

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 Board of Directors, which is the policy making and administrative board for WVYWA, shall be known as the WVYWABOD.
- 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 WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD. (Map shown in Appendix H).
3. Boundary questions are handled by the Region Chairmen involved. Major disputes are settled by the WVYWABOD President and/or the WVYWABOD.

II. West Virginia Youth Wrestling Committee.

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

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

1. WVYWABOD President:

- a. Is the executive officer of the WVYWA and the WVYWABOD.
- b. Is the WVYWA and the WVYWABOD Official Representative.
- c. Is the final authority at State Championships unless appeal is made to the WVYWABOD.
- d. Conducts all WVYWABOD meetings.
- e. Establishes the agenda for WVYWABOD Meetings.
- f. Can appoint special committees from within the WVYWABOD to develop policy or explore legal policies
- g. May make policy suggestions but must have WVYWABOD approval on all matters except those items outlined in these Rules.
- h. Is elected by a majority vote of the WVYWABOD for a three (3) year term, which can be consecutive terms. If the WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD and is only surpassed by a majority vote of the WVYWABOD.

2. WVYWABOD Vice-President:

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

meetings in the absence of the WVYWABOD President.

- b. Is elected by a majority vote of the WVYWABOD for a three (3) year term, which can be consecutive terms. If the WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD and is only surpassed by the WVYWABOD President or a majority vote of the WVYWABOD.

3. WVYWABOD Secretary/Treasurer:

- a. Maintains the history records for WVYWA, reports minutes of the meetings, and is the Chief Financial Officer for the WVYWABOD.
- b. Is elected by a majority vote of the WVYWABOD for a three (3) year term, which can be consecutive terms. If the WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD funds, reports and advises on the financial status of the WVYWABOD, negotiates, authorizes and/or pays all financial agreements or obligations incurred by the WVYWABOD.
- e. Is in charge of correspondence of the WVYWABOD.
- f. Maintains the historical records of the WVYWABOD.
- 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 WVYWABOD and is only surpassed by the WVYWABOD President, WVYWA Vice-President or a majority vote of the WVYWABOD.

4. Region Chairman:

- a. Comprise the legislative group of WVYWA.

- b. Is elected by a voting method determined in the Region represented.
- c. If not elected in accordance with Paragraph 4.b. above, is appointed to the WVYWABOD by a majority vote of the WVYWABOD.
- d. Must operate the Region within the policies or mandates established by the WVYWABOD.
- e. Is responsible for any assessment made by the WVYWABOD to operate the WVYWABOD.
- f. Must forward the Region Champions, State Qualifiers and alternates to the WVYWA Information Systems Coordinator or State Championships Director.
- g. Is the liaison between the Region and the WVYWABOD.
- h. Is to make sure that all entrants are covered by the insurance carrier selected by the WVYWABOD.
- 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 WVYWABOD policies and goals.
- l. Shall provide legal proof of age and proof of residency for all entries in the State Championships from the Region upon demand or challenge.
- m. Should direct any major problem that cannot be resolved locally to WVYWA President or WVYWABOD.
- n. May designate a third party to represent his Region at a WVYWABOD meeting by informing the WVYWABOD President or the WVYWABOD Vice-President, or in written form presented to the WVYWABOD Chairman at a WVYWABOD meeting.
- o. Submits required participation forms and data to WVYWABOD officers.

5. Region Assistant Chairman(s):
 - a. Assume the position of Region Chairman when the Region Chairman is not present at a WVYWABOD meeting.
 - b. May discuss and suggest ideas at a WVYWABOD 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. If not elected in accordance with Paragraph 5.c. above, is appointed to the WVYWABOD by a majority vote of the WVYWABOD.
 - e. Each Region may have up to two (2) Region Assistant Chairman.

