WRESTLING

IMPORTANT DATES

Weight Certification
Final day for submission of WRR2 form to MHSA office... December 23

Seeding/Divisional Tournaments

All Classes ................................................................. February 5-6

State Tournaments

All Classes ................................................................. February 12-13

I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

(1) The Montana High School Association will promote, provide for and control all interschool wrestling activities among the member schools.

(2) The National Federation Wrestling Rules, unless modified by MHSA rules, shall govern all situations. Rule 4-4-1 is modified by Montana’s thirteen (13) weight classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Class</th>
<th>103 lbs.</th>
<th>138 lbs.</th>
<th>170 lbs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>113 lbs.</td>
<td>145 lbs.</td>
<td>182 lbs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120 lbs.</td>
<td>152 lbs.</td>
<td>205 lbs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126 lbs.</td>
<td>160 lbs.</td>
<td>HWT (max. 285)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: NFHS Rules do not have a minimum weight for the lowest weight class.

(3) The MHSA will follow NFHS rule 4-5 on weigh-in procedures for all regular season matches/tournaments and post-season competition.

Exception: For regular season tournaments that are held on two consecutive days, schools can weigh-in participants the night before the opening of the tournament at their home site with school administration present to verify those weigh-ins. The team participants will still be required to follow NFHS weigh-in rule 4-5 and must weigh-in on site the second day at the tournament site.

(4) The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any matches may be held.

(5) Prior to the date of the first interscholastic wrestling match or meet, the wrestler must participate in ten (10) days of wrestling practice of at least one practice session on ten (10) different days for each contestant (no practice permitted on Sunday). The initial ten (10) practices for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff.

When determining what constitutes a MHSA practice that satisfies the language above in (5), the following criteria must be applied:

1. Practice must be at least one (1) hour long.
2. At least one full squad (varsity team/J.V. team) and their coaching staff must be present.
3. The athlete must participate in the entire practice.
4. Practice should include the majority of drills and conditioning that are the norm for that team or squad.
5. A practice the day of a contested event does not count (unless an athlete is practicing with another squad that does not have a contested event that day, i.e., a varsity team member who stays home and practices with the JV team that does not have a contested event that day).
6. Warm-ups or walk-throughs with the team prior to a contested event does not constitute a practice.

If a student begins his/her initial ten (10) days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or any other reason for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional five (5) days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor’s release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSA post season play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSA sanctioned activity starting practice date, may be credited for practices during the overlap period toward meeting the minimum practice requirement of the overlapped activity season.

Each individual wrestler may have no more than eighteen (18) contested events (where he/she weighs in and wrestles at the same physical location) with a maximum of fifty (50) total matches prior to the post season. Two of the contested events must be in the city where the wrestler’s high school that he/she participates for is located. An individual wrestler may have no more than five (5) bouts in one day. [Note: There is an exception to this rule for a one-day divisional tournament in all classes.]

(7) A one-day invitational tournament (where there is not a predetermined number of matches for each contestant) shall count as one contested event toward season limitations. Invitational tournaments conducted over two (2) days constitute two contested events toward season limitations.

(8) Schools may utilize the “mixer” format for regular season meets. Mixers are defined as inviting a set number of schools to one location, with meet administration matching up the wrestlers from different schools to provide each participating wrestler the opportunity to compete in several matches that day (pre-determined matches in specific weight classes; not bracketed competition). A mixer is an excellent option for teams that cannot fill all of their weight classes. A one-day mixer will count as one contested event towards the season match limitations.

(9) When three or more schools take part in a double dual meet wrestling competition held in two separate schools/towns that are located less than thirty (30) miles apart and held on the same day, the following provisions apply:

a. One weigh-in will be used for multiple competitions that day.

b. Each dual meet wrestled will be counted as one contested event toward the season limitations.

c. A school not participating in the first dual will be required to follow NFHS rules and weigh-in one hour prior to their dual.

