

**TRI-COUNTY YOUTH WRESTLING LEAGUE**  
**RULES AND POLICIES**

**1. Applicable Rules**

- a. The rules and policies contained herein shall supersede all others. Current NJ high school rules will be in effect where these rules are silent.

**2. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP**

- a. The TCYWL shall consist of two (2) Leagues (American & National) with each League having two (2) Divisions (North & South). The Leagues and Divisions will be determined each year by a power ranking formula that determines each team's rank. The formula is as follows:
- I. Won/Loss records for the past three seasons and Division place will be assigned rating points. Each season's rating points will be determined by the formula:
  - II.  $(\# \text{ Teams in League} - \text{Division Place}) + \# \text{ of Wins (Year 1 wins will rate at 100\%, Year 2 wins will rate at 80\%, Year 3 wins will rate at 60\%)} = \text{Rating Points (for each season)}$
  - III. Rating points will be assigned for each returning Tri-County tournament place winner from the previous year. Only the top 4 places will be assigned rating points. The points will be:
    - 4 points for each returning 1<sup>st</sup> place winner
    - 3 points for each returning 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner
    - 2 points for each returning 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner
    - 1 point for each returning 4<sup>th</sup> place winner
  - IV. Add up the rating point values to determine the American and National Leagues. The number of teams in the American League and the National League will be determined by the Tri-County Board.
  - V. Teams will be allowed to petition the Tri-County Board to request a change of League placement for the season. The Board's decision will be final.
  - VI. Any new team entering Tri-County will be placed in either American or National league accordingly by the Tri-County Board for the first year.
  - VII. Second year probationary teams will follow the power ranking formula for league placement.
  - VIII. The North and South Division of each League will be determined by the rating points. The teams assigned to each League for the season will be placed in order of the rating points from highest to lowest. The even number teams will be assigned to the North Division and the odd number teams will be assigned to the South Division. (Example: The teams rated 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 based on the order of rating points will be in the North Division and the team rated 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 will be in the South Division)
  - IX. League and Division structure will be determined each year at the fall League organizational meeting.
  - X. Team schedules are based on placement on the power ranking formula. Teams must wrestle all the other teams in their respective league. Cross over matches between leagues will be scheduled based on a formula.
- b. Only team members in good standing will be allowed to compete in the schedule of season matches. League membership is a 2 step process. New members shall be voted in by majority vote of the general membership as a "probationary member" At completion of the rookie season

the Board shall make recommendations, if necessary, to the probationary member. At completion of the sophomore season a general membership majority vote is required for "full membership."

- c. DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP: Division team champions of each league will be determined by the following criteria:
  - I. The team with the best record, within their division
  - II. The team with the best record, for all TCYWL matches
  - III. Winner of head to head competition. In cases where three or more teams have the same number of wins, this criterion will only apply if one of the teams beat ALL of the others being considered.
  - IV. If still tied: Greater total point differential against opponents tied for first-place in the division;
  - V. If still tied: Greater point differential for all TCYWL matches;
  - VI. If still tied: Greater point differential within the division;
  - VII. If still tied: Random draw, or coin flip.
- d. LEAGUES DUAL MEET CHAMPIONSHIP: The two regular season division champions of each league will oppose each other in a dual match for the American and National league dual meet championship. This match will take place during the week preceding the TCYWL championship tournament. Eligibility of wrestlers: wrestlers must weigh-in in at least two league dual meets during the current season to be eligible to wrestle in the league dual meet championship. A wrestler's birth certificate will be required only in the event of a challenge by an opposing coach. Should a challenge be initiated, the birth certificate must be provided within thirty (30) days to the league president. Failure to provide proof as requested will result in the wrestler's ineligibility. Exceptions will be allowed by a majority vote of the TCYWL at the next league meeting.
- e. Unless specified otherwise in these by-laws, each team is responsible for conduct of its own practices and matches. However, it is recommended that all coaches complete a certification program.

### **3. LEAGUE BUSINESS**

- a. **Meetings** - League meetings shall be called by the president as required. It is important to the strength of the organization that each member team send a representative to each meeting. Any team that does not attend two (2) consecutive league meetings will be penalized five (5) team points at the TCYWL league tournament plus one (1) team point for each consecutive unattended meeting thereafter.
- b. **Quorum** - A quorum, consisting of 50% of the league membership plus one (1), is required to convene a league meeting.
- c. **Voting** - Each member team in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote. A simple majority of the voting members present shall be sufficient to pass a motion. The president will not vote except in instances to break a tie vote.
- d. **Amendments** - All amendments to these rules and policies will require the following:
  - I. Amendments can only be proposed by active members in good standing.
  - II. Written notification must be sent by regular mail/email to all member teams at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be voted upon.
  - III. A quorum must be present to vote on an amendment.
  - IV. An affirmative majority vote of the quorum present is necessary to approve an amendment.

