

2023-24 TSSAA Handbook
GIRLS' WRESTLING REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A. For Girls' Wrestling, there shall be four regions.
- B. Video taping or filming is permitted if the taping or filming is for private use or use by the two schools involved and not for public or commercial use. Video taping or filming must be done from the individual's seat. Individuals will not be allowed to use tripods. A school taping or filming its own matches may use a tripod. A school will not be allowed to tape or film a match unless its wrestler is involved. All taping or filming by a school may be approved by the local Game Director, and the Game Director shall assign space, when available, from which the school may tape or film.
- C. A school must file a schedule online prior to the date of the first contest allowed by the Sports Calendar with the state office. Contests added after a school submits their schedule online may be subject to approval by TSSAA.
- D. It is recommended that during regular season no air horns, cow bells or individual type noise-makers be allowed.
- E. A Medical Doctor (M.D.), Osteopathic Physician (D.O.), Certified Nurse Practitioner, or Physicians Assistant may be used to sign the NFHS Medical Release for wrestlers to participate with skin lesions. They may also be used as designated, on-site meet appropriate health care professionals who have the authority to overrule the diagnosis of the appropriate health care professional who has signed the medical release form for a wrestler to participate or not participate with a particular skin condition as stated in NFHS Rule 4-2-4.
- F. There shall be 12 weight classes: 100, 107, 114, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185, 235.

II. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- A. For the purposes of the TSSAA Girls' Wrestling Regulations, an invitational tournament only refers to an Individual Tournament or Combination Tournament as defined in the NFHS Wrestling Rules Book. Two day Invitational tournaments must be approved in writing by the Executive Director. The tournament must be approved in writing prior to the start of the tournament (Contact Trina Melton – tmelton@tssaa.org).
- B. Participation in an invitational tournament shall count in the total number of dates in which a member school is allowed to participate during the regular season. An invitational wrestling tournament must include eight teams to receive TSSAA plaques or medals. TSSAA shall receive 18 percent of the gross gate receipts for invitational tournaments or the cost of plaques and medals, whichever is greater. (On one-day invitational tournaments, TSSAA will not furnish plaques or medals nor will TSSAA share in the gate receipts.)

III. SECTIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

- A. Selection of a tournament site, employment of officials, financial arrangements and other plans for conducting the sectional tournaments shall be made by representatives of the schools in the section.
- B. All schools entering sectional tournaments must submit a pre-match weigh in sheet to the tournament director at the time the seeding meeting is held. Schools that do not file by this deadline may be charged by the tournament directory \$25.00 for each day they are late in order to enter the meet. The penalty check shall go to the meet director in order to cover tournament expenses. The pre-match weigh in sheet shall also serve as the entry form for the sectional tournament.
- C. The sectional tournament must be completed by Saturday, NFHS Week 33 (February 18, 2023). Wrestlers that finish 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th shall advance to the state wrestling tournament. It is recommended that each section place up to 6 wrestlers. In the event that one section has less than 4 medalists, wrestlers who finish fifth or sixth from the corresponding sectional tournament will be used to fill the state tournament bracket in the place of a region's vacant position(s).

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IV. STATE TOURNAMENT

- A. Girls who have competed against or accepted a forfeit from boys during the regular season at any level of competition (Varsity, JV, or Exhibition) WILL NOT be eligible for the Girls Wrestling State Championship. Girls wishing to compete must be on their school's eligibility list. Girls participating must also participate in the TSSAA Weight Management Program.

All schools will compete in the same classification. There will be no separation of Division I and Division II. Each March, the state office will provide the Legislative Council the individual participation numbers from Division II schools in the Girls Wrestling Sectional Qualifiers. If there is an adequate number of individuals from Division II schools in every weight class at any of the state qualifying events, the Legislative Council will consider separating Division I and Division II for the next classification period.

