



**POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**FOR**

**WRESTLING**

**2025-26**



**NHIAA WRESTLING COMMITTEE**

Brian Bumpus, Chair, Hollis/Brookline; Todd Austin, Plymouth;  
Barry Chooljian, Timberlane; Scott Insinga, Salem; Ham Munnell, Concord;  
Dave Rhoads, Pinkerton; Keith Richard, Nashua South;  
Rick Ross, Supervisor, Hooksett; Mark Williams, Londonderry

**New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association**  
251 Clinton Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301-8432  
Phone 603-228-8671  
E-Mail [info@nhiaa.org](mailto:info@nhiaa.org)

This manual is published by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association 251 Clinton Street Concord, NH 03301 – Neither the whole nor part of this publication may be copied or reproduced and/or translated without first obtaining written permission from the publisher.

**POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

- I. The NHIAA has By-Laws as well as Policy and Procedures. These serve similar, but separate purposes. As such, both the By-Laws and this document should be reviewed to ensure overall NHIAA compliance as well as sport-specific policies. <https://www.nhiaa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/40HB%2024-25%20XXXVIII%20Wrestling.pdf>
- II. Hydration/Body Fat Testing Time Line
- A. No wrestler may compete in a meet until he/she has successfully been through the testing.
  - B. Start Hydration/body fat testing Monday of (W18), November 3, 2025
  - C. Wrestling “alpha master weights” must be reported by Monday of (W23), December 8, 2025 on the NWCA website (nwcaonline.com)/TrackWrestling.com. This form must be submitted to the NHIAA by the Athletic Director.  
**NOTE:** Schools must be a member of the NWCA to have access to the online forms.
  - D. Any new wrestler would need to be certified before competing wrestling and the NHIAA is notified of hydration/body fat testing.
  - E. Appeal Process – see Wrestling Weight Program
- III. Forms and due dates
- A. Team rosters are due on TrackWrestling.com website by Monday (W23), December 8, 2025  
**NOTE:** A member of the committee will check each Division to be sure rosters are entered for the Meets.
  - B. NWCA ALPHA Master results form to NHIAA by Monday (W23), December 8, 2025
  - C. Wrestling Weight Certification Form – Thursday following the second Saturday in January - January 15, 2026
    - Instructions for Coaches:
      1. Go to [www.trackwrestling.com](http://www.trackwrestling.com)
      2. Login with to the OPC
      3. In the menu bar, go under my account
      4. Click on my extras
      5. Click on link ‘Wrestler Made Scratch’
      6. Select the wrestlers scratch weight class
      7. Enter date they made their scratch weight
      8. Click save
  - D. Wrestling Coaches Survey – link will be sent via email. Due Monday (W30), January 26, 2026.
  - E. Postseason line-ups for the divisional tournaments should be submitted in FloArena/FloWrestling by Sunday (W33), February 15, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.  
Line-ups for the Girls' States should be submitted in FloArena/Flowrestling by Monday, February 23, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.  
Line-ups for the Meet of Champions do not need to be entered. They will be automatically carried over by the tournament clerk from the divisional tournaments and removing any female athletes that have qualified but have opted to enter the girls' states.

Notes for support:

All NH teams exist in FloArena already as part of setup for FloWrestling and Kap Wrestling running MA and CT seasons and state tournaments. For new coaches and coaches that have never setup their team in FloArena, coaches should setup an account by navigating to <http://bit.ly/floaccount>, the email [info@kapwrestling.com](mailto:info@kapwrestling.com) with the team that they require access for, and Kap Wrestling will setup their email address to their team.

Coaches will have two ways of entering registration for their team:

1. Navigate to <https://events.flowrestling.org>
  - a. Click My Dashboard in the upper-right corner of the screen
  - b. Under Role, select Coach
  - c. Verify that the correct team is displayed (should only be one team, but some coaches may have more than one team assigned to their profile for various reasons)
  - d. Click Calendar
  - e. In the calendar, find February 21, 2026, click NHIAA Div. X Tournament where X is the appropriate division for their team, and click Registration, or find February 28, 2026 if you are registering for Girls' States.
2. Follow the registration line emailed to you or the link provided below and then click Register in the top-right hand corner.

F. Registration Process:

Depending on the method of accessing the registration page, you may be brought to a login screen where you will select your team from a drop-down list and then enter the password provided to you by email which is specific to the tournament.

- a. Once in the registration screen, from the left-hand panel, select the wrestlers on your team and click Add Selected.
  - i. You will be walked through verifying information for each wrestler and assigning them a weight class, and providing any seeding criteria requested.
  - ii. For Wrestlers not appearing in the list, click Add Wrestler towards the top of the page and fill out the required information.
- b. Click Continue
- c. On the Payment page, you will see a list of the wrestlers that you are registering and a \$0 cost. Click confirm registration and you will be brought to the receipt page where you will have your proof of registration.
- d. You may repeat this process to add and remove wrestlers until the registration is closed.

G. All varsity level, in and out-of-state competition results must be entered on website – Sunday of (W33), February 15, 2026, at 11:59 a.m.

IV. When a school makes a request for a petition to practice with another team within closest proximity and obtain independent status, they must have less than five athletes. If more athletes join the team throughout the preseason, they will remain as independents. The deadline to declare your status is September 15th. Independent wrestlers may enter and compete in individual varsity tournaments. These tournaments usually take place on the weekends and vacations. All other competition will be non-varsity and will be considered exhibition. Any and all competition, varsity and non-varsity, dual meets and tournaments, must be agreed upon in advance by both Athletic Directors.

V. A disqualified athlete is not to be sent to the locker room or off the mat unsupervised. If no supervision is available the disqualified athlete shall remain on the bench and become the coach's responsibility to supervise.

VI. The following violations will result in a team forfeiture/disqualification of the ineligible player per NHIAA By-Laws, which supercede NFHS rules:

- I. Using an athlete that has not successfully passed the hydration/body composition testing, etc
- II. Using an athlete who has passed the hydration/body composition testing but wrestled in the wrong weight class.

