



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

District Wrestling Memo February 9, 2026

Good afternoon, Head Wrestling Coaches, Officials, AD's, & Asst. AD's –

This memo contains information important to your District Wrestling Tournament, which is scheduled for **Saturday, February 14, 2026**. Below you will find information concerning your tournament. The complete Postseason Wrestling Manual can be found at the following link: [2025-26 Postseason Wrestling Manual](#)

1. DISTRICT WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS (ALL CLASSES)

- 8:00 weigh in with 10:00 start time
- Seeding meeting to follow weigh-ins
 - Seed all wrestlers in each weight class
 - TrackWrestling data helps provide an initial seeding, coaches should verify accuracy which will speed up the meeting
- If more than 8 wrestlers, pigtail matches are required to be a scoring participant in the Quarterfinals (no team points earned for pigtail matches)
- Two-three mats can be used for first two rounds only. Two mats only through the rest of the tournament.

2. TICKETING

- Tickets: \$8.00 plus fees through HomeTownTicketing.
- [Tickets | IHSAA](#)
 - Please contact Chelsea here in our office with questions: cclark@iahsaa.org
 - Tickets will be available starting @ 9:00am on Wednesday, February 11.

3. SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENT

- Pigtail matches (if necessary) – loser eliminated; winner entered into Quarterfinals
- Round 1- Quarterfinals (start pigtail winner match when 30-minute allows)
- Round 2- Round 1 consolation (losers eliminated) and Semifinals (winners advance to Finals, losers cross over to consolation)
- Suggested time for the 20–30-minute break
- Round 3- Round 2 consolation (winners advance, losers eliminated)
- Round 4- Finals and 3rd/4th matches (start simultaneously)
- Round 5- True second place (only if two competitors have not previously wrestled in this tournament)

4. TRACKWRESTLING

TrackWrestling will be used at all postseason wrestling competitions. You will not send any paper entry forms to the tournament manager. You will enter one wrestler per weight class by clicking on the green envelope – same method as you have used to enter wrestlers in tournaments all season. If you have any questions about entering your tournament, please contact TrackWrestling at this link <http://www.trackwrestling.com/tw/tickets/CreateTicket.jsp>. Click “Tournaments” then “Coach” and ask any questions you may have.

- On your TrackWrestling schedule page, your district meet is now listed as an event near the bottom of the page. Click on the green entry envelope next to the district meet name. The entry envelope will allow you to enter your wrestlers for the district meet.
- Please enter all information requested and by the deadlines stipulated below! Once the entry deadline has passed, coaches will enter their wrestler's head-to-head results to help with the seeding meeting.
- You can only enter one wrestler per weight class into the TrackWrestling online entry system so be sure it is the wrestler you anticipate will actually compete. You will have until **Thursday, February 12** at 6:00pm to enter your wrestlers into the tournament. Then, beginning at 6:01pm **Thursday, February 12** until 11:00pm, **Friday, February 13**, regular season head-to-head competition results will be entered/reviewed (including Regional and

State Dual results). We are applying the Iowa Seeding Criteria to each District meet, so most of the head-to-head should already be identified by the TW system. All wrestlers will be seeded prior to the byes being placed on a line. Final seeding will take place at the seeding meeting.

- Consideration should be given to the following when determining seed placement:
 - Varsity competition only
 - Head-to-head competition
 - Records against common opponents (byes do not count as a win)
 - Returning district or state champion or runner-up
 - Exceptional record against acknowledged strong opposition
 - Best overall record or random draw can be used to separate wrestlers with no differentiating criteria
- Seed all weight classes according to NFHS rule 10-3. (Numbers on the bracket in parentheses indicate seeded wrestlers). If wrestlers cannot be separated for seeds due to not being able to establish criteria, then a random draw should take place. There should not be a “coaches vote” to determine seeding in these situations.
- Final entries, including changing entries or the weight class at which wrestlers will weigh in, must be made with the tournament manager or his/her designee before the weigh ins begin.
- The declaration of the weight class in which each wrestler will compete must be made with the tournament manager or his/her designee before the last 285# wrestler steps off the scale. Coaches may verify entries privately with the tournament manager, or his/her designee, if they choose.

