

WEST VIRGINIA YOUTH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION RULES

I. West Virginia Youth Wrestling Association.

- A. Definition: West Virginia Youth Wrestling Association is a non-profit organization providing youth an opportunity to participate in the sport of wrestling. It is not only the goal to develop wrestlers but also to contribute to the development of the moral, physical, mental, and emotional attitudes of young people as they develop toward adulthood. WVYWA Tournaments are designed to give any youngster residing full time, in West Virginia and meeting the established requirements set by the West Virginia Youth Wrestling Committee, the previously mentioned opportunities.

- B. Acronyms.
 - 1. West Virginia Youth Wrestling shall also be known as WVYWA.
 - 2. West Virginia Youth Wrestling Association Committee, which is the policy making and administrative board for WVYWA, shall be known as the WVYWAC.

- C. Organization and Operation.
 - 1. WVYWA, a West Virginia non-profit corporation, is organized and operated exclusively for the charitable and educational purposes described above. In general, WVYWA will foster and promote national and international sports competition by developing athletes for that competition, primarily by operating on a local, regional, and state level.
 - 2. No part of the organization's net revenues will inure to the benefit of private individuals.
 - 3. The organization will not, as a substantial part of its activities, attempt to influence legislation or participate to any extent in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public offices.
 - 4. WVYWA strives to create a safe environment for its wrestlers so its participants can grow, learn and have fun. An integral part of creating a safe environment is making sure that the participants are not harmed in any way while participating in the sponsored events. To that end, WVYWA seeks to minimize the risk of potential sexual abuse, and has adopted a policy for all WVYWAC members secure annual background checks, assuring no instances of sexual abuse of violence toward children. The purpose of this policy is to create a culture in which child sexual abuse is addressed and prevented. (Policy on Appendix G).

D. Geographic Region

1. WVYWA's geographic Region encompasses the State of West Virginia.
2. Each Region has predetermined boundary within West Virginia as established by the WVYWAC. (Map shown in Appendix H).
3. Boundary questions are handled by the Region Chairmans involved. Major disputes are settled by the WVYWAC President and/or the WVYWAC.

II. West Virginia Youth Wrestling Committee.

A. Purpose: The primary responsibility of the WVYWAC is to annually conduct a wrestling tournament for youngsters who meet the specific requirements as established by the WVYWAC.

B. Members: The WVYWAC consists of the WVYWAC President, WVYWAC Vice-President, WVYWAC Secretary-Treasurer, Region Chairmans, Region Vice Chairmans or designates and the State Championships Director. All the aforementioned are accountable to the WVYWAC for their conduct and actions.

1. WVYWAC President:

- a. Is the executive officer of the WVYWA and the WVYWAC.
- b. Is the WVYWA and the WVYWAC Official Representative.
- c. Is the final authority at State Championships unless appeal is made to the WVYWAC.
- d. Conducts all WVYWAC meetings.
- e. Establishes the agenda for WVYWAC Meetings.
- f. Can appoint special committees from within the WVYWAC to develop policy or explore legal policies
- g. May make policy suggestions but must have WVYWAC approval on all matters except those items outlined in the WVYWA Rules and Regulations Handbook.
- h. Is elected by a majority vote of the WVYWAC for a three (3) year term, which can be consecutive terms. If the WVYWAC President cannot complete an elected term of office, a successor may be nominated or elected to fulfill that term.
- i. Is the legal and administrative authority of the WVYWA and the WVYWAC and is only surpassed by a majority vote of the WVYWAC.

2. WVYWAC Vice-President:

- a. Fulfills all responsibilities of, and conducts all WVYWAC

meetings in the absence of the WVYWAC President.

- b. Is elected by a majority vote of the WVYWAC for a three (3) year term, which can be consecutive terms. If the WVYWAC Vice-President cannot complete an elected term of office, a successor may be nominated or elected to fulfill that term.
- c. Is the legal and administrative authority of the WVYWA and the WVYWAC and is only surpassed by the WVYWAC President or a majority vote of the WVYWAC.

3. WVYWAC Secretary/Treasurer:

- a. Maintains the history records for WVYWA, reports minutes of the meetings, and is the Chief Financial Officer for the WVYWAC.
- b. Is elected by a majority vote of the WVYWAC for a three (3) year term, which can be consecutive terms. If the WVYWAC Secretary-Treasurer cannot complete an elected term of office, a successor may be nominated or elected to fulfill that term.
- c. Reports the minutes of previous meetings, and mails meeting reminders.
- d. Is the keeper of WVYWAC funds, reports and advises on the financial status of the WVYWAC, negotiates, authorizes and/or pays all financial agreements or obligations incurred by the WVYWAC.
- e. Is in charge of correspondence of the WVYWAC.
- f. Maintains the historical records of the WVYWAC.
- g. Maintains required legal documentation for non-profit and tax exemption status.
- h. Is also a legal and administrative authority of the WVYWA and the WVYWAC and is only surpassed by the WVYWAC President, WVYWA Vice-President or a majority vote of the WVYWAC.

4. Region Chairman:

- a. Comprise the legislative group of WVYWA.
- b. Is elected by a voting method determined in the Region represented.

- c. Is appointed to the WVYWAC by a majority vote of the WVYWAC.
- d. Must operate the Region within the policies or mandates established by the WVYWAC.
- e. Is responsible for any assessment made by the WVYWAC to operate the WVYWAC.
- f. Must forward the Region winners and runners-up to the WVYWA Information Systems Coordinator or State Championships Director.
- g. Is the liaison between the Region and the WVYWAC.
- h. Is to make sure that all entrants are covered by the insurance carrier selected by the WVYWAC.
- i. Is to conduct a WVYWA Region Championship to determine the Region's entries into the State Championships.
- j. Is the final authority at all WVYWA tournaments held within the Region.
- k. Establishes additional operating policies within the Region to operate the Region that do not conflict with WVYWAC policies and goals.
- l. Shall provide legal proof of age and proof of residency for all entries in the State Championships from the Region.
- m. Should direct any major problem that cannot be resolved locally to WVYWA Chairman or WVYWAC.
- n. May designate a third party to represent his Region at a WVYWAC meeting by informing the WVYWAC President or the WVYWAC Vice-President, or in written form presented to the WVYWAC Chairman at a WVYWAC meeting.
- o. Submits required participation forms and data to WVYWAC officers.

