

At the upcoming meeting of the NYSPHSAA wrestling committee on September 22nd, a vote will be taken to decide whether or not to recommend to the executive committee a state wrestling tournament format that includes multiple-entry regional tournaments.

A background memo and details follow. The information can also be found in the attached Power Point.

Both documents were produced and presented by a working group made up of NYSPHSAA wrestling committee members and the New York State Wrestling Coaches Association.

State Regional Wrestling Tournament Drafted June 19, 2008

In the past five years, the New York State Wrestling Tournament has changed for the better. Many more student-athletes now participate in the event and some progress has been made in getting more deserving athletes into the tournament. At the same time, concerns about the tournament and the qualifying process continue to exist.

New York's Current Format

Currently, the qualifying process for the NYS Tournament does not give every competitor a similar chance to qualify for the championship event. Sectional tournaments to determine who goes to the state tournament are as small as two schools and as large as fifty-two schools. As the recent addition of at-large entries to the state tournament showed, the single-entry per section format has kept many of the state's best wrestlers out of the tournament for decades.

Other States

A state-by-state survey was taken to see where the New York State Tournament process stood in comparison to other states and to assess how other states addressed similar concerns.

The survey results showed that in every state – except New York – multiple wrestlers advance from the final qualifier to the state tournament based on their placement in the qualifying event. New York remains a single-entry tournament – advancing only one wrestler from twelve very unequal sectional tournaments in each division (New York recently added “at-large” or “wildcard” entries to fill out the four remaining slots on a 16-man state championship bracket). It is the only state in the country where some wrestlers advance to the championship tournaments without wrestling a single qualifying bout.

The results also showed that state regional tournament systems, much like the highly successful Pennsylvania State Tournament system, offered the best working model to address concerns about New York State's tournament.

State Regionals for New York

A New York State Regional Tournament system would establish state regional tournaments as part of the “play-off” format for the New York State Wrestling Championships. As is currently the practice with NYSPHSAA Championships for sports like football and basketball, the state tournament would begin at the regional level.

This proposal is believed to be a more viable alternative to other past proposals that would have expanded the field in the state finals tournament.

The State Regional proposal seeks to do the following:

- Bring some numerical balance to the qualifying process
- Give every wrestler a similar opportunity to reach the state finals tournament
- Enable the best wrestlers in the state a path to the state tournament regardless of geography
- Require the competitors to qualify by wrestling their way into the state tournament

The proposal was developed under the following guidelines:

- Avoid state regional tournaments that would require the expense of an overnight stay
- Do not expand the state tournament's 16-man bracket
- Preserve the sections' ability to determine how their wrestlers qualify
- Avoid disrupting individual sectional tournament traditions
- Retain the “two tournaments in one” design – NYSPHSSA and Federation

Why does an individual sport such as wrestling need a regional qualifying tournament?

Wrestling, as an individual sport, does not have qualifying standards of time, height, nor distance (such as track and swimming). Therefore, without head-to-head competition, the best competitors cannot be determined.

Summary

This draft would establish state regional tournaments as part of the “play-off” format for the New York State Wrestling Championships. It does not require the sections to alter their current sectional tournaments and the “two-tournaments-in-one” design has been retained. It was organized – as much as possible - to avoid regional tournament formats that required an overnight stay.

In Division I, this format would send three to five entries from the state's Division I sections to five State Regional tournaments. The regions are proportionally allocated entries to the State Finals based on the positions in the 16-man state tournament bracket (see final page).

The Division I **Long Island West Region** would include Sec. 8 and The PSAL. Section 8 would have 5 representatives at the State Regional and the PSAL would have 3 representatives at the State Regional from which the top three would advance to the State Finals. The **Long Island East Region** would consist of Sec 11 and The CHSAA. Section 11 would have 5 representatives at the State Regional and the CHSAA would have 3 representatives at the State Regional from which the top three would advance to the State Finals. The **Capital Region** would include Sec. 1, Sec. 2, Sec. 9 and Sec 10 with four, four, three and one entries respectively for a State Regional tournament field of 11 and the top four advancing to the State Finals. The **Central Region** consists of Sec. 3 and Sec. 4. They will each send four representatives to the State Regional creating an eight man bracket. The top 3 would advance to the state finals. The Western Region has Sec 5 and Sec 6 sending four entries each to their regional tournament and the top three advancing to the states.

