

2024 OHSAA Boys Wrestling Individual Tournament Regulations

Refer to the OHSAA Website - www.ohsaa.org

Sectional – District – State

Note: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. These regulations were adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on October 26th, 2023. Please check the OHSAA website for the most complete and up-to-date information.

The Executive Director's Office is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

1. Organization

The District Athletic Boards cooperatively organize and conduct sectional and district individual tournaments in their respective districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. The OHSAA State Wrestling Individual Tournament is conducted by the Executive Director's Office. All participants must be eligible under the OHSAA Bylaws and Regulations. Only one school team sponsored by a member school is eligible to participate. Only one participant from each school may enter a weight class.

2. Tournament Entry

Member schools wanting to participate in the 2024 OHSAA Wrestling Individual Tournament must indicate their intent to participate in their school's myOHSAA profile. Tournament entry confirmation begins July 1, 2023 and ends January 29, 2024. Schools that change their tournament participation after January 29, 2024, will be subject to a fine not to exceed \$150.

3. Assignment of Schools to Sectionals and Districts

Schools are assigned to a specific site by District Athletic Boards and compete at the assigned site. The tournament manager shall furnish all competing schools with a copy of instructions and a time schedule prior to the tournament.

4. Rules/Regulations

4.1 NFHS Wrestling Rules, as may be modified by the OHSAA Board of Directors, shall be used in all wrestling individual tournaments sponsored by the OHSAA.

4.1.1 In accordance with NFHS rule 1-4-3, the OHSAA sectional tournaments shall permit a wrestler to wrestle in six matches (excluding forfeits) in any one day of the tournament for qualification to a district tournament.

4.2 All OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations apply to the conduct of the OHSAA Wrestling Tournament including the prohibition that a student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs. The wrestling administrator shall serve as the final authority on all questions and interpretations arising from the tournament.

4.3 All Tournament Managers (TM) shall send tournament information to the athletic director of those schools assigned to their respective tournament. The Head Official (HO) assigned to the event shall also receive the information.

5. Participant / Roster Entry (Online)

5.1 Each school shall submit entries online at www.baumspage.com. The minimum weight as listed on the Alpha Master report and the wrestler weigh-in sheet must be provided to the tournament manager prior to starting the sectional tournament. A school cannot enter participants in the tournament without first designating the entries in the school's myOHSAA profile. (See 2. Tournament Entry above.)

5.2 A high school wrestler who participates in a non-interscholastic wrestling meet or contest on or after January 8, 2024 is **INELIGIBLE** to represent his/her high school in the sectional wrestling tournament.

5.3 For the sectional tournament, the competing wrestlers must:

5.3.1 Be listed on the Alpha Master Roster.

5.3.2 Wrestle only at the allowable weight or any weight class above as specified by the rules.

5.4 Weight class entries must be submitted online by the Thursday prior to the sectional tournament. Submissions will close on Thursday of sectional week at 7:00 PM. Schools will be subject to a fine not to exceed \$150 for wrestlers entered after the deadline. No late substitutions will be accepted after weigh-ins begin unless as outlined in section 10.3.

5.4.1 Wrestlers are “locked” in their weight classes at that time and cannot be entered in another weight class. (Clerical errors may be appealed to the tournament manager)

5.5 The online entry must include a current win / loss record for each contestant, along with any OHSAA State or District placement in the previous year.

5.6 Baum’s Page will provide the initial seeding of the wrestlers at each weight class based on the information submitted in 5.5 (above). Coaches will have an opportunity to review the information submitted and report any errors to the tournament manager. **A seed meeting may be held after wrestlers have been seeded by criteria (see 11.7 below).**

6. Weight Classes

Weight classes: 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190, 215, and 285. The minimum weight for the 285 class is 210 lbs. (and is subject to the growth allowance, making it 212 pounds on and after 12/25).

7. Wrestle Backs

Wrestle backs from the first round, with cross bracketing, will be used in all sectional, district, and state individual tournaments.

8. Scoring

The point system as adopted by the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee shall be used in all tournaments.

9. Weigh-Ins

9.1 Weigh-ins will be conducted at the tournament site on the first day of competition in accordance with NFHS Wrestling Rule 4-5. Weigh-in for the sectional and district tournaments will be conducted by weight class.

9.2 At check-in, the coach must confirm the accuracy of the roster submitted, including name (spelling), grades and records. **The coach must also submit the Alpha Weigh-in Sheet.**

9.3 All actual weights must be confirmed and recorded at each weigh-in.

9.4 Once the weigh-in process begins at the 106 class, all exercise activities must stop inside the facility.

9.5 Wrestlers get two tries on the first scale, then one try on each additional scale in their assigned room.

9.6 No exercise, no dehydrating, no rehydrating or leaving the scale room to come back for extra tries is permitted at the first weigh-in of each day.