- VI. Athletic Trainers - Schools requesting medical services are to provide the necessary supplies for the athletic trainer at all regular season and tournament events.
- VII. Submitted schedules are final. Teams may not be eligible for post season play when a meet submitted is not wrestled.
- VIII. Weight Allowances:  
Any wrestling meet held in NH must adhere to weight allowance rules per the NFHS.
- IX. **By-Law Article I: Policy; Sect: 9: Preseason Contests**  
Scrimmages, exhibitions, practice meets, practice matches and jamborees involving any NHIAA member school are permitted from the first day of practice for that sport, however, they are not permitted after the first scheduled contest has been played by a school in that sport.  
Such scrimmages, exhibitions, practice meets, practice matches and jamborees must be used for the express purpose of instruction and practice only. No pre-season team tournaments are permissible under this By-Law. Participation in out-of-state pre-season contests must receive sanctioning in accordance with By-Law Article VII, Sanctioning Procedures for Athletic Competition.  
Schools should determine an appropriate amount of time for pre-season conditioning prior to entering into any pre-season contest.  
No NHIAA member school shall participate in a pre-season scrimmage or contest (in-state or out-of-state) when the opponent counts the game/event as a regular season game/event on their official schedule.
- X. The round of 16 in all of the Divisional Meets will be a non scoring round unless **40** or more bouts are in the round. If there are **40** or more bouts in the round of 16 they will be scored utilizing the double bonus scoring system. The number of bouts will be determined during the seeding meeting for the Divisional Meets after all entrants have been confirmed.  
The tournament clerk will be responsible for determining the double bonus based on the above criteria. If there are any bouts in the round of 32 they will be non-scoring.
- XI. Coaches of the host school are responsible for all match result entries. At neutral site events, the home team as designated by the referee will enter the results.  
  
At tournaments, the coach of the winning wrestler will be responsible for entering match results if the software has not automatically done so for them.  
  
All non-varsity matches, if entered, shall be flagged as non-varsity in the system.
- XII. The Meet of Champions and the Girls State Championships are not team-scoring events. If the coaches association desires to have scores kept at these tournaments for their own purposes, the NHIAA will facilitate this assuming that any awards that are presented are done so for both tournaments.

# POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

1. **Divisional Meets:**

The 2025-26 Divisional Meets will all take place on **Saturday, February 21, 2026.**

### Schedule For Divisional Meets

	<b>Skin Checks</b>	7:45 a.m.
	Weigh-Ins Start	8:00 a.m.
<b>Division I</b> – Londonderry High School	Coaches Meeting	8:30 a.m.
<b>Division II</b> – Goffstown High School	Preliminaries	9:00 a.m.
<b>Division III</b> – ConVal Regional High School	Quarterfinals	
	Consolation – 1 <sup>st</sup> Round	
	Consolation – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	
	Semi-Finals	
	Consolation	
	END SESSION	
	Medal Round	

Awards will be given during the medal matches occurring two (2) weight classes after the wrestler competes. For example, 106lb coed will receive their awards during the 120lb coed matches. Wrestlers should report to the podium area wearing school attire. At the discretion of the tournament director, the method of running the medal rounds as well as the NHIAA awards ceremony order may change. Any awards given out by the coaches association may only be given out after the final weight classes have received their awards.

2. **State Tournament Participation/Supervision:**

The State Tournament is open to all student athletes who have qualified. In order to participate in the event(s), the athlete must have a school designated adult supervisor that has been appointed by the Principal of the participating school to be in attendance at the event throughout the athlete’s participation. Only NHIAA enrolled coaches per BLA; Policy; Sect. 28: Coaches Eligibility will be allowed in the competition area during the event.

A student athlete may not participate until the designated adult supervisor representing the school has identified themselves to the meet/match director.

3. **Girls Wrestling Meet Of Champions:** *change as of 10/17/25*

The Girls *Wrestling Meet Of Champions* will be held on *Friday*, February 27, 2026, at Pinkerton Academy. The tournament is open to all female wrestlers NOT wrestling in the *Boys Wrestling Meet of Champions*. Individual medals will be awarded to the top four (4) competitors in each weight class. The weight allowance will be plus three pounds over the scratch weight.

<b><u>Schedule For Girls Meet of Champions</u></b>	
Skin Checks	1:45 p.m.
Weigh-ins Start	2:00 p.m.
Coaches' Meeting	2:30 p.m.
Preliminaries	3:00 p.m.
Quarterfinals/Consolation -1 <sup>st</sup> round	
Consolation -2 <sup>nd</sup> round	
Semifinals/ Consolation	
Medal Round (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , True 2 <sup>nd</sup> if needed)	

Awards will be given during the medal matches occurring two (2) weight classes after the wrestler competes. For example, 100lb will receive their awards during the 114lb girls matches. Wrestlers should report to the podium area wearing school attire.

At the discretion of the tournament director, the method of running the medal rounds as well as the NHIAA awards ceremony order may change.

Any awards given out by the coaches association may only be given out after the final weight classes have received their awards.

4. **Boys Wrestling Meet Of Champions:**

The *Boys* Meet of Champions will be held on **Saturday, February 28, 2026**, at Pinkerton Academy. The top six (6) competitors from the Division I Tournament, the top five (5) competitors from the Division II Tournament and the top four (4) competitors from the Division III Tournament will advance to the Meet of Champions. Individual medals will be awarded to the top six (6) competitors in each weight class. The weight allowance will be plus three pounds over the scratch weight for the Meet of Champions.

<b><u>Schedule For Meet of Champions</u></b>	
Skin Checks	7:45 a.m.
Weigh-ins Start	8:00 a.m.
Coaches' Meeting	9:00 a.m.
Preliminaries	9:00 a.m.
Quarterfinals/Consolation -1 <sup>st</sup> round	
Consolation -2 <sup>nd</sup> round	
Semifinals/ Consolation	
Medal Round	

The starting weight class order of Championship Final bouts for 1st place at the Meet of Champions will be selected by random draw by the tournament director prior to the semi-final round of the tournament. This random draw will determine only the first weight class to be wrestled, with the remaining weights following in successive order.

Awards will be given during the medal matches occurring two (2) weight classes after the wrestler competes. For example, 106lb will receive their awards during the 120lb matches. Wrestlers should report to the podium area wearing school attire.

At the discretion of the tournament director, the method of running the medal rounds as well as the NHIAA awards ceremony order may change.

Any awards given out by the coaches association may only be given out after the final weight classes have received their awards.

5. **Wrestling Rules:**

The National Federation High School Wrestling Rules will govern competition. All protests will follow Rule 6-6-5 as to proper procedure.

6. **Weigh-In Procedures:**

“Only NFHS weigh-in procedures shall be followed for all NH regular season and tournament events. (NFHS Rule 4; Sect. 5 Weighing In)” Once an athlete enters the weigh-in area, they are subject to these rules.

7. **New England Meet:**

The top three (3) competitors for boys in each weight class at the Meet of Champions will qualify to represent New Hampshire at the New England Wrestling Championships. The top two (2) competitors for girls in each weight class at the Meet of Champions will qualify to represent New Hampshire at the New England Wrestling Championships.

In girls brackets ONLY, an additional match to determine the true second place finisher will be wrestled in instances where both the 2nd and 3rd place finishers only lost to the champion of the bracket. These matches will be wrestled during the finals round on the first available mat, once the appropriate rest time has passed following the conclusion of matches in a given weight class.

8. **Admission Fees:**

Please refer to By-Law Article I: Policy; Sect. 18; Admission Fees for NHIAA Tournament Events.