5. SEEDING CRITERIA

The Iowa Seed Criteria will be used to create the seeding and bracketing. Be sure that it gets applied when creating the brackets. We encourage you to gather the coaches together after weigh-ins have concluded and rosters and entries are final. Display the brackets after the Iowa Seed Criteria has been applied and make manual changes only if a compelling argument is made or a mistake is discovered. Keep in mind, coaches are responsible for checking the accuracy of their wrestlers’ results throughout the season, so having not done that prior to the District Tournament is the fault of the coach and is too late to be changed at this juncture. Also, locally created rules or decisions should not be allowed to happen. These would include not allowing for a “coaches vote” to determine a seed. This would also include allowing for the head-to-head criteria to be manipulated to reflect “last time out” to have greater consideration. On the contrary, a winning record for head-to-head takes precedence over “last time out,” so if Wrestler A leads the head-to-head 2-1 over Wrestler B, he gets that criteria. If Wrestler B lost the first two and then won over Wrestler A more recently, he still trails for that specific criteria vs. that opponent. There could be other criteria that might cause those two wrestlers to be separated in other ways (common opponents, returning state participant, etc), which is why we use the Iowa Seed Criteria to establish the seeds.

6. WEIGH INS

You must bring your TrackWrestling weigh-in form for the tournament as you have for meets all season. Also, bring the actual signed, regular season weigh-in sheets in case there is a question about where a wrestler has competed during the year. These actual weigh-in forms must be presented to the Meet Manager or his/her designee, if any questions arise regarding the weight class at which a wrestler is qualified to weigh-in. You can weigh-in two wrestlers per weight class even though only one wrestler per school can compete in each weight class. NFHS rules allow a wrestler to compete one weight class above the class for which they actually weigh in, as long as the coach notifies the tournament manager by the verification deadline, which is the completion of weigh ins.

- Any wrestler competing in a weight class for which they are not eligible for will be disqualified from the tournament.
- Please notify the schools competing in your tournament what time their wrestlers will be allowed to check their weight before weigh-ins begin.

7. COMMUNICABLE SKIN CONDITIONS

If a wrestler has a suspect skin condition, their coach must present a properly signed IHSAA [Wrestling Skin Condition Report form](#) at the time of weigh ins indicating the condition is not communicable as of the date of the tournament. It is

not permissible for a wrestler to leave the school and bring a signed form back before the tournament begins. If a DESIGNATED ON-SITE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL (Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Chiropractic, Physician Assistant, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, or certified Athletic Trainer) is available at weigh ins, he or she has the authority to rule on all skin conditions regardless of what the skin condition report form the coach presents may state. It is not the tournament manager's responsibility to provide a medical professional during weigh ins. If they do so, it will be as a courtesy only.

- Coaches, be sure you have the proper wrestling skin condition report form with you for any questionable skin conditions!
- Please clean the wrestling mats between rounds to help minimize the risk of wrestlers contracting communicable conditions!

8. MATS

Your tournament can be wrestled on two or three mats for the first two rounds ONLY. Two mats will be utilized for the remainder of the tournament. Remember the 5 feet of safety mat area from the out of bounds circle to the nearest obstacle, i.e., bleachers, walls, gym floors, tables, chairs, etc. must be adhered to. If this rule is not met, meaning there is not a safety mat area of 5 feet wide secured to and surrounding all mats, competition cannot be held until there is compliance with the rule. Compliance with this rule is the responsibility of meet management and shall be enforced by the official(s).

9. OTHER INFORMATION & LINKS

Below are other links that contain important information for the tournament in which your wrestlers will participate.

- [Review of Blood-Borne Pathogens Procedures](#)
- [Cheerleading – Postseason Rules](#)

The IHSAA wants each of the district host schools to be sure you have an on-site, designated medical professional at your tournament. These individuals can help solve problems as it relates to skin conditions and injuries, particularly when a Head, Neck and Cervical Column timeout might be needed!

The IHSAA is asking all team personnel (coaches, student-managers, and others representing your school) to dress in a professional manner for all postseason tournaments. Jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and caps/hats are not considered professional attire!

Thanks, best of luck to everyone, and if you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out.



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