9.7. Weigh-outs may begin after the 144 weight class on the first day of competition for all contestants who have concluded wrestling for the day. This weigh-out will conclude 30 minutes after the conclusion of the last match of each session. Exercise and multiple attempts are permitted during the weigh-out process.

9.8 Per NFHS Rule 3-1-5, skin and grooming checks are mandatory for each day prior to competition.

9.9 The tournament manager shall set a 30-minute weigh-in period before the start of the second day of competition for wrestlers who did not make weight by the conclusion of their weigh-out.

9.10 The second day of competition weigh-in must be conducted pursuant to the same rules and procedures as required during the first day weigh-in. (NFHS Wrestling Rule 4-5 listed above).

9.11 All special equipment must be brought to weigh-in for inspection to be approved by the head official. Special equipment that is not approved cannot be used during competition.

10. Roster Submission

10.1 Team roster must be submitted to www.baumspage.com before 7:00 PM on the Thursday prior to the sectional tournament.

10.2 Team rosters must include the current varsity records for all wrestlers submitted. They should also include place and weight in last year's OHSAA State (Top 8) and District (Top 6) tournaments.

10.3 After 7:00 PM on Thursday no substitutions will be permitted with the following exceptions:

- a. Academic or disciplinary ineligibility.
- b. Family matters that necessitate a wrestler being withdrawn.
- c. A medical emergency or illness experienced by the wrestler.
- d. Failure to make weight or pass skin check.

10.4 A wrestler may be replaced by an alternate wrestler under section 10.3 as long as the name of the alternate appears on the Alpha Master Roster, and he/she makes weight.

10.5 The head coach must inform the tournament manager immediately at the check-in on the first day of the tournament of any alternate wrestlers at each weight class who are replacing the original wrestler under section 10.3. The alternate wrestler must inform the weighmaster at the weigh-in.

11. Sectional Seeding:

11.1 All wrestlers meeting at least one of the criteria below shall be seeded with a maximum of 8 seeds per weight class:

- 1 – A returning state placer from the previous year's OHSAA state individual wrestling tournament, or
- 2 – A returning district placer from the previous year's OHSAA district wrestling tournament, or
- 3 – A wrestler with a .500 record or better from the current season (minimum of 12 matches), or
- 4 – Coaches may submit a request to add a wrestler with a .500 record or better but fewer than 12 matches to the seed nomination list by e-mailing supporting documentation to the tournament manager at least 24 hours in advance of the seeding meeting.

11.2 The seeds will be placed on the preliminary bracket in accordance with Rule 10 of the NFHS Wrestling Rule Book. Byes and non-seeded wrestlers will be placed on the bracket by the computer.

11.3 A wrestler may only be seeded in one weight class. A seeded wrestler may not decline their seed and enter the open draw.

11.4 If a seeded wrestler drops out or fails to make weight:

11.4.1 Seeded wrestlers will be rotated accordingly to the appropriate line (see 9.3-9.5).

11.4.2 Non-seeded wrestlers' lines on the bracket will become byes if a bye is legal.

11.4.3 If a bye is not permitted, a coin flip (or series of flips) will determine which line will become a bye, and which wrestler must be moved to make the bracket legal.

11.5 In accordance with NFHS Rule 10-3-2 there shall be no byes after the first round of competition in both the championship and consolation brackets. Note: The first round of the tournament in a particular weight class could be the quarterfinal or semifinal round depending on the number of entries.

11.6 Seeding Criteria:

11.6.1 Returning state placer (1-3) at any weight class

11.6.2 Returning state placer (4-8) at any weight class. A "new" (freshman or upper classman that was not a contender last year) wrestler that has more than 25 wins, has defeated a wrestler listed above him/her on the list, and has a higher winning percentage will be seeded above the returning state place winner at any weight class (4-8). The coach must e-mail the credentials to the tournament manager at least 24 hours in advance of the seeding meeting.

11.6.3 Returning district placer (1-6) at any weight class. A "new" (freshman or upper classman that was not a contender last year) wrestler that has more than 20 wins, has defeated a wrestler listed above him/her on the list, and has a higher winning percentage than the returning district place winner will be seeded above the returning district place winner at any weight class (1-6). The coach must e-mail the credentials to the tournament manager at least 24 hours in advance of the seeding meeting.

11.6.4 Tiebreakers:

11.6.4.1 The higher placer at each level earns the higher seed.

11.6.4.1.1 Previous year's tournament place finish must have been at an OHSAA tournament.

11.6.4.1.2 A returning state placer from Division I, II, or III.

11.6.4.2 If two or more wrestlers have identical place finishes, the tie shall be broken by the following criteria order: previous year state placement at any weight class, previous year district placement at any weight class, and then current year record's winning percentage:

11.6.4.2.1 Won/Loss record (by percentage) from current season (minimum of 12 matches).

11.6.4.2.2 In the event of a tie in percentage, the wrestler with the most wins will receive the higher seed.

11.6.4.2.3 If this does not break the tie, a coin-flip will determine the seed.

11.7 Seeding Meeting

11.7.1 A seeding meeting may be held after wrestlers have been seeded by criteria. Only wrestlers who have been seeded may challenge for a higher seed.

