

MPSSAA Dual Meet and Individual Wrestling Region and State Championship Update - Winter 2022

Purpose:

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) in consultation with Local School Systems (LSS) continues to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on student participation in all sports. The MPSSAA supports a continuity of participation in a safe and meaningful way that provides a balance of health and safety for student-athletes with educational-based athletic opportunities.

The main purpose for the following amendments to the entry in the dual meet state tournament and individual is to alleviate issues associated with COVID-19 quarantines, loss of contests, and to provide equitable opportunities for all schools to compete in the 2022 Wrestling Dual Meet State Championships. Currently, COVID-19 has caused an inequity in the number of wrestling dual meets each school has had this season.

The MPSSAA believes the best option to maximize student participation is to make necessary adjustments that will provide an opportunity for all schools to equitably enter into the regional tournaments. This open format, consistent with the open format used in other team sports and the adjustments made to football during the fall 2021 season, opens up opportunities in the regional tournaments regardless of regular season complications due to COVID-19. Each team is eligible to enter their teams into the region tournaments.

Rationale:

These changes are imperative to maintain a competitive and fair playoff system. The current system allowed for the top-four teams in the regional dual meet tournament based on their regular season to compete in the Regional Semifinals. Equitably determining the top-four teams is challenging given local school system pauses and differing dual meet season participation opportunities statewide.

The current system also calls for entry into the individual regional tournament either by points earned during the regular season or through one's city/county/conference tournament. Equitably determining the regional qualifiers is also challenging given local school system pauses and differing regular season participation opportunities.

The MPSSAA consistent approach with the Spring of 2021 and Fall 2021 is to provide an equitable entry system into the state tournament regardless of local school system complications due to COVID-19. The open tournament system gives all schools an equal opportunity to participate in the state tournament, eases the burden on school athletic administrators in rescheduling regular season contests, and encourages full transparency when dealing with COVID-19 situations by removing any concern of playoff implications.

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Intended Outcomes:

This amendment, after consulting with the leadership of the wrestling committee and local school system administrators for athletics, provides an open format playoff structure for the sport of dual meet wrestling. This proposal accomplishes:

- An opportunity for all schools to experience dual meet tournament after the cancellation of the 2021 state tournament;
- An opportunity for all schools to make the playoffs without concerns of loss of contests due to COVID-19 keeping a team out of the state tournament;
- Encouraging complete transparency from students, families, and coaches related to COVID-19 exposures, knowing a temporary quarantine will not affect the teams opportunity to make the playoffs;
- Easing the pressure on local school system athletic directors to reschedule or provide too many contests in a short period of time in order to assist their team into making the playoffs;
- Ensuring school teams have meaningful seasonal opportunities, especially if seasonal quarantines or pauses disrupts their season;
- Any cancellations to a city/county/conference tournament will not adversely affect participation in the region tournament;
- Providing additional participation opportunities to students who may lose matches this year or did not have a season in 2021.

Dual Meet Tournament Structure, Entry, and Timeframe

I. Regional Dual Meet

A. Tournament Organization

1. Each region will conduct a single elimination 16-line tournament with the champion advancing to state competition.
2. Schools must declare through their supervisors of athletics that they are participating in the tournament by Friday, January 28th.
3. Random draws will be completed and released on Tuesday, February 1st.

B. Region Round 1 and Region Quarterfinals- Monday, February 7, 2022

1. All teams will be seeded based on a 16-line bracket.
2. Region Round 1 and Regional Quarterfinal Pairings
 - a) Site 1: 1 vs 16 and 8 vs 9
 - b) Site 2: 4 vs 13 and 12 vs 5
 - c) Site 3: 3 vs 14 and 6 vs 11
 - d) Site 4: 2 vs 15 and 7 vs 10
 - e) The winners will wrestle each other to determine which team will advance to the Region Semifinals on Wednesday, February 9
3. The highest seeded team will host the Region Round 1 and Region Quarterfinals

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4. Preliminary bouts will begin at 5:30 with the quarterfinals to follow. If both teams have a bye Region Round 1, the higher seeded team will host the regional quarterfinal match. The match may begin as early as 5:30 p.m.

