

18. WRESTLING

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS — apply to all levels of interscholastic wrestling unless otherwise noted.

1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) Participation Limitation

9th-12th Grades — 20 points; 7th & 8th grades — 17 points

A high school team and/or wrestler may participate in a maximum number of regular season contests worth 20 points. Any and all matches wrestled by an individual shall count toward the team’s point limitation of 20 points. 7th & 8th grade wrestlers are permitted 17 points. Points are calculated as follows:

Points	Event	Wrestler’s Matches
1/2 point -	Dual match -	1 match maximum
1 point -	Tri-match -	2 match maximum
2 points -	Quad match -	3 match maximum
2 points -	One-day tournament -	5 match maximum
3 points -	Two-day tournament -	10 match maximum (5 per day)

Any event in excess of two days will have two points added for each day beyond the second day if more than 10 matches will be wrestled by any one individual during the tournament.

1.11) Team Regular Season Contest Limitation (9th-12th grades)

A high school team may compete in a maximum of 20 points. In order to compete in the maximum number of contests a team schedule must include at least four dual/tri-matches and no more than 16 points from tournaments. Teams who are unable or unwilling to participate in dual or tri/competition may schedule a maximum of 16 points. Dual tournaments are not a substitute for a dual or tri-match. The OHSAA Team Tournament is considered a “post-season” event. Participation does not count toward the participation limits.

1.12) Individual Contest Requirements

An individual wrestler may participate in a maximum number of contests totaling 20 points. Any wrestler who exceeds the 20 point limitation is ineligible for further regular season or any OHSAA tournament competition. **Note:** 7th & 8th graders — 17 points.

1.13) High School Varsity Tie-Breaker

A tie-breaker shall be used for all varsity dual meets. The first criterion is which team had any unsporting penalties. The remaining criteria are published in the NFHS Wrestling rulebook.

1.2) Multiple School-Sponsored Teams (See General Regulation 30)

A school may sponsor two (same level) wrestling teams when more than 21 eligible participants are reported on the official eligibility form. When a school sponsors two wrestling teams, a separate schedule for each team is required.

Example:

- a) Eighteen wrestlers are on the team. The schedule indicates eight duals and six one-day tournaments (20 points). The coach wants to send three wrestlers to a two-day tournament. He schedules the three wrestlers as his “B” team.

Ruling: **Violation.** Penalties may include, but not be limited to, a fine, loss of wrestlers’ eligibility and/or denial of participation (team and individual) in OHSAA tournaments.

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Note: It would not be a violation to have both a varsity and sub-varsity squad.

- b) Thirty-six wrestlers are on the eligibility form. The school sponsors a junior varsity team and a varsity team. All teams have a 20 point schedule. Ruling: **Legal.**
- 1.3) Practice — Practice is instruction given by a school coach to his/her team during the OHSAA-defined wrestling season. Practice sessions which involve wrestlers from other schools are scrimmages.
- 1.4) Scrimmage — Any practice or workout between two or more teams is a scrimmage. Multiple team scrimmages shall count as one scrimmage, however, the time limit is three hours. Any facilities opened by school personnel during the season where teams/individuals meet to wrestle shall constitute a scrimmage.
 - 1.41) High schools (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman) — Four scrimmages permitted. Three hour time limit for all scrimmages.

Individual wrestlers who will enter the Sectional Tournament from a school that does not have enough wrestlers to schedule or participate in dual meets may practice or work out with other school teams or individuals during the regular season. **Such situations shall be reported in writing to the Commissioner's Office.**

After the conclusion of the Sectional Wrestling Tournament, wrestlers who qualify for further competition may “practice” with wrestlers from other schools who are similarly qualified.

