

MSHSAA GIRLS WRESTLING 2019-2020

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) completed the voting process through the 2018 MSHSAA Annual Ballot for the addition of Girls Wrestling. MSHSAA member wrestling schools voted (202 For, 41 Against) to separate the co-educational sport of wrestling into sex-separated wrestling for both boys and girls. A simple majority vote was required for Girls Wrestling to be approved for implementation starting with 2018-19 school year. The following points of interest have been reviewed by the MSHSAA Staff and Wrestling Advisory Committee and will be used to guide the continued implementation of Girls Wrestling under the jurisdiction of the MSHSAA for the 2019-2020 wrestling season, the second 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.

Implementation of Girls Wrestling: Girls Wrestling is being implemented under a two year implementation period (2018-2019, 2019-2020) that would permit girls the option of participating in both their school's Boys Wrestling lineup and Girls Wrestling lineup during regular season contests only. After this two-year implementation period, girls can only participate against girls at girls only competition. During the implementation period of Girls Wrestling, all female wrestlers MUST participate in the Girls Wrestling postseason.

Weight Classes: Weight Classes will be determined based on weight assessments completed and entered into the OPC at trackwrestling.com by **November 20, 2019**. The 2019-20 Girls Wrestling weight classes will be released via MSHSAA Broadcast email blast on **November 21, 2019**, just prior to the first allowable contest on November 22, 2019. The data from the weight assessments will be used to set the actual weight classes in an effort to achieve as much equal distribution in weight classes as possible while knowing in advance that the lowest weight class and highest weight class will inevitably have the lower number of participants. This same process was used during the first year of Girls Wrestling with consideration being given to permanent weight classes being established for the third season and beyond.

2018-19 Weight Classes: 103, 110, 116, 121, 126, 131, 136, 143, 152, 167, 187, 235

2019-2020 Weight Classes: 12 Weight Classes - TBA

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: During the two-year implementation period, there will be one Classification for Girls Wrestling. Individual Participation numbers and School Participation numbers will be monitored over the course of the implementation period to facilitate discussions relative to number of Classes for Girls Wrestling in the future. **DISTRICTS: 2019-2020** - There will be four district tournaments that will be held on Friday/Saturday-Week 31 of the MSHSAA calendar (February 7-8, 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:** Only girls vs girls regular season match results recorded in the 2019-2020 Girls Season in the OPC on Trackwrestling will apply to the common opponent/head to head seeding criteria at the girls district tournaments. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2019-2020** - 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. The Girls Wrestling State Championships will continue to be administered at the same site on the same days as the Boys Wrestling State Championships, Mizzou Arena (University of Missouri). The MSHSAA Wrestling Advisory Committee has approved the advancement of 16 state qualifiers while knowing that significant impacts will occur to the time schedule at the state championship site. The MSHSAA wants to continue to promote the opportunity for the girls to participate at the same state championship final site as the boys; however, in order to do so, event level warm-up time prior to rounds during the state tournament as well as the inclusion of some other student groups will be eliminated. There will continue to be both facility and time schedule restrictions that impact the amount of wrestling that can occur during the course of each day of this event.

Season – Length of Season: The Girls Wrestling season will begin on the same calendar date (**Monday of Week 18 – November 4, 2019**) 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 (Weight Management, Schedules, Etc.): Due to the fact that female wrestlers will have a two-year implementation period that will permit them to participate in their school’s boys wrestling line-up and in their school’s girls wrestling line-up, all weight assessments for females will “INITIALLY” be entered into the OPC using the “2019-2020 Boys Season”. Weight assessments for “female” wrestlers will be entered into the OPC prior to the deadline of **November 20, 2019**. On November 21, 2019 the MSHSAA will use a “Copy” feature in the OPC to copy all female weight assessments from the “Boys Season” over to the “2019-20 Girls Season” in the OPC. **NOTE: The 2019-20 Girls Season in the OPC will not be accessible to coaches or weight assessors until November 21, 2019.** The “Girls Season” in the OPC must be used by coaches to post their school’s female only wrestling events/contests schedule and will be used to enter all Female versus Female match results. Mixed gender wrestling events/contests and mixed gender match results will all be entered and accounted for in the 2019-20 “Boys Season” in the OPC.

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 13, 2019**. **Boys Wrestling district assignments will still be released on November 15, 2019 at 7a.m. to the MSHSAA Website.** As a reminder, weight assessments for female wrestlers are to be entered into the OPC on or before **November 20, 2019**. The weight assessments for female wrestlers will assist MSHSAA with identifying where to set the 12 weight classes as well as assisting MSHSAA with identifying the number of participants across the state in Girls Wrestling. 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. Thus the reason for the delay in district assignments for Girls Wrestling as compared to the release of district assignments for Boys Wrestling.

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 20, 2019. 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 (4) 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 four (4) Girls Wrestling (girls vs. girls) 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.

Question 1: Our Boys Wrestling team is participating at the Crossroads Wrestling Tournament on 12/8/19. This tournament is adding a Girls Division to their already existing Boys Wrestling Tournament. Does this Girls Division at the Crossroads Wrestling Tournament count toward one (1) of the required four (4) Girls Wrestling (girls vs girls) contests/events that must be entered for our Girls Wrestling team to be eligible for the postseason.

Answer 1: Yes, this Girls Division would count toward the minimum of 4 Girls Wrestling events/contests that your school must participate in during the regular season for your Girls Wrestling Team to be eligible for the postseason. **NOTE:** You must also post this contest, “Crossroads Wrestling Tournament” to your schedule page located in the “2019-20 Girls Season” of the OPC at www.trackwrestling.com. All match results from this Girls Wrestling tournament (girl vs girl) must be entered on the match results page of this event that is posted in the “2019-20 Girls Season” of the OPC at www.trackwrestling.com. This contest must also be posted on your schedule page for Girls Wrestling on the MSHSAA website so that you are able to complete Officials Evaluations for those officials that officiated this “Varsity” Girls Wrestling Contest/Event.