6. State Championships Director(s):
 - a. Directs the WVYWA Youth State Championship Tournament per the established guidelines and under the direction of the WVYWABOD.
 - b. Are selected by a voting method determined in the Region represented that is submitting the bid to host the tournament or is selected by Region Chair.
 - c. Is appointed to the WVYWABOD by a majority vote of the WVYWABOD.
 - d. Informs the WVYWABOD on the progress of the State Championships.
 - e. Has no voting authority on the WVYWABOD.
 - 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 WVYWABOD in a manner determined by the WVYWABOD.
 - b. Directs oversight of referees at the WVYWA Youth State Championship Tournament per the established guidelines and under

the direction of the WVYWABOD.

- c. Meets with all referees prior to the start of any wrestling at the WVYWA Youth 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 State Championship Tournament, and will be the final authority on all rules or bout related decisions unless appealed to the WVYWABOD through the proper process.
- e. Directs the execution of weigh-ins at WVYWA Youth State Championship Tournament in conjunction with the State Tournament Director.
- f. Directs and exemplifies the Referee Code of Ethics (Appendix E).
- g. Leads the WVYWA Referee Evaluation program (Appendix F) for the WVYWA Youth 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 WVYWABOD. The WVYWABOD will vote on these recommendations to pass them as WVYWA Rules or Regulations as necessary
- i. Has no voting authority on the WVYWABOD.

8. Terminating Office

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

abandoned. The WVYWABOD 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/Summer Meeting is usually held between May and July to discuss long range plans, appoint *ad hoc* committees, review the previous State Championship Tournament, vote on changes to these Rules, and review the direction and leadership of the WVYWA. Every three years elect the WVYWABOD President, WVYWABOD Vice-President and WVYWABOD Secretary/Treasurer officers (elections are to rotate so that only one officer is replaced per year). The WVYWABOD 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 Championship Meeting is held at the site of the State Championships, to handle problems or immediate concerns or urgent business of the WVYWABOD. The head referee of the State Championships will also attend this meeting and report to the WVYWABOD.
2. Dates:
 - a. All meeting dates are determined by the WVYWABOD President or the WVYWABOD.
 - b. Dates of the meetings will vary from year to year, but are typically held on Sundays, typically starting at Noon.

3. Variations:
 - a. Additional meetings of the WVYWABOD or *ad hoc* committee meetings can be established by the WVYWABOD President or by determination of the majority of WVYWA Region Chairmen.

4. Meeting Representation:

- a. The Region Chairman and/or Assistant Chairman(s) 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 WVYWABOD meetings.
- c. Guests will be permitted to address the WVYWABOD on any subject concerning WVYWA; time may be limited by the WVYWABOD Chairman.
- d. The WVYWABOD President may, when time is short or the size of the group is large, restrict the discussion to the WVYWABOD.
- e. The WVYWABOD President, WVYWABOD Vice-President, or the WVYWABOD Secretary-Treasurer or a majority vote of the Region Chairman may call for an executive session if necessary.

- D. Voting:

1. Members

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

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

2. Method:

- a. The WVYWABOD President will determine the voting procedure used, except a contested State Championship site determination is always a secret ballot.
- b. The WVYWABOD President may take a telephone vote on WVYWABOD procedural matters.
- c. Absentee Voting:
 - i. In the absence of a Region Chairman, the WVYWA Region Assistant Chairman or designee, the Region Chairmen may contact, by telephone or writing, the WVYWABOD President or WVYWABOD 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 Chairmen.
- 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. WVYWABOD:

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

2. WVYWABOD Officers:
 - a. From the WVYWABOD treasury.
 3. Region Chairmen:
 - 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 WVYWABOD, may vary at any given time to meet the financial needs of WVYWA/WVYWABOD.
 - b. The words assessment of Regions means monies approved by the WVYWABOD to be paid by Region Chairman for expenses of the WVYWABOD.
- F. Expenses of WVYWABOD.
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 WVYWABOD funds.
 - e. WVYWABOD President, WVYWABOD Vice-President and WVYWABOD Secretary-Treasurer's expenses:
 - i. Expenses to maintain their offices incurred for WVYWA/WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD.