Any team or individual that exceeds the maximum number of contests (games, matches, meets, scrimmages) may be denied the right to participate in the OHSAA Wrestling Tournament during the year the violation occurs.
- 1.5) Previews — A preview may not exceed one half of the regular season contest for any one athlete (three one-minute periods) or team and shall be wrestled according to National Federation Wrestling Rules. A preview may be scheduled and held only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season contest of the teams involved. No preview may be conducted after December 12, 2016.
- 1.6) Weight Loss — The OHSAA does not permit any practice that endangers the health and safety of the participants. Crash dieting, the use of diuretic, emetics and other drugs for weight reduction, the use of a sweat box, any type rubber, vinyl, or plastic sweatsuit or bag, hot showers, whirlpools or similar artificial heat devices for weight reduction is prohibited. The wrestling practice facility must be kept at a temperature not to exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit at the start of practice. Violation at a contest site shall automatically disqualify the contestant from further participation for the match or tournament. Such dangerous practices during training constitute a lack of institutional control.
- 1.7) Weight Classes — Grades 9-12 — 14
 - 1.71) Freshmen —when the event is a freshman-only event, the weight classes shall be: 98, 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285. The minimum weight for the 285 pound class shall be 215 lbs. (and is subject to the growth allowance).
 - 1.72) High School weight classes shall be those weight classes adopted by NFHS: 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285. The minimum weight for the 285 pound class is 215 lbs. (and is subject to the growth allowance).
 - 1.73) Growth Allowance —A two pound allowance will be given on December 25. No weight allowance can be used to achieve a lower minimum weight.
 - 1.74) Out-of-State Opponents —The weight classes of the state in which competition is held shall be the weight classes wrestled.

1.8) Weight Management Program for grades 9-12

The establishment of a minimum wrestling weight based on 7% body fat for males and 12% for females is required for all senior high school wrestlers. The OHSAA 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.

A. ESTABLISHING MINIMUM WEIGHT

Each wrestler must complete two steps to satisfy the certification process. The first step is assessment and the second step is competition. **Step 1:** Each wrestler must complete the weight management process. This will only establish the wrestler's Lowest Minimum Weight (LMW), which is his/her safest and lowest weight class that he/she may compete. **Step 2:** Each athlete must compete one time at his/her lowest allowable weight class at or after the date in which the weight loss plan allows. The wrestler must make the original scratch weight in that weight class. Accepting a forfeit during a dual meet and moving up one weight class in a dual meet satisfy the competition part of the process.

Note: Every wrestler, while descending to a lower weight class, must qualify by making scratch weight at that weight class before any additional pounds may be used. **Wrestlers may certify for a weight class at the first weigh-in of the Sectional Tournament.**

The Weight Management program description, logistics of establishing minimum weight, and examples may be found in the 2016-2017 Wrestling Manual, which is posted in the "Wrestling" section of the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

B. PENALTIES

Penalties for a wrestler circumventing (attempting to cheat and/or cheating) the weight assessment process:

1. First Offense – Suspension for one wrestling season.
2. Second Offense – Suspension for two wrestling seasons.

A coach who knowingly cheats the Ohio Weight Management Program or assists a wrestler to circumvent the weight assessment process will be subject to penalties and sanctions imposed by the OHSAA Commissioner.

2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

See General Sports Regulation 7.3 for regulations on non-interscholastic participation.

2.1) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date:

A wrestling athlete who has not participated for the school in wrestling that season must cease non-interscholastic wrestling competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the first state individual tournament in wrestling in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition.

Date: December 26, 2016.

- 2.2) The school wrestling coach may coach wrestlers from his/her school team in non-interscholastic wrestling for a period not to exceed 10 days from June 1 to July 31. **EXCEPTION:** Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling are interpreted as different sports from interscholastic, also known as folk-style wrestling.

3) Out-of-State Travel

A wrestling team may travel out of state to compete in contests (scrimmages, previews and games) in states or Canadian provinces that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province is Ontario. Additionally, a wrestling team may travel to a non-contiguous state or province one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete provided there is no loss of school time. (Bylaw 9-2-1)

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A wrestling team may not travel out of state to practice. (See Bylaw 9-2-2 for exceptions.)

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. **Penalty for Violation:** The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner’s office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

4) Ejection for Non-Sporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations, which are also posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

5) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to participate in wrestling, please go to the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages and preview) until regular season point number nine (9) in wrestling.

6) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations, which are also posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

- 6.1) Wrestling squad members may be used for out-of-season demonstration purposes only if approved in advance by the Commissioner.

7) Penalties

7.1) The maximum penalty for violation of General Sports Regulation 7.3 (participation with a non-interscholastic wrestling squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic wrestling squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic wrestling season or the ensuing wrestling season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

7.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of General Sports Regulation 7.6 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — 7th & 8th Grades

1) Weight Management

No weight management plan exists for 7th-8th grade wrestlers. Coaches should encourage participation and de-emphasize weight loss. Coaches should educate wrestlers on good nutritional plans.

