



SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – WRESTLING MEMORANDUM

TO: Athletic Directors
FROM: Dean Visser
DATE: September 15, 2023
RE: 2023-24 Girls Wrestling

I am sending this memorandum on behalf of the Wrestling Sports Advisory Committee of the Arizona Interscholastic Association (“AIA”) regarding girls wrestling. Girls wrestling has expanded rapidly during the past few years. While this is excellent, such fast progress places additional demands on schools, athletic directors, and coaches. The purpose of this memorandum is to assist with the workload and ensure you are: (1) informed of the changes, and (2) assist with scheduling to ensure all schools and athletes have opportunities to wrestle without undue burdens on the student athletes’ time and the school’s budget.

I. Divisions and Sections.

Divisions. The biggest change is that girls wrestling now has two divisions as set forth in **Attachment p. 1**. The divisions were set based upon the following objective criteria:

- All wrestling Boys Division 1 schools remain in Girls Division 1.
- All Boys Division 2 schools remain in Girls Division 1 unless:
 - The school did not qualify a girl for state last year and did not qualify a girl for the state in either 2021 or 2022. These schools were placed in Girls Division 2.
- All Boys Division 3 and 4 schools are in Girls Division 2.

Sections. The sections are shown in **Attachment p. 2 (Div. 1) and p. 3 (Div. 2)**. Sections were set based upon the objective criteria. First, the strongest schools were identified to ensure no section has four or five powerhouse programs, which hinders growth of the other sectional teams and can hinder strong schools as the road to state becomes far more challenging. Second, sections were divided based upon school locations. Third, there was an attempt to keep schools in the same district to be in the same section. With very few exceptions, the sections are predominantly based upon geographic location. In other words, only a few schools were moved from one section to another section to achieve balance.

II. Scheduling Sectional Meets.

One of the biggest concerns with the emergence of girls wrestling has been: (1) giving the athletes enough opportunities to wrestle; (2) avoiding undue expense; and (3) most important, ensuring travel and matches can occur without running late on school nights. Therefore, we have created a “sectional meets” schedule that brings many schools together at one centralized location on



a Tuesday night. *See Attachment p. 4.* Based upon a statistical analysis using 2022 participation numbers, participating girls should be able to wrestle three times and finish by 8:00 pm. In fact, we will have a rule that no match starts after 8:00 pm so even teams that travel will get home at a decent time and be ready for school the next day. These sectional meet dates are as follows:

- November 28, 2023 – weigh-in 3:00 pm – ends 8:00 pm;
- December 5, 2023 – weigh-in 3:00 pm – ends 8:00 pm; and
- January 9, 2023 - weigh-in 3:00 pm – ends 8:00 pm.

To implement this system, we have divided each section into three regions (A, B, C) and set up a round-robin schedule in which every team will wrestle against every other team in its section as well as an intersectional group of teams. *See Attachment p. 2 (Div. 1) and p. 3 (Div. 2).* Suggested meet sites are below the team sections and regions chart. These sites have been selected because they are centrally located. These are just suggestions, however, and the sections will need to finalize the location, dates, and times. If an event needs to be moved, consider moving to Monday of that week or to a nearby school on Tuesday. In addition, to assist the host school, we will be providing a match creation system that can be readily used to ensure the events run smoothly and on time.

III. Girls Wrestling Boys.

AIA Rule 14.11.6 states “whenever a school provides a team(s) for boys and a team(s) for girls in the same sport, girls shall not be permitted to qualify for the boys’ team(s) in that sport...” The rule will be applied this year. Thus, girls cannot participate in boys’ wrestling events this year. This includes tournaments and dual meets. Recognizing there are a handful of extremely talented girl wrestlers, if a girl seeks to wrestle on the boys’ team, the school may petition the AIA on the girl’s behalf for a waiver of this rule and allow these girls to wrestle on the boys’ team. But if the petition is granted, then the petitioning girl cannot wrestle on the girls’ team or compete in the girls’ sectional or state tournaments.

IV. Seeding for Sectionals.

In previous years, there has been an issue with girls receiving very high seeds at sectional tournaments even though they wrestled only a few matches but received numerous forfeits, which count as wins. To alleviate this issue, beginning this season a girl must wrestle a minimum of seven (7) times in actual matches to be considered for seeding at sectionals. Forfeits do not count to meet this “actual match” criteria. However, if the athlete has met this criteria, then forfeits do count as part of her winning percentage.

