

BYLAWS of the KENTUCKY STATE WRESTLING ASSOCIATION (KSWA) - Middle School Division

Bylaw 1. Membership

The association shall be composed of public and private school wrestling teams and wrestling clubs (see definition of school & club teams below). Member teams and coaches are required to comply with all KSWA Bylaws. All school & club teams are required to have a signed application membership on file with the KSWA.

A. A school team is a team in which all wrestlers attend the same middle school or elementary schools that are direct feeder schools into that middle school.

B. A club team is a team that has members from more than 1 middle school or members from elementary schools that are not direct feeders into the same middle school. This also includes “school” teams that allow athletes from Private schools to compete on their team.

C. Every team must sign and return a KSWA Bylaw acknowledgement form by 12/18/2015.

1. Teams may submit a late form up to 01/01/2016 with a \$50.00 late fee.

2. Any team that has not submitted a form by 01/01/2016 will not be allowed to compete in any KSWA events.

D. Every Team must abide by the league USAW Insurance requirement (see bylaw 16)

Bylaw 2. Administration and legislation

The governing body of the KSWA shall consist of the following:

A. Officers - president, vice president – middle school, vice president – youth, vice president – youth, secretary, and treasurer.

B. District Representatives - 1 per district.

C. Member representatives. (each team will have 1 designated member representative).

D. Officer elections will be held every two years.

Bylaw 3. Meetings

The KSWA will hold two statewide meetings annually. The meetings shall be held on the 3rd Sunday in May & the 3rd Sunday in September each year. Meeting site shall be located centrally within the state of Kentucky at a public location adequate in size. The time and specific location of meetings shall be announced on KSWA website (<http://www.kyusawrestling.com>) at a minimum of 30 days in advance. The KSWA president shall send out email notification to all member teams 1 month in advance, provided a valid email address is on file with the KSWA. KSWA meetings shall follow the following agenda:

- 1) Roll call
- 2) Reading of the previous minutes
- 3) Treasurers report
- 4) Election of officers (if applicable)
- 5) Regional reps reports
- 6) Old business
- 7) New business
- 8) Adjournment

Bylaw 4. Voting process

All proposals will be approved at the spring coaches meeting. Proposals that are accepted by more than 50% of teams present will be voted on at the fall coaches meeting. Teams will have the ability to absentee vote or assign a proxy in writing prior to the meeting. All absentee votes and proxy permissions must be turned in at the beginning of state-wide meetings (It is the responsibility of coaches wishing to vote this way to make contact an officer or district representative). All proposals must get more than 50% of the vote to be accepted. KSWA officers will receive 1 additional vote in the event of a tie. KSWA Officers

will make a reasonable effort to contact member teams to distribute meeting notes and proposals for vote. Member teams are responsible to keep contact information for their designated team representative up to date on the KSWA website (<http://www.kyusawrestling.com>).

ELIGIBILITY RULES

Bylaw 5. Responsibility for Eligibility

Each team's designated member representative is responsible for verification of eligibility. All wrestlers must have a "KSWA Middle School Eligibility" form filled out and signed by a school official (principal or athletic director) from their school. Member representatives must keep a copy of the eligibility form on file and be prepared to present to the KSWA if a wrestler's eligibility is challenged (see challenge process outlined below)

A wrestler is considered a member of a team the 1st time that they participate in a practice with a school / club team. Coaches are responsible for verifying proof of team membership using the KSWA Team Membership Form. The form may be downloaded from the league website (<http://www.kyusawrestling.com>) under forms.

Bylaw 5.1 Eligibility Challenge process

In the event that a member school would like to challenge the eligibility of a wrestler from another team, a formal challenge must be submitted to the president of the KSWA in writing along with all necessary fees (\$30.00). The form titled "Eligibility Challenge Form" can be downloaded at the league website (<http://www.kyusawrestling.com>) under Forms. Instructions on submitting the form will be included in the form. Upon receiving an eligibility challenge, the league president will contact the member representative responsible for the wrestler in question. The member representative will have 3 business days to provide required proof of eligibility to the league president. If required proof is not provided, the wrestler will not be permitted to compete in KSWA sponsored events.

Bylaw 6. Age

A wrestler who becomes 15 years old before August 1 shall be ineligible for competition in KSWA events.

Bylaw 7. Residency

All wrestlers must be Kentucky state residents and enrolled in a public or private school in the state of Kentucky. Legal residents attending school outside the state of Kentucky may request a waiver by notifying the KSWA president.

