

NYS Wrestling News

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Committee Defers State Regional Tournament Decision Sectional Chairs Want More Time For Review And Feedback *Suggested Revisions To The Proposal Are Being Considered* Further Action On State Regionals Proposal Expected At April Meeting

On Tuesday, January 8, 2008, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Wrestling Committee deferred a vote on the draft proposal that would establish regional wrestling tournaments as part of the New York State Championship Tournament.

The Sectional Chairmen who make up the committee felt that more time was needed to get feedback from their sectional wrestling committees, sectional athletic councils and coaches. The draft proposal was made available to the committee members in December – shortly before the holidays.

Some changes were suggested to the proposal by committee members including the reassignment of certain sections from one region to another and increasing the regional tournament fields where possible to accommodate particular needs or concerns of a section. The working group that developed the proposal was charged with taking these concerns under consideration and to make revisions to the proposal where possible and appropriate. With an eye toward the 2010 State Tournament, the working group aims to put the revised proposal in front of the wrestling committee at their upcoming April meeting.

The State Regional Tournament proposal reviewed by the committee Tuesday was developed by a working group appointed by NYSPHSAA Executive Director Nina Van Erk that included members of NYSPHSAA's Wrestling Committee and the Coaches Association. Working together over the past six months, the group drafted a regional tournament proposal that addressed the NYSWCA's long-standing concerns regarding opportunity and proportionality in the state tournament while following NYSPHSAA's system of sectional representation and NYSPHSAA's Championship Philosophy.

Under the regional concept, sections would send multiple entries to state regional tournaments where wrestlers would compete for the right to advance to the state finals tournament. The state regional tournaments would mark the start of the state championships – changing the format and the culture of New York's State Wrestling Championships. The proposed format would bring some numerical balance to the qualifying process as both the state regional and state finals tournament were organized in the proposal by proportionally allocating multiple entries to the respective sections and regions based on the number of schools in each. The numerical balance together with multiple-entry would give every wrestler a similar opportunity to reach the state finals tournament.

The State Regional Tournament proposal is believed to be a more viable alternative to previous NYSWCA proposals and many believe it has the best chance of winning final approval from NYSPHSAA's Executive Committee. The proposal and the process is the result on an unprecedented joint effort initiated by NYSPHSAA's leadership where NYSPHSAA and the Coaches Association are working together to improve opportunities for student athletes and for the betterment of the sport.

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