9. **Fifty/Fifty (50/50) Raffles:**

Fifty/Fifty drawings are permitted by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA); at the site of an NHIAA member school hosting any round of an NHIAA tournament event (s). Fifty-fifty raffles will not be permitted at “neutral sites” that are not NHIAA Member School sites.

10. **Taunting:**

Taunting in all sports is a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul, which shall result in the ejection of the participant from that day of competition, plus the next day of scheduled competition.

**Taunting is defined as:** “Any actions or comments by coaches, players, or other game personnel which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is contact that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal matters.”

Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to “trash talk”, physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game, reference to sexual orientation; “in the face” confrontations by one player to another; standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player.

**NOTE:** This policy reinforces the responsibility of game officials, site managers, and game directors during regular season and NHIAA Tournament play.

11. **Facilities:**

Facilities will be available to teams for dressing/changing purposes. The cafeteria will also be available for use. Division I, II, and III are 3-mat events. Meet of Champions is a 5-mat event.

12. **Coaches’ Meetings:**

There will be no coaches meeting after February’s seeding’s meeting. The seeding’s report will be emailed to coaches upon completion.

13. **Admission Passes:**

In accordance with By-Law Article I, Section 12, C, passes will be distributed to school administrators for use at the wrestling tournaments. There will be a separate entrance for coaches and team personnel. A predetermined number will be checked in at the gate: up to six (6) NHIAA enrolled coaches for a boys’ program, and up to eight (8) NHIAA enrolled coaches for both boys’ and girls’ programs. Only NHIAA enrolled coaches per BLA; Policy; Sect. 28: Coaches Eligibility will be given a coach’s pass and allowed in the competition area during the event.

14. **Tournament:**

Each school will have 14 seeded wrestlers and four (4) team personnel. For Meet of Champions, 14 qualified wrestlers will be allowed into the event.

15. **Seedings:**

Division Meets Seedings will be done by the Wrestling Committee on the Tuesday prior to the meet. Seedings for the State Meet of Champions will be done on a pre-established seedings' chart. **All seedings are final.** In the event a wrestler may not participate, another athlete may enter if he is not already entered into the tournament and meets all the qualifying criteria. The Committee Chair or the Tournament Clerk must be notified of such a change by 8:00 p.m. on the night prior to the beginning of the competition.

Once the official NHIAA Tournament dates have been released, there shall be **NO** date or time changes with two (2) exceptions:

- A. Graduation
- B. Weather and/or facility issues

16. **Seeding Criteria For Divisional Tournaments:**

Wrestlers will be seeded for the three divisional tournaments using a formula to ranking wrestlers based on the current regular season and prior year's post-season results. Once the wrestlers are ranked, their seeds will be finalized through a manual review of head-to-head records against other entries of the same weight class, overall in-state record, common opponents, prior year placing in post season tournaments, and wins over acknowledged strong opponents.

17. **Meet Of Champions:**

The Division I Champion, Division I Runner up, Division II Champion and Division III Champion shall be considered for the top 4 seeds at the Meet of Champions.

**Seeding Criteria:**

- 1. All head-to-head records against each other and common opponents.
- 2. Use of a power ranking index formula.

	Previous Year NE Place	Previous Year MOC Place	Current Year DIV I Place	Current Year DIV 2 Place	Current Year DIV 3 Place	Current year WINS	Current Year LOSSES
1	90	80	70	60	50	4X each	-1 each
2	80	70	60	50	40		
3	70	60	50	40	30		
4	60	50	40	30	20		
5	50	40	30	20			
6	40	30	20	10			

Meet of Champions Seeding: If a seeded wrestler 1-4 is scratched from the event he would be replaced for seeding consideration by the next wrestler in that same division. Remaining wrestlers in that division would move up in that bracket.

\* Wins/Losses include both in-state and out-of-state competition

- 3. Remaining Seeds: The remaining wrestlers will be placed in the bracket based on their placement in the divisional tournaments:

5	DII-2	11	DI-3
6	DII-4	12	DI-4
7	DIII-2	13	DIII-4
8	DII-3	14	DIII-3
9	DI-5	15	DII-5
10	DI-6		

4. Scratches:
- A. When scratches occur, move wrestlers in the same division up a spot. (example. DII-2 scratches, then D II-3 moves to D II-2 slot, D II-4 moves to D II-3 slot and so on)
  - B. Once all scratches have been made and wrestlers have been moved, assess the equity of byes in the bracket.
    - If there is an inequity in byes (2 First Round byes in the same quarter-final section of the bracket when another quarter-final section has zero byes), it is appropriate to move a wrestler away from their pre-set bracketing position.
    - When determining who to move, consider the following:
      - i. If possible, avoid an intra-division matchup
      - ii. Wrestlers matched with the 3 and 4 seeds are the first wrestlers considered for movement.
    - EXAMPLE: For example, when a Division 1 wrestler scratches and the D1-6 spot is vacated and there are no other scratches, there is an inequity of byes in the bottom quarterfinal. To fix this, the DII-5 can move to the DI-6 position to wrestle the DIII-2 as it would not create an intra-division match-up and would eliminate the inequity.
  - C. Scratches must be reviewed, at a minimum, by the tournament director and the clerk. If neither the clerk or director is a member of the wrestling committee, a member of the committee must also review and approve the changes.

18. **Hosting Tournaments:**

All schools will be allowed to bid for the hosting of future Divisional Meets and the State Meet of Champions by fulfilling the criteria established by the NHIAA Wrestling Committee.

The NHIAA Wrestling Committee is in the process of accepting proposals for hosting the Division I, II and III Wrestling Championships and the Meet of Champions for the 2026-27; 2027-28 seasons. The host school will be required to hold the event for two years, provide all custodial services at the host schools expense. The NHIAA will provide \$100 toward security for the event.

All monies from concessions will be retained by the host schools.

19. **Tournament Program Sales:**

The NHIAA holds the exclusive rights to publish New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) programs. In the event that an NHIAA Sport Standing Committee elects to produce a program without NHIAA assistance, procedures must be adhered to as follows:

- A. The NHIAA name and logo must be prominently displayed on the outside cover.
- B. A sportsmanship message must be included in the program.
- C. There will be no advertising that includes alcohol or tobacco products.
- D. A good faith effort must be made to give balanced representation among participating schools in terms of advertising and promotions.

The following disclaimer must be at the beginning of the program. “The contents of this program are not endorsed by the NHIAA and no financial remuneration will be forwarded to the NHIAA.”

20. **Certification Policy:**

In accordance with By-Law Article XXXVII: Wrestling; Sect. 3:

“All wrestlers will certify their scratch weights no later than the second Saturday in January.”

- In the case of a weather related cancellation on the second Saturday, wrestlers will certify on the day of their school's next competition weigh-in (match or tournament). Notification of the NHIAA or the Wrestling Committee Chairman is required.
- Other types of extensions can be granted by the NHIAA Wrestling Committee if a proper appeal is filed. All necessary written material, including signed waiver form and medical documentation, must accompany any appeal.

