

PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



**PIAA WRESTLING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

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Wednesday,  
March 31, 2021

1:00 pm  
via ZOOM MEETING

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CALL TO ORDER

At 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, 2021, Mark E. Byers, PIAA Chief Executive Officer, called the Wrestling Steering Committee to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denny Kellon ..... District 1  
Jay Starnes ..... District 2  
Greg Goldthorp ..... District 3  
Hal Stockdill ..... District 4  
Thad Kiesnowski ..... District 5  
Phil Riccio ..... District 6  
Frank Vulcano ..... District 7  
Karen Arnold ..... District 8  
Randy Cathcart ..... District 9  
Steve Hoover ..... District 10  
Bob Hartman ..... District 11  
Barry Strube ..... District 12  
Jack Young ..... PIAA Statewide Wrestling Rules Interpreter  
John Reynolds ..... PWCA Representative

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Robert A. Lombardi, Executive Director ..... PIAA  
Mark E. Byers, Chief Operating Officer ..... PIAA  
Patrick B. Gebhart, Assistant Executive Director ..... PIAA  
Jennifer S. Grassel ..... PIAA

GUESTS PRESENT

Ron Kanaskie .....PCA Representative to the Board of Directors  
Vince Sortino .....District 7  
Pat Tocci.....NWCA  
Brooke Zumas .....PA Girls HS Wrestling Task Force

CERTIFICATION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
AND REVIEW OF STEERING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Chief Operating Officer certified the voting representatives from each District Committee, the Coaches Representative and Statewide Rules Interpreter, and reviewed the procedure of advancing recommendations to the PIAA Board of Directors.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

At its meeting of Wednesday, March 31, 2021, the following administrative and other items were discussed by the PIAA Wrestling Steering Committee. The Administrative Staff will give consideration to those items designated as administrative. The following items are shared with the Board of Directors for informational purposes:

1. The Committee received a presentation from Brooke Zumas and Pat Tocci from the PA Girls HS Wrestling Task Force. Ms. Zumas recapped the progression of girls’ wrestling through the 2020-21 season and outlined the materials available for schools considering adoption of the sport. Mr. Byers thanks Ms. Zumas and Mr. Tocci for their communication throughout the year and updates on the #SanctionPA efforts on behalf of girls’ wrestling.
2. Mr. Tocci provided a brief update on the acquisition of Trackwrestling by FlorSports. He indicated that the staff of Trackwrestling will continue to oversee support of the OPC. No timetable is available for when and how the two tournament programs will be consolidated. However, Mr. Tocci did note that seeding for Districts events should improve with all of the season statistics now located on a single platform.
3. Mr. Byers provided a brief review of the 2020-21 individual and team postseason. By consensus, the Committee and staff were appreciative of the opportunity to complete a season.
4. Discussion was held regarding the team tournament and bracketing in a single elimination format for the first two rounds. Mr. Byers presented that a two-day tournament had been discussed in the past due to cost concerns of the three-day event. Mr. Hartman indicated his coaches expressed the following: 1) teams losing in the round of 16 have wrestled back to third; 2) potentially increasing mats to accommodate shorter sessions; and 3) bring Wednesday night losing teams to the Giant Center for Consolations. No action was taken.

5. Mr. Byers recapped the past season's facial hair experiment and indicate a survey was done of both coaches and officials. He would be presenting that information to the NFHS Wrestling Steering Committee at the meeting of Friday, April 2, 2021. Both Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Young expressed the change was a good one.
6. Dr. Lombardi presented the request of Penn State Sport Medicine to survey schools that participated in the Individual Wrestling Championships regarding any Covid symptoms following the event. The Committee expressed concerns on identifying individual schools and the uniformity of reporting based on the respondent. The Committee will provide the PIAA staff with qualifiers and withdraws based on Covid related incidences.
7. Mr. Hartman requested that consideration be given to seeding District Champions in regional events. The concern is that runners-up may have a perceived easier path to advance.
8. Mr. Hartman requested that a point of emphasis for officials for the 2021-22 season be stalling. Mr. Young indicated he agreed that there should be a POE for stalling as well as hands to the face.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Byers adjourned the meeting of the Wrestling Steering Committee at 2:15 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

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#### PIAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTION

The following are the actions taken by the PIAA Board of Directors on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, regarding the PIAA Wrestling Steering Committee recommendations:

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Arnold, the Board unanimously accepted the minutes and recommendations of the PIAA Wrestling Steering Committee from its meeting of March 31, 2021.