

MSHSAA GIRLS WRESTLING 2020-2021

The following points of interest have been reviewed by the MSHSAA Staff and Wrestling Advisory Committee and will be in place for the continuation Girls Wrestling under the jurisdiction of the MSHSAA for the 2020-2021 wrestling season, the third season of existence for Girls Wrestling.

Girls Wrestling Rules: With the exception of weight classes and the number of weight classes, all interscholastic Girls Wrestling, at both the high school and middle school level, will follow and implement all NFHS Wrestling Rules as written and published in the most current NFHS Wrestling Rules Book. In short, Girls Wrestling will be competing using folk style rules as determined by the NFHS rules writing process, as has been the case for the sport of Wrestling since the sport's inception at the high school and middle school levels. The only exception to the NFHS Wrestling Rules for Girls Wrestling will be the rule provision relative to "weight classes". The NFHS currently allows each state association to determine weight classes for Girls Wrestling.

Girls Wrestling: Beginning with the 2020-2021 wrestling season, girls/females WILL NOT be permitted the option of participating on their "high school" Boys Wrestling team. All girls/females can only participate on their "high school" Girls Wrestling team during both the regular season and postseason.

At the "middle school" level only, girls/females can still have the option for participating on either the Girls Wrestling team, Boys Wrestling team, or both.

Weight Classes: There are 14 Girls Wrestling weight classes for the 2020-21 season, rather than 12 weight classes that was used for the first two seasons. Weight Classes have been determined based on weight assessments completed and entered into the OPC at trackwrestling.com. The weight classes were determined by taking into consideration both the initial alpha weight and the projected minimum wrestling weight for female wrestlers who have had a weight assessment completed and entered into the OPC. A calculated average (the halfway point between the female wrestler's initial alpha weight and minimum wrestling weight) was used to project what the distribution of wrestlers would potentially be for each weight class. **Yes, even a change by one pound makes a significant difference in the projected distribution of female wrestlers at each weight class.**

Girls Weight Classes (2020-21): 102, 107, 112, 117, 122, 127, 132, 137, 143, 151, 159, 174, 195, 235

Contest Limits: In order provide more consistency in language for contest limits between the Boys Wrestling and Girls Wrestling, our member schools voted on the MSHSAA Annual Ballot (April-2018) to move forward with allowing “competition dates” in the sport of wrestling as follows:

Boys Wrestling – 20 competitions dates, no more than 10 competition dates can be used for tournaments.

Girls Wrestling – 20 competition dates, no tournament competition date restrictions.

NOTE: The contest limits apply to both a Team and each Individual on a Team.

Individual Wrestler Limits: MSHSAA Bylaw 3.26.1, relative to limits on individual matches in season, apply to both girls wrestling and boys wrestling. **Bylaw 3.26.1 (a)** Prior to the district tournament, an individual wrestler shall represent his/her school in no more than a **maximum of 45 matches (excluding forfeits)**, and in no more events than the number of events scheduled by the higher team on which he/she participates.

Postseason and Qualifying Events: **CLASSIFICATION:** There will be one Classification for Girls Wrestling. Individual Participation numbers and School Participation numbers will continue to be monitored to guide discussions relative to number of Classes for Girls Wrestling in the future. **DISTRICTS:** - There will be four district tournaments that will be held on February 5-6, 2020. The Girls Wrestling district tournaments will award the top 4 place finishers at each weight class. The top 4 place finishers at each weight class will advance as state qualifiers to the state championships. **District Seeding:** All girls wrestling regular season match results must be recorded in the 2020-21 Girls Season in the OPC on Trackwrestling and will be used toward the common opponent/head to head seeding criteria at the girls district tournaments. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** - A total of 16 state qualifiers (4 from each district) will advance to compete in a 16-person bracket at the state championships. The top 6 place finishers at the Girls Wrestling State Championships will be recognized as state medalist and awarded medals.

Note: We must all be prepared to be flexible due to the potentially unpredictable impacts that Covid19 may have on our postseason events, locations, etc.

Season – Length of Season: The Girls Wrestling season will begin on the same calendar date (**Monday of Week 18 – November 2, 2020**) as the boy’s season and their state championships will conclude on the same calendar date as the boy’s season.

Coaching and Practices: A MSHSAA member school who offers both boys wrestling and girls wrestling are permitted to use the same coaching staff to oversee both teams. Furthermore, both the boys wrestling team and girls wrestling team that consists of enrolled students from the same school or an approved Cooperative

Sponsorship (Co-Op) may practice at the same time in the same practice facility under the guidance and leadership of the same coaching staff.