5. Region Assistant Chairman:

- a. Assume the position of Region Chairman when the Region

Chairman is not present at a WVYWAC meeting.

- b. May discuss and suggest ideas at a WVYWAC meeting but has no motion making or voting authority except when assuming the position of a Region Chairman.
- c. Is elected by a voting method determined in the Region represented.
- d. Is appointed to the WVYWAC by a majority vote of the WVYWAC.

6. State Championships Director(s):

- a. Directs the WVYWA Youth State Championship Tournament and/or the WVYWA Middle School State Championship Tournament per the established guidelines and under the direction of the WVYWAC.
- b. Are selected by a voting method determined in the Region represented that is submitting the bid to host the tournament.
- c. Is appointed to the WVYWAC by a majority vote of the WVYWAC.
- d. Informs the WVYWAC on the progress of the State Championships.
- e. Has no voting authority on the WVYWAC.
- f. Has the responsibility for a follow-up report on the State Championships at the Spring Meeting, including a financial expense report for the State.

7. WVYWA Head Referee:

- a. Is selected by the WVYWAC in a manner determined by the WVYWAC.
- b. Directs oversight of referees at the WVYWA Youth and the WVYWA Middle School State Championship Tournament per the established guidelines and under the direction of the WVYWAC.
- c. Meets with all referees prior to the start of any wrestling at the WVYWA Youth and the WVYWA Middle School State Championship Tournaments and clarifies operating issues related to

bout issues and expectations of the referees.

- d. Becomes the level of first appeal to any referees' decisions, rules interpretations and related bout related decisions at the WVYWA Youth and the WVYWA Middle School State Championship Tournament, and will be the final authority on all rules or bout related decisions unless appealed to the WVYWAC through the proper process.
- e. Directs the execution of weigh-ins at WVYWA Youth and Middle School State Championship Tournaments in conjunction with the State Tournament Director(s).
- f. Directs and exemplifies the Referee Code of Ethics (Appendix E).
- g. Leads the WVYWA Referee Evaluation program (Appendix F) for the WVYWA Youth and the WVYWA Middle School State Championship Tournament, and provides a summary report at the Spring Meeting.
- h. At the Fall Meeting, provides a report of rules changes by the National Wrestling Federation, and recommends applicability to the WVYWAC. The WVYWAC will vote on these recommendations to pass them as WVYWA Rules or Regulations as necessary
- i. Has no voting authority on the WVYWAC.

8. Terminating Office

- a. When an individual terminates serving in any of the aforementioned offices, a written resignation should be presented to the WVYWAC.
- b. If the WVYWAC President, WVYWAC Vice-President or the WVYWAC Secretary-Treasurer is absent from two consecutive meetings without notifying the other officers, the post will be considered as abandoned. The WVYWAC may then elect a replacement for that term of office.
- c. If a Region Chairman is absent from two consecutive meetings without notifying either the WVYWAC President or WVYWAC Vice-President, the post will be considered as abandoned. The WVYWAC may then elect an interim replacement for that position, or until the Region selects new representation.

C. Meetings:

1. Four (4) meetings of the Committee may be held annually and traditionally conduct the following types of business:
 - a. Spring Meeting is usually held in May to discuss long range plans, appoint *ad hoc* committees, review the previous State Championships, and review the direction and leadership of the WVYWA. Every three years elect the WVYWAC President, WVYWAC Vice-President and WVYWAC Secretary/Treasurer officers (elections are to rotate so that only one officer is replaced per year). The WVYWAC will evaluate officers' performance in non-election years.
 - b. Fall Meeting is usually held in October or November to hear reports, appoint *ad hoc* committees, order medals, nominate WVYWA Recognition Awards, perform annual Treasury audit, and adopt rules for the ensuing tournaments.
 - c. Winter Meeting is usually held in January or February to finalize plans for the State Championships, review procedures and paperwork for upcoming season, establish *ad hoc* committees, and hear reports.
 - d. State Championships Meeting is held at the site of the State Championships, to handle problems or immediate concerns or urgent business of the WVYWAC. The head referee of the State Championships will also attend this meeting and report to the WVYWAC.
2. Dates:
 - a. All meeting dates are determined by the WVYWAC President or the WVYWAC.
 - b. Dates of the meetings will vary from year to year, but are typically held on Sundays, typically starting at 10A.M.
3. Rotation of Meetings:
 - a. The Region conducting the State Championships will host the State Championship Meeting.
 - b. Remaining meetings will be rotated between the regions so that no region will host more than one meeting per year absent approval of

the WVYWAC.

4. Variations:

- a. Additional meetings of the WVYWAC or *ad hoc* committee meetings can be established by the WVYWAC President or by determination of the majority of WVYWA Region Chairmans.

5. Meeting Representation:

- a. The Region Chairman and/or Alternate are expected to attend all meetings. Attendance by telephone or other electronic means is permitted as authorized by the WVYWA President or designee.
- b. Anyone interested in WVYWA may attend WVYWAC meetings.
- c. Guests will be permitted to address the WVYWAC on any subject concerning WVYWA; time may be limited by the WVYWAC Chairman.
- d. The WVYWAC President may, when time is short or the size of the group is large, restrict the discussion to the WVYWAC.
- e. The WVYWAC President, WVYWAC Vice-President, or the WVYWAC Secretary-Treasurer or a majority vote of the Region Chairman may call for an executive session if necessary.

D. Voting:

1. Members

- a. WVYWAC President: may cast a vote to break a tie vote before the WVYWAC.
- b. WVYWAC Vice-President and WVYWAC Secretary-Treasurer have no voting authority, unless one of these officers are conducting the meeting in the absence of the WVYWAC Chairman, and if applicable for item a. in this section.
- c. Region Chairmans: have one vote each on any motion before the WVYWAC.
- d. Region Alternates: have one vote on any motion before the WVYWAC in the absence of their given Region Chairman.

