thursday – Seeding concerns are reviewed and finalized
 - Thursday night –
 - **Last chance for scratches and injury / illness replacements (after the start of tonite's meeting they become forfeits)**
 - Final seeds are sent out to all coaches
 - Friday – Brackets will be built after weigh-ins
- **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.
 - **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

Section 6.01 **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.

Section 6.02 **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.

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Section 6.03 **Site Director:** The hosting school is to provide a tournament site director to satisfy site logistics.

Section 6.04 **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

Section 7.01 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.

Section 7.02 The tournament shall follow the [National Prep Weight Management guidelines](#) approved by the National Prep Board.

Article VIII. Amendments

Section 8.01 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.

Article IX. Appeals

Section 9.01 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.

Seeding Committee

Nathan Lautar (Pennsylvania Rep to National Preps, Malvern Prep)

Paul Hammond (Friends League, Germantown Friends)

Damon Kuzemka (InterAc, Episcopal Academy)

Matt Shirk (Independents, Mercersburg Academy)

Jamie Mosteller - Director of Competition

Seeding Process

Given the diversity of competition areas and the geographic extent of teams that participate in the PAISWT, 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 nine wrestlers in each weight class. Seeding will stop before nine if there is a wrestler with a losing record.

Seeding Guidelines/Considerations

Normally point totals dictate seeding, in general, but not in every case, especially in the highest seeds. The Seeding Committee has discretion. If there are compelling factors such as recent head-to-head results, or recent high placement at another major tournament, these will be considered, IF KNOWN by the committee.

See Article XII for point factors.

Notes

- It is each coach's responsibility to accurately enter your head to head results
 - Majority wins, if tied, then it goes to most recent

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Article XI. Special Tournament Rules

Section 11.01 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.
- A bracket will be redrawn, if a seeded wrestler is a scratch.
- Competition will include **eighth** 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
 - Awards will be given to the top eight places in each weight class.
 - A team championship trophy shall be awarded.
 - A team runner-up trophy shall be awarded.
 - An outstanding wrestler award shall be voted on by the coaches and given to that wrestler.
 - 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.

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Article XIII. Seeding Criteria

IN SEASON RECORD

Wins= 5 points

Losses= -3 points

Example:

Joe Smith was 20-10

He gets 100 points for wins minus 30 points for losses.

His points = 70 points

PREVIOUS POST-SEASON RESULTS

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|------------|----|
| National Preps | 1st | 150 | PAISWT 1st | 75 |
| National Preps | 2nd | 140 | PAISWT 2nd | 70 |
| National Preps | 3rd | 130 | PAISWT 3rd | 65 |
| National Preps | 4th | 120 | PAISWT 4th | 60 |
| National Preps | 5th | 110 | PAISWT 5th | 55 |
| National Preps | 6th | 100 | PAISWT 6th | 50 |
| National Preps | 7th | 90 | PAISWT 7th | 45 |
| National Preps | 8th | 80 | PAISWT 8th | 40 |

- Public State results = National Prep points
- Non-PAISWT Prep results = PAISWT point for states that participate in National Preps
- ONLY the highest placement accomplished should be awarded for place points. Do not add NP points to PAISWT points ETC. Take the highest point value from the chart for your athlete's place points.
- Only Last Year's events are counted.

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Strength of schedule points.

Placewinners in any of the following will receive 50 points

- Freestyle & Greco
 - USAW 16U (Cadet) Men`s Nationals ([Fargo](#))
 - Greco
 - Freestyle
 - USAW Junior Men`s Nationals ([Fargo](#))
 - Greco
 - Freestyle
 - UWW U17 Nationals ([Brackets](#))
 - Greco
 - Freestyle
 - UWW U20 Nationals ([Brackets](#))
 - Greco
 - Freestyle
- Folkstyle
 - Walsh Ironman ([Brackets](#))
 - Beast of the East ([Brackets](#))
 - POWERade ([Brackets](#))
 - Escape the Rock ([Brackets](#))
 - Trojan War (Brackets)

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Article XIV. Tournament Hosting Criteria

Section 14.01 Host location will change every two years.

Section 14.02 There will be a process to the order in which schools are offered a chance to host.

- League Affiliation (Alphabetical order, repeating every 6 years)
 - Year 1 (2020) starts with Friends League
 - Year 3 (2022) starts with Independents
 - Year 5 (2024) starts with Inter-AC
- Team
 - Descending order by last Host date, following in Alphabetical for those who have never hosted
- Offer to host will move thru League 1, team by team, until the end. If no teams in League 1 offer to host, then process repeats with League 2, and League 3.

| LEAGUE | TEAM | LAST HOSTED |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Inter-AC | Springside Chestnut Hill Academy | 1987 |
| Inter-AC | William Penn Charter School | 1987 |
| Inter-AC | Haverford School | 2005 |
| Inter-AC | Episcopal Academy | 2013 |
| Inter-AC | Malvern Prep | 2019 |
| Inter-AC | Germantown Academy | 2023 |
| Friends Schools | Abington Friends School | 1987 |
| Friends Schools | Academy Of The New Church | 1987 |
| Friends Schools | Friends' Central | 1987 |
| Friends Schools | George School | 1987 |
| Friends Schools | Germantown Friends School | 1987 |
| Friends Schools | Westtown School | 2021 |
| Independent | Kiski School | 1987 |
| Independent | Linsly School | 1987 |
| Independent | Phelps School | 1987 |
| Independent | Solebury School | 1987 |
| Independent | Western Reserve Academy | 1987 |
| Independent | West-Mont Christian Academy | 1987 |
| Independent | Wyoming Seminary | 1987 |
| Independent | Hill School | 2007 |
| Independent | Mercersburg Academy | 2023 |