

Proposal for Special NEMWA Qualifier Tournament

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Jeremy Sampson led the development of this proposal. The review committee included Justin Henry, Joe Maxwell, Brandon Short, and Richard Shull.

Proposal

1. NEMWA will host a qualifier the week before the combined MYWAY/NEMWA state tournament at a designated high school. (Ogemaw in 2003). The top 4 placers in each age/weight class will qualify for the Combined State tournament.
2. Wrestlers must have participated in a minimum of two NEMWA tournaments prior to the qualifier in order to be eligible to wrestle in the qualifier.
3. There will be one chart (bracket) per age and weight class (no split brackets). MYWA age system will be used (MYWAY uses age of December 31, not as of January 1 as NEMWA currently does).
4. There will be a wrestle-back for a true second place. If wrestlers meet a second time, the second match will supersede the first. True placements are required for proper seeding in the state tournament.
5. There will be an alternate tournament the same day as the qualifier for those not interested in attending the Combined State tournament. (Meridian in 2003).
6. All NEMWA divisions will be allowed to attend either the state qualifier tournament or the alternate tournament depending upon the interest or ability to qualify wrestlers for the combined state tournament.
7. The qualifier will use the same call-in system as used for other NEMWA tournaments.
8. The five match per day rule will be waived for the qualifying tournament and the Combined State tournament.

Additional Commentary

This qualifying tournament and the following Combined State tournament give an opportunity for the best NEMWA wrestlers to compete at a higher level of competition. However, coaches must be careful to position this tournament carefully with their wrestlers. The Combined State tournament will have national caliber wrestlers competing. Beginner and intermediate wrestlers should not even attempt to qualify for the Combined State tournament. This is something that young wrestlers should aspire to when they are ready. Wrestling too many levels "over your head" can be both demoralizing and dangerous. It is not worth the risk for most young wrestlers who still have many years to develop.

It is important to restate that the age group definitions are different in MYWAY. For example, a wrestler who turns nine on March 1 would be in the 8&U age group in NEMWA. That is because NEMWA uses the age as of January 1. However, MYWAY uses the age as of December 31. Therefore in the Combined State tournament this wrestler would wrestle in the 9&10 age group. Wrestlers who are serious about going to the Combined State meet should consider wrestling in their MYWAY age group in early season tournaments.

It is unlikely that brackets will be large enough for the waiver to the five match rule to come into play. However, coaches and parents should be aware that this is possible. This is more likely at the Combined State tournament where there will normally be a 16 wrestler bracket.