- e. State Championships Director(s): have no voting authority on the WVYWAC level.
- h. WVYWA Head Referee: has no voting authority on the WVYWAC level.

2. Method:

- a. The WVYWAC President will determine the voting procedure used, except the State Championships site determination is always a secret ballot.
- b. The WVYWAC President may take a telephone vote on WVYWAC procedural matters.
- c. Absentee Voting:
 - i. In the absence of a Region Chairman, the WVYWA Region Alternate or designee, the Region Chairmans may contact, by telephone or writing, the WVYWAC President or WVYWAC Vice-President and instruct either officer to cast the vote as instructed.
 - ii. This procedure may only be applied to previously tabled items and for determining the State Championships site.

3. Quorum:

- a. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Region Chairmans.
- b. Any motion before the Committee must have a majority vote of the Regions present before the motion can be approved. Appropriate absentee ballots will be included toward the majority.

E. Funding for WVYWA.

1. WVYWAC:

- a. Team Memberships.
- b. Assessment of participating wrestlers.
- c. Charitable donations.

2. WVYWAC Officers:

- a. From the WVYWAC treasury.
- 3. Region Chairmans:
 - a. Assessment of participating wrestlers.
 - b. Other fund raising methods may be used by the Region Chairman or designee, providing these methods are beneficial to the wrestling and do not conflict with the goals of WVYWA.
- 4. State Championships Director(s):
 - a. Expenses are to be paid from funds of the host Region or from the State Championships.
- 5. Clarification of Terminology:
 - a. The word assessment of wrestlers means an entry fee established by the WVYWAC, may vary at any given time to meet the financial needs of WVYWA/WVYWAC.
 - b. The words assessment of Regions means monies approved by the WVYWAC to be paid by Region Chairman for expenses of the WVYWAC.
- F. Expenses of WVYWAC.
 - 1. Standard Expenses:
 - a. General operating expenses.
 - b. *Ad Hoc* committee expenses.
 - c. Purchase of special recognition awards.
 - d. Motions passed indicating the expenditure of WVYWAC funds.
 - e. WVYWAC President, WVYWAC Vice-President and WVYWAC Secretary-Treasurer's expenses:
 - i. Expenses to maintain their offices incurred for WVYWA/WVYWAC business.
 - ii. Discretion is left to each of these officers as to whether

payment is received per each occurrence or in one yearly amount.

2. Special Expenses:

- a. Charitable contributions may be granted based on WVYWAC approval.

G. WVYWA Rules Policy.

1. Tournaments:

- a. General operating rules established to operate the State Championships will extend to any qualifying tournaments.
- b. Wrestling matches will be conducted under PIAA rules except as modified by WVYWAC.

2. Additional operational rules and regulations may; be found in the WVYWAC minutes that are applicable to the operations of the WVYWAC and tournaments hosted by WVYWA from the date of approval of this handbook.

3. Rules Reservation Clause: The WVYWAC reserves the right to change these rules and regulations, typically at the Fall meeting.

III. Tournaments.

A. Division of Tournaments

1. State Championships

a. WVYWA Championship Tournament

i. Date:

a) Is established by the WVYWAC.

b) As a general rule, the WVYWA Championship shall be conducted annually, two weeks after the WVSSAC State Finals.

c) When Easter falls on this weekend, the Tournament shall be held the weekend following Easter.

b. WVYWA Middle School State Championship Tournament

i. Date:

a) Is established by the WVYWAC.

b) As a general rule, the WVYWA Middle School State Championships shall be conducted annually, the weekend as close to the last allowed competition date set by the WVSSAC for Middle School teams or in conjunction with the WVYWA Championship as determined by the WVYWAC.

c. Tournament Site(s) for State Championships:

i. Regions interested in hosting either WVYWA State Championships will make an oral presentation of the proposed site and give each Region Chairman a copy of the proposals at the Fall Meeting. If this procedure is not followed there will be no consideration for the tournament site. The site proposals for the WVYWA Championship and the WVYWA Middle School State Championship Tournament will not occur in the same year.

ii. At the Winter Meeting, the WVYWAC votes to sanction a Region Chairman to host the State Championships, and

selects the site of the event. If in the case of a single bid for a State Championship Tournament site, that approval could be granted in the Fall Meeting. In the absence of any bid for the State Championship, the WVYWAC shall select the location of the State Championships by majority vote.

- iii. The WVYWAC will award the State Championships on a yearly (1) basis.
- iv. When the site for the State Championships are being considered, secret ballots will be cast with the lowest one eliminated (more than two) until one proposal obtains at least a majority of votes.

d. Finances:

- i. The host Region appoints a State Championships Director and/or committee who become responsible to conduct the tournament under WVYWAC rules and regulations.
- ii. The host Region for the State Championships Tournament is responsible for conducting and financing the State the Championships, in conjunction with guidelines provided by the WVYWAC.

e. West Virginia Team West Virginia Qualifying Tournament

- i. The WVYWAC will send an Elementary School Dual Team to the NHSCA National Duals generally held in May of each year.
- ii. The WVYWA Team WV Qualifying Tournament shall use the same age divisions, weight classes and rules as the NHCSA National Duals and shall be an open. Seeding, if any, shall be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. The Tournament shall be run as a true second tournament.
- iii. As a general rule, the WVYWA Team WV Qualifying Tournament shall be conducted annually, at a date and location in January of each year to be selected by the WVYWAC.
- iv. Dates, sites, and personnel are determined by the WVYWAC.