Bylaw 8. Academic requirements

- 1) The KSWA defers all decisions on academic eligibility (grades) to school designated administrators. Any wrestler that is ruled academically ineligible by a member school or club team shall not be allowed to compete in KSWA sponsored events until they have been cleared by that school.
- 2) **A student enrolled in 4th through 8th grade shall not be eligible for middle school wrestling for more than one season in each grade and is only eligible the first year in that grade. Repeating a grade for any reason will render the athlete ineligible. (Effective for the 2014-15 season after one year deferral)**

Bylaw 8.1 Safety requirements

All wrestlers are required to have an annual medical exam performed and signed by an approved medical professional on current form.

Bylaw 9. Transfer Rule

Any wrestler that joins a team and wishes to switch teams once the season has started is not eligible for competing in KSWA sanctioned events for the remainder of the current season in which they transferred, unless their transfer satisfied one of the required criteria for a KSWA approved transfer. KSWA officers have discretion (but are not required) to waive the period of ineligibility set forth above if one of the following exceptions has been met and can be verified prior to the date of transfer:

- A) BONA FIDE CHANGE IN RESIDENCE - If there has been a bona fide change in residence by the parents and

wrestler into a different school district. For purposes of this bylaw, a bona fide change of residence means the moving permanent residence of the entire family of the student and his/her parents from one school district into another school district or defined school attendance area.

B) DIVORCE - The KSWA will not recognize a legal separation as grounds for waiver of the provisions of this bylaw. The KSWA president may waive the provisions of this bylaw in the event of a dissolution of marriage (I.e. a final and legally binding divorce decree from a court of competent jurisdiction) of the parents and a change in residence of the student pursuant to a court order granting custody of the child to one of the parents with whom the student shall reside. In the event joint custody is awarded to both parents, for purposes of this bylaw, the student shall be deemed to reside at his or her previous residence if one parent's retains this residence. If neither parent retains the former residence, the parents shall designate one of their new residences (mother or father) for the purpose of this bylaw, such designation to be reviewed and approved by the president of the KSWA.

C) GUARDIANSHIP/CHANGE OF CUSTODY - The KSWA shall not recognize guardianship or similar arrangements made, for purposes of this bylaw. The president shall have authority to waive the provisions of this bylaw where it is shown that custody of the student has been taken from one or both parents and given to a third person by a court of competent jurisdiction and under circumstances indicating: (1) the parent(s) is/are unfit or (2) the court finds that the health and welfare of the student would be better served by the change in custody.

D) DEATH - In the event the death of one or both of the student's custodial parents creates such circumstances that the transfer to another school district is deemed appropriate.

Satisfying of one of the exceptions (A through D) will not be considered valid and a waiver of the period of ineligibility shall not be granted -

- 1) If the change in schools is to nullify or circumvent the actions of representatives or rules of the previous school or if the student left the sending school under penalty which would have resulted in their ineligibility at the sending school;
- 2) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions occurs after the switch in teams.
- 3) If the change in schools is motivated in whole or part by a desire to participate in athletics at the new school;
- 4) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions is used or manipulated for the purpose of gaining athletic eligibility;
- 5) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions by the student and the parents(s) does not reasonably precipitate a transfer to the new team.

The president of the KSWA may, as he/she deems necessary, appoint or hire a committee or investigator to conduct any inquiry or investigation concerning any issues arising under this bylaw or any other bylaw.

If any member team files a written objection to the factual validity of the certification before the conclusion of the period of time to which the period of ineligibility would normally apply, along with the specific, detailed basis for such, then a complete investigation shall be conducted by the KSWA and a ruling shall be issued through the KSWA president.

KSWA Events

Bylaw 10. State Duals, Districts, Regional's, and State Tournament

The KSWA will determine dates & locations of all KSWA events. These include (but are not limited to) middle school state duals, middle school districts, middle school regionals, and middle school state. Teams that wish to be considered for hosting an event must request this at the statewide KSWA meeting on the 3rd Sunday in May. Before consideration, host teams must show written proof that they have permission to use a school gym that is adequate to host the specific event. The KSWA shall provide awards for all post season events.

- 1) Districts/Regions - Host sites shall be rotated amongst regional schools. Each district/region is responsible for establishing a schedule of host sites in a fair manner.
- 2) Districts - Each team may enter an unlimited number of wrestlers in each weight class. Wrestlers may only compete in one weight class.
- 3) Regions – District qualifiers (1st through 4th place) advance to the regional tournaments.

- 4) Middle school state duals - State duals host site shall rotate from region to region each year. Each region is responsible for determining who shall host the state duals when it is their region's turn to host.

State Dual Representation:

- Current year district champion will represent their respective district – 8 teams
- Each region would vote on and send 1 at large bid to the state duals – 4 teams
 - In the event the region can not come up with an at large team the KSWA Officers will discuss and appoint a suitable replacement.