- B. Wrestlers who meet the qualification shall be placed in each weight division in the state tournament. In order to be placed, a wrestler must be a sectional champion and must have been a state place finisher during her high school career. The criteria for placing shall be as follows.
1. Separate all state champions (includes state champions from other states)
 2. The following criteria shall be used to separate state champions: (a) state champion at same weight, (b) state champion at higher weight, (c) state champion at lower weight. (If there are two state champions at the same weight the state champion from Tennessee will receive the higher seed.).
 3. Follow the same procedure as #2 above for 2nd place from previous year, 3rd place from previous year,
 4. Items #2 and #3 shall be applied in order to wrestlers who placed in the state tournament two years prior.
 5. Blind draw.

V. DUAL MEET SECTIONAL AND SUB-STATE EVENT

- A. Each section shall determine a champion and runner-up by any method the section selects. The sectional dual meet champion and runner-up shall be determined by the Friday of NFHS Week 30 (January 27, 2023).
- B. Each section champion and runner up shall advance to the sub-state round which must be completed by Saturday of NFHS Week 30 (January 28, 2023). Section 1 shall be paired with Section 2, and Section 3 shall be paired with Section 4. The section champion shall host the section runner up from the corresponding section with the winner advancing to the TSSAA Dual Meet State Championships.

VI. GENERAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

No air horns, cow bells, or individual type noise makers will be allowed at regional and state tournaments.

VII. OFFICIALS

State tournament officials shall be selected by the TSSAA state office.

VIII. SKIN CHECKS

- A. Before the dual meet begins, the official shall perform skin checks or verify skin checks have been performed by an appropriate health care professional.
- B. **Authorized to Perform Skin Checks:** Physician (MD, DO), Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or Certified Athletic Trainer. The decision on whether to use an appropriate health care professional or the referee for skin checks shall lie with the school hosting the event.
- C. The official or Certified Athletic Trainer performing skin checks shall not disqualify a wrestler if the NFHS Skin Release Form is properly completed by a Physician (MD, DO), Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant.

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2022-23 WRESTLING WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Schools are required to follow the provisions of the weight certification program established by the association for all wrestlers competing in varsity and junior varsity programs.

The establishment of a minimum wrestling weight based on 12% for females will be mandatory for all senior high school wrestlers. The TSSAA does not advocate that a wrestler's established minimum weight is the athlete's best weight, but simply the minimum weight at which the athlete will be allowed to compete.

I. Establishing Minimum Weights

- A.** Bioelectrical impedance (BIA) measurements will be utilized to determine each wrestler's body fat percentage. They will be taken using the Tanita TBF-300WA Body Composition Analyzer.

If the Tanita gives an "Error" reading on two consecutive readings with a wrestler, then skin fold measurements will be used to determine body fat percentage. Lange calipers shall be used at three specific sites to measure skin fold (Lohman sites, Abdominal, Tricep, and Subscapularis).

- B.** The BIA measurements will be preceded by hydration assessment. A wrestler must pass a specific gravity assessment with less than or equal to 1.025. If the wrestler fails the specific gravity assessment with greater than 1.025, the wrestler must rehydrate and wait at least 48 hours to retest. Digital fiberoptic refractometers shall be used to determine hydration.

Provided the wrestler passes the hydration test, the results of her body composition assessment will be entered into the Track Wrestling database Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC) in order to obtain a wrestler's minimum competitive weight based on the parameters in I.A. above.

- C.** Once a wrestler passes the hydration assessment, the measurement process has begun. If a wrestler is removed at any point after the hydration assessment, her only route of assessment is through the appeals process.
- D.** The lowest weight class in which a wrestler may compete will be determined as follows:
1. If the predicted weight, at 12% for females, less 2% of that weight, is exactly that of one of the weight classes that shall be the wrestler's minimum weight class.
 2. If the predicted weight, at 12% for females, less 2% of that weight, falls between two weight classes, they must wrestle at the higher weight class.

II. Time Period for BIA Measurements

- A.** Regardless of when a wrestler first participates in a practice session, she may not compete during the regular season at the varsity or junior varsity level (exhibition matches) until her minimum weight has been determined and her name and data have been entered into the OPC program. (If there are problems in data entry into the OPC program, an exception may be made by the TSSAA state office, provided all information has been forwarded to the state office.)
- B.** BIA measurements may be conducted on or after October 15th of each year.
- C.** The controlled weight loss starting date ("Alpha date") will be the date on which BIA measurements are completed.
- D.** The deadline for all wrestlers to complete all BIA measurements and appeals is January 15th.