- v. Costs to operate Dual Team qualifiers are the responsibility of each Region Chairman or designee.
- vi. Costs to operate the WYWA Dual Team Qualifying Tournament are the responsibility of the WYWAC.
- vii. The WYWAC will supply team singlets to each qualifying wrestler.
- viii. The top wrestler (1) in each weight class will be asked to be a member of the WYWA Dual Team. If the top wrestler declines, the second place finisher will be asked to be a member of the WYWA Dual Team and so forth until the team slot is filled. The WYWA Dual Team Coach selected by the WYWAC will be permitted to select alternate wrestlers to travel with the WYWA Dual Team subject to the approval of the WYWAC.
- ix. Each Regional Chairman shall be responsible for scheduling practices for each qualifying wrestler in his region.
- x. The WYWAC will select a coach and assistant coach for the WYWA Dual Team.
- xi. At least one full day of practice for all qualifying wrestlers will be scheduled by the WYWA at a site, date and location to be determined by the WYWAC.
- xii. Qualifying wrestlers will represent the State of West Virginia at the NHSCA National Duals. Hotel costs and entry fees for the NHSCA National Duals shall be arranged and paid for by the WYWAC.
- xiii. Other tournaments that the WYWA Dual Team will participate in each year (to a maximum of five counting the NHSCA National Duals) will be determined each year by the WYWAC in conjunction with the WYWA Dual Team Coach and Assistant Coach.
- xiv. Vacancies for any WYWA Dual Team event will be filled by the next highest place finisher for each weight class at the WYWA Dual Team Qualifying Tournament. In the event that next highest place finisher is unable to participate, a replacement will be selected by the majority vote of the

WVYWAC. The WVYWA Dual Teach Coach will provide a recommendation for each vacancy to the WVYWAC.

2. Region Tournaments:

- a. Region Chairmans are responsible for conducting the Youth and Middle School Region Tournaments under WVYWA rules.
- b. Region Youth Tournaments are generally held the weekend following the WVSSAC State Finals, but may be earlier as set by the Region Chairman.
- c. Region Middle School Tournaments are generally held the weekend prior to the WVYWA Middle School State Championships, but may be earlier as determined by the Region Chairman.
- d. The Region Youth and Middle School Tournaments may be held in the same venue and time frame, as determined by WVYWAC and Region Chairman.
- e. The Region may hold an optional 4-U age division at any tournament if so desired, following WVYWA guidelines.
- f. Each Region Tournament must be concluded by the date fixed by the WVYWAC and qualifiers determined in each weight class.
- g. Region Chairman or the designee is responsible for the cost incurred for operating the Region Tournament.
- h. Regions will issue advancement sheets to placewinners at each Region Tournament and collect and remit the advancement fee for the WVYWA Championship Tournaments in an amount set by the WVYWAC.

3. WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments.

- a. The WVYWAC will determine a list of Qualifying Tournaments each year covering the State of West Virginia.
- b. All WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments will use the weight classes established by these rules.
- c. Wrestlers will be permitted to double enter at a higher age division at WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments.

- d. WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments will provide results of all matches to the WVYWAC electronically within five (5) days of the tournaments.
- e. Placewinners at WVYWAC Qualifying Tournaments will earn points as set forth in these rules for the WVYWA Top 100. Double entered wrestlers will only earn points for the WVYWA Top 100 in their age group as determined by their birth year.
- f. The weight class entered by each wrestler and weight actually made will determine each wrestler's base weight for the Region Tournament.
- g. No weight allowances except as provided in these rules will be allowed at any WVYWAC Qualifying Tournament.
- h. A list of WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments will be kept on the WVYWA website.
- i. WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments will provide the names, weight classes and team for the top 4 placewinners in all weight classes to the WVYWAC electronically within five (5) days of the tournaments. Tournament Directors are encouraged to submit results by Monday noon following the tournament.
- j. The WVYWA will post results of WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments on the WVYWA website and wvmat.com in accordance with procedures to be determined by the WVYWAC and in no event later than seven (7) days following the tournament.
- k. Will be included on WVYWA insurance coverage.
- l. Qualifying Tournament Directors shall remit One Dollar (\$1.00) for each wrestler participating at each Qualifying Tournament to the WVYWA.

5. WVYWA Member Tournaments.

- a. All WVYWA Member Tournaments will use the weight classes established by these rules.
- b. Wrestlers will be permitted to double enter at a higher age division at WVYWA Member Tournaments.
- c. WVYWA Member Tournaments will provide the names, weight

classes and team for the top 4 placewinners in all weight classes to the WVYWAC electronically within five (5) days of the tournaments. Tournament Directors are encouraged to submit results by Monday noon following the tournament.

- d. The WVYWA will post results of WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments on the WVYWA website and on wvmat.com in accordance with procedures to be determined by the WVYWAC and in no event later than seven (7) days following the tournament.
- e. Placewinners at WVYWAC Member Tournaments will earn points as set forth in these rules for the WVYWA Top 100.
- f. Will be included on WVYWA insurance coverage.
- g. Member Tournament Directors shall remit One Dollar (\$1.00) for each wrestler participating at each Member Tournament to the WVYWA.

B. Funds from Tournaments and WVYWAC Meetings:

1. General Policy:

- a. Revenues collected at WVYWA Tournaments are to be used to advance the sport of wrestling.

2. WVYWAC Meetings:

- a. The WVYWAC is responsible for financing any *ad hoc* committee meeting expenses.
- b. The Region hosting the State Championships is responsible for the cost incurred and the site location of the State Championship Meeting and on a yearly rotating basis, the Spring Meeting.
- c. The WVYWAC is responsible for financing the Fall and Winter Meetings.

C. Insurance

- 1. Every WVYWA tournament will be covered by general liability insurance purchased by the WVYWA. This insurance is not to be construed as insurance that a venue (school district or other entity) currently may carry on a facility, but as additional insurance that protects the host member, Region Chairman, WVYWAC and referees from liability.