**The deadline for receiving waiver requests is at noon on the Thursday before the scheduled seedings meeting.**

**21. Blood Spillage And Body Fluids:**

The NHIAA Sports Medicine Committee suggests that each school develop a local policy in cooperation with their local medical personnel, on how to handle blood spillage.

**Housekeeping Procedures for Blood and Body Fluids**

Disposable latex gloves should be worn to avoid contamination of the hands of the person cleaning spillages involving blood or other body fluids and secretions. Persons involved in cleaning contaminated surfaces should avoid exposure of open skin lesions or mucous membranes to blood or body fluids. A freshly prepared solution of dilute household bleach (one quarter cup of bleach diluted in one gallon of water) or other disinfectant labeled as Virucidal, Tuberculocidal, Staphylocidal is useful. Allow the disinfectant to stand wet for a minimum of one minute to start killing pathogens and disinfecting the area (10 minutes of disinfection time guarantees surface sterility). Whenever possible, disposable towels, tissues, and gloves should be used and properly discarded and mops should be rinsed in disinfectant.

**22. Interpretation Of Excessive Bleeding:**

National Federation Rules call for a player, who is bleeding, has an open wound or excessive blood on the uniform, to leave the court/field.

The NHIAA interprets "excessive blood on the uniform" to mean that part of the uniform is saturated with blood. Saturated does not mean a wet spot. Saturated means a major portion of the garment is covered and soaked with blood. For this to occur, significant bleeding would have had to take place. For any blood on uniform less than "saturated", the uniform does not have to be changed. School personnel have the responsibility of treating the blood area with the appropriate disinfecting solution before the athlete may participate. If the uniform is "saturated" with blood, the uniform must be changed before the athlete may participate. This interpretation is to be followed in the conduct of all NHIAA athletic events.

**23. Weight Loss Procedure: See By-Law Article XXXVIII: Wrestling**

<https://www.nhiala.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/40HB%2024-25%20XXXVIII%20Wrestling.pdf>

**24. Consecutive Competitions:**

Consecutive days of competition will follow National Federation Rule 4; Sect. 5: Article 5, and the aforementioned notification must be between school administrators.

**25. Medical Coverage:**

At the athletic competitions where medical coverage is either provided or mandated by the NHIAA, injuries sustained by athletes will be evaluated by the designated medical personnel. The clearance to re-enter competition after an injury will be made by the medical personnel only. Their decision is final and cannot be overturned by the coach, coaching staff, parents/guardians, or any non-designated personnel.

**26. NHIAA Site Selection Criteria Policy:**

NHIAA Sports Committees will make every effort to provide sites with the following criteria in mind. The criteria are not listed in order of priority.

- A. If the home team cannot fulfill all criteria necessary to host a tournament game, including charging an admission fee for the preliminary or quarterfinal games, the school shall locate another site.
- B. Health and safety of participants
- C. Comfort and safety of spectators (including adequate seating, parking and restrooms)
- D. Handicapped accessible for spectators
- E. Relative travel requirements of participating schools

- F. The ability to sell, collect and account for ticket sales
- G. Playing surfaces must meet the requirements as established for that sport
- H. Facility rental charge (if applicable)
- I. Sufficient parking
- J. Receptivity and cooperativeness of personnel working at site.
- K. Provide concessions (Facility keeps all sales).
- L. Provide area for NHIAA memorabilia sales.
- M. Ability to host tournament on Sunday in case of emergency or postponement.
- N. A separate seating area for officials and coaches away from spectators shall be provided.
- O. Specific Requirements to Host a Wrestling Meet:

The list is as follows:

- Two (2) year commitment
- Police and extra security if needed
- Placement for wall charts
- Locker rooms
- Clocks
- Sub-varsity athletes to run the score cards to the wall charts
- Time keepers
- A grandstand for pictures and awards
- Ticket takers and persons to control the doors
- Buckets, Cleaning items
- Booster Clubs
- Help with breaking down the mats
- Custodians
- Power to all scoring tables
- Bout boards as desired and required by the facility
- Internet Access:
  - For tournaments that are not streaming matches to the Internet, wired or wireless Internet access needs to be provided for the head table computer to be able to send results to the tournament platform.
  - For tournaments that are streaming matches to the Internet, a wired internet connection is required. This connection will be used via a private network which is brought in to support the streaming setup.

The Committee is to provide such things as:

- Officials
- An assistant clerk, and a clerk
- Athletic trainer
- Score keeper
- Wall charts

## 28. **Jewelry And Body Piercing Rule:**

No jewelry, which includes body-piercing objects, shall be worn. Religious or medical alert medals must be properly secured under the uniform. Per the NFHS, Dermal Piercings are considered jewelry and are not allowed. These piercings are inserted into the skin and require a medical procedure to remove them. The decorative part screws onto the pin or screw that protrudes from the skin. Even with a bandage over it would seem to pose a potential hazard to the athlete. Coaches will be asked if their athletes are properly equipped, which includes no jewelry. If discovered, the athlete will be removed from the competition until rectified.

29. **Snow Schedules for Wrestling:**

All wrestlers get a one (1) pound allowance per day of postponement.

**Divisional Meets**

**Plan I**

Two (2) hour delay

**Plan II**

Move to Sunday with same schedule

**Meet of Champions**

**Plan I**

Two (2) hour delay

**Plan II**

Move to Sunday with same schedule

**Plan III**

Move to Sunday with one (1) hour delay

30. **Divisional Alignment:** See By-Law Article XXXVIII: Wrestling

<https://www.nhcaa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/40HB%2024-25%20XXXVIII%20Wrestling.pdf>

# NHIAA WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## ASSESSORS GUIDE

### 2025-26

The primary purpose for this program is to insure the future and safety of scholastic wrestling programs in the State of New Hampshire. It has been developed in response to the concern for guidance of young wrestlers as they make decisions about diet, nutrition, and weight control. It has been documented that wrestlers often attempt to lose weight rapidly to gain a perceived advantage over their opponent. The program is designed to assist in avoiding potentially harmful rapid weight reduction practices utilized to achieve specific weight class participation.

Coaches, parents, and administrators will ask questions about the program as you deliver the service of assessments, so it will be important to become aware of its total implications. Information has been provided throughout the manual to assist you with background information. Of specific interest are the materials from such organizations as the American College of Sports Medicine and other such influential groups. Articles from professional periodicals that support the assessment process and the program are particularly helpful since they will provide research, scientific, and empirical information.

#### ASSESSORS EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION

The education program is designed to identify, select, and register individuals capable of representing the NHIAA as “assessors” for the Regulations aspect of the Program. All prospective assessors are required to attend an NHIAA approved Assessor Training program to be certified as an assessor.

