

KSHSAA GIRLS WRESTLING

The Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) has met with the representatives of the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association (KWCA) to discuss the details of girls wrestling as a sponsored activity of the KSHSAA. The following points of interest have been reviewed for the idea of implementation under the jurisdiction of the KSHSAA.

Committee Members Included:

Mark Lentz	KSHSAA
Shane Backhus	McPherson AD and current Executive Board Member
Doug Vander Linden	KWCA VP and Head Wrestling Coach at Burlington High School
Nate Naasz	KWCA President and current member of the NWCA Staff
Doug Kretzer	KWCA Girls Rep and McPherson High School Head Coach

1. **Implementation of Girls Wrestling:** The proposed plan is to have a two year transition period that would permit girls the option of participating in both their school's boy's lineup and girl's lineup during regular season contests only. If a tournament only hosts a boys division, then girls will have the option of competing in the boys division. If the tournament offers both a boys and girls division, then girls are required to wrestle in the girls division. After the two year transition period girls can only participate against girls at girls only competition. From the start of implementation of Girls Wrestling, the girls must participate in the girls postseason only.
2. **Weight Classes:** Weight classes will be determined after alpha hydration assessments are completed and entered into the online database. The deadline for database entry is Friday of Standard Calendar Week 20. The Girls Wrestling Weight Classes will be released to all member schools, by the KSHSAA before the first competition date. The data from the alpha assessments will be used to set the actual weight classes in an effort to achieve as much equal distribution in weight classes as possible. This process will be used in the first two years of the sanctioned implementation process, with permanent weight classes be established in the third year and beyond.
3. **Contest Limits:** Girls and Boys will both follow the same contest limitations as listed in the KSHSAA Board Handbook Rule 44, Article 6.
4. **Postseason and Qualifying Events:** There will be one Classification for Girls Wrestling. There will be two regional qualifying tournaments that will be held on Saturday of Week 32 of the KSHSAA calendar. This is one week prior to the boys regionals. This particular regional date should promote school coaching staffs to give primary attention to the girl's tournament on a weekend with fewer regular season tournaments for boys.

Regional Tournaments:

- a. The girl's regional tournaments will serve as qualifying events for the girl's state tournament. The top four placers, from each of the regionals will qualify for the state tournament.

- b. Each school is permitted one entry into each weight class.
- c. When participation numbers warrant, the number of qualifying events will increase.
- d. Seeding for the regional tournament, will follow the same seeding procedure, as boys. Seeding should show priority of girl's vs girls matches in assigning the wrestlers to seeds.

State Tournament:

- a. The State Tournament will be established in an 8-person bracket format, held on Thursday of KSHSAA calendar week # 34. This is the day before the state boy's tournament.
 - b. The State Tournament will be held in Salina, at the Tony's Pizza Events Center, with wrestling starting at 11:00am. This should help coaches and teams traveling with their boys to state, to coach girl's wrestlers on Thursday, then travel to their Boys State locations.
 - c. The top 4 place finishers at the state tournament will be recognized as state medalists.
 - d. The top 3 team finishers at the state tournament will be recognized as team trophy winners.
5. **Season-Length of Season:** The Girls Wrestling season will be on the same calendar dates as the Boys season and their state championships will conclude on the same calendar week.
6. **Coaching and Practices:** A KSHSAA member school who offers both boys wrestling and girls wrestling are permitted to use the same coaching staff to oversee both teams. Furthermore, both the boys and girls wrestling teams that consist of enrolled students from the same school or an approved cooperative may practice at the same time in the same practice facility under the guidance and leadership of the same coaching staff.
7. **Regular Season Competition (Opportunities):** Most competition opportunities for girls wrestling will exist in the form of tournaments. Efforts will need to be made by our wrestling schools to create competition opportunities for girls wrestling. If you host a regular season wrestling tournament and have the facility space to use multiple mats, you are encouraged to consider adding a girls division. With that in mind, there will also need to be consideration given to the fact that too many girls wrestling tournaments being offered on the same calendar date may result in a low number of entries at each tournament. In short, our wrestling schools need to communicate with each other and make sure that tournament competition opportunities for girls wrestling are spread out during the regular season. It may also be necessary to consider geographic locations of girls wrestling tournament opportunities each week of the regular season in order to increase participation numbers of each girls wrestling tournament.