State Duals Format: Have a true 2nd and 3rd place winner at the state duals. This new format will allow the team that finishes 3rd in the pool format to dual the 2nd place team assuming that they had not already lost to the 2nd place team during the duals. (adopted May 2009)

- 5) Middle school state tournament - the middle school state tournament site shall be selected by a vote of the KSWA (as defined above).

6) TEAM SCORERS: *Teams must designate their team scorer for the regional tournaments and the individual state tournament to the tournament director(s) by the Tuesday preceding the event by 7:00 P.M. EST. If the designees are not received by this time, the highest place qualifier at that weight for the school / club team will be designated the team scorer for the tournament.*

- 7) SEEDING – tournament directors hosting KSWA events shall seed the events as follows:

- A) District – seed a minimum of 4 and maximum of 8 wrestlers per weight class, can seed more than one wrestler from the same club/team, set the remainder of the bracket via a blind draw which evenly distributes byes and separates the A & B wrestlers from the same club/team where possible
- B) State Duals – region champions are #1 seeds in the 4 pools (subject to coaches meeting discussion if injury, illness, etc. affect a #1 and majority agree on replacement) and blind draw will determine pool assignments separating teams/clubs from the same district

- 8) Post season roll-up plan – any open slot in a region or state tournament bracket will be filled via the following roll-up plan regardless of the reason for the opening (includes missing weight)

- A) Region – 5th place in same district, 6th place in same district, 5th place in opposite district, 6th place in opposite district
- B) Individual State – 5th place in same region, 5th place in another region as determined by the following rotation plan: Region 2, Region 1, Region 3, Region 4

Bylaw 11. Fees (*as voted at fall meeting September 2015*)

Sites hosting KSWA events shall agree to pay the KSWA a hosting fee of \$450. This fee is due to the KSWA along with the completed sanction form by 12/15/15. Teams hosting KSWA sponsored events will charge no more than \$16 per wrestler with no team/club maximum. The state tournament fee will be \$16 with no team/club maximum. In cases of financial hardships (i.e. justifiable high cost of medals) hosting organizations may request an exemption be granted by contacting the KSWA president. This should be voted on by teams participating in that event **no later than the start of the season.**

Bylaw 12. Tournament procedures

All KSWA events shall be ran in accordance with all guidelines established by the KSWA. These guidelines shall be contained in the document “KSWA Event Guidelines” and made available at the KSWA website (<http://www.kyusawrestling.com>)

Team/Club Responsibilities

Bylaw 13. Member Representatives.

- 1) Each team will have a designated member representative on file with the KSWA no later than December 1st. A member representative for each team must sign an acknowledgment of these bylaws and agree to adhere to the bylaws of the KSWA before they can compete in any KSWA sponsored

events. *The signed form must be on file with the KSWA by the 1st Monday in January of each wrestling season, in order for the school / club team to be eligible to compete in KSWA sanctioned wrestling events.*

The designee will be responsible for:

1. All communications between their team and the KSWA
 2. Financial obligations (tournament fees, referee fees, etc)
 3. Personal conduct of team members, team family members, coaches, fans, etc. from their team.
 4. Any and all necessary forms to be filed on behalf of their respective team to the KSWA
 5. Attending statewide meetings of the KSWA, reviewing meeting notes, keeping up to date on any changes to the KSWA bylaws.
- 2) Each team coach must adhere to the following requirements:
- a. Must be a high school graduate or have a GED
 - b. Must have current CPR/First aid certification
 - c. Must have USA coaches card with current background check
 - d. Must complete approved Sports Safety Training course
 - e. Upon completion of these requirements and completing the bylaw acknowledgement form each coach will be issued a KSWA coaches card. This card is required to coach at KSWA sanctioned events.

Match Rules/Referees

Bylaw 14. Match Rules/Referees

All KSWA events will be refereed by qualified referees who maintain a current wrestling official's certification with USA Wrestling. See Bylaw 16.4 for additional information.

KSWA events will follow the rules outlined by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules for wrestling. Any exceptions or modifications to these rules will be listed in these KSWA bylaws:

Bylaw 14.1 Exceptions/modifications to the NFHS rules as applied to the KSWA.

1. The KSWA will define their own weight classes. Weight classes will be defined by the KSWA no later than the September statewide meeting.
2. Matches will be three 90 second periods. *The minimum rest period between these matches shall be 30 minutes (Revised Sept 2010) from the conclusion of the previous match.*
3. Consolation matches will follow a 60-90-90 time format (Revised Sept 2010). *The minimum rest period between these matches shall be 30 minutes from the conclusion of the previous match.*
4. Weight Certification: Weight certification was eliminated in May 2009. Each wrestler is allowed a two-pound growth allowance on January 1st for all KSWA sponsored events.
5. KSWA events are sanctioned by USA wrestling. As such will not follow the 5 match rule.