- e. **Membership Fees** - There shall be an annual membership fee of \$400 per team and a one-time initiation fee of \$150.00 for new member's payable on or before December 15 of each season. All delinquent members will be considered as members **NOT** in good standing.
- f. **Match Reports** - Submitting a match report and a weigh in sheet for both teams shall be the responsibility of the host team and must be signed by both the home and visiting coaches. Match Reports must be submitted either on-line or received by webmaster on or before the fourth day following the respective match. Failure to comply with the aforementioned will result in one (1) team point deduction at the TCYWL Tournament per infraction.
- g. **Match attendance** – Teams are expected to attend all scheduled regular season matches.
  - I. A team that forfeits a regular season match will be fined \$100, at the discretion of the Executive Board. Fine to be paid by TCYWL tournament seeding meeting.
  - II. A team that forfeits a second regular season match will have their league membership terminated, at the discretion of the Executive Board.
    - Note: If a team is removed from the league during the season, individual records of completed matches will be disregarded for seeding purposes at the TCYWL tournament.
- h. **League Officers** - There shall be six (6) elected officers in the TCYWL Executive Board as follows: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Member-at-Large and Publicity Chairperson. Duties are as follows:

**President:** call and conduct all TCYWL meetings and maintenance of the TCYWL business.

**Vice-President:** assist the President in conducting TCYWL business; preside at the TCYWL meetings in the absence of the President and Serve as Chairperson of the Tournament of Champions.

**Treasurer:** keep the financial records of the TCYWL and give a report at each meeting.

**Secretary:** keep the minutes of TCYWL meetings. Facilitate communication to board members and general membership of league business.

**Member-at-Large:** Shall assist the TCYWL generally when needed

**Publicity Chairperson:**

- a. Distribute publicity and news items to the media.
- b. Serve as league contact for all requests for news items.
- c. Receive and post match reports on the tcywl.net web page.
- d. Maintain team rosters on the tcywl.net web page.
- e. Maintain hard copies of the match reports in case questions arise regarding the web page results.

#### **4. WRESTLER ELIGIBILITY**

- a. In order for a wrestler to compete in TCYWL matches, a wrestler must:
  - I. Be in or below the eighth grade in school.
  - II. Not have reached his 15th birthday by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September preceding the season.
  - III. Be a primary resident of the school district normally served by the wrestler's member team. The league must approve exceptions before the season or by the president during the season.

IV. Not have competed against any 9th grade team.

b. Skin Conditions:

- I. Skin conditions must be managed with the utmost seriousness. Coaches should advise their parents and wrestlers to be on the alert for rashes and skin discoloration; and they should report any such observation to the head coach immediately.
- II. In addition to NFHS Rule 4-2-3 pertaining to skin conditions, the NJSIAA form "Physician Release for Wrestler to Participate with Skin Lesion(s)" shall be completed and signed by a medical doctor, within the last seven (7) days, in order for a wrestler with a skin condition to be allowed to participate.
- III. The head coach is responsible for bringing to the attention of the opposing coach and official any skin condition that is known or should be known through reasonable observation. Violation will result suspension for two league events for the head coach.

**5. WEIGHT CLASSES**

a. The weight classes shall be as follows:

50 lbs	70 lbs	90 lbs	118 lbs	165 lbs
55 lbs	75 lbs	96 lbs	126 lbs	Unlimited (Exhibition only)
60 lbs	80 lbs	102 lbs	136 lbs	
65 lbs	85 lbs	110 lbs	146 lbs	

- b. An unlimited weight class will also be included in the TCYWL Tournament with those wrestlers weighing more than 165 lbs (or applicable limit) being eligible subject to the following restriction: Matches will be conducted only in cases where there is less than a 30 lb difference between opposing wrestlers' weights.
- c. A wrestler may choose to weigh-in either singlet or undergarment. A 0.2 pound allowance will be granted for wrestlers who weigh-in with a singlet or undergarment.