(10) A wrestling match won by forfeit will be counted as part of the season match limitation only when the match is used for seeding purposes into the divisional or state tournament.

(11) Divisional and state wrestling tournaments shall be single elimination in the winner’s bracket and double elimination in the loser’s bracket.

(12) It is recommended that the officials not be seen in the company of coaches, socially or otherwise, at any time during the course of a tournament.

(13) The MHSA office will send ballots to all member schools for selection of divisional, seeding and state wrestling tournaments. It is strongly suggested that each school vote independently for officials for each tournament.

Divisional, seeding and state tournament ballots will be tabulated by the MHSA office staff. The MHSA office staff will contact those officials selected.
Upon completion of WR#1, form WR#2 also must be completed and sent to the MHSA office by December 23, 2020, which is thirty-four (34) calendar days of the MHSA’s published date for the start of wrestling practice. Form WR#2 has appropriate spaces for the name of the school, the completion date, the signature of the school principal or his/her designee, and the name and lowest weight for each wrestler as taken from the WR#1 form.

A student who joins the team after the deadline for certification must have his WR#1 Form completed immediately and an additional WR#2 Form must be sent to the MHSA office prior to the post season.

There can be no recertification at a lower weight class once the WR#1 form is complete. A wrestler who wrestles in a weight class lower than that dictated by the WR#1 form at any time or at any level during that season is in violation of these rules.
(14) Violations of the above eligibility rules shall be dealt with by the MHSA Executive Director just as he/she deals with other eligibility violations.

**III - DIVISIONAL/SEEDING TOURNAMENTS**

(1) Member schools shall be divided into three classes, the same as classified for basketball as follows:

A. Eighteen (18) schools comprising Sixteen (16) teams participate in Class AA wrestling. The schools are aligned in two divisions as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern Division</th>
<th>Western Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgrade</td>
<td>Butte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings Senior</td>
<td>Flathead (Kalsipell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings Skyview</td>
<td>Glacier (Kalsipell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings West</td>
<td>Helena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozeman</td>
<td>Helena Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallatin</td>
<td>*Missoula Big Sky/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Bozeman)</td>
<td>Loyola Sacred Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Great Falls/MSDB</td>
<td>Missoula Hellgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Falls CMR</td>
<td>Missoula Sentinel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cooperative Sponsorship

1. Two seeding tournaments will be conducted to determine the qualifiers and their seedings into the state tournament. Each school is allowed to enter two (2) wrestlers per weight class. The top eight wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the state tournament. A sixteen wrestler bracket will be used. When two wrestlers from the same school meet in a match at the state tournament, the maximum points possible will be awarded to the winner. Maximum points are defined as advancement points (two points for the championship bracket or one point for the consolation bracket) and two match points. Any applicable place points will also be awarded.

2. No team scores will be kept, and no awards, team or individual, will be earned or presented at the AA seeding tournaments.

B. Thirty (30) schools comprising twenty-three (23) teams participate in Class A wrestling. The schools are aligned into two divisions as follows:

**WESTERN DIVISION**

**Southwest Conference**
- *Beaverhead Co. (Dillon)/Twin Bridges
- Butte Central
- Corvallis
- Frenchtown
- Hamilton
- *Stevensville/Victor

**Northwest Conference**
- Browning
- Columbia Falls
- *Libby/Troy
- Polson
- Ronan
- Whitefish

*Cooperative Sponsorship

1. Each division will hold a divisional wrestling tournament each year to determine the entries for the State Class A Wrestling Tournament. Class A schools shall be allowed to enter a maximum of seventeen (17) wrestlers in the divisional tournament. Each school shall have the opportunity to enter a maximum of four extra wrestlers and shall have no more than two (2) wrestlers in a weight class. Team points, at both the divisional and state level, shall be awarded to each wrestler. However, only advancement and place points shall be awarded when two wrestlers from the same school meet each other head to head. All seventeen wrestlers from each team have the opportunity to advance to state.