C. Region Semifinals and Finals - Wednesday, February 9, 2022

1. The highest remaining team will host the Region Semifinals and Finals.
2. Region Semifinal Pairings
 - a) Semifinal 1 - Winner of Site 1 (1v16, 8v9) versus Winner of Site 4 (4v13, 5v12).
 - b) Semifinal 2 - Winner of Site 2 (2v15, 7v10) versus Winner of Site 3 (3v14, 6v11).
 - c) The winners will wrestle each other to determine the Regional Championship.
3. Semifinal bouts will begin at 5:30 PM with the Final bouts to follow.
4. The Regional Champion will advance to the Dual Meet State Championship on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at North Point High School.

D. General Policies

1. The cost of admission is \$6 for any person 7 years of age or older.
2. The District of each hosting school will handle all financial procedures.
3. The advancing teams are required to fill out the Dual Meet Entry form on Tuesday, February 8th.
4. A Regional Championship plaque and certificates will be awarded to the Regional Champion.

II. State Dual Meet

A. Tournament Organization

1. The 2022 single-elimination Dual Meet State Tournament will be conducted at North Point High School on Saturday, February 12th.
2. State Semifinal Pairings - The four regional champions will be seeded 1-4 into the state semifinals.
 - a) No. 1 seed will face No. 4. Seed
 - b) No. 2 seed will face No. 3 seed
 - c) Winners will meet in the state championship.
 - d) Teams will be seeded based on the region seeding of all four region champions. (Example: North region champion was a 1 seed, East region champion was a 3 seed, West region champion was a 6 Seed, and South region champion was a 8 Seed, North would be state semifinal No. 1 seed, East, No. 2, West No. 3, and South No. 4). Ties will be broken via coin flip.
3. Weigh-in: Class 2A & Class 1A — 10:30 a.m. Class 4A & Class 3A — 12:30 p.m.
4. Schedule:
 - a) Class 2A & Class 1A Semifinals — 12 p.m. (four mats)
 - b) Class 4A & Class 3A Semifinals — 2 p.m. (four mats)
 - c) Class 2A & Class 1A Finals — 4 p.m. (two mats)
 - d) Class 4A & Class 3A Finals — 6:30 p.m. (two mats)

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B. General Policies

1. The cost of admission is \$12 all day for any person 7 years of age or older. Admission for just the finals will be \$10.
2. A trophy will be awarded to the championship team and the finalist team. Individual awards will be presented to members of the championship team and the finalist team.

Individual Tournament Structure, Entry, and Timeframe

I. Regional Individual Tournament

A. Tournament Organization

1. Each region, per classification, will conduct a 16-line bracket, with double elimination beginning at the quarterfinal round.
2. A team may enter a maximum of one wrestler per weight class in the region tournament.
3. All weight certification criteria or other entry criteria must be satisfied prior to the tournament.
4. The top two wrestlers from each weight class will advance to the state tournament.
5. The third place finisher becomes an alternate to the state tournament.
6. **Individual Wrestling Region Tournaments** (Tournament directors' contact info is on the Wrestling page of www.mpssaa.org)

<u>Region</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Tournament Director</u>
4A West	Quince Orchard	2/26	9:30 am	Rob Wolf, Quince Orchard
4A North	Sherwood	2/25-26	5:00 pm	Pete Siarkas, Sherwood
4A South	Laurel	2/26	9:30 am	Odist Felder, CH Flowers
4A East	South River	2/25-26	5:00 pm	John Klessinger, South River
3A West	Damascus	2/26	9:30 am	Jon Furgeson, Damascus
3A North	Aberdeen	2/26	9:30 am	Gary Burkhardt, Parkville
3A South	Arundel	2/26	9:30 am	Dwayne Vogel, Arundel
3A East	Westminster	2/26	9:30 am	Michael Duffy, Carroll County
2A West	Manchester Valley	2/25-26	5:00 pm	Liz Padgett, Manchester Valley
2A North	Milford Mill	2/26	9:30 am	Mike Whisner, Sparrows Point
2A South	Fairmont Heights	2/26	9:30 am	Henry Bradley, Fairmont Hgts.
2A East	Queen Anne's	2/26	9:30 am	David Stricker, Queen Anne's
1A West	Boonsboro	2/26	9:30 am	Shawn Smith, Boonsboro
1A North	South Carroll	2/26	9:30 am	Tim Novotny, South Carroll
1A South	Pikesville	2/26	9:30 am	Rob Jones, Pikesville
1A East	Col. Richardson	2/26	9:30 am	Bryan Hall, Col. Richardson

