

PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



PIAA WRESTLING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday,
October 13, 2020

10:00 am
via ZOOM MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2020, Mark E. Byers, PIAA Chief Executive Officer, called the Wrestling Steering Committee to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Denny Kellon District 1
- Jay Starnes District 2
- Mike Craig District 3
- Hal Stockdill..... District 4
- Thad Kiesnowski District 5
- Phil Riccio..... District 6
- Frank Vulcano District 7
- Karen Arnold..... District 8
- Steve Hoover..... District 10
- Bob Hartman District 11
- Jack Young..... PIAA Statewide Wrestling Rules Interpreter
- John Reynolds..... PWCA Representative

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

- Dr. Robert A. Lombardi, Executive Director..... PIAA
- Mark E. Byers, Chief Operating Officer PIAA
- Melissa N. Mertz, Associate Executive Director PIAA
- Patrick B. Gebhart, Assistant Executive Director..... PIAA
- Jennifer B. Grassel, Assistant Executive Director..... PIAA

GUEST PRESENT

- Ron KanaskiePCA Representative to the Board of Directors
- Pat Tocci..... National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA)

CERTIFICATION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH DISTRICT COMMITTEE
AND REVIEW OF STEERING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Chief Operating Officer certified the voting representatives from each District Committee and reviewed the procedure of advancing recommendations to the PIAA Board of Directors.

MINUTES FOR PIAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTION

1. On a motion by Mr. Vulcano, seconded by Mr. Hoover, it was unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Directors to increase the current limitation on Multiple School (Dual) or Individual Pool events from two (2) to four (4) events for the 2020-21 season only.
2. On a motion by Ms. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Kiesnowski, it was unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Directors to endorse a reduction in the number of qualifiers, if needed, for the 2021 Team Wrestling Championships.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

At its meeting of Tuesday, October 13, 2020, the following administrative and other items were discussed by the PIAA Wrestling Steering Committee. The Administrative Staff will give consideration to those items designated as administrative. The following items are shared with the Board of Directors for informational purposes:

1. Mr. Tocci of NWCA provided a spreadsheet of all of the states and their changes for the upcoming season.
2. Discussion was held regarding the NFHS General Guidelines for Return to Competition considerations. The following recommendations were made by consensus of the Committee for inclusion in the guidelines:

Return to Competition

General Considerations:

- Have hand sanitizer and wipes available at the table.
- Wash stations or sanitizer at mat side.
- No one touches the score sheet except the scorer.
- If writing implements are used, they should be sanitized and not shared with anyone.
- Disinfect the mats prior to and following competition.
- Events should be structured to ensure compliance with current indoor occupancy limits and mitigation requirements by the PA Department of Health and Governor's Office.
- Athletes and Coaches wear masks off the mat.
- Schools should communicate in advance regarding any screening policies and occupancy levels to be expected from the host site.
- Schools may increase the bench area to assist in social distancing.

- For tournament settings, prohibit all wrestlers from warming up simultaneously for competition. Provide for separate warm-up areas off of the competition mats for use and sanitize regularly.
- Provide for separate warm-up mats off of the competition mat for teams involved in dual competition.

Considerations for Coaches:

- Wear masks on and off mat.
- Eliminate handshakes with opposing teams post-match.
- Each team should be expected to provide their own leg bands for competition.
- Limit the size of their traveling party to include essential personnel and staff.
- Consider practicing with wrestlers in pods to limit close contacts across the entire team.

Considerations for Wrestlers:

- Daily screening prior to practice and competition should be conducted pursuant to each school's adopted health and safety plan.
- Shower after each round and put on a fresh uniform, when able and facilities permit.
- Wear masks off the mat when not competing.
- Eliminate handshakes with opposing coaches post-match.
- The use of a fist bump in lieu of a pre and post-match handshake is recommended.

Considerations for Referees:

- Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently
- Don't share equipment.
- Long-sleeved undershirts are permissible. If worn, they are required to be black in color.
- Change whistle several times during the day.
- Follow social distancing guidelines. Consider six feet minimum distance when talking to others (players, coaches, other officials).
- Consider use of a commercially manufactured whistle cover.
- Do not shake hands and follow pre- and post-game ceremony guidelines established by state associations.
- Officials may recognize the winner of the match by pointing to the wrestler and raising the appropriate color wrist band. Contact with wrestlers is discouraged.
- Officials may wear masks or face shields.
- Mask or face shields are required when not actively officiating the match.
- Officials may wear disposable gloves. If worn, they must change after each match.

Considerations for Parents

(A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Make sure your athlete and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your student's personal equipment after each match or practice which would include wiping down headgear, washing clothing and bags used to transport gear.

3. Mr. Tocci provided an update on the OPC and the change that will not permit assessment data to be submitted until after payment has been made to TrackWrestling.

4. Discussion was held regarding potential changes in postseason formats. Consensus was that it was too early to make any finite plans for the winter. An action item reflects this discussion.
5. Mr. Byers shared the process for approval of the Return to Competition Guidelines. The recommendations made by the Committee will be forwarded to the Sport Medicine Advisory Committee along with other winter sport considerations. SMAC's actions/recommendations will be provided to the Board of Directors at their October 28, 2020 meeting for the Board's action.
6. By consensus of the Committee, discussion consisted of confirmation to member schools that PIAA intends, at this time, to sponsor the sport of wrestling. Mr. Byers confirmed the OPC with Trackwrestling has been opened for input, training of assessors has taken place through the assistance of Larry Cooper and John Moyer with PAT's, and the first practice date is scheduled for Friday, November 20.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Byers adjourned the meeting of the Wrestling Steering Committee at 11:47 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

PIAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTION

The following are the actions taken by the PIAA Board of Directors on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, in regard to the PIAA Wrestling Steering Committee recommendations:

1. On a motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Kanaskie, the Board unanimously approved a proposal to return to the Wrestling Steering Committee a request that it make a specific recommendation on the increase of current limitation on multiple school (dual) or individual pool events for the 2020-2021 season only.
2. On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, the Board unanimously approved a reduction in the number of qualifiers, if needed due to COVID concerns, for the 2021 Team Wrestling Championships.
3. On a motion by Mr. Kanaskie, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the Wrestling Steering Committee meeting of October 13, 2020.