2. Each division will be responsible for selecting the site and manager and for conducting its divisional tournament. The dates for divisional tournaments will be set by the MHSA Executive Board.

C. Sixty (60) schools comprising forty-eight (48) teams participate in Class B-C wrestling. The schools are aligned into two divisions as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern Division</th>
<th>Western Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Anaconda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belt</td>
<td>Arie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester-Joplin-Inverness</td>
<td>Broadwater (Townsend)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinook</td>
<td>Cascade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle</td>
<td>Choteau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colstrip</td>
<td>Conrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Columbus/Absarokee/Park</td>
<td>Cut Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Fort Benton/Big Sandy</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Glasgow/Nashua</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Falls Central</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Harlem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hays-Lodgepole</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Hobson/Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntley Project (Worden)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lame Deer</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Malta/Whitewater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poplar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powder River Co. (Broadus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Lodge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Boy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf Point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Three Forks/Ennis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitehall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cooperative Sponsorship

1. Each division will hold a divisional wrestling tournament each year to determine the entries for the State Class B-C Wrestling Tournament. Class B-C schools will be allowed to enter a maximum of sixteen (16) wrestlers in the divisional tournament but no more than two (2) wrestlers in a given weight class. For Class B team points at both the divisional and state level shall be awarded to each wrestler; however, only advancement and place points shall be awarded when two wrestlers from the same school meet each other head to head. All sixteen wrestlers from each team have the opportunity to advance to state. For Class C, Team points shall be scored by any thirteen wrestlers as designated by the school prior to the convening of the divisional seeding meeting and only those wrestlers designated prior to the seeding meeting shall gather team points at the divisional and state tournaments.

2. The MHSA Executive Board will set the dates for each of the four Class B-C divisional tournaments.

3. There is an exception to the five (5) bout per day rule: For one-day Class B-C divisional tournaments a wrestler could wrestle more than five bouts in a day.

4. Each division will be responsible for selecting the divisional tournament site and manager. Tournament managers cannot be a coach or an official if that coach or official is participating in the tournament.

(2) Seeding of contestants for divisional/seeding tournaments shall be the responsibility of each tournament manager. Each school shall furnish to the tournament manager, for
seeding purposes, the win-loss record for each contestant it enters in the tournament. Each school is entitled to enter a contestant for each weight class (refer to individual classifications for exceptions). Any wrestler that fails to make the weight that he/she was seeded will not be allowed to compete in the tournament at any weight class.

(3) All contestants must qualify in the divisional/seeding tournaments in order to participate in the state meet and there shall be no substitution or exception to this rule regardless of reason. If a contestant has qualified in the divisional/seeding tournament and because of illness, injury or some other reason he/she cannot participate, there will be a forfeit arranged in the state tournament bracket.

(4) The first eight place winners in the AA, A, B-C divisional tournaments will qualify for the state tournament. The tournament manager must certify these qualifiers for his/her divisional to the state tournament manager not later than the Monday morning prior to the state tournament.

In Class B-C if it is determined there will be a lack of qualifiers in the other division in a specific weight class, the opposite division will wrestle for 9th – 12th place only in those specific weight classes. The ninth through twelfth place wrestler will be placed into the state tournament where byes would be present. Alternates will be drawn by the MHSA after the completion of the divisional tournaments. The MHSA will notify divisional tournament managers and the schools involved of the selected alternates.

(5) NFHS rule 4-5 on weigh-in procedures will be followed for divisional/seeding tournaments.

(6) The fee and expense allowance paid to each official who works a divisional tournament must conform to the established fee schedule and expense allowance published in this MHSA Handbook.

(7) The MHSA Record of Wrestlers’ Qualifying Weigh-Ins form must be completed and presented to the divisional/seeding tournament manager verifying that the wrestler has complied with the 50% rule (refer to Il-Weight Control Program).