V. Girls Team Duals.

Another issue needing consistent application are team dual records. A contest between two girls’ wrestling teams consists of six or more actual matches. Otherwise, the match results should be entered individually. This is an issue to be addressed by the head coaches and more information will be provided to these coaches prior to the beginning of the season so results can be entered in a consistent manner.

(Attachment follows)

Girls Division 1

Alhambra	Mountain Ridge
Apollo	Mt. View Marana
Barry Goldwater	North
Basha	Paradise Valley
Boulder Creek	Perry
Buckeye Union	Pinnacle
Buena	Pueblo Magnet
Cactus Shadows	Raymond Kellis
Camelback	Red Mountain
Campo Verde	Rincon
Canyon Del Oro	San Luis
Canyon View	Sandra Day O'Connor
Carl Hayden	Shadow Ridge
Casa Grande	Skyline
Casteel	Sunnyside
Centennial	Sunnyslope
Cesar Chavez	Sunrise Mountain
Chandler	Tolleson
Chaparral	Trevor Browne
Cibola	Tucson Magnet
Cienega	Valley Vista
Copper Canyon	Verrado
Corona Del Sol	Washington
Desert Edge	West Point
Desert Ridge	Westview
Desert Vista	Westwood
Dobson	Willow Canyon
Flowing Wells	Youngker
Gila Ridge	
Gilbert	
Hamilton	
Highland	
Higley	
Horizon	
Ironwood	
Kofa	
La Joya	
Liberty	
Marana	
Maricopa	
Maryvale	
Mesa	
Mesa Mt. View	
Millennium	
Mingus Union	
Mountain Pointe	

Girls Division 2

Agua Fria	Glendale	Santa Rita
ALA Anthem	Globe	Seton Catholic
ALA Ironwood	Greenway	Shadow Mountain
ALA West Foothills	Grey Hills	Shonto Prep
Alchey	Holbrook	Show Low
Am Lead - Gilbert	Hopi	Sierra Linda
Amphitheater	Independence	Snowflake
Andrada Polytechnic	Ironwood Ridge	South Mountain
Antelope	Joseph City	St. Augustine
Apache Junction	Kingman	Tempe
Arcadia	Lake Havasu	Thatcher
Arizona College Prep	Lee Williams	Thunderbird
Arizona Lutheran	Many Farms	Tombstone
Bagdad	Marcos de Niza	Tuba City
Benjamin Franklin	Mayer	Valley Christian
Benson	McClintock	Vista Grande
Betty Fairfax	Mesquite	Walden Grove
Bisbee	Miami	Wickenburg
Blue Ridge	Mica Mt.	Willcox
Bradshaw Mountain	Mohave	Williams
Cactus	Monument Valley	Williams Field
Camp Verde	Moon Valley	Window Rock
Catalina	Morenci	Winslow
Catalina Foothills	North Canyon	Yuma
Central	Odyssey	Yuma Catholic
Chinle	Page	
Chino Valley	Palo Verde	
Cholla	Parker	
Coconino	Payson	
Combs	Peoria	
Coolidge	Phoenix Christian	
Coronado	Pima	
Cortez	Pinon	
Crimson	Poston Butte	
Deer Valley	Red Mesa	
Desert Mountain	Rio Rico	
Desert Sunrise	Round Valley	
Desert View	Sabino	
Douglas	Safford	
Dysart	Sahuarita	
Eastmark	Sahuaro	
Empire	Salpointe Catholic	
Estrella Foothills	San Carlos	
Flagstaff	San Manuel	
Florence	San Pasqual	
Ganado	San Tan Foothills	

Girls Division 1 Sections

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
West A	Metro A	East A	South A
Copper Canyon	Barry Goldwater	Cactus Shadows	Casa Grande
Liberty	Boulder Creek	Camelback	Cibola
Mountain Ridge	Centennial	Chaparral	Gila Ridge
Raymond Kellis	Ironwood	Horizon	Kofa
Sunrise Mountain	Mingus Union	Paradise Valley	Maricopa
Valley Vista	Sandra Day O'Connor	Pinnacle	San Luis
West B	Metro B	Westwood	South A
Desert Edge	Alhambra	East B	Canyon Del Oro
La Joya	Apollo	Desert Ridge	Chandler
Millennium	Carl Hayden	Dobson	Corona Del Sol
Tolleson	Cesar Chavez	Mesa	Marana
West Point	Desert Vista	Mesa Mt. View	Mountain View Marana
Westview	Maryvale	Red Mountain	Tucson Magnet
West C	Trevor Browne	Skyline	South C
Buckeye Union	Metro C	East C	Buena
Canyon View	Basha	Campo Verde	Cienega
Shadow Ridge	Hamilton	Casteel	Flowing Wells
Verrado	Mountain Pointe	Gilbert	Pueblo Magnet
Willow Canyon	North	Highland	Rincon
Youngker	Sunnyslope	Higley	Sunnyside
	Washington	Perry	