#### THE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

When an individual is registered with the NHIAA as an “Assessor” there is an automatic concern for professional responsibility. There is an expectation of the highest professional and ethical conduct relative to performing assessments on the young wrestlers in New Hampshire. These young wrestlers should be treated with the highest regard for their “right to privacy” and for the confidentiality of all data collected on them for this program. As an NHIAA registered assessor you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner. There will be times when professional judgment will be involved to clarify and validate the assessment process; the greater the depth of your understanding of body composition assessment, the more capable you will be to represent the NHIAA and the program.

#### ASSESSMENT FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to standardize the assessment procedures and the calculations to determine minimal weight.

#### ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

##### TIME PERIOD FOR MEASUREMENT

Assessments may begin on **Monday, November 3, 2025**. Wrestlers **MAY** be measured any time on or following this date to establish the “ALPHA” weight (weight and associated %Body Density at the time of initial assessment for the school year). All wrestlers, including those coming out late (after the beginning of the season) must have their minimum weight class established prior to competing. It is the school’s responsibility to contact an approved “Assessor” from the list posted on the NHAA web site.

#### HYDRATION REQUIREMENT

Specific gravity assessment of the urine will determine whether a candidate may participate in the measurement process. Dehydration will concentrate urine and thereby increase the urine’s specific gravity. Accurate determination of minimum wrestling weight from assessment requires the wrestler to be properly hydrated. The specific gravity of a hydrated individual will be 1.025g/ml or lower. If the wrestler has a specific gravity above the predetermined level, he/she may NOT be assessed for body composition. It is up to the Assessor to administer this test with assistances from the school.

#### BODY DENSITY / WEIGHT ASSESSMENT

Those meeting the specific hydration requirement will proceed to the area where the assessment for body composition will be done. This area will be controlled so the Assessor can concentrate on the accuracy and communication of scores to the recorder. In addition the setting should allow privacy for the subject and confidentiality of the recorded information.

#### APPEALS / REASSESSMENT

The last date appeals and reassessments may be made is **February 12, 2026**. The wrestler may appeal his/her body composition measurements **one time** by reassessment. The reassessment will be done using the same method as the original assessment. The appeal must be done within 14 calendar days starting the day after the Alpha date. The assessor will enter the new assessment as an **appeal** into the computer. An updated Alpha Master sheet must be submitted to the NHIAA within 24 hours. The wrestler must adhere to the 1.5% weight loss plan starting from the original alpha date.

**Note:** During the appeal process, a wrestler may not wrestle in a weight class lower than that indicated by his/her official weight loss table as established at the alpha weigh-in.

Any athlete may appeal his/her % body fat measurement or calculation using a two-step process that must begin within 14 days of the original assessment.

Step 1. Reassessment – The athlete shall repeat the assessment and must use the same method. An updated Alpha Master sheet must be submitted to the NHIAA with in 24 hours.

Step 2. Hydrostatic Weighing or Bod Pod: If the wrestler is dissatisfied with the results of step one, he/she may choose to be reevaluated using either hydrostatic weighing or the Bod Pod to determine body fat percentage. An updated Alpha Master sheet must be submitted to the NHIAA with in 24 hours.

**These results are final and no further appeals are allowed.**

- Step 2 must take place within 21 days of the original assessment
- The Hydrostatic weighing or Bod Pod must be completed before an athlete on appeal wrestles in a weight class lower than that indicated by his/her original assessment.

### **NHIAA Wrestling Weight Assessor Testing Procedures**

- 1) Prior to assessment date, information is provided to each NHIAA wrestling coach via the Wrestling Policy and Procedures Manual. Coaches should copy the **Parent Release Form** and the **Staying Hydrated For Top Performance** flier. Each wrestler must be informed of the importance of hydration and be provided with the parent release form.

#### **HYDRATION TEST**

- 1) Provide urine sample cup to only those wrestlers that are providing samples.
- 2) Wrestlers provide samples one at a time (Athletes **MUST** report to assessment in shorts or singlet attire only).
- 3) **Monitoring** this process is a part of the Assessor's responsibility. Make certain that each wrestler is tested individually to prevent urine exchange or the addition of water to the urine (this is an area where the right to privacy must be respected). If an athlete needs to use a stall with the door closed the assessor may put red food coloring in the toilet to prevent any water from the toilet getting into the sample. Instruct the wrestler to fill the cup mid stream. (Release a small portion of urine prior to filling the cup). All urine samples must remain in the controlled environment along with the wrestler.
  - a) Have the wrestler dip the test strip in the sample and place on the top of the cup horizontally (*leave strip over cup* 45 seconds *before reading*), test for "Specific Gravity" for **1.025**, or lower. Note pass or fail on "Individual Profile" work forms and on **wrestlers' hand**. Any handler of the samples other than the wrestler should be wearing gloves. Have wrestler dispose of samples in toilet, cups and strips into a proper container.

**USING REAGENT STRIPS  
2025-26**

Purchase sufficient Multistix strips to conduct the specific gravity urine test.

- A. The AMES, Multistix 10SG Reagent Strips for Urinalysis (2304A) is one strip that can be used. However, any urine dipstick for testing urine specific gravity may be used. Your local hospital or clinic can give you a source. One source that you can order them from is Shoreline Sport Medicine Supply, Inc., 400 Ann St. N.W. Ste. 107, Grand Rapids, MI 49504, 1-616-365-8545 or FAX 1-616-8545 to FAX a purchase order. Strips are available in bottles of 100.
- B. You may contact a local physician's office for the name of a supplier in your area. Some physicians may be willing to donate enough strips for your team.
- C. Multistix strips do have a shelf life, check the expiration date printed on the container. (If given to athletes for experimentation they must be kept in a clean, sealed container.
- D. Order your strips early so you are certain to have them by the time you plan to have measurements done.

\*Mix urine well in a cup by swirling urine.

\*Remove one strip from bottle and replace cap. Completely immerse Reagent areas of the strip in FRESH urine and **remove immediately** to avoid dissolving reagent. All unused strips must remain in the original bottle. Do not remove strips from the bottle until immediately before the strip is to be used for testing. Immediately replace the bottle's cap and tighten after removing the reagent strip.

\*While removing the strip from the urine, run the edge of the strip against the rim of the container to remove excess urine.

**For 45 seconds hold the strip in a horizontal position to prevent mixing of the chemicals.** (do not leave stick in urine for 45 seconds. Dip & remove immediately).

\*Visually compare reagent area to the specific gravity color chart on the bottle's label by holding strip close to the color blocks. Avoid laying strips directly on color chart as this will result in urine soiling the chart.

\*Discard urine in urinal or toilet and cup in an appropriate receptacle.