IV - GIRLS WRESTLING

(1) Member schools shall be divided into one classification for Girls’ Wrestling beginning in the 2020-21 school year. The schools participating will be as follows:

A. Fifty-seven (57) schools comprising fifty-five (55) teams participate in girls wrestling. The schools are aligned in one division as follows:

Anaconda
Arlee
Baker
Belgrade
Billings Senior
Billings Skyview
Billings West
Bozeman
Browning
Butte
Cascade
Chinook
Choteau
Circle
Chester-Joplin-Inverness
Colstrip
Columbus
Conrad
Corvallis
Custer County
Cut Bank
Darby
East Helena
Flathead
Florence
* Fort Benton/Big Sandy
Frenchtown
Gallatin
Shepherd
Sidney
White Sulphur Springs
Whitehall
Wolf Point

*Cooperative Sponsorship

(2) The following specific recommendations and/or exceptions to the boys’ wrestling will be implemented in this sport:

a. The implementation of girls’ Folkstyle wrestling will be on a minimum of a two-year pilot program.

b. Girls can participate, during this implementation time period, in regular season matches either against male or female competition. (Because of competition opportunities by region).

c. Girls can only participate in girls matches only during the post-season.

d. Schools will determine if boys and girls will practice together, have the same coaches etc. By MHSA rules, a head coach will have to be designated for both programs (which can be the same individual).

e. Weight Classes - The proposed weight classes will be as follows:

1. 103, 113, 126, 138, 152, 170 and 205 that align with current MHSA weight classes
2. Possible adjustment to these proposed weight classes may occur after the WR-2 submissions.

f. Weigh-In Procedures – following NHFS Rules, which states: all weigh ins (including for males) be in a school approved singlet and worn as intended (excluding headgear and footwear). There will be no weight allowance given for uniforms.

g. Weight Management – For girls – the 50 percent rule will be in effect after the girls’ weight classes are established by January 1 of each year. 50% rule: For health and safety reasons, Montana’s weight control program shall require each girl wrestler to have at least one-half of weigh-ins after January 1st of the current season at the minimum weight the wrestler will compete in during the divisional and state tournament series.

h. Contested Events – This will be the same number as the boys (18). Each individual wrestler may have no more than eighteen (18) contested events (where he/she weighs in and wrestles at the same physical location) with a maximum of fifty (50) total matches prior to the post season.

i. Post Season

1. One Classification
2. State Tournament Qualifiers:

a. Girls’ Divisional tournaments will not be held.

b. All girls qualify for state during the two-year program.

c. Schools can enter an unlimited number of participants per weight class, but only the two (2) highest scoring girl’s total scores count for team points.

d. Participants will be seeded at state (Track Wrestling)

j. Awards

1. Per General Rules for Awards (6)
V - STATE TOURNAMENTS

(1) The Executive Board shall be responsible for staging the three state tournaments. They shall determine the site(s), set the dates and appoint a state wrestling tournament manager for each tournament. Tournament managers cannot be a coach or official if that coach or official is participating in the tournament.

(2) The fee and expense allowance to be paid to each official who works a state wrestling tournament must conform to the established fee schedule and expense allowance as published in this MHSA Handbook.

(3) In the state tournaments, fifth and sixth places will be wrestled off.

(4) NFHS rule 4-5 on weigh-in procedures will be followed for the state tournament.

(5) The divisional/seeding tournament manager must certify qualifiers for his/her division to the state tournament manager not later than the Monday prior to the state tournament.

(6) The seeding for the state tournaments will follow the plan as printed in the MHSA Handbook.

(7) The results of the state tournaments shall be prepared by the managers for the MHSA Executive Director and the competing schools immediately following the tournaments.