Trackwrestling OPC (Girls Season OPC): Weight assessments for “female” wrestlers will be entered into the OPC prior to the preferred date of **November 18, 2020**. The Girls OPC will remain open and accessible for weight assessors to complete weight assessments on female wrestlers. The actual deadline for completing weight assessments on any wrestler is at any time prior to a wrestler weighing in and participating in a competition for the first time.

Regular Season Competition (Opportunities): Most competition opportunities for Girls Wrestling (girls vs. girls matches) will exist in the form of tournaments. Efforts will need to be made by our Wrestling schools to create competition opportunities specifically for Girls Wrestling. If a school already hosts a regular season boys wrestling tournament and has the facility space to use multiple mats, the school is encouraged to consider adding a girls division. With that mind, there will also need to be consideration given to the fact that too many girls wrestling tournaments being offered on the same calendar date may result in a low number of entries at each tournament. In short, our wrestling schools need to communicate with each other and make sure that tournament competition opportunities for girls wrestling are spread out during the regular season. It may also be necessary to consider geographic locations of girls wrestling tournament opportunities each week of the regular season in order to increase participation numbers at each girls wrestling tournament during the regular season. **In an effort to assist with identifying what schools are hosting Girls Wrestling tournaments/events or will be adding a girls division to their already existing Boys Wrestling tournament, the MSHSAA will post these Girls Wrestling tournament/event opportunities on the Wrestling page at www.mshssaa.org . The MSHSAA can only post those Girls Wrestling tournament/event opportunities that are passed along to the MSHSAA office.**

Girls Wrestling Registration: For clarification purposes, now that MSHSAA offers both Girls Wrestling and Boys Wrestling.....if you have a female at your school participating in Wrestling.... your school **MUST** be registered for “Girls Wrestling”. Your school cannot only register for Boys Wrestling and allow a female wrestler to participate in your boy’s lineup. Even if you do not plan to allow a female wrestler to participate in the postseason for Girls Wrestling, your school’s registration with MSHSAA must still include Girls Wrestling. This registration status is mandatory for the female wrestler to participate in any wrestling match during the regular season.

Girls Wrestling District Assignments: Please be advised that district assignments for Girls Wrestling will be released on or before **December 11, 2020**.

Securing the total number of participants in Girls Wrestling, through the use of weight assessments, will be the data used to calculate projected number of female wrestlers at each weight class which in return will determine the distribution of schools at each district tournament.

GIRLS WRESTLING ELIGIBILITY ROSTERS: It is extremely helpful if Athletic Directors complete their school's Girls Wrestling Eligibility Rosters, on the MSHSAA Website, on or prior to November 18, 2020. Using number of participants posted on a school's Eligibility Roster is another tool that will assist MSHSAA with identifying the total number of female wrestlers that exists across the state when considering district assignments and distribution of schools to each district.

Girls Wrestling Postseason Eligibility: To be in Compliance with Bylaw 5.1.2, a Girls Wrestling "Team" must meet the team requirement listed below for a school to enter their Girls Wrestling "team" in the postseason. A Girls Wrestling "team" does not have a minimum number of participants requirement; therefore, a "team" may consist of 1 wrestler or more. To be in Compliance with Bylaw 5.1.2, each "Individual" on a team must also meet the individual requirement listed below.

Team Requirement – all Girls Wrestling teams must have entered and competed in a minimum of four (10) Girls Wrestling Contests/Events during the regular season for the team/school to be eligible for entering postseason(district).

Individual Requirement – each individual female wrestler must represent her school at least one time in competition for the sport of Wrestling (Boys or Girls Wrestling event/contest); however, the team requirement, as noted above, must be met for an individual(s) to enter the Girls Wrestling postseason(district).

NOTE: The intent of Bylaw 5.1.2 for all sports is for schools to "seek out" competition for their athletes who are on the school team, in this case your female wrestlers that are on your Girls Wrestling team. With that said, it is the expectation of the state association that your school exhausts all efforts to enter your Girls Wrestling team in a minimum of ten (10) Girls Wrestling contests/events to be eligible for postseason. A Girls Wrestling Contest/Event would be defined as a tournament, girls division at an already existing wrestling tournament, a dual meet, a triangular or a quad.