

Assistant Commissioner Joe Angolia

**Topic**

Sports Report

**Sports Report**

**Sport**

Winter Wrestling

**Positive Developments and Highlights**

The State Wrestling Championships were held at Alltech Arena on Feb. 15-17, with the boys'/coed championship (Feb. 15-16) returning to a 32-person bracket and the first-ever, KHSAA-sanctioned girls' wrestling championship taking place on Feb. 17. Attendance was strong for all three days and staff received positive feedback about this year's championships.

**Issues of Concern (legal, playing Rules, fiscal management, etc.)**

The NFHS-approved 12+1 experiment for the 2023-24 season, which allowed the KHSAA to have a 285-lb. weight class on the girls' side, resulted in a total of eight student-athletes entering the postseason in that weight class. All other weight classes were planned to be 16-person brackets at the state championship.

**Championship Update/Review**

Staff will work to refine the schedule and format for the girls' championship to better adhere to the time schedule in the future. The girls' championship started with six mats for the opening round for 200 competitors (compared to eight mats for 448 competitors on the boys'/coed side). Concerns about reaching the 30-minute limit between bouts led to format adjustments which put us behind schedule. The 30-minute limit also contributed to delays throughout the day.

**Officials Update/Review**

Consistent enforcement of NFHS rules will be a focal point leading up to next season. Concerns were raised to our office throughout the year about NFHS rules being inconsistently applied or disregarded. That education extends to coaches and student-athletes on the girls' side as well, specifically in terms of NFHS rules that differ from other levels of wrestling.