III. Who May Conduct Measurements of the TSSAA Weight Management Program?

Any properly licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, or Certified State Licensed Athletic Trainer who has been approved through a TSSAA training program. All names, cities, and telephone numbers will be listed on the TSSAA website.

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IV. Growth Allowance

A two-pound growth allowance shall be added to each weight class after December 26th. Wrestlers whose predicted weight falls within 2 pounds of the scratch weight may become eligible for that weight class once the two pound growth allowance goes into effect of December 26th.

V. Weekly Weight Loss Monitoring

All wrestlers will be limited to losing no more than 1.5% of their body weight per week as they make their descent toward their pre-determined minimum wrestling weight. This rule will be monitored as follows:

- A. At each weigh-in, all coaches must present a pre-match weigh-in form of their team to the host administrator/coach and the head official. The head official shall place the pre-match weigh in sheet at the scorer's table. All of this can be obtained from the Track Wrestling website. If a school does not have a pre-match weigh in form, the referee shall report this to TSSAA.
- B. All head coaches of participating teams in dual meets and tournaments will be required to record their actual weigh-in weights for dual meet and tournament competition. This applies to all levels of competition (varsity, iv, 9th grade, exhibition, etc.). The weigh-in sheet is established prior to competition and actual weights are recorded following competition. Actual weights must be recorded for all individuals who weigh in, regardless of whether or not the wrestler competed in a match.
- C. Each participating school should complete the dual meet result section which is on the Track Wrestling website. This should be done immediately following competition. Match results not recorded should not be used for seeding purposes at the individual region tournaments.
- D. In the event that any wrestler exceeds the 1.5% weekly weight loss rule, she will not be permitted to be entered on the pre-match weigh-in form. **If a wrestler competes at a lower weight class than she is eligible, then her win will be forfeited.** Any points scored by the violating wrestler will be removed. If a wrestler violates the 1.5% weekly weight loss program but does not change weight classes, then there is no violation.

VI. Appeal Process

Any wrestler may appeal their body fat composition calculations. Results obtained at any step are automatically accepted. The weight class for which the wrestler qualifies shall be determined by the appeal. The steps of the appeal process are as follows:

- A. **Appeal** – Any wrestler may make a request to a TSSAA Assessor for a complete retest within 14 days of measurement and the retest must also occur within 14 days of the first measurement. If skin fold measurement was used, a complete retest of the wrestler must be conducted by the same certified measurer of first test. Bio-impedance will be used first. Included must be athlete's name, date of measurement, and site of measurement.

Schools shall be assessed \$30.00 per appeal. This will be added to each school's weight management invoice. The certified athletic trainer conducting the appeal may choose to charge additional fees to the school for conducting the retest.

- B. **Final Appeal** – Must be completed by January 15th unless approved in writing by TSSAA.

- 1. DEXA (Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometer)

- a. Test is a test where bone density is measured through a type of x-ray machine that can very accurately determine body fat percentages.
- b. The test is paid for by the wrestler or school and not the facility.
- c. The results of this test are deemed final and completely binding.

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- 2.** Final Appeal Testing Site – Middle Tennessee State University
 - a.** Appointments will need to be made through MTSU.
 - b.** Contact TSSAA and Wade Bartlett at 931-334-5958 for further information.

VII. Costs

TSSAA will pay for the cost of each school team's membership fees to NWCA for access to the Optimal Performance Calculator (\$30 per boys team, \$10 per girls team). An invoice will be issued to each school with a fee of \$12.00 per student-athlete as well as any appeals for that school to offset the costs of the Weight Management Program. Schools will be invoiced based on the number of wrestlers who appear on the school's Track Wrestling record. No fees shall be collected by TSSAA Assessors who are testing wrestlers at mass testing sites. Assessors may charge additional fees for the testing of wrestlers outside of a mass testing site. All fees for the testing of wrestlers that occur outside a mass testing site will be in addition to the \$10.00 per student athlete that TSSAA charges for each wrestler appearing on the school's Track Wrestling report.