Girls Division 2 Sections

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
West A	Metro A	East A	South A
Bagdad	Arcadia	Chinle	ALA Anthem
Bradshaw Mountain	Cortez	Ganado	ALA Ironwood
Camp Verde	Deer Valley	Grey Hills	Arizona College Prep
Chino Valley	Desert Mountain	Hopi	Coolidge
Coconino	Greenway	Many Farms	Crimson
Flagstaff	Moon Valley	Monument Valley	Florence
Mayer	North Canyon	Page	Poston Butte
Wickenburg	Shadow Mountain	Pinon	San Tan Foothills
Williams	Thunderbird	Red Mesa	Vista Grande
West B	Metro B	Shonto Prep	South B
Antelope	Arizona Lutheran	Tuba City	Amphitheater
Kingman	Betty Fairfax	Window Rock	Catalina
Lake Havasu	Central	East B	Catalina Foothills
Lee Williams	Coronado	Winslow	Cholla
Mohave	Marcos de Niza	Alchesay	Ironwood Ridge
Parker	McClintock	Blue Ridge	Palo Verde
San Pasqual	Phoenix Christian	Holbrook	Sabino
Yuma	South Mountain	Joseph City	Sahuaro
Yuma Catholic	Tempe	Payson	Salpointe Catholic
West C	Valley Christian	Round Valley	Santa Rita
Agua Fria	Metro C	Show Low	St. Augustine
ALA West Foothills	Am Lead - Gilbert	Snowflake	South C
Cactus	Apache Junction	East C	Andrada Polytechnic
Dysart	Benjamin Franklin	Globe	Benson
Estrella Foothills	Combs	Miami	Bisbee
Glendale	Desert Sunrise	Morenci	Desert View
Independence	Eastmark	Pima	Douglas
Odyssey	Mesquite	Safford	Empire
Peoria	Seton Catholic	San Carlos	Mica Mt.
Sierra Linda	Williams Field	San Manuel	Rio Rico
		Thatcher	Sahuarita
		Willcox	Tombstone
			Walden Grove

Division 1 Sectional Meets Schedule

	Section 1 (West)	Section 2 (Metro)	Section 3 (East)	Section 4 (South)	Intersectional 1	Intersectional 2
28-Nov	West A v West B	Metro A v Metro B	East A v East B	South A v South B	West C v Metro C	South C v East C
Site	Liberty	Ironwood	Horizon	Casa Grande	Canyon View	Sunnyside
Atl. Site						
5-Dec	West A v West C	Metro A v Metro C	East A v East C	South A v South C	West B v South B	Metro B v East B
Site	Buckeye	Sunnyslope	Casteel	Maricopa	Marana Mt. View	Mesa
Atl. Site						
9-Jan	West B v West C	Metro B v Metro C	East B v East C	South B v South C	West A v East A	Metro A v South A
Site	Tolleson	Desert Vista	Perry	Tucson	Horizon	Gila Ridge
Atl. Site						

Division 2 Sectional Meets Schedule

	Section 1 (West)	Section 2 (Metro)	Section 3 (East)	Section 4 (South)	Intersectional 1	Intersectional 2
28-Nov	West A v West B	Metro A v Metro B	East A v East B	South A v South B	West C v Metro C	South C v East C
Site	Chino Valley	Moon Valley	Window Rock	Salpointe	Sierra Linda	Willcox
Atl. Site	Wickenburg	Greenway	Ganado	San Tan Foothills	Cactus	Mica Mountain
5-Dec	West A v West C	Metro A v Metro C	East A v East C	South A v South C	West B v South B	Metro B v East B
Site	Agua Fria	AZ Lutheran	Globe	Florence	Yuma Catholic	Payson
Atl. Site	Dysart	Phoenix Christian	Miami	Poston Butte	Yuma	Tempe
9-Jan	West B v West C	Metro B v Metro C	East B v East C	South B v South C	West A v East A	Metro A v South A
Site	Peoria	Am. Lead - Gilbert	Show Low	Mica Mountain	Coconino	AZ College Prep
Atl. Site	Dysart	Ben Franklin	Blue Ridge	Sahuarita	Flagstaff	Deer Valley