**6. WEIGHT CLASS ELIGIBILITY**

- a. **Certified Weight Class** shall be the lowest weight class in which a wrestler shall be eligible to compete during the season and at the TCYWL Tournament. Certified Weight Class shall be established for each wrestler at his/her **first league match weigh-in**, regardless of whether he or she wrestles. The wrestler must make the **Hard Weight** or Actual Weight set forth in **5a** (no allowances). Each wrestler must hard weight at least **2 times during the season** to be eligible to compete at that weight class for the TCYWL Tournament or the League Dual Meet Championship. A successful hard weight will be noted by the weigh-in coach on the weigh-in sheet and match reporting form by recording the wrestler's actual weight and indicating same with an asterisk. **WHEN CERTIFYING WRESTLERS, NO ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE GIVEN, EXCEPT THE 0.2 POUNDS PER 7.A.III.** Tri and Quad meets constitute as one weigh-in only.
- b. A wrestler may never wrestle below their Certified Weight Class. There is no re-certification.
- c. A contestant shall not participate more than one weight class above that class for which the contestant's actual weight, at the time of weigh-in, qualifies the contestant.
- d. Weight allowances are the weight classes that qualifies the contestant in duals during weight progression periods. (Example – 2.2 pound allowance for February dual meet; a wrestler is certified at 85lbs and weighs-in at 82.2lbs. The wrestlers qualified weight class is 80lbs. with 2.2lbs. allowance, but may not compete at weight below certified weight 6.b and can only bump up one weight class to 85lbs.

## **7. WEIGHT PROGRESSION**

- a. Weight progression will be in effect during the season in the following manner:
  - I. On January 1st and February 1st each weight class advances one (1) pound.
  - II. Weights will be increased by one (1) pound for TCYWL weekday matches.
  - III. Weight allowances shall be cumulative in effect; except there will maximum allowance of 2.2 pounds above the base weight classes.
  - IV. Weight classes at the annual league tournament in February shall be two (2) pounds above the base weight classes.

## **8. CONDUCT OF MATCHES**

- a. All TCYWL matches shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations currently in force for the New Jersey High School competition per the NJSIAA with the following exceptions:
  - I. All matches will consist of three 1½ minute periods, except wrestleback matches in the TCYWL tournament, which will consist of three 1 minute periods.
  - II. A wrestler will be required to make his weight within one-half (1/2) hour from the start of weigh-ins.
  - III. For dual meets ending in a tie, NJ high school criteria shall be used to determine the winning team.

## **9. MATCH OFFICIALS**

- a. The host team shall be responsible for providing the match official. The visiting team shall provide at least one (1) scorer.
- b. It is the policy of the TCYWL that all teams in league matches use the most competent referee available. In line with this policy:
  - I. Certified card holding referees will be used at all times for TCYWL matches.
  - II. Cadets will be used only if card-holding referees are not available. Cadets must be registered.

## **10. TOURNAMENT**

A Championship Tournament of the TCYWL shall be held at the end of each season, on Sunday the week before the NJSIAA District tournaments. The locality of this tournament shall be determined by a majority vote of the league member organization. The conduct of this tournament shall be the sole responsibility of the host team, subject to the following restrictions:

- I. **Eligibility**
  - a. All TCYWL American and National teams.
  - b. Wrestlers with at least a .500 record and who participated in at least 50% of scheduled matches (i.e. six matches for a 12-match schedule) will be seeded ahead of others.

- c. A wrestler must have at least 66% of scheduled matches (i.e. eight matches for a 12-match schedule) to challenge for 1st through 4th seed.

Note: A participant who had placed 1st or 2nd in a prior TCYWL championship tournament, and who does not meet the above requirements for number of matches due to medical reasons, may be seeded as high as third, per vote of the coaches at the seeding meeting.

- d. A wrestler must wrestle in at least four league dual meets during the current season to be eligible to wrestle in the tournament.
- e. Only TCYWL matches will be considered for seeding purposes.
- f. A wrestler must have at least half of his weigh-ins at or below the weight he wishes to wrestle at the Championship Tournament.
- g. All wrestlers shall be seeded according to the below criteria.
- h. All wrestlers participating in the Tri-County Tournament must weigh-in as a team on the day specified by the league. Wrestlers have until end of scheduled weigh-in period designated by the Tournament Director. In cases of individual hardship, a Tri-County League Representative or Head Coach may request a weigh-in on the morning of the tournament by notifying the Tournament Director and the Tri-County President of their intention. Approval of the Tri-County Board is required.

## II. **Seeding Criteria**

- a. Most wins
- b. Head to head competition. In cases where three or more wrestlers have the same number of wins, this criterion will only apply if one of the wrestlers beat ALL of the others being considered.
- c. Win percentage.
- d. Number of pins.
- e. Number of technical falls.
- f. Number of major decisions.
- g. Fewest wins by forfeit.
- h. The wrestler placing higher in the previous year's tournament. If the same finish, the wrestler returning closer to the weight class of the previous year will prevail.
- i. Vote of coaches.