IV. Tournament Rules

A. Eligibility

1. Entry

- a. Any youth meeting the requirements established by the WVYWAC. All participants must complete a valid entry form (template shown in Appendix A).
- b. Age Requirements: A wrestler's age group classification is determined by his/her age on January 1.
 - i. Supplemental proof of age (original birth certificate) may be required if there is reasonable suspicion that an entrant does meet the criteria. Challenges may be made by Region Chairman or any other coach. If a coach challenges the age of another wrestler, the coach must also present proof of age for any and all wrestlers from his team in the same division as the challenged wrestler. If proof of age is not produced for any of these wrestlers, any wrestler without proof of age will not be permitted to wrestle in the tournament but may move up an age division at the sole discretion of the Region Chairman.
- c. Age Groups:
 - i. Four and Under
 - ii. Six and Under
 - iii. Eight and Under
 - iv. Nine and ten Age Group
 - v. Eleven and twelve Age Group
 - vi. Middle School Age Group
 - a). Wrestlers in grades 6, 7, and 8, with WVSSAC defined Middle School eligibility may participate. No wrestler with WVSSAC defined Varsity or Junior Varsity experience would be permitted.

- b.) An 11 or 12 year old in 6th grade may participate in either the 11-12 Youth Age Division, or in the Middle School Division but cannot participate in both events.
 - c.) Regardless of age, all 7th and 8th grade students shall compete in the Middle School Division.
 - d.) No wrestlers in 9th grade or above may participate in the Middle School division.
- d. Any contestant must participate in the age group in which his/her age falls.
- i. A wrestler meeting age criteria in either the 6-U, 7-8, or 9-10 Age Divisions, but over the weight limit at heaviest weight class, is permitted to compete in the next older age division at the appropriate weight.
- e. A wrestler may not enter more than one weight class at the WVYWAC Championships or Region Tournaments. Participation at Qualifying Tournaments and Member Tournaments in more than one age division is at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- f. A wrestler may file only one entrance application.
- g. A wrestler must present proof of age to the Region Chairman at a time established by the Region Chairman upon request.
- h. Each participant shall pay an entry fee as determined by the WVYWAC and the entry fee shall be the same in all Regions.
- i. Each wrestler must compete in his/her Region of residence. The initial criteria is the home address of the wrestler. Secondary consideration will be given to the School the wrestler attends. The WVYWA understands that there may be extenuating circumstances such as split families or a change of residency (bona fide move) during the season. If extenuating circumstances merit, a wrestler may compete in another Region if both Region Chairmans agree, and complete the WVYWA Wrestler Competing in Another Region form (Appendix D). In the event that the Region Chairmans cannot agree, the WVYWAC will vote in accordance with these rules to determine which Region the wrestler will compete in. Wrestler Residency Verification (Appendix I) may be required if there is reasonable suspicion that an entrant does meet the

criteria.

- j. Each Region Chairman determines the entry date for the Region and after what parameter that date is set, a wrestler may not change his/her weight class. A Region Chairman may fill vacant spots in weight classes by shifting a legally entered wrestler into a vacant spot.
- k. If a participant is suspected of having a communicable skin disease or other condition that makes participation appear inadvisable, his coach/parent shall provide written documentation from a physician stating the athlete's participation would not be harmful to his opponent. This document shall be furnished at weigh-in or prior to competition. Covering a communicable condition shall not be considered acceptable and does not make the wrestler eligible. *See* WVYWA Communicable Skin Disease Form (Appendix B).
- l. No school issued Uniforms or clothing may be worn in any WVYWA bout.
- m. Use of electronic devices by coaches is prohibited for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to recording a bout or displaying video to a wrestler. Use of electronic devices for recording may only be done from the spectators in the stands.
- n. A wrestler must compete in one WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments to establish his/her base weight. Base weight for each wrestler shall be the lowest weight class the wresler weighed in for regardless of weight class wrestled. Each wrestler must establish his base weight at a WVYWA Qualifying Tournament at least one week prior to the first Region Tournament each year to be eligible to participate in the Region Tournament and qualify for the WVYWA Championship. Wrestlers may enter either their established base weight or a weight class above their established base weight class at the Region Tournament. A wrestler does not need to establish his base weight at a WVYWA Qualifying Tournament in his Region. This can be done at any WVYWA Qualifying Tournament.
- o. In the event that a wrestler is injured and unable to participate in a WVYWA Qualifying Tournament, in order for the wrestler to participate in the Region Tournament, the wrestler must petition the Region Chairman for a weigh-in to establish his base weight at least one week prior to the Region Tournament.
- p. In the event that any wrestler has not been able to establish his base weight due to unforeseen circumstances not already covered by these

Rules, in order for the wrestler to participate in the Region Tournament, the wrestler must petition the Region Chairman for a weigh-in to establish his base weight at least one week prior to the first Region Tournament.

- q. Upon receipt of a petition to establish base weight, the Region Chairman shall set a date, time and location for a weigh-in at least 3 days prior to the first Region Tournament. No allowance over base weight shall be given.
- r. Any dispute regarding any petition to establish base weight shall be resolved by a vote of the WVYWAC.

2. Weights

a. Groups

- 1. 4-U: 35, 40, 45, 50, and 65 maximum.
- 2. Six and Under: 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 75 maximum.
- 3. Eight and Under: 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 85, and 120 maximum.
- 4. Ten and under: 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 105, 125, and 160 maximum.
- 5. Eleven and twelve: 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 115, 125, 135, 145, 160, 200 maximum.
- 6. Middle School: 78, 84, 90, 95, 102, 110, 116, 123, 128, 135, 145, 155, 171, 190, 285 maximum. These weight classes will generally be the same as WVSSAC Middle School weights, at season's end.

3. Weigh-ins.

- a. The State Championships Director determines when and how weigh-ins will be staged, in accordance with the following, or guidance by WVYWAC:
- b. A weigh-in at the start of the tournament is preferred for the WVYWA Championships, as directed by the WVYWAC and shall have a Friday and Saturday morning weigh in period.
- c. Daily weigh-ins each day of the tournament is required for the

WVYWA Middle School Championships and WVYWA State Championship.

- d. To be eligible for the maximum weight class, a wrestler must weigh more than the proceeding weight class.
- e. The WVYWA will provide a medical doctor during weigh in periods to evaluate any medical issues regarding eligibility such as skin checks.
- f. WVYWA rules will allow the weigh in period, and related practices to be determined by the Tournament Director.