	PASS						FAIL
SPECIFIC GRAVITY	1.000 <input type="checkbox"/>	1.005	1.010 <input type="checkbox"/>	1.015 <input type="checkbox"/>	1.020 <input type="checkbox"/>	1.025 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.030 <input type="checkbox"/>

If the wrestler passes the test darken the PASS box on the form (only after they have printed their name on the form. If the wrestler fails the test, they will have to be retested at a later date. The wrestler is required to wait a minimum of 48 hours before retesting.

B. Refractometer (follow the manufacturer's directions)

**BODY DENSITY / WEIGHT ASSESSMENT**

Those meeting the specific hydration requirement will proceed to the area where the weight measurement and assessment for body composition will be done. This area should be controlled so the Assessor can concentrate on the accuracy and communication of scores to the recorder. In addition the setting should allow privacy for the subject and confidentiality of the recorded information.

**Method of test**

1. Skin fold measurements or BIA measurements and scales will be utilized to determine each wrestler alpha weight and body fat percentage.
2. Complete calculations, Fill in final data forms on NWCA web site (www.nwcaonline.com) using the individual school's password. Adjustment of the lowest minimum weight by 2% may be used only with a signed parental permission form

All NHIAA certified assessors should become familiar with the NWCA web site and its use for retrieving the alpha masters.

## NH Interscholastic Athletic Association Wrestling Minimum Weight Program -Hydration Testing-

Attention: Hydration Test Administrators

Testing to determine a wrestler's hydration status as part of a minimum competitive weight certification process has been increasingly embraced by the sports medicine community, as well as sport governing bodies (NFHS, NCAA), coaches and various other athletic associations in recent years.

In part, due to the physical developmental stage of adolescent wrestlers, along with both the immediate and lifelong benefits of healthy nutrition habits. Hydration testing is a key component in helping wrestlers, parents, coaches and administrators determine a safe and healthy minimum weight for high school wrestlers.

### TESTING HYDRATION STATUS

Note: Hydration testing **MUST** be done immediately prior to the actual taking of measurements and at the same site where the measurements will be taken.

Dehydration will concentrate urine and thereby increase the urine's specific gravity. Accurate determination of minimum wrestling weight from assessment, requires the wrestler to be properly hydrated. The specific gravity of a hydrated individual will be 1.025 or lower. If the wrestler is dehydrated (i.e. specific gravity of the urine is over 1.025), body fat measurements are **not** to be taken. Testing must be rescheduled for a different time when the wrestler is properly hydrated. **NO SOONER THAN 48 HOURS.**

### OBTAINING A SECURE URINE SAMPLE

To assure an appropriate urine sample has been collected the following procedures are required.

Area: a bathroom with toilet or urinal can be used by the wrestler to provide a urine sample. The determination of specific gravity can be completed in another area, but a means of appropriate disposal of the urine must be available.

Safety: use gloves when measuring the urine and appropriately dispose of the urine in toilet. Place cup in hazard collection system.

Collection container: cups of sufficient size to provide a 2-3 oz. (1/2 cup) urine sample can be used by the wrestler to collect the sample.

Collecting the urine sample: school personnel must insure that the wrestler has provided a sample of their own urine.

**Reasonable supervision is key.** Normally one to three wrestlers can be supervised at one time in an open area. The urine should feel warm in the collection container. If the urine is cold, reject that sample and require the wrestler to provide another sample.

To further insure a secure sample is collected water faucets may be shut off. Red dye may be added to toilet bowls.

### TESTING THE SAMPLE

It is acceptable to use either Reagent Strips or a Refractometer for testing purposes. Whichever instrument is chosen, carefully follow directions for its use, to insure an accurate reading.

Note: A Refractometer must be accurately calibrated prior to use.

# NH Interscholastic Athletic Association

## To Parent/Guardian:

The NH Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) has instituted the NH Weight Monitoring Program to encourage healthy weight management by interscholastic wrestlers. As part of this program, a minimum weight is established for each wrestler prior to their competitive season. Each wrestler's body fat and lean body mass is measured by a NHIAA certified assessor. A minimum weight is then calculated as 7% body fat for males and 12% for females.

Your wrestler was assessed as less than 7% body fat (or 12% for females). The athlete is requesting that he or she be allowed to wrestle at their present weight – (alpha weight). Because this weight is less than 7% (for males) and 12% (for females) body fat, NHIAA recommends that your wrestler visits a personal physician. Most adolescents require 5-7% body fat (males) or 10-12% body fat (females) to achieve optimal growth and development. However, there are some adolescents who are naturally lean and develop normally at a lower percent body fat.

Please ask your physician to evaluate your wrestler for normal growth and development, paying particular attention to weight fluctuations and his or her growth curve. Based on the patient's history and the examination, determine if his/her present weight is compatible with normal growth, development, and good health.

Thank you,

NHIAA

**For more information visit: [www.nwcaonline.com](http://www.nwcaonline.com)**

**Wrestlers Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Body Fat Percentage:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Alpha Weight:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Desired Weight Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NHIAA Assessor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I AGREE THAT THE ABOVE NAMED ATHLETE MAY SAFELY PARTICIPATE IN THE ABOVE DESIRED WEIGHT CLASS.**

**Physician's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# WRESTLING WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

## Parent Permission to Wrestle Under 7% Body Fat

Data on this form is to be entered only by approved assessor or school Athletic Director.

The NHIAA has established minimum weights for wrestlers through its wrestling weight management protocols. With a parental permission form, a wrestler may wrestle at the weight class in which his 7% predicated weight, less 2% (not 2% body fat) places him.

Wrestler's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Date of form completion \_\_\_\_\_

Alpha Date \_\_\_\_\_

Alpha Weight (lb) \_\_\_\_\_

Alpha % Fat \_\_\_\_\_

Original Minimum Wrestling Weight (lb) \_\_\_\_\_

2% of Original Wrestling Weight (lb) \_\_\_\_\_

Adjusted Minimum Wrestling Weight (lb) \_\_\_\_\_

Weight Class after 2% Waiver \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of NHIAA Assessor or school AD \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
**The NHIAA does not advocate that a wrestler's established minimum wrestling weight is necessarily his/her optimum weight, but simply it is the lowest allowable weight at which the wrestler can compete.**

Parent Statement of Waiver;

I, as parent and/or legal guardian of the wrestler named above, agree to let my child participate in wrestling at a weight which is 2% below his original minimum wrestling weight.

Printed Name of Wrestler Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Wrestler Parent \_\_\_\_\_

## STAYING HYDRATED FOR TOP PERFORMANCE (And Passing the Hydration Test for Assessments)

---

The purpose of the hydration test is to help assure that each wrestler's weight taken at the time of measurements is an accurate weight from which a minimum weight can be established. Below are some guidelines that can help you prepare for the hydration test. But staying hydrated means more than passing the hydration test. It is an important step in making sure you perform your best in your sport.