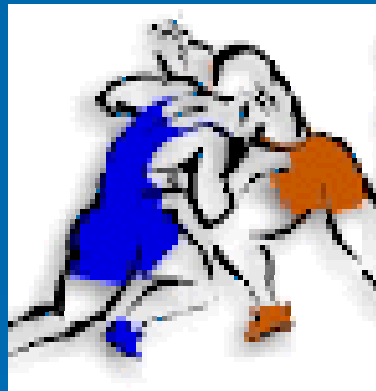
In Division II, there are four regions. The **Long Island Region** has Sec 11, Sec 1 and Sec 9 at two entries each and Sec 8 and the PSAL small school(s) with one entry each for an 8-man tournament bracket and the top three advancing to the state finals tournament. The **Capital Region** has Sec 2 with five entries, the five schools from Sec 7 with two entries and Sec. 10 with 1 entry for an eight-man field with the top three advancing to the State Finals. The **Central Region** would have five entries from Sec 3 and four entries from Sec 4 for a State Regional tournament field of nine with the top five advancing. Section 5 and Section 6 make up the Western Region with six and five entries respectively and the top five advancing to the State Finals. Regions are proportionally allocated entries based on the 16-man state tournament bracket and the number of schools.

In Division I, forty-three wrestlers would advance to the “State Regional” in this proposal. A wrestler's chance of making it to the state finals tournament in this proposal ranges from 1-in-8 to 1-in-11 as compared to the current system where a wrestler's chances range from 1-in-4 to 1-in-44.

In Division II, thirty-six wrestlers advance to the “State Regional”. The chances of reaching the state finals tournament range from 1-in-8 to 1-in-11 as compared to current ranges of 1-in-1 to 1-in-52.

Generally speaking, the size of the field and the number of entries from each section in the regional tournaments is intended to reflect the number of schools in each section. Similarly, the number of entries from each region to the state finals tournament is intended to reflect the number of schools in the region. In any of the State Regional tournaments, no less than three and no more than five are advancing to the State Finals.

State Regional Wrestling Tournament for NYS




Background

In the past five years, The New York State Championship Wrestling Tournament has changed for the better. Many more student-athletes now participate in the event and some progress has been made in getting more deserving athletes into the tournament. At the same time, concerns about the tournament and the qualifying process continue to exist.

Current Format

Currently, the qualifying process for the NYS Tournament does not give every competitor a similar chance to qualify for the championship event. Sectional tournaments to determine who goes to the state tournament are as small as two schools and as large as fifty-two schools. As the recent addition of at-large entries to the state tournament showed, the single-entry per section format has kept many of the state's best wrestlers out of the tournament for decades.



Number of Schools by Section in New York State

Division 1

Sect. 1 - 34	Sect. 8 - 42
Sect. 2 - 22	Sect. 9 - 16
Sect. 3 - 23	Sect. 10 - 3
Sect. 4 - 19*	Sect. 11 - 44
Sect. 5 - 27	PSAL - 26
Sect. 6 - 28	CHSAA – 23

Division 2

Sect. 1 - 13	Sect. 7 - 5
Sect. 2 - 34	Sect. 8 - 7
Sect. 3 - 34	Sect. 9 - 8
Sect. 4 - 25	Sect. 10 - 2
Sect. 5 - 52	Sect. 11 - 9
Sect. 6 - 34	PSAL - 3