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

3. Rules Reservation Clause: The WVYWABOD reserves the right to change these rules and regulations, typically at the Spring/Summer meeting. The WVYWABOD may also suspend these rules, in whole or in part, as necessary, upon a majority vote of the WVYWABOD in lieu of a Rule change to meet the necessities of a changing season as issues come up.

III. Tournaments.

A. Division of Tournaments

1. State Championships

a. WVYWA Championship Tournament

i. Date:

a) Is established by the WVYWABOD.

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. Intentionally Omitted.

c. Finances:

i. The WVYWA is responsible for finances for the state tournament.

d. West Virginia Team West Virginia Qualifying Tournament

i. The WVYWABOD 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

WVYWABOD.

- iv. Dates, sites, and personnel are determined by the WVYWABOD.
- v. Costs to operate Dual Team qualifiers are the responsibility of each Region Chairman or designee.
- vi. Costs to operate the WVYWA Dual Team Qualifying Tournament are the responsibility of the WVYWABOD.
- vii. The WVYWABOD 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 WVYWA Dual Team. If the top wrestler declines, the second place finisher will be asked to be a member of the WVYWA Dual Team and so forth until the team slot is filled. The WVYWA Dual Team Coordinator selected by the WVYWABOD will be permitted to select alternate wrestlers to travel with the WVYWA Dual Team subject to the approval of the WVYWABOD.
- ix. Each Regional Chairman shall be responsible for scheduling practices for each qualifying wrestler in his region.
- x. The WVYWABOD will select a coach and assistant coach for the WVYWA Dual Team.
- xi. At least one full day of practice for all qualifying wrestlers will be scheduled by the WVYWA at a site, date and location to be determined by the WVYWABOD.
- xii. Qualifying wrestlers will represent the State of West Virginia at the NHSCA National Duals. Entry fees for the NHSCA National Duals shall be arranged and paid for by the WVYWABOD.
- xiii. Other tournaments that the WVYWA Dual Team will participate in each year (to a maximum of five counting the NHSCA National Duals) will be determined each year by the WVYWABOD in conjunction with the WVYWA Dual Team Coordinator and Coaches.
- xiv. Vacancies for any WVYWA Dual Team event will be filled

by the WYWA Dual Team Coordinator. In filing this vacancy, the WYWA Dual Team Coordinator shall have discretion in making this selection but should give weight, in no particular order, to willingness to attend the event, finishing order at the WYWA Dual Team Qualifying Tournament, performance at previous national tournaments or duals, and past performance at the WYWA State Championship. The WYWA Dual Team Coordinator will provide a recommendation for each vacancy to the WYWABOD.

2. Region Tournaments:

- a. Region Chairmen are responsible for conducting the Youth and Middle School Region Tournaments under WYWA 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. Intentionally Omitted.
- d. Intentionally Omitted.
- e. Intentionally Omitted.
- f. Each Region Tournament must be concluded by the date fixed by the WYWABOD 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 WYWA Championship Tournaments in an amount set by the WYWABOD.

3. WYWA Member Tournaments.

- a. All WYWA 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. Unless a belt tournament, regional tournament and state tournament.
- c. WVYWA Member Tournaments are encouraged to provide the names, weight classes and team for the top 4 placewinners in all weight classes to the WVYWABOD electronically within five (5) days of the tournaments and to wvmat.com. Tournament Directors are encouraged to submit results by Monday noon following the tournament.

B. Funds from Tournaments and WVYWABOD Meetings:

1. General Policy:

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

2. WVYWABOD Meetings:

- a. The WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD 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, WVYWABOD and referees from liability.