Water is second only to air in its importance to our survival. Our bodies are 60 to 65% water by weight. Much of this fluid weight comes from the muscles (70% water) and the blood – both of which are critical to optimal athletic and wrestling performance. **Dehydration compromises muscular endurance and strength.** Dehydration also decreases blood volume, which can decrease athletic performance and increase the risk for heat illness (heat cramps, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke).

The key to staying well hydrated is to drink plenty of non-caffeinated beverages throughout the day, and to replace fluid loss incurred while working out. On a daily basis, this will help you feel stronger and last longer at practice and matches. It will help you pass the hydration test before your measurements are taken.

***Below are some guidelines:***

- \* **2 hours before exercise or hydration test, drink 16 to 24 ounces of water or non-caffeinated beverage. The 2-hour time frame will allow the body to clear excess fluid from the body. Being dehydrated, then drinking immediately prior to an athletic contest or the hydration test will do little to help improve performance or pass the hydration test.** Drink 8 to 10 (8 ounces) glasses of water, milk, juice, or non-caffeinated beverages daily.
- \* Drink another 4 cups for every hour you workout. If you have a 2-hour football practice, that means an additional 8 cups of fluids. Individuals who sweat heavily or are in a hot environment may need to drink 6 to 8 cups of non-caffeinated beverage for each hour they workout.
- \* These tips stress avoiding caffeine, because caffeine is a diuretic. That means it increases urine production. Increased urine production means you are losing extra fluids, essential for top performance and will likely become dehydrated. Caffeine is a common ingredient in some sodas, coffee beverages and some teas. Chocolate and some pain relievers may also contain caffeine. Additionally, carbonated beverages will also contribute to the sensation of “feeling full” or bloated. This sensation may be counter-productive, as it will likely diminish the thirst drive.

**For more information visit: [www.nwcaonline.com](http://www.nwcaonline.com)**

Beginning with the 2005-2006 wrestling season, NHIAA adopted a weight control program for New Hampshire high school wrestlers aimed at establishing a healthy minimum weight for each wrestler.

Measurements are used to predict (on a scientific basis) the lowest healthy weight for wrestlers. The program requires each male wrestler to maintain at least 7% body fat and females 12% body fat. The rule does not suggest or urge wrestlers to reduce to 7%, or 12% body fat, but sets a healthy limit as to how much they can safely reduce. The rule controls: 1) the rate of weight loss and 2) the amount of weight that can be lost.

The first step of the testing is a urinalysis, which is required to determine the athlete's hydration level. Proper level of hydration is important to provide an accurate measurement of body fat percentage. Dehydration will concentrate urine and thereby increase the urine's specific gravity. Accurate determination of minimum wrestling weight requires the wrestler to be properly hydrated. The specific gravity of a hydrated individual will be 1.025 or lower. If the wrestler is dehydrated (i.e. specific gravity of the urine is over 1.025), measurements will not be taken. Testing must be rescheduled for a different time when the wrestler is properly hydrated. NO SOONER THAN 48 HOURS.

I hereby grant the NHIAA and its agents permission to perform a urinalysis on my self/son/daughter for the purpose of determining the hydration level to properly determine an accurate skin fold measurement. I understand that the NHIAA accepts my self/son/daughter on their willingness to participate.

In becoming a participant in the program I understand that my self/son/daughter will agree to the following:

1. A bathroom with a toilet or urinal will be used by the wrestler to allow the wrestler to provide a urine sample for testing.
2. Use of gloves by individuals when measuring the urine and proper disposal of said urine will be mandatory.
3. Personnel will be present (female to female, male to male) to ensure that the wrestler has provided a sample of his or her own urine.
4. Every reasonable measure will be taken to ensure privacy for the wrestler when he/she is submitting a urine sample.
5. Urine collection cups will be properly disposed of following single use and will only be used for testing the hydration level of athletes.

I acknowledge that I have read this form in its entirety or it has been read to me, and I understand the urine testing and body fat assessment procedures are required for a wrestler to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
TIME

NAME OF ATHLETE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ATHLETE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if over 18 years old)

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_

WRESTLER BODY COMPOSITION DATA

Name - \_\_\_\_\_ Alpha Date - \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

USG - PASS/FAIL (circle one). \_\_\_\_\_ (must be 1.025 or less to proceed on with body comp assessment today)

**Weight - \_\_\_\_\_ (to the tenth of a pound)**

Skin fold measurements

**Triceps - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Scapula - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Umbilicus - \_\_\_\_\_**

APPEAL - WRESTLER BODY COMPOSITION DATA

NAME - \_\_\_\_\_ DATE - \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

USG - PASS/FAIL (circle one). \_\_\_\_\_ (must be 1.025 or less to proceed on with body comp assessment today)

**Weight - \_\_\_\_\_ (to the tenth of a pound)**

Skin fold measurements

**Triceps - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Scapula - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Umbilicus - \_\_\_\_\_**

Note – this data must be entered on NWCA online as an appeal!!

New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association  
251 Clinton Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301-8432  
Phone 603-228-8671 E-Mail info@nhiaa.org

**WAIVER FOR WEIGHT CERTIFICATION**

The deadline for **receiving** waiver requests is at **noon on the Thursday before the seedings meeting (February 17, 2026)**. When appropriate medical documentation must be provided. Please be specific and attach any other material you feel will help the Committee make their decision. **For any appeal it is necessary to enclose the wrestler's first weigh-in sheet. That weigh-in must take place at the FIRST match after the wrestler becomes eligible to certify. There is no lapse time allowed.**

\_\_\_\_\_ School requests that \_\_\_\_\_ be  
(Wrestler)  
certified at the following weight \_\_\_\_\_.

The reason that this wrestler did not certify his/her weight on or before the second Saturday in January is:

\*Other types of extensions can be granted by the NHIAA Wrestling Committee if a proper appeal is filed. All necessary written material must accompany any appeal.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NFHS MEDICAL RELEASE FORM FOR WRESTLER TO PARTICIPATE WITH SKIN LESION(S)**

The National Federation of State High School State Associations' (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has developed a medical release form for wrestlers to participate with skin lesion(s) as a suggested model you may consider adopting for your state. The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) conducted a survey among specialty, academic, public health and primary care physicians and reviewed extensively the literature available on the communicability of various skin lesions at different stages of disease and treatment. No definitive data exists that allow us to absolutely predict when a lesion is no longer shedding organisms that could be transmitted to another wrestler. Another finding from the survey was the significant differences that exist among physicians relating to when they will permit a wrestler to return to participation after having a skin infection.

Neither the NFHS nor the NFHS SMAC presumes to dictate to professionals how to practice medicine. Nor is the information on this form meant to establish a standard of care. The NFHS SMAC does feel, however, that the guidelines included on the form represent a summary consensus of the various responses obtained from the survey, from conversations and from the literature. The committee also believes that the components of the form are very relevant to addressing the concerns of coaches, parents, wrestlers and appropriate health-care professionals that led to the research into this subject and to the development of this form.