11.7.2 Coaches may submit a request to add a wrestler with a winning record but fewer than 12 matches to the seed nomination list by e-mailing supporting documentation to the tournament manager at least 24 hours in advance of the seeding meeting.

11.7.3 A coach may challenge a seed based only on the criteria listed below and the coaches will then vote on the challenge in this listed order:

11.7.3.1 Head-to-head competition

11.7.3.2 Higher placement in the same weight class at a common tournament

11.7.4 Each challenge to a seed nomination will be addressed separately.

11.7.5 Disposition of each challenge will be made by a vote of all coaches or concession by the coach of the nominated seed under challenge.

12. Alternates Advancing to Next Level:

The use of an alternate from sectional to district or district to state is permissible when a qualifying wrestler cannot compete due to:

12.1 Academic or disciplinary ineligibility.

12.2 Family matters necessitate a wrestler being withdrawn.

12.3 Medical or illness occurs. Not passing the skin check is a medical matter.

12.4 Flagrant misconduct causing disqualification.

12.5 Lastly, if a wrestler fails to make weight an alternate may be called to take the vacant line on the bracket at the respective tournament.

12.6 The alternate may be placed on the bracket up until the time that weigh-ins end. The alternate shall be the next highest finisher from the previous tournament. The alternate shall be placed on the vacated line of the bracket.

The Alternate selection procedure is as follows:

1. Alternate – Sectional/District 5th Place: Prior to the scheduled start of Session 1, if one qualifying wrestler from a sectional/district is unable to wrestle, the 5th place wrestler from that sectional/district shall be placed on the vacated bracket line in the 1st round. No other wrestler will be moved on the bracket.
2. Alternate – Other Sectionals/Districts 5th Place: If the 5th place wrestler from the sectional/district with the vacated spot is unable to wrestle, 5th place alternates from the remaining sectionals/districts become eligible for the vacated bracket line. If only 1 alternate is able to wrestle, he/she is placed on the bracket line. Otherwise, a coin flip (2 alternates) or random draw (3 alternates) determines which alternate is placed. No other wrestler is moved on the bracket.
3. Alternate – Multiple from Same Sectional/District: If more than 1 wrestler from a sectional/district in the same weight class is unable to wrestle, a coin flip (2 alternates) or random draw (3 alternates) determines on which bracket line the alternates are placed. No other wrestler is moved on the bracket.
4. Alternate – Bye/No Alternates: A Bye is placed on the bracket for a wrestler who fails to make weight and no alternate is available.
5. Alternate – No 4th Place Sectional Wrestler: If there is no 4th place wrestler from a sectional (only 3 entries in the weight class), 5th place alternates from the remaining sectionals become eligible for the vacated bracket line. If only 1 alternate is able to wrestle, he/she is placed on the bracket line. Otherwise, a coin-flip (2 alternates) or random draw (3 alternates) determines which alternate is placed. No other wrestler is moved on the bracket.

13. State Draw

The state draw will be conducted by the Executive Director's office prior to the district individual tournaments according to the following criteria:

- A. Each district has representation in each quarter bracket with an equitable balance of all pairings by district - #1 vs. #4, #2 vs. #3, etc.
- B. No two wrestlers from the same district will meet in the first round.
- C. Pairings are balanced.
- D. Returning OHSAA state placers that finished either 1st, 2nd or 3rd the previous year will be separated in accordance with their previous place provided they qualify for the State Individual Tournament as a District Champion.
- E. If returning state placers are from the same district, the wrestler(s) only loss must be to a top three (3) state placer from last year.

14. School Representative

No team or individual shall be allowed to compete in the sectional, district or state individual tournaments unless accompanied while participating by a coach or person authorized by the Board of Education. Teams and

individuals unaccompanied by such school representative or coach will be disqualified. (Bylaw 3-3-1)

15. Videotaping

(a) Videotaping or filming by participating schools.

1. Videotaping or filming of tournament contests by one or more schools participating in the contest is permitted provided prior arrangements are made with the tournament manager and it is done at the expense of the school involved. A maximum of one individual per school is permitted.

2. May not be used to question a referee's call. A coach who requests a referee to view a video replay shall be assessed a one point team deduction for unsportsmanlike conduct.

3. Electronic devices that enable communication between coach and contestant during a match are not permitted (NFHS Rule 4-3-6).

(b) Videotaping or filming by spectators

1. Shall be for personal use.

2. Shall not be used for the purpose of scouting or coaching.

3. Shall not interfere with the view of the athletic contest by other spectators.

4. The tournament site shall not permit the use of more than the seating space for which the spectator has paid when seating is needed for paid fans.

