

HIGH SCHOOL

## LHSAA ends regular wrestling season after tournament is linked to COVID-19 outbreak

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The LHSAA is issuing a moratorium on the wrestling season, ordering all schools to halt competition until the state championships. This comes just three days after the Louisiana Department of Health linked the Louisiana Classic Wrestling Tournament to at least 20 positive COVID-19 cases.

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The halt of competition was issued to limit athletes exposure to COVID-19 to ensure that wrestlers will be eligible to compete at the state championships, which are scheduled for late February at Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge.

Teams will be allowed to continue practicing, but students that chose to wrestle with club or independent teams will forfeit their chance to compete at the state championships.

Thirty schools participated in the Louisiana Classic Wrestling Tournament, held Jan. 15-16 in Gonzales. Anyone who was in attendance is being advised to get tested and to quarantine for 14 days. There were approximately 365 athletes, 200 coaches, 100 volunteers, eight officials and 703 spectators in attendance.

The reported occupancy at the event was 1,376, which was less than the 25 percent limit. However, video from the event showed little social distancing and few wearing masks.

The moratorium on competition means major qualifying meets like the Ken Cole meet, scheduled for this weekend in Lafayette, will not happen. There is no word yet on how this will impact qualifying procedures or seeding for the state championships.