IV. Tournament Rules

A. Eligibility

1. Entry

- a. Any youth meeting the requirements established by the WYWABOD. 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 Division
 - a). Wrestlers in grades 6, 7, and 8, with WVSSAC defined Middle School eligibility may participate. No wrestler with WVSSAC defined High School Varsity or Junior Varsity experience would be permitted.
 - b.) An 11 or 12 year old in Middle School 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 are encouraged to 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 4-U, 6-U, 7-8, or 9-10 or 11-12 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 WVYWABOD Championships or Region Tournaments. Participation at Base Weight 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 WVYWABOD 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 Chairmen agree, and complete the WVYWA Wrestler Competing in Another Region form (Appendix D). In the event that the Region Chairmen cannot agree, the WVYWABOD 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. All

Regional Tournaments shall utilize trackwrestling and allow for parents and coaches to make entries on trackwrestling. Parents and/or coaches shall enter each participant in trackwrestling in an age division and weight class. After entries are closed, a wrestler may not change his/her weight class. Region Chairmen may fill vacant spots in weight classes by shifting a legally entered wrestler into a vacant spot (adjust the brackets after seeding). Regional Chairman are encouraged to seed the top 4 wrestlers and no more; however, Regional Chairman are under no obligation to conduct a seeding meeting or seed wrestlers so long as a true second brackets is utilized.

- 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 Base Weight 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 Base Weight 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 State 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 Base Weight Tournament in his Region. This can be done at any WVYWA Base Weight Tournament.
- o. In the event that a wrestler is injured and unable to participate in a WVYWA Base Weight 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 WVYWABOD.

2. Weights

a. Groups

- 1. 4-U: 35, 40, 45, 50, and HWT (65 maximum).
- 2. Six and Under: 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and HWT (75 maximum).
- 3. Eight and Under: 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 85, and HWT (120 maximum).
- 4. Ten and under: 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 105, 115, 125, and HWT (160 maximum).
- 5. Eleven and twelve: 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 115, 125, 135, 145, 160, HWT (200 maximum).
- 6. Middle School: 70, 78, 86, 94, 102, 110, 116, 123, 128, 135, 145, 155, 171, 190, 215, HWT (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 Championship Director determines when and how weigh-ins will be staged, in accordance with the following, or guidance by WVYWABOD:

- b. A weigh-in at the start of the tournament is preferred for the WVYWA Championship, as directed by the WVYWABOD and shall have a Friday weigh in.
- c. Singles must be worn during weigh in.
- d. The WVYWA will provide a medical doctor during weigh in periods to evaluate any medical issues regarding eligibility such as skin checks.
- . WVYWA rules will allow the weigh in period, and related practices to be determined by the Tournament Director.

4. Weight Allowance:

- a. For all 12-U and under divisions zero weight allowance for all WVYWA Regionals and state tournaments.
- b. WVYWA Middle School Division will be in accordance with WVSSAC rules.

B. WVYWA Championships Rules:

1. Entry

- a. Six qualifiers from each Region are eligible to advance to the WVYWA 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 State Championship brackets by a method selected and approved by the WVYWABOD.
 - 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.

2. Bout Times:

a. WVYWA Youth Championship:

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 WVYWABOD if other than 1:00-1:00-1:00.

b. WVYWA Youth Championship - Middle School Division:

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 WVYWABOD if other than 1:00-1:00-1:00.

3. Uniforms at State Championships:

- a. Wrestlers must wear a uniform or approved 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 WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD. (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 Base Weight 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 criteria 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 points scored shall be declared the winner.
 6. 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 WVSAAC rules except where WYWABOD has modified them.
- c. Are accountable to the WYWABOD 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 WYWA Wrestling Official Evaluation Policy, which is administered by the WYWA Officials Review Committee.
2. Sales at Base Weight Tournaments must be authorized by the tournament director. Sales at Regionals must be authorized by the respective Region Chair, Sales at the WYWA State Championship Tournament must be authorized by the WYWABOD.
3. Tournament results and public relations are the responsibility of each Region, or the State Tournament Director at the WYWA 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 should be present at all WYWA Tournaments..
6. Coaches and/or spectators will be ejected from a WYWA 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 WYWA 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 WYWA tournament during that year.