5. The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator equipment or injury as a result of privately owned equipment.

6. Equipment will not be permitted in any competition area – only in the spectator seating area.

7. The tournament site will not provide sources of power for video equipment.

8. Violation of this regulation may result in the removal of offender from the premises.

16. Required Medical Professionals

A physician (M.D. or D.O.) must be present at all sectional, district, and state tournaments weigh-ins. It is highly recommended that you have a dermatologist at weigh-ins. The tournament physicians' decisions relative to the medical status of any wrestler are final. If a physician is unavailable during competition, an appropriate number of certified athletic trainers must be present.

17. Awards – District and State

Team trophies will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams in each tournament. Medals will be awarded to the coach of each champion and runner-up team. District medals will be awarded for the first six places in each weight class. State medals will be awarded for the first eight places in each weight class.

Note: All district tournaments will qualify four competitors in each weight class to the state tournament. District Athletic Boards will coordinate the assignment of four qualifiers from the sectional to the district tournaments. See the OHSAA web site for complete qualifier information.

18. State Tournament Qualifiers

(a) Sixteen entries in each weight class qualify for the state individual tournament.

(b) Entries for the state individual tournament from each district individual tournament shall be forwarded to the OHSAA office following the tournament as per instructions.

(c) The use of an alternate from sectional to district or district to state is permissible when a qualifying wrestler cannot compete due to illness, injury, failure to make weight, flagrant misconduct or academic

ineligibility. The alternate may be placed on the bracket up until the time that the weigh-in ends. (See number 11 above for process details) No other wrestler will be moved on the bracket. No expenses will be paid nor free admission passes granted to alternates unless they participate.

(d) If there is no alternate available, that first round match will be considered a bye. Advancement because of such byes shall be scored according to NFHS Rule.

(e) Weighing-in and passing medical checks is verifying entry; therefore, not appearing at a match will result in a forfeit.

19. Officials

Officials for sectional and district individual wrestling tournaments are assigned by the District Athletic Boards.

20. Media Credentials

All requests for media credentials at sectional and district tournaments shall be directed to the site manager. Proper credentials must be presented for admission at pass gate.

21. Admission Prices

BOYS Sectional and District

- Students \$5 online & at the gate (*only if a high school venue*)
- Adults \$8 online & at the gate (*only if a high school venue*)

Tickets may be purchased online at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets>

22. Signs and Banners

Signs, school banners, pennants, shakers and mechanical noisemakers such as horns, bells, sirens, drums, etc. are not permitted.

23. Manager's Report (Sectional Tournaments)

A complete report listing the competing schools and number of competitors from each school that actually participate must be sent to the Executive Director's office by the tournament manager immediately following the tournament.

24. Sponsorship and Rights

The OHSAA is the sponsoring organization for the individual wrestling tournaments. The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items at the tournament sites or any audio-visual reproductions of the events. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs or other items at the site is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for the sectional or district tournaments and the OHSAA Executive Director's office for the state tournaments. The videotaping of any or all portions of the tournament for resale purposes is prohibited without written permission of the OHSAA Executive Director's office.

25. Advertising Prohibited

There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio, or television that includes alcohol, tobacco, political parties, or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of interscholastic athletics.

26. Raffles Prohibited

There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of wrestling tournament contests during the period beginning one hour prior to the tournaments and ending one hour after the tournaments have ended.

27. Sales Prohibited

The sale, distribution, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

28. Professionalism of Coaches

It is the moral obligation of all Ohio wrestling coaches to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects credit upon their high school, their profession and themselves. Personal grooming and appropriate dress is a standard of professionalism. The wearing of jeans, t-shirts, sweat suits and warm-up suits (top or bottom), head wear and similar apparel are not considered suitable attire for coaches during the OHSAA sectional, district or state wrestling tournaments and, therefore, are prohibited. Coaches who are inappropriately dressed will not be allowed on the competition floor. Moral behavior and ethical conduct are part of winning and losing. Good sportsmanship, appearance, honor, and concern for the well-being of the competitors must be every coach's priority. The rules have been established in the spirit of this statement.

29. Unsporting Conduct Policy

During participation in OHSAA tournaments, any student or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for the remainder of that tournament as well as for all contests in wrestling until two regular season/tournament contests (points) are competed at the same levels as the ejection. Individuals ejected for unsporting conduct shall be reported to the OHSAA Executive Director's office by the tournament manager. The Executive Director's office may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11.

30. Property

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body, or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. The tournament manager is authorized to deduct from the school's share the cost of any damages caused by competing school competitors, coaches, or followers. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and may be deducted from tournament receipts. If damage is extensive, the District Athletic Board or OHSAA Executive Director's office will become involved.