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B. Seeding

1. A representative of the wrestling committee will oversee the seeding of each regional tournament. A seeding meeting shall be scheduled no later than February 22, 2022.
2. Any wrestler who finished as a city/county/conference champion or finalist in the same weight class they entered the regional tournament will be seeded.
3. Seeding Criteria:
 - a. All City/County/Conference Champions shall be seeded beginning with No. 1 seed.
 - b. All City/County/Conference Finalists shall be seeded after the last City/County/Conference Champion.
 - c. Wrestlers who met placement criteria in their City/County/Conference tournament (according to page 42 of the winter bulletin) will be placed in descending order.
 - d. Wrestlers who did not meet placement criteria in their City/County/Conference tournament (example: unable to wrestle in the city/county/conference tournament) may be seeded with the approval of 75% of the voting coaches.
 - e. In order for any seeding adjustments to be brought to the floor for discussion, 50% of the voting coaches must agree to having the discussion.
 - f. If the adjustment is to occur, two-thirds of the voting coaches must vote in favor of the adjustment.
 - g. The representative of the wrestling committee shall forward the seeded wrestlers to the MPSSAA.
 - h. The MPSSAA will randomly draw all remaining entries to seed the regional tournament on February 23, 2022.
 - i. Any entry that withdraws up to the conclusion of weigh-ins, the bracket will be reseeded accordingly (Example: if the No. 5 seed withdraws, No. 6 seed will become 5, No. 7 will become 6, etc.).

C. General Policies

1. Certificates will be presented to the top four finishers for each weight class.
2. People 7 years and older will be charged admission. The cost of admission will be \$10 for all rounds of the tournament.

Girls' Division

- A. There will be a girls division at each of the 16 region meets.
- B. Each region will conduct an eight-line tournament, double elimination beginning with the quarterfinals.
- C. Female wrestlers may choose to enter the girls division or their respective classification division for any gender. Entry registration into the Female division must be completed by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17th.

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- D. The MPSSAA will use the 14 weight classes approved by NFHS for high school girls. While the NFHS rules go into full effect in 2024-2025, the MPSSAA will be utilizing the following approved weights for girls effective immediately:
- E. 100lb 105lb 110lb 115lb 120lb 125lb 130lb 135lb 140lb
145lb 155lb 170lb 190lb 235lb
- F. The regional results will be used to organize the state tournament brackets. A similar pattern that has been historically used will make every attempt to separate region champions and locations, (east, west, north and south) on separate sides of the tournament brackets.
- G. The top two finishers in each region will advance to the state tournament and additional wrestlers will be used to fill the brackets.
- H. Wrestlers may be moved to balance each bracket.

II. State Tournament

A. Tournament Organization

- 1. The format of the tournament shall be double elimination.
 - a. The seeding meeting will take place at Mt. Hebron High School on Sunday, February 27th at 9:30 AM.
 - b. To ensure a full complement of wrestlers in each bracket, alternates from the same region as a withdrawn qualifier may be inserted up to the conclusion of weigh-ins, with the bracket reseeded accordingly.
- 2. The city/county/conference tournament is NOT a precursor for girls entered into the region tournament.

B. General Policies

- 1. Medals will be presented to the top six finishers for each weight class.
- 2. Persons age 7 years and older will be charged admission. Tickets will be sold online at tickets.mpssaa.org and are for general admission.