### **GOALS FOR ESTABLISHING A WIDELY USED FORM:**

1. Protect wrestlers from exposure to communicable skin disorders. Although most of the skin lesions being discussed generally have no major long term consequences and are not life threatening, some do have morbidity associated with them and student-athletes should be protected from contracting skin disorders from other wrestlers or contaminated equipment such as mats.
2. Allow wrestlers to participate as soon as it is reasonably safe for them and for their opponents and/or teammates using the same mat.
3. Establish guidelines to help minimize major differences in management among appropriate health-care professionals who are signing "return to competition forms". Consistent use of these guidelines should reduce the likelihood wrestlers catching a skin disease from participation and suffering from inequalities as to who can or cannot participate.
4. Provide a basis to support appropriate health-care professional decisions on when a wrestler can or cannot participate. This should help the appropriate health-care professional who may face incredible pressure from many fronts to return a youngster to competition ASAP. This can involve any student athlete who never wins a match or the next state champion with a scholarship pending.

### **IMPORTANT COMPONENTS FOR AN EFFECTIVE FORM:**

1. Each state association needs to determine which appropriate health-care professional can sign off on this form.
2. Inclusion of the applicable NFHS wrestling rule so appropriate health-care professionals will understand that covering a contagious lesion is not an option that is allowed by rule. Covering a non-contagious lesion after adequate therapy to prevent injury to lesion is acceptable.
3. Inclusion of the date and nature of treatment and the earliest date a wrestler can return to participation. This should mitigate the need for a family to incur the expense of additional office visits as occurs when a form must be signed within three days of wrestling as some do.
4. Inclusion of a "bodygram" with front and back views should clearly identify the lesion in question. Using non-black ink to designate skin lesions should result in less confusion or conflict. Also including the number of lesions protects against spread after a visit with an appropriate health-care professional.
5. Inclusion of guidelines for minimum treatment before returning the wrestler to action as discussed above. This should enhance the likelihood that all wrestlers are managed safely and fairly.
6. Inclusion of all of the components discussed has the potential to remove the referee from making a medical decision. If a lesion is questioned, the referee's role could appropriately be only to see if the coach can provide a fully completed medical release form allowing the wrestler to wrestle.

This form may be reproduced, if desired, and can be edited in anyway for use by various individuals or organizations. It may also be modified and used for sports other than wrestling. In addition, the NFHS SMAC would welcome comments for inclusion in future versions, as this form will be reviewed yearly, and modified as needed.

**Approved by NFHS SMAC - April 2025**

**National Federation of State High School Associations  
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)**

**MEDICAL RELEASE FOR WRESTLER TO PARTICIPATE WITH SKIN LESION**

Name (Must Be Legible): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Exam: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark Location AND Number of Lesion(s)**

Location AND Number of Lesion(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Medication(s) Used to Treat Lesion(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date Treatment Started: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

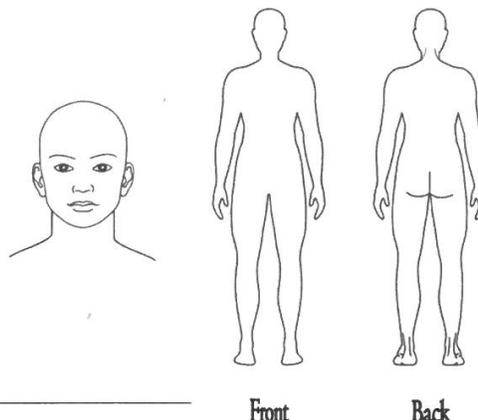
Form Expiration Date for this Lesion (Note on Diagram(s)): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Earliest Date the Wrestler May Return to Participation: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Provider Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Provider Name (Must Be Legible): \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**Below are some treatment guidelines that suggest MINIMUM TREATMENT before return to wrestling:**

**Bacterial Diseases (impetigo, boils):** To be considered “non-contagious,” all lesions must be scabbed over with no oozing or discharge and no new lesions should have occurred in the preceding 48 hours. Oral antibiotic for 72 hours is considered a minimum to achieve that status. If new lesions continue to develop or drain after 72 hours, MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) should be considered.

**Herpetic Lesions (Simplex, fever blisters/cold sores, Zoster, Gladiatorum):** To be considered “non-contagious,” all lesions must be scabbed over with no oozing or discharge and no new lesions should have occurred in the preceding 72 hours. For a first episode of Herpes Gladiatorum, wrestlers should be treated and not allowed to compete for a minimum of 10 days. If general body signs and symptoms like fever and swollen lymph nodes are present, that minimum period of treatment before return to wrestling should be extended to 14 days. Recurrent outbreaks require a minimum of 120 hours of oral anti-viral treatment, again so long as no new lesions have developed and all lesions are scabbed over.

**Tinea Lesions (ringworm on scalp or skin):** Oral or topical treatment for 72 hours on skin and oral treatment for 14 days on scalp.

**Scabies, Head Lice:** 24 hours after appropriate topical management.

**Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):** 24 hours of topical or oral medication and no discharge.

**Molluscum Contagiosum:** Upon treatment with curettage and hyfrecator, may cover with bioocclusive and wrestle immediately.

**Note to Appropriate Health-Care Professionals:** Non-contagious lesions do not require treatment prior to return to participation (e.g. eczema, psoriasis, etc.). Please familiarize yourself with NFHS Wrestling Rules 4-2-3, 4-2-4 and 4-2-5 which states:

*“ART. 3 . . . If a participant is suspected by the referee or coach of having a communicable skin disease or any other condition that makes participation appear inadvisable, the coach shall provide current written documentation as defined by the NFHS or the state associations, from an appropriate health-care professional stating that the suspected disease or condition is not communicable and that the athlete’s participation would not be harmful to any opponent. This document shall be furnished at the weigh-in for the dual meet or tournament. The only exception would be if a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional is present and is able to examine the wrestler either immediately prior to or immediately after the weigh-in. Covering a communicable condition shall not be considered acceptable and does not make the wrestler eligible to participate.”*

*“ART. 4 . . . If a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional (AHCP) is present, the AHCP may overrule the diagnosis of the appropriate health-care professional signing the medical release form for a wrestler to participate or not participate with a particular skin condition.”*

*“ART. 5 . . . A contestant may have documentation from an appropriate health-care professional only indicating a specific condition such as a birthmark or other non-communicable skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema, and that documentation is valid for the duration of the season. It is valid with the understanding that a chronic condition could become secondarily infected and may require re-evaluation.”*

Once a lesion is considered non-contagious, it may be covered to allow participation.

**DISCLAIMER:** The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) shall not be liable or responsible, in any way, for any diagnosis or other evaluation made herein, or exam performed in connection therewith, by the above named provider, or for any subsequent action taken, in whole or part, in reliance upon the accuracy or veracity of the information provided herein.

**Approved by NFHS SMAC – April 2025**