V. WYWABOD 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 WYWA Report of Flagrant Misconduct (Appendix C) should be completed if appropriate. WYWABOD 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. WYWABOD disciplinary action will follow.
3. Contestants are representing WYWA while staying in the host community; therefore, any misbehavior in the host community may result in prosecution and subsequent WYWABOD disciplinary action.

B. WYWA Disciplinary Action for Contestants

1. The WYWABOD, following the established Due Process (outlined in "C"), may vote to withdraw honors earned, and/or suspend the contestant from future WYWA 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. WYWABOD 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 WYWABOD 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 absent approval by the WYWABOD.
 - e. The participant/guardian will be notified in writing of the date of the

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

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

D. Applicability

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

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

A. Conduct Code

1. As the WVYWA (and WVYWABOD) is responsible and accountable for its members and representatives, all members and representatives are accountable to the WVYWABOD.
2. All members and representatives shall abide by all WVYWA Rules or any mandates by the WVYWABOD.
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 WVYWABOD members will be required to submit a background check for child abuse or violence against children on an annual basis. A committee of the WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD.
5. Any violation by WVYWABOD members or representatives of WVYWA could result in WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD, 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. WVYWABOD President
 - iv. WVYWABOD
- 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 absent approval by the WVYWABOD.
 - c. Any issue not resolved by the WVYWA Chairman should be submitted in writing to the WVYWABOD by the complainant within 10 days. The WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD meeting for consideration.
 - f. The complainant and the member or representative will be notified in writing of the date of the next WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD decision.
 - g. All discussion and questions by the WVYWABOD will occur in executive session (WVYWABOD .Officers, Region Chair and Alternates only); the complainant and involved member or representative will be excused from executive session for deliberation by the WVYWABOD. The WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD member or representative.

D. Forms of Discipline (require majority vote of WVYWABOD)

1. No action at WVYWABOD level
2. Verbal or written reprimand
3. Suspension of office or position
4. Dismissal from office or position (requires 2/3 majority vote of WVYWABOD, rounded to next higher number of WVYWABOD voting membership)
5. Other appropriate action as determined by the WVYWABOD

E. Applicability

1. The aforementioned (A-Conduct Code, B-Disciplinary Action, C-DueProcess, D-Forms of Discipline) will apply to all members of the WVYWABOD, 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 WVYWABOD shall establish a system to solicit, receive, and evaluate nominations for the award.
2. Nominations.
 - a. Shall be made through Region Chairmen.
 - b. Region Chairmen may present more than one nomination.
 - 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 WVYWABOD will make every effort to maintain confidentiality of communications pursuant to any nominations and selection recommendation.

C. Awards

1. The WVYWABOD will establish an award model, which will be presented to each recipient.

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. One (1) individuals may be recognized during any calendar year. The presentation will occur at the WYWA State Championship.
- c. No active WYWABOD member is eligible for the recognition award until one (1) year after leaving the WYWABOD.

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. One (1) individual may be recognized during any year. The presentation will occur at the WYWA State Championship.
- 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 WYWA State Championship.
- 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 WYWABOD 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 WVYWABOD shall establish a system to recognize the WVYWA Top 100 wrestlers each year. The WVYWA Top 100 will be determined on Base Weight tournaments, Region tournaments and WVYWA State Championship results held between November 1 and April 1 each season.

a. Points shall be awarded for WVYWA State Championship 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. Points shall be awarded for Regional Tournaments as follows.

- 1) 1st Place – 50 pts.
- 2) 2nd Place – 40 pts.
- 3) 3rd Place – 30 pts.
- 4) 4th Place – 20 pts.
- 5) 5th Place – 10 pts
- 6) 6th Place – 5 pts

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