Question 2: Our Boys Wrestling team is scheduled to participate in a Triangular meet on 12/4/19 which will include Applewood HS, Cedar Creek HS and Bridgemont HS. All three schools are also registered for Girls Wrestling with MSHSAA and have anywhere from 1-10 female wrestlers on their Girls Wrestling team. Can the participating schools at this Triangular take both our Boys Wrestling team and our Girls Wrestling team to this event and allow the participants on each Girls Wrestling team to wrestle matches against girls from the other two opposing schools? Does this Triangular count toward one (1) of the required four (4) Girls Wrestling (girls vs girls) contests/events that must be entered for our Girls Wrestling team to be eligible for the postseason. How would we need to format the Girls Wrestling matches that are conducted during the Triangular?

Answer 2: Yes, if any two of the three schools or all three schools at this Triangular have Girls Wrestling and have a female wrestler(s) that are at the same weight class or within one weight class from each other, you should certainly consider setting up a “dual meet(s)” at this Triangular for the Girls Wrestling teams. Your format that you use to conduct the girls wrestling matches will not be just a scattering of girls matches throughout the evening. You will set up the girls wrestling matches to occur within a dual meet versus the opposing schools, regardless of the number of matches that will actually occur.

Example: Applewood HS will dual Cedar Creek HS during the first dual meet of the night and this first Dual will consist of a JV Boys Dual meet, Varsity Boys Dual meet and Varsity Girls Dual meet. The Varsity Girls Dual meet may consist of one match or it may have multiple matches dependent on which weight classes both girls teams have participants. There is not a minimum number of matches that have to be wrestled to count as a “dual”.

Example: Applewood HS will dual Bridgemont HS during the second dual meet of the night and this Dual will consist of a JV Boys Dual meet, Varsity Boys Dual meet and Varsity Girls Dual meet. The Varsity Girls Dual meet may consist of one match or it may have multiple matches dependent on which weight classes both girls teams have participants. There is not a minimum number of matches that have to be wrestled to count as a “dual”.

Answer 2 Continued: Based on the scenario above and the “examples” provided, this Triangular would count toward the minimum of 4 Girls Wrestling events/contests that your school must participate in during the regular season for your Girls Wrestling Team to be eligible for the postseason. **NOTE:** You must also post this contest, “Triangular-Applewood, Cedar Creek, Bridgemont” to your schedule page located in the “**2019-20 Girls Season**” of the OPC at www.trackwrestling.com. All match results from this Girls Wrestling Triangular (girl vs girl) must be entered on the match results page of this event that is posted in the “2019-20 Girls Season” of the OPC at www.trackwrestling.com. This contest must also be posted on your schedule page for Girls Wrestling on the MSHSAA website so that you are able to complete Officials Evaluations for those officials that officiated this “Varsity” Girls Wrestling Contest/Event.

Question 3: Is it permissible to host a double dual between School A and School B which will include a varsity Boys Wrestling dual and a varsity Girls Wrestling dual? How should this be contest be posted?

Answer 3: Yes, that would actually be a great idea to have a Varsity only dual meet, triangular or quad that consisted of Boys Wrestling duals and Girls Wrestling duals? For the Girls Wrestling dual meet(s) that occurs on this night, you will be required to post the dual(s) to your schedule page located in the “**2019-20 Girls Season**” of the

OPC at www.trackwrestling.com. All match results from the Girls Wrestling dual(s) must be entered on the match results page of this event that is posted in the "2019-20 Girls Season" of the OPC at www.trackwrestling.com. This contest must also be posted on your schedule page for Girls Wrestling on the MSHSAA website so that you are able to complete Officials Evaluations for those officials that officiated this "Varsity" Girls Wrestling Contest/Event. For the Boys Wrestling dual meet(s) that occurs on this night, you will be required to post the dual(s) to your schedule page located in the "**2019-20 Boys Season**" of the OPC at www.trackwrestling.com. All match results from the Boys Wrestling dual(s) must be entered on the match results page for this event that is posted in the "2019-20 Boys Season" of the OPC at www.trackwrestling.com. This contest must also be posted on your schedule page for Boys Wrestling on the MSHSAA website so that you are able to complete Officials Evaluations for those officials that officiated this "Varsity" Boys Wrestling Contest/Event.

Girls Weight Assessments Reminder and Use of Seasons: As a reminder, ALL weight assessments for female participating/practicing on your girls wrestling team must have their weight assessment completed by a certified assessor and entered into the "2019-20 Boys Season" on or before November 20, 2019. On November 20, 2019, the MSHSAA will have trackwrestling use a "COPY" feature to copy all female weight assessments from the "2019-20 Boys Season" over to the "2019-20 Girls Season". This is being done in order to permit weight assessments for girls to be accounted for in both season since the girls are permitted to participate in either their school's boys wrestling lineup or in the girls wrestling line up. NOTE: You are permitted to allow a female to start participating in girls wrestling "after" November 20th; however, you and your weight assessor MUST remind each other that in this case of a female wrestler coming out for the Girls Wrestling team "after" November 20th, the weight assessment must be entered into "2019-20 Boys Season" first. Your weight assessor will then go to the transaction for this female wrestler the "2018-19 Boys Season" and use the Copy feature to copy the weight assessment over to the "2019-20 Girls Season". **Reminder: Head Coaches and Weight Assessors will be sent emails from noreply@trackwrestling.com that contains different login information for the "2019-20 Girls Season" compared to the login information used to access the "2019-20 Boys Season". This email for logging into the "Girls Season" will be sent on November 21, 2019.**