4. Weight Allowance:

- a. Flat weights for all WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments on or before December 31 of each year.
- b. A one-pound weight allowance for all WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments from January 1 up to and including the Regional Qualifying Tournaments each year is permitted at the discretion of the Tournament Director. A one-pound allowance shall be given for the Regional Tournaments
- c. A two-pound weight allowance for the WVYWA Championships.
- d. WVYWA Middle School Championships will be in accordance with WVSSAC rules.
- e. A wrestler establishing his/her base weight for Region Competition at a WVYWA Qualifying Tournament must meet base weight with no weight allowance if one is being given by the Tournament Director.

5. Bout management

- a. Wrestlers may not participate in more than 7 bouts per day, unless double entered in a tournament allowing double entry, and must have at least a 30 minute rest period between bouts.
- b. These guidelines may be adjusted by Tournament Directors in the case of extenuating and unforeseen situations.

B. WVYWA Championships Rules:

1. Entry

- a. Four qualifiers from each Region are eligible to advance to the WVYWA Championships and Youth Middle School Championships at each weight class in each age division.
- b. If a qualifier is unable to attend the State Championships, the next eligible wrestler may be entered by the Region Chairman upon proper notice to the State Championships Director prior to the beginning of weigh-ins.
- c. Entries in each age division and weight class are entered in the WVYWA Youth and Middle School State Championships brackets by a method selected and approved by the WVYWAC.
 1. If an open slot in the brackets occurs because of no wrestler being advanced from a Region Tournament, the WVYWA State Tournament Director will adjust the pairings to eliminate a BYE into the round of sixteen. This should occur as soon as practicable after the Region Tournament, and before brackets are released for public information.
 2. If an open slot in the brackets occurs because of a wrestler not making weight, or otherwise not appearing for weigh-ins, no adjustment to the brackets will occur, unless there is an undesirable balance in byes. This will be determined by the WVYWA State Tournament Director.
 3. At large bids to the WVYWA Championship may be given to 5th and then 6th place Regional Placewinners from each Region in a manner to be determined by the WVYWAC.

2. Bout Times:

- a. WVYWA Youth Championships:
 1. Each bout will consist of three (3) periods of 1, 1, & 1 minutes respectively for championship bouts.
 2. Overtime bouts will consist of a one-minute period starting in the neutral position followed by a thirty (30) second period, if necessary; choice for the second period goes to the wrestler who scored the first bout points.
 3. Consolation bout times will be at the discretion of the Region Chairman in tournaments at the Region level. At the State Championships level, must be approved by the WVYWAC if

other than 1:00-1:00-1:00.

4. For Region Tournaments, Full Wrestle backs and True Second are encouraged, but it is up to each Region to determine if either approach will be used at the qualifier or Region levels.

b. WVYWA Middle School Championships:

1. Each bout will consist of three periods and follow WVSSAC rules for WVYWA Middle School, including period times, currently are 1-2-2 for championship bouts.
2. Overtime bouts will follow WVSSAC rules for Middle School, including period times.
3. Consolation bout times will be at the discretion of the Region Chairman in tournaments at the Region level. At the State Championships level, must be approved by the WVYWAC if other than 1:00-1:00-1:00.
4. For Region Tournaments and Qualifiers, Full Wrestle backs and True Second are encouraged, but it is up to each Region to determine if either approach will be used at the qualifier or Region levels.

3. Uniforms at State Championships:

- a. Wrestlers must wear a team uniform when wrestling in any bout except championship match bouts as detailed below.
 1. Tights or similar undergarments may be worn under singlets as long as they have stirrups and are a solid color and must match the team colors. No stripes, letters, adornments or wording of any kind are permitted.
 2. When a team does not have a uniform to fit a particular wrestler, special consideration may be granted by the WVYWAC Chairman for use of alternate apparel.
- c. Any contestant not in required uniform will be given five minutes to change into proper uniform or will be disqualified.
- d. Wrestlers advancing to the Championship Match for each weight class will be provided a singlet by the WVYWAC. (hereinafter, "Championship Singlet").

- f. For the Parade of Champions, the ceremonies for awarding medals and taking photographs, wrestlers will wear only equipment approved for competition along with the team singlet or Championship Singlet as applicable and warm-ups or team t-shirt. Wearing of hats at these ceremonies is prohibited.
- g. Uniform/gear issued by a school district is not permitted to be worn for competition at any level of WVYWA.

4. Coaches

- a. No more than two (2) coaches in any corner for a wrestler.
- b. There will be only one corner per wrestler.
- c. Each wrestler must have a coach in his/her corner before a bout can begin.

5. Forfeits

- a. A wrestler will forfeit if not making weight during the weigh-in hours established.
- b. A wrestler will forfeit if called three (3) successive times for the bout and does not appear.

6. Round Robin Criteria

- a. In Region or Qualifying tournaments, when a round robin pairing system is used in a given weight class, the following criteria will be used, if all three wrestlers finish the competition with the same win/loss record. The first criterion that is met shall determine the winner:
 - 1. The wrestler whose opponent has been penalized for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be declared the winner.
 - 2. The wrestler who wins by fall, default, or disqualification shall be declared the winner.
 - 3. The wrestler who wins by technical fall shall be declared the winner.
 - 4. The wrestler who wins by major decision shall be declared the winner.

5. The wrestler who has the greater number of first points scored shall be declared the winner.
6. The wrestler who has scored the greater number of points for near falls shall be declared the winner.
7. The wrestler who has scored the greater number of takedowns shall be declared the winner.
8. The wrestler who has scored the greater number of reversals shall be declared the winner.
9. The wrestler who has scored the greater number of escapes shall be declared the winner.
10. The wrestler who has been penalized the least for stalling shall be declared the winner.
11. The wrestler who has been warned the least for stalling shall be declared the winner.
12. The wrestler whose opponent has been penalized the most for all other infractions shall be declared the winner.
13. If all of the above eliminates one wrestler, the remaining two wrestlers will wrestle one match to determine the winner.