* 9 D2 schools opted to compete in D1

State Regional Series

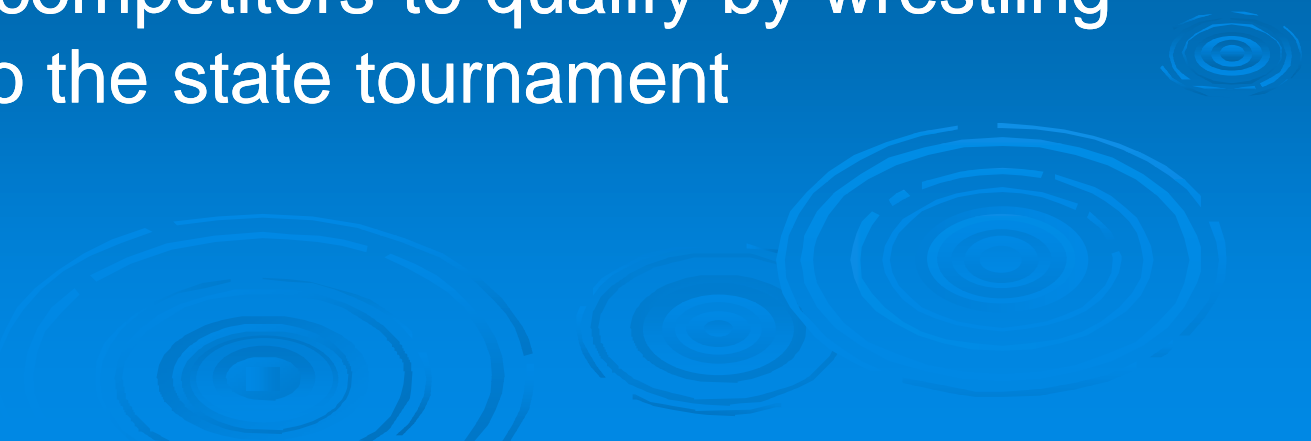
A New York State Regional Tournament system would establish state regional tournaments as part of the “play-off” format for the New York State Wrestling Championships. As is currently the practice with NYSPHSAA Championships for sports like football and basketball, the state tournament would begin at the regional level. Round 1 of the State Championships would be the State Regional. Qualifiers from the State Regional would earn a berth in the Finals.

Why does an individual sport need a regional qualifying system?

Wrestling, as an individual sport, does not have qualifying standards of time, height, nor distance (such as track and swimming). Therefore, without head-to-head competition, the best competitors cannot be determined.



A State Regional Tournament will do the following:

- Ø Bring some numerical balance to the qualifying process
 - Ø Give every wrestler a similar opportunity to reach the state finals tournament
 - Ø Enable the best wrestlers in the state a path to the state tournament regardless of geography
 - Ø Require the competitors to qualify by wrestling their way into the state tournament
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The State Regional concept was developed under the following guidelines:

- Ø Avoid state regional tournaments that would require the expense of an overnight stay
- Ø Do not expand the state tournament's 16-man bracket
- Ø Preserve the sections' ability to determine how their wrestlers qualify
- Ø Avoid disrupting individual sectional tournament traditions
- Ø Retain the "two tournaments in one" design – NYSPHSSA and Federation
- Ø One day state regional tournaments will be held at high schools with no loss of school time (Saturday competition).

Host School and Costs

- Ø High Schools that host a state regional tournament may pick up all costs involved (administration, supervision, officials etc.). Ticket prices and official's fees are set by the NYSPHSAA.
- Ø All profits / losses go to host site.
- Ø Option exists to split costs among the regional schools or give the financial burden to the NYSPHSAA along with profits / losses.

What does the D1 Region look like?

In Division I, this format would send one to five entries from the state's Division I sections to five regional tournaments. Regions are proportionally allocated entries to the State Finals (3 or 4 entries) based on the total number of schools in the region. Four of the regions will have an 8 man competition. One region will have 11 competitors.

Division 1 Overview

<u>Section</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Regional Entries</u>	<u>Bracket Size</u>	<u># to Finals</u>
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Long Island West Region

Sect. 8	42	5	8	3
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PSAL	26	3		
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Long Island East Region

Sect. 11	44	5	8	3
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CHSAA	23	3		
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Capital Region

Sect. 1	34	4	11	4
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Sect. 2	22	3		
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Sect. 9	16	3		
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Sect. 10	3	1		
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Central Region

Sect. 3	23	4	8	3
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Sect. 4	19	4		
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Western Region

Sect. 5	27	4	8	3
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Sect. 6	28	4		
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What does the D2 Region look like?

- Ø The Sections will send from 1 to 6 entries to four state regional tournaments. The four regions will proportionally send 3 or 5 qualifiers to the state finals based on the total number of schools in each region. 2 of the state regional tournaments will have 8 competitors, one region will have 9, and the other region will have 11 competitors.

Division 2 Overview

<u>Section</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Regional Entries</u>	<u>Bracket Size</u>	<u># to Finals</u>
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Long Island Region

Sect. 1	13	2	8	3
Sect. 8	7	1		
Sect. 9	8	2		
Sect. 11	9	2		
PSAL	3	1		

Capital Region

Sect. 2	34	5	8	3
Sect. 7	5	2		
Sect. 10	2	1		

Central Region

Sect. 3	34	5	9	5
Sect. 4	25	4		

Western Region

Sect. 5	52	6	11	5
Sect. 6	34	5		