Disciplinary Procedures

Bylaw 15. Disciplinary Procedures

Failure to comply with any of the above bylaws will lead to appropriate disciplinary action taken by the KSWA. The KSWA reserves the right to take appropriate actions against member teams, coaches, wrestlers, parents, & fans up to and including legal actions. KSWA officers will investigate any incidents requiring disciplinary actions, and notify the appropriate people in a timely manner. The KSWA has the right to refuse participation of any and all KSWA sponsored events in the event that the league officers determine it is appropriate.

Bylaw 15.1 Appeal process

A member representative may file one appeal per KSWA ruling to the KSWA President by submitting a one page document explaining why they feel a disciplinary action should be overturned. The KSWA president will distribute this appeal to regional reps & member representatives through email – along with the KSWA officers' facts of the case - with a "reply no later than date". Once all votes are tallied, the member representative filing the appeal will be notified of the outcome. All voting results will be tracked and made available to the person filing the appeal. This decision will be final and no other appeals will be considered.

Insurance

Bylaw 16 – Required League Insurance - Adopted September 20, 2009

1. Every wrestler must have a USA Wrestling Membership Card (**\$15 KY League Card minimum**) on file in order to participate in KSWA sanctioned vents: Districts, Regions, State Duals & Individual State Tournament.
2. There must be at least one (1) card carrying coach per team present at all KSWA events. Coaches must obtain coaching cards (\$50.00) online through USAW and complete the online background check.
3. All KSWA sanctioned events will also be “sanctioned” through USA Wrestling by the event host. KSWA will cover the sanction fee and complete the application with Keith Smith.
4. All referees at KSWA events must be licensed through USAW. Referees will be able to register with USAW the morning of each event. KYUSAW will cover the \$25 fee for all referees participating in all USAW “Sanctioned” events including Non-KSWA events.
5. A verified and current list of names of all insured athletes and coaches will be provided by Keith Smith (KYUSAW Director) to the association. List will be available on league website.
6. All schools/clubs are encouraged to charter their team as a USAW Club, however this is not a requirement of the KSWA.

Bylaw 16.7 Procedures to Comply with KSWA required USAW Insurance:

- ⊖ Teams have the option to purchase \$15 KY League cards and/or the full \$40 USAW cards. League cards are the minimum requirement. KY League Cards can be upgraded for \$25 to a full USAW membership at the conclusion of the season.-Forms are available at www.kyswa.org. Checks and completed forms should be mailed to Keith Smith. League cards only cover wrestler while wrestling in Kentucky.
- Coaches obtain Coaches Card (\$50.00) online from USAW (www.themat.com) including the background check
- Keith Smith will mail blank league cards to coach. Coaches should fill in wrestler names and have both athlete and parent sign the cards.
- District Tournament managers will not check cards. They will utilize the insured list provided by Keith Smith to verify insurance.
- Teams are required to purchase team cards prior to the District Tournament.
 - Register on trackwrestling.com
 - Go to <http://www.trackwrestling.com/dualmeets>
 - Select the season you are logging into (Middle School/Youth Folkstyle)
 - Select a user type of 'Administrator'
 - Enter your username and password
 - Click on the [Enter Season] button
 - Go to the Roster and add all wrestlers
 - Print off your roster and mail the list to Keith Smith along with payment
 - Please do not try to insure your entire team during District check-in. This will delay the start of the tournaments.
 - Failure to submit insurance information on time will result in your team not being allowed to participate in any KSWA events!

Individual State Tournament Coach’s Floor Passes / Hospitality Room

Bylaw 17

1. Each participating team will receive 2 free coach’s passes that will allow them access to the competition floor area as well as the hospitality room.
2. Teams have the option to purchase up to two (2) additional passes for \$15 each.

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3. No team will be allowed more than 4 passes.
4. Individuals wishing to gain access to the floor for video and/or photography may purchase a “floor only” band for \$20.
 - a. Any photographers attempting to coach will be removed from the floor immediately.

Limitation of seasons

Bylaw 15.1 Season

- 1) As the KSWA season ends 2 weeks prior than KHSAA season, the first organized practice shall not occur prior to October 1.
- 2) First competition shall not take place earlier than week 18 (per corresponding date calendar) which corresponds to Nov 1 for the 2015-16 season

Bylaw 15.2 Competition

- 1) Each team will have a maximum of 17 weigh-ins prior to the beginning of post season competition (district tournament)
- 2) Each team is allowed a maximum of 2 scrimmages (defined as an organized event between 2 teams)