2) Weight Classes

Junior High (7th & 8th grade) weight classes include 16 classes: 80, 86, 92, 98, 104, 110, 116, 122, 128, 134, 142, 150, 160, 172, 205 and 245.

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- 3) Growth Allowance
The growth allowance is intended to “grow” the weight classes to accommodate the natural growth of the 7th & 8th grade wrestler. It is not intended to assist a youngster to “starve” himself into a lower weight class. A two-pound growth allowance will be applied to all weight classes on December 25. In effect, all maximum weights in all weight classes go up two pounds.
 - 4) Weigh-in Regulations (7th & 8th Grade)
On school days, 7th & 8th grade wrestlers may weigh in at their home schools prior to lunch before dual, triangular or quadrangular meets. The weigh-in must be **witnessed by an administrator/designee**, and a signed weigh-in sheet presented at the meet prior to the competition. Weigh-ins for tournaments must be conducted as per existing NFHS rules.
 - 5) Participation Limitation
 - a) Review item 1.1 regarding participation limitation. Junior High School (7th & 8th grade) wrestling programs should have a balanced schedule which would include tournaments as well as home and away dual/tri matches. Teams and individual wrestlers are limited to a maximum of 17 regular season points. **Note:** The State Junior High Tournament is NOT an interscholastic event. Coaches shall not coach their wrestlers, nor schools enter wrestlers as school wrestlers, in this event. Wrestlers are permitted to participate after the school season ends in this non-interscholastic wrestling tournament.
 - b) Schools that do not have enough wrestlers to schedule or participate in dual meets may practice or work out with other school teams or individuals during the regular season. **Such situations shall be reported in writing to the Commissioner’s Office.**
 - c) No one below the 7th grade shall practice/participate with or against 7th & 8th grade wrestlers. 7th & 8th grade wrestlers shall not practice/participate with or against 9th-12th grade wrestlers.
 - d) No requirement for dual or tri/matches exists for 7th-8th grade.
 - 6) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 11, 2016.
 - 7) First match — December 2, 2016.
 - 8) Season ends — March 4, 2017.
 - 9) Scrimmages — Two permitted or one scrimmage and one preview.
 - 10) 17 regular season points and no specific requirements for the number of duals/tris tournaments
 - 11) Rules — National Federation Wrestling.
 - 12) Length of Matches
 - a. Each period is 1½ minutes.
 - b. Consolation matches are comprised of three 1 minute periods.
 - c. Tournament overtime period is one one-minute period followed by a 30-second period if necessary.
 - 13) Officials — Regardless of the number of officials, all must be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3, or officials in training.
- C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12
- 1) Coaching and tryouts may begin — November 11, 2016.
 - 2) First match — December 2, 2016.
 - 3) Coaching and Season end — March 11, 2017.

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- 4) Scrimmages — Maximum of four permitted or three and one preview. In a preview, an individual is limited to three one-minute periods.
- 5) Regular season contests — Maximum of 20 points for teams and individuals.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Wrestling.
- 7) Length of Matches — Each period is 2 minutes; consolation match periods are 1-2-2 minutes.
- 8) Officials:
 - 8.1) Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 official required.
 - 8.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 official required.
 - 8.3) Freshmen — Regardless of the number of officials, all must be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3, or officials in training.

Wrestling	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Coaching Begins	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/8	11/13
Earliest Preview Date	11/12	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/14
Season Begins	12/2	12/1	11/30	11/29	12/4
Non-Interscholastic Date	12/26	12/25	12/24	12/23	12/28
Team Regional Quarterfinal	1/25	1/24	1/23	1/22	1/27
Team Regional Semifinal	2/1	1/31	1/30	1/29	2/3
Team Regional Final	2/1	1/31	1/30	1/29	2/3
Team State	2/11 or 2/12	2/10 or 2/11	2/9 or 2/10	2/8 or 2/9	2/13 or 2/14
Individual Sectional	2/20-2/25	2/19-2/24	2/18-2/23	2/17-2/22	2/15-2/20
Individual District	2/28-3/4	2/27-3/3	2/25-3/2	2/24-2/29	2/22-2/27
Individual State	3/9-3/11	3/8-3/10	3/7-3/9	3/5-3/7	3/4-3/6
Season Ends	3/11	3/10	3/9	3/7	3/6
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4