

MSHSAA GIRLS WRESTLING

2018-2019 / 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 implementation of Girls Wrestling under the jurisdiction of the MSHSAA beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

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.

Implementation of Girls Wrestling: The proposed plan is to have a two year transition 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 transition period girls can only participate against girls at girls only competition. From the start of implementation of Girls Wrestling, the girls MUST participate in the girls postseason.

Weight Classes: Weight Classes will be determined based on weight assessments completed and entered into the OPC at trackwrestling.com by **November 14, 2018**. The 2018-19 Girls Wrestling weight classes will be released via MSHSAA Broadcast email blast on **November 15, 2018**, just prior to the first allowable contest on November 16, 2018. 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 process would be used during the first two years of Girls Wrestling with consideration being given to permanent weight classes being established in the third year and beyond.

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 50 matches (excluding forfeits), and in no more events than the number of events scheduled by the higher team on which he/she participates.

Postseason Eligibility (MSHSAA Bylaw 5.1.2): To be in Compliance with Bylaw 5.1.2, Girls Wrestling and Boys Wrestling must meet the following requirements in order to enter a team in the postseason. Each individual on a team must also meet the individual requirement.

Girls Wrestling: Team Requirement – all Girls Wrestling teams must have entered and competed in a minimum of 4 Girls Wrestling Contests/Events during the season for the team/school in order to enter participants in the district tournament. **Individual Requirement** – each girl participant must represent her school at least one time in competition for the sport of Wrestling (Boys or Girls) to be eligible for entry in the district tournament.

Boys Wrestling: Team Requirement – all Boys Wrestling teams must have entered and competed in a minimum of 10 Competition Dates for Boys Wrestling Contests/Events during the season for the team/school in order to enter participants in the district tournament. **Individual Requirement** – each boys participant must represent his school at least one time in competition for the sport of Boys Wrestling.

Postseason and Qualifying Events: There will be one Classification for Girls Wrestling. There will be two district tournaments that will be held on Saturday-Week 31 of the MSHSAA calendar (February 2, 2019). The Girls Wrestling district tournament will be held the weekend prior to the Boys Wrestling district wrestling tournament in order to promote school’s coaching staffs to give primary attention to the girls district tournament on a weekend that our state has fewer regular season tournaments occurring for the boys. The girls district tournament will be the qualifying event used to secure 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. There will be a total of (2) district tournaments until participation numbers at each weight class or overall girls participation numbers dictate the need for additional district tournaments. A

total of 8 state qualifiers (4 from each district) will advance to compete in an 8man bracket at the state championships. The top 4 place finishers at the state championships will be recognized as state medalist and awarded medals. The Girls Wrestling State Championships will be administered at the same site on the same days that the current State Wrestling Championships are held, Mizzou Arena (University of Missouri). **District Seeding:** Only girls vs girls regular season match results recorded in the 2018-19 Girls Season in the OPC on Trackwrestling will apply to seeding at the girls district tournament.

Season – Length of Season: The Girls Wrestling season will begin on the same calendar date (**Monday of Week 18 – October 29, 2018**) 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 females will have a two year transition period by which they may 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 “2018-19 Boys Season”. Weight assessments for “female” wrestlers will be entered into the OPC prior to the deadline of **November 14, 2018**. On November 15, 2018 the MSHSAA will use a “Copy” feature in the OPC to copy all female weight assessments from the “Boys Season” over to the “2018-19 Girls Season” in the OPC. The “Girls Season” will be used to 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 2018-19 “Boys Season” in the OPC. **NOTE: The 2018-19 Girls Season will not accessible until November 15, 2018.**

Regular Season Competition (Opportunities): Most competition opportunities for girls vs. girls wrestling 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 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 number

at each girls wrestling tournament during the regular season. **In an effort to assist with identifying what schools are hosting Girls Wrestling tournaments or will be adding a girls division to their already existing wrestling tournament, the MSHSAA will post these contest opportunities on the Wrestling page at www.mshssaa.org . The MSHSAA can only post those Girls Wrestling tournament opportunities that are passed along to the MSHSAA office.**