

Message to Sectional Wrestling Coaches:

This has been a challenging season and our postseason is almost upon us. As always our goal is to start the road to the State Tournament off with a solid foundation. That foundation starts first with the Sectional Tournament, particularly Sectional Seeding.

The OHSAA recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many schools to change their schedules resulting in a dramatic loss of wrestling opportunities. With wrestlers not competing in as many matches as in past years, there are two exceptions in place for 2021.

- **The minimum number of matches needed to be nominated for seed was reduced from 12 to 8, but the wrestler needs to have a .500 or better record.**
- **For “quality” wrestlers that may not meet the 8 match threshold, coaches may submit a request to add a wrestler with a winning record but fewer than 8 matches to the seed nomination list by e-mailing supporting documentation to the tournament manager at least 24 hours in advance of the seeding.**
 - Examples of supporting justification include current record, last season’s record, and accomplishments, placement in offseason open tournaments, etc.
 - The nomination will be evaluated and considered for placement on the seed nomination list for each weight class by a vote of the coaches before challenges are entertained and adjudicated.

There is much concern not only with the limited number of matches wrestled by an individual but also with the number of matches in the Won/Loss record which are forfeits. The OHSAA fully understands the issue of forfeits (ratio of forfeits vs actual wrestled matches) for the most part is simply the product of a limited season, but should not be ignored. The OHSAA polled tournament managers and coaches from across all six athletic districts and the consensus was that the number of forfeits versus actual physical wins should be disclosed.

To clarify, the wrestler will be listed on the **Seed Nominated List** (assuming they meet criterion 11.1 #3 of the Tournament Regulations) based on their overall season record (wins, losses, or forfeits all included) as in years past and as stated in the [2021 OHSAA Individual Wrestling Tournament Regulations](#). The transparency of the true physical **Won/Loss** record is only needed to help clarify possible seeding questions/challenges.

An example would be as follows; (assuming neither wrestler has any other criteria besides Won/Loss record)

- Wrestler A has a 10 win and 2 loss record but 8 of those 10 wins were by forfeit
- Wrestler B has physically wrestled 12 matches but has a record of 8-4.
- By the criterion, the 10-2 record is listed above the 8-4 record, and that is how it will be initially put on the nomination list.
- In this case, the coach of Wrestler B will most likely challenge the seed placement of Wrestler A during the Seed Meeting.
- If neither the A nor B coach concedes, the challenge would go to a vote among all head coaches participating in the sectional. There is nothing to say that the seed will not hold, but will at least be discussed if challenged.

To accommodate the entry process the [Baumspage Online Entry Template](#) will include both a **Current Won/Lost** record and a **Won/Lost (No Forfeits)** record to show the actual number of matches wrestled. The **Current Record** should include the wrestler's overall record (including forfeits). It will be printed in the program and updated as wrestlers advance from Sectional to District and District to State.

Wt	Wrestler	Tournaments		Records	
		State Place @ Weight	Dist Place @ Weight	Current Won/Lost	Won/Lost (No forfeits)
106	Select a Wrestler... ▾	@	@	/	/
113	Jacobs, Madie 10 ▾	@	@	1 / 4	0 / 4
120	Adkins, Greg 12 ▾	@	5 @ 113	22 / 7	20 / 7
126	Parsons, Pat 11 ▾	@	@	13 / 6	11 / 6
132	Larson, Gary 11 ▾	@	2 @ 132	24 / 8	21 / 8
138	Select a Wrestler... ▾	@	@	/	/
145	Select a Wrestler... ▾	@	@	/	/
152	Miller, Matt 12 ▾	@	@	12 / 13	6 / 13
160	Gardner, Gary 11 ▾	@	@	7 / 8	5 / 8

An OHSAA goal is to have common policies and procedures at all sectional tournaments that will be consistent across the state. In a season of special circumstances, we must adapt as we have done the entire year. For sectionals that have seeded strictly by criteria only for many years, the talk of a Seeding Meeting and challenges may seem strange, but it is going to be necessary this year. As always our first commitment is to the student-athlete and his/her best interest. The integrity of the Seeding Process is paramount and must be maintained as it has been in past years (years without a pandemic).

Click the [OHSAA Seed Meeting Guidelines](#) link to view the process used for challenges at the Seed Meeting. Challenges will be permitted for head-to-head competition and higher placement in a common weight class at the same tournament. Before seeding the weight class, all requests for nominations of wrestlers with less than 8 matches will be evaluated and approved or rejected by a vote of the coaches.

Additional links for review:

1. [Online Entry Instructions](#)
 - a. Rosters must be submitted before **7:00 PM, on Thursday, February 25th.**
 - b. Nominations for quality wrestlers with less than 8 matches must be e-mailed to the tournament manager a minimum of 24 hours before the seed meeting.
 - c. **After 7:00 PM Thursday, all wrestlers are locked into the weight class as submitted!**
2. [2021 OHSAA Individual Wrestling Tournament Regulations](#)
 - a. Carefully review **Section 10 Roster Submissions** and **Section 11 Sectional Seeding**
 - b. On both **Section 11.1 #3 and #4**, the minimum number of matches will be reduced from 12 to 8.