

Penn Elementary Wrestling League  
Bylaws  
(November, 2009)

ARTICLE I TITLE & GOALS

- A. The official title for the league will be "The Penn Elementary Wrestling League".
- B. The goals for the league are
  - 1. Improve northeast Pennsylvania wrestling so that it is competitive with the rest of the state.
  - 2. Create a positive environment where wrestlers will want to continue wrestling through high school.
  - 3. Promote wrestling as a positive activity for elementary school children where they will have fun and learn the fundamentals of wrestling.
  - 4. Foster sportsmanship in both the wrestlers and parents.

ARTICLE II EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. The officers of the League shall be the Executive Board. The officers are President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms.
- B. Members of the Executive Board may represent their teams as an alternate and retain voting privileges in this capacity. Exception to the rule is the President who may represent his team but has no voting privileges as a representative. The President will vote only in the event of a tie.
- C. Elections of officers will be held at the first meeting following the conclusion of the Penn League Tournament.

ARTICLE III DUTIES OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

- A. Preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors and general membership body and ensure that parliamentary procedures prevail.
- B. Appoint the chairperson of all committees deemed necessary.
- C. Plan the meetings and activities of the League and hold the Executive Board members and committee chairperson responsible for the activities entrusted to them.
- D. Has the authority to levy a fine of \$25 on a team if they refuse to leave a meeting after being asked to do so. This will be voted on by the Board of Directors.
- E. Be the committee chairperson for making the yearly wrestling schedule.
- F. Shall tally and provide the official