C. Supplementary WYWA Controls

1. Officials
 - a. Must be a WVSSAC card carrier for any WYWA Tournament.
 - b. Will use WWSAAC rules except where WYWAC has modified them.
 - c. Are Accountable to the WYWAC to follow all WYWA Rules and will follow the Code of Ethics for Officials Participating at WYWA Events.
 - d. Any official's decision on rules or calls that is appealed is to be directed to the Head Referee for disposition.
 - e. All Matches in the State Championships Finals will have a referee and an assistant referee.

- f. Will be evaluated at the State Championship Tournament in accordance with the WVYWA Wrestling Official Evaluation Policy, which is administered by the WVYWA Officials Review Committee.
2. Sales at tournament sites must be authorized by the Region Chairmans, or the State Tournament Director at the WVYWA State Championships.
3. Tournament results and public relations are the responsibility of each Region, or the State Tournament Director at the WVYWA State Championships.
4. The shaking of hands after a match by a wrestler with the wrestler and opposing coach is mandatory and should be encouraged.
5. Physician, Certified Athletic Trainer, or a Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner specifically trained in sports medicine must be present at all WVYWA Tournaments, and an ambulance must be on call or on site at all times.
6. Coaches and/or spectators will be ejected from a WVYWA Tournament when they do not conduct themselves in a fashion pursuant for a youth program.
7. Any person ejected for misconduct should be identified on the WVYWA Report of Flagrant Misconduct form (Appendix C). If the person ejected is a spectator, that person may not act as a coach in any subsequent WVYWA tournament during that year.

V. WVYWAC Guidelines for Participants.

A. Conduct Code

1. Contestants are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the mat. Unsportsmanlike conduct can result in deduction of match points, disqualification from the tournament, and/or removal from the premises. A WVYWA Report of Flagrant Misconduct (Appendix C) should be completed if appropriate. WVYWAC disciplinary may follow.
2. Contestants are expected to refrain from damaging or defacing any part of the host buildings or grounds. Such action will result in eviction from the premises and/or prosecution. WVYWAC disciplinary action will follow.
3. Contestants are representing WVYWA while staying in the host community; therefore, any misbehavior in the host community may result in prosecution and subsequent WVYWAC disciplinary action.

B. WVYWA Disciplinary Action for Contestants

1. The WVYWAC, following the established Due Process (outlined in "C"), may vote to withdraw honors earned, and/or suspend the contestant from future WVYWA participation.

C. Due Process

1. The constitutional rights of the individual participants are assured and protected by the due process of law. Therefore, the following procedure will be administered when the Code of Conduct is violated.
 - a. WVYWAC will notify the participant/guardian of the specific violations in writing within 20 days of the incident.
 - b. The participant/guardian shall submit a written response to the alleged violation within 10 days of receiving the notification.
 - c. This written response will be taken to the WVYWAC Spring Meeting for consideration.
 - d. There will be no use of video recordings (or other recording methods) in considering decisions made, for the purpose of reviewing incidents for disciplinary issues or part of due process.
 - e. The participant/guardian will be notified in writing of the date of the Spring Meeting (usually held in May) and given the opportunity to

appear before the committee with counsel. No appearance will be interpreted as accepting the WVYWAC decision. All discussion and questions by the WVYWAC will occur in executive session; the complainant will be excused from executive session for deliberation by the WVYWAC. The WVYWAC will issue any related decision, or conduct any vote in open session.

- f. The participant/guardian will be notified in writing of the WVYWAC decision within 10 days of the Spring Meeting.

D. Applicability

- 1. The aforementioned (A-Conduct Code, B-Disciplinary Action, C-Due Process) will apply to all levels of WVYWA competition- Qualifying, Region, and State Championships)

VI. Guidelines for WVYWAC members, or all representatives of WVYWA.

A. Conduct Code

1. As the WVYWA (and WVYWAC) is responsible and accountable for its members and representatives, all members and representatives are accountable to the WVYWAC.
2. All members and representatives shall abide by all WVYWA Rules and Regulations or any mandates by the WVYWAC.
3. All members and representatives are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and good moral character. They shall abide by, and promote the goals of WVYWA. They will conduct themselves in the best interest of the competitors, the sport, and the organization (WVYWA).
4. All WVYWAC members will be required to submit a background check for child abuse or violence against children on an annual basis. A committee of the WVYWAC will review the background checks to assure compliance with WVYWA policy. Failure to comply with WVYWA Policy, or to submit a background check will result in removal from the WVYWAC.
5. Any violation by WVYWAC members or representatives of WVYWA could result in WVYWAC disciplinary action.
6. Legal convictions, missing two consecutive meetings without proper representation by an Alternate or designee, or failure to complete operational duties also constitute reasons for possible disciplinary action.

B. WVYWA Disciplinary Action for Members or Representatives

1. The WVYWAC, following the established Due Process (outlined in "C"), may vote to take disciplinary action.

C. Due Process

1. The constitutional rights of the individual are assured and protected by the due process of law. Therefore, the following procedure will be administered when necessary.
2. Steps of Resolution:
 - a. Problems/disagreements should be handled at the lowest level applicable. If unable to resolve, it should be referred to the next level, and the decision maker should be certain to personally hear both sides of

the dispute. If necessary in ascending order for resolution is as follows:

- i. Region Designee.
 - ii. Region Chairman
 - iii. WVYWAC President
 - iv. WVYWAC
- b. At any stage, there will be no use of video recordings (or other recording methods) in considering decisions made, for the purpose of reviewing incidents for disciplinary issues or part of due process.
 - c. Any issue not resolved by the WVYWA Chairman should be submitted in writing to the WVYWAC by the complainant within 10 days. The WVYWAC will notify the individuals involved of this action as soon as practicable, and will forward the written complaint to the member or representative within 10 days of receipt.
 - d. The member or representative shall submit a written response to the alleged violation within 10 days of receiving the notification.
 - e. The issue will be placed on the agenda of the next WVYWAC meeting for consideration.
 - f. The complainant and the member or representative will be notified in writing of the date of the next WVYWAC meeting, and will be given the opportunity to appear before the committee with counsel. No appearance by either party will be interpreted as accepting the WVYWAC decision.
 - g. All discussion and questions by the WVYWAC will occur in executive session (WVYWAC .Officers, Region Chair and Alternates only); the complainant and involved member or representative will be excused from executive session for deliberation by the WVYWAC. The WVYWAC will issue any related decision, or conduct any vote in open session.
 - h. The complainant and involved members or representatives will be notified in writing of the decision within 10 days of the WVYWAC meeting. Any disciplinary action to members or representatives will be held confidential, and the complainant will be informed of only the details that are appropriate for them to know, and do not compromise confidentiality of any WVYWAC member or representative.