## III. **If a wrestler withdraws after seeding.**

- a. Except to correct clerical mistakes, there will be no changes made to the brackets after the seeding meeting. If a wrestler is placed on the bracket but then is unable to wrestle for any reason, his first opponent will receive a forfeit and will receive team points according to the scoring rules for a wrestler receiving a forfeit.
- b. The wrestler will not be considered to have forfeited until he actually fails to appear on the mat when his match is called. For example, if his first match is a bye, he will advance to the next round.

## IV. **Officials**

- a. Only card holding officials will be used during the tournament.
- b. Exceptions to (a.) above must be approved by a majority of the members prior to the start of the tournament.

**V. Tournament Finances**

- a. All tournament financial affairs shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Director (host team coach or other designated member of the host team sponsoring organization).

**VI. Awards**

- a. Team awards will be given to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place teams on the basis of points scored.
- b. A team sportsmanship award will be given on the basis of a vote by each team, officiating crew and Tournament Director.
- c. Trophies will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> individual place finishers. Medals will be awarded to the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7/8<sup>th</sup> individual place finishers.
  - (i) Full wrestle-backs periods 1-1-1
- d. A Most Valuable Wrestler will be awarded on the basis of a vote by each team and each official.
- e. Fastest pin award for the wrestler recording the fastest pin in the tournament.

**VII. Scoring**

- a. Team points are only to be awarded if there are four (4) or more wrestlers in a weight class. No team points shall be awarded for the "Unlimited" weight class.
- b. Team points are awarded as follows:
  - (i) 1<sup>st</sup> place 16 Points
  - (ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> place 12 Points
  - (iii) 3<sup>rd</sup> place 9 Points
  - (iv) 4<sup>th</sup> place 7 Points
  - (v) 5<sup>th</sup> place 5 Points
  - (vi) 6<sup>th</sup> place 3 points

Note: Team points will be awarded only for 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place winners.

- c. Bonus points will be awarded as follows:
  - (i) Fall, Default, Forfeit or Disqualification - 2 points
  - (ii) Technical Fall - 1.5 points
  - (iii) Major Decision - 1 point
  - (iv) Byes in championship bracket - 2 points if the wrestler wins his next match. Zero points if the wrestler loses his next match. Zero points in consolation bracket regardless of the next match result.
- d. Disputes on team scoring must be filed with the tournament director no later than 5 minutes after completion of the last finals bout. Disputes involving finals matches must be filed with the tournament director immediately after the final scores are announced.

## **By-Law Addendum: Seeding Challenge approved 10/14/2015**

### **TCYWL Seeding Meeting Challenge Guidelines**

#### **Background:**

To keep the integrity of the TCYWL tournament at the highest level, we have proposed a plan that will hopefully allow us to put in place a system that gets the top 4 wrestlers seeded properly in each weight class for our year end tournament. The current system works very well virtually all of the time but we have had some situations in recent years that perhaps could have been avoided.

#### **Proposal:**

- A seed meeting chairperson will be appointed to oversee the meeting during the TCYWL rules meeting in November. Ideally, this will be a board member that is not an existing TCYWL coach.
- The current seeding criteria will remain in place as the primary seeding mechanism and each weight class will continue to have the wrestler's ranked top to bottom based on the current system.
- After review of the initial seeding, each team will have 2 challenges to the top 4 seeds in a weight class (i.e. each team may only challenge a maximum of 2 different weight classes total). Challenges may only be made for a wrestler outside of the top 4 to get into the top 4 or for a wrestler already within the top four to be moved up.
- Once the challenge has been enacted, the coach making the challenge needs to explain the slot they think the wrestler should be in, and be prepared with criteria as to why their wrestler should be moved up. The Head to Head and past TCYWL tournament placing should be considered heavily during this discussion. They will only have 4 minutes to explain their challenge
- After the challenge is made and criteria given, there will be 6 minutes (maximum) devoted to any rebuttals from representatives of affected wrestlers, followed by a 4 minute (maximum) discussion among the entire membership. If there is more than one challenge for a given weight class, all coaches making challenges will speak first (one at a time,) followed by rebuttals and discussion as above. The chair may allow additional time for discussion if deemed necessary.
- The seeding chair will coordinate a membership vote on the proposed change. Each team present will be allowed one vote; board members will not vote; tie goes to the original seeding. If there is a simple majority, the wrestler will be moved into the higher slot and the other wrestlers will be moved down accordingly. After the vote, no further discussion is allowed
- We will go weight class by weight class from highest to lowest. After the chairperson has asked for challenges at a given weight class, there will be no further challenges of that weight class.