VI - TICKET PRICES FOR STATE TOURNAMENTS

The following ticket prices as established by the MHSA Executive Board will be used for all state tournaments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Ticket</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Session (one day)</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Session after 4 pm Fri or 3 pm Sat</td>
<td>$ 8.00</td>
<td>$ 6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-Session (two day)</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII - ESTABLISHED POLICY ON TOURNAMENT PASSES FOR POST SEASON WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS

(1) Personnel passes — number needed up to a maximum of fourteen for Class AA, twelve for Class A, and ten for Class B-C. If school's co-op the host school will receive the administrative tickets as stated above and the other school(s) in the co-op will each receive an additional four (4) administrative tickets. These are to be used for administrators, coaches, spouses, chaperones, bus drivers, etc., who actually attend the tournament.

(2) Participants — one for each participant who qualifies for the state tournament.

(3) Manager — a maximum of two for each participating school.

(4) Cheerleaders — One for each cheerleader who actually attends the tournament.

(5) Media
   a. Print news media - one pass for Associated Press and passes for working staff of local newspapers of teams in the tournament or newspapers in the marketing area of those teams. Members of the print media are required to show their Montana Newspaper Association press credentials when picking up their passes.
   b. Television news media - passes for working staff of local stations of teams in the tournament or stations in the marketing area of those teams.
   c. Commercial photography or broadcast - passes for working staff as contracted by the event manager or MHSA.
   d. Passes will not be issued for spouses or children who attend the event with working members of the media.

(7) Bands will be allowed free admission at state tournaments when accompanied and vouched for by the participating school’s director. Band members attending state tournaments will be given wristbands which are required for admission throughout the duration of the event.

VIII - MEDICAL CARE AT TOURNAMENTS

It is recommended that medical and first-aid assistance be available at all MHSA tournaments.

IX - OFFICIAL PAIRINGS FOR THE STATE CLASS AA, CLASS A, AND CLASS B-C WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS

The official pairings for the State Wrestling Tournament for Class AA, Class A, and Class B-C consist of two parts which will be determined by the MHSA after both seeding tournaments are completed.

Set A:
Part I will be used by weights 103, 120, 132, 145, 160, 182, and 285.
Part II will be used by weights 113, 126, 138, 152, 170, and 205.

Set B:
Part I will be used by weights 113, 126, 138, 152, 170, and 205.
Part II will be used by weights 103, 120, 132, 145, 160, 182, and 285.

X - WRESTLING TOURNAMENT FINANCING

(1) Each divisional and state tournament must finance itself.

(2) Charges against the tournament receipts will stand for payment in the following order:

A. Officials (referees).


C. Use of facility charges (rental) to include the following: (1) Extra custodial services, (2) Utilities, (3) Ticket sales, (4) Ticket takers, (5) Door guards, (6) Ushers, (7) Parking attendants, (8) First aid room and supplies, (9) Towel services.

D. Renting or borrowing extra mats and timing devices.

(3) Nonallowable Tournament Expenses:

Filming of championships is not an allowable expense of the tournament.
(4) **Payment of Team Expenses and Division of Profits:** After all allowable meet expenses are paid, the balance remaining shall be designated as team expenses and shall be paid as follows: Each participant from any one school shall be paid a per diem based on the amount of remaining profits, divided by the total number of participants minus participants in the host city schools.

(5) After each divisional or state tournament the tournament manager shall remit to the Executive Director of the Montana High School Association a complete financial report of the tournament within fifteen (15) days following the conclusion of the event. The tournament manager for each division and state tournament shall furnish the complete financial report to each of the competing schools and to the Executive Director of the MHSA. The Executive Director shall see that a summary of all reports of the wrestling tournament is sent to all MHSA member schools.

(6) Related items:

A. Concessions: Proceeds from divisional tournament go to the host school if the tournament is held in a member school facility. If not, concession rights shall be determined by the division.

B. The concession rights for any state tournament held in nonmember school facilities shall be awarded by the MHSA Executive Board.

C. The tournament program rights for all divisional programs will be determined by the respective division.

D. The tournament program rights for the state tournament will be the responsibility of the MHSA Executive Board.