- D. Forms of Discipline (require majority vote of WVYWAC)
1. No action at WVYWAC level
 2. Verbal or written reprimand
 3. Suspension of office or position
 4. Dismissal from office or position (requires 2/3 majority vote of WVYWAC, rounded to next higher number of WVYWAC voting membership)
 5. Other appropriate action as determined by the WVYWAC
- E. Applicability
1. The aforementioned (A-Conduct Code, B-Disciplinary Action, C-DueProcess, D-Forms of Discipline) will apply to all members of the WVYWAC, or any person acting as a representative of WVYWA at any level of WVYWA. This includes Region level or below, or at the statewide level.

VII. West Virginia Youth Wrestling Recognition Awards Program.

A. Purpose.

1. To provide special recognition to individuals for outstanding contributions to the WVYWA Program.
2. To provide special recognition to individuals for outstanding achievements as a wrestler.
3. To provide special recognition to business concerns who contribute the benefit of their professional expertise to the mission of or the betterment of WVYWA goals and programs.

B. Selection Process.

1. The WVYWAC shall establish a system to solicit, receive, and evaluate nominations for the award.
2. Nominations.
 - a. Shall be made through Region Chairmans.
 - b. Region Chairmans may present more than one nomination and will include which State Championship Tournament (Youth or Middle School) the award would be presented.
 - b. All nominations must be submitted at the Fall Meeting and will include an oral or written statement supporting the nomination.
 - d. Will be voted on at the Winter Meeting, but the written statement, as it would appear in the State Championships program, **MUST** be presented before voting can occur, or the nomination will not be considered.
3. Confidentiality Clause: The WVYWAC will make every effort to maintain confidentiality of communications pursuant to any nominations and selection recommendation.

C. Awards

1. The WVYWAC will establish an award model, which will be presented to each recipient.
2. The WVYWAC will also provide for a permanent type of award that will be displayed on the WVYWA web site showing the names of all award recipients.

D. Criteria of Selection.

1. Outstanding Service Recognition Award.

- a. This award shall be presented to those individuals who have provided superior service to WYWA activities at either the local, Region or State level.
- b. Three (3) individuals may be recognized during any subsequent year. A maximum of two presentations will occur at either the Youth or Youth High State Championship Tournament.
- c. No active WYWAC member is eligible for the recognition award until one (1) year after leaving the WYWAC.

2. Outstanding Wrestler Recognition Award

- a. A former West Virginia Youth Wrestler may be recognized for outstanding achievement at the WYWA, High School, Collegiate, or open competition levels.
- b. Three (3) individuals may be recognized during any year. A maximum of two presentations will occur at either the Youth or Middle School State Championship Tournament.
- c. A Wrestler shall not be eligible for the award until five years following his high school graduation. This rule is made in line with the basic premise that the WYWA Program is but a step along the way in youth development.

3. Corporate Partnership Award

- a. A business entity that has provided ongoing valuable service to WYWA to the betterment of WYWA goals and programs. This service is generally at the statewide level, and generally provided pro bono, or are at a reduced price from market cost.
- b. One corporate sponsor may be recognized in any year.

E. Presentations:

- 1. Recognition awards will be made at the State Championships.

2. The award will be presented by the Region Chairman who made the nomination or by an appointee selected by the Region Chairman.

G. Amendments:

1. The Recognition Awards Program may be amended by the WVYWAC at any time by a majority vote.

VIII. West Virginia Youth Wrestling Top 100 Program.

A. Purpose.

1. To provide special recognition to individuals for outstanding achievement in WVYWA Tournaments.

B. Point System.

1. The WVYWAC shall establish a system to recognize the WVYWA Top 100 wrestlers each year based upon a three tier point system. The WVYWA Top 100 will be determined on tournaments held between November 1 and April 1 each season.

a. Tier One.

- i. National/State Tournaments each year will be determined by the WVYWAC and shall include at a minimum the WVYWA State Championships, the WVYWA Dual Team Qualifying Tournament, Ohio Tournament of Champions, and the FloNationals Youth Tournament.

- ii. Points shall be awarded for Tier One National Tournaments in each calendar year as follows.

- 1) 1st Place – 100 pts.
- 2) 2nd Place – 80 pts.
- 3) 3rd Place – 70 pts.
- 4) 4th Place – 60 pts.
- 5) 5th Place – 50 pts.
- 6) 6th Place – 40 pts.
- 7) 7th Place – 30 pts.
- 8) 8th Place – 20 pts.

b. Tier Two.

- i. Tier Two tournaments will be the WVYWA Qualifying Tournaments, and any PJWA Top 100 Tournament.

- ii. Points shall be awarded for Tier Two Tournaments as follows.

- 1) 1st Place – 50 pts
- 2) 2nd Place – 40 pts
- 3) 3rd Place – 30pts
- 4) 4th Place – 20 pts

- c. Tier Three.
 - i. Tier Three Tournaments will be any WVYWA Member Tournament.
 - ii. Points shall be awarded for Tier Three Tournaments as follows.
 - 1) 1st Place – 30 pts
 - 2) 2nd Place – 20 pts
 - 3) 3rd Place – 10pts
 - 4) 4th Place – 5 pts

C. Awards

- a. WVYWAC will provide to each WVYWA Top 100 wrestler, at WVYWAC cost, a tshirt with the names of each WVYWA Top 100 wrestler.
- b. Top 100 Wrestlers will be included on the WVYWAC website in such manner as to be determined by the WVYWAC.
- c. Responsibility for entry of points and places in the WVYWA Registration System shall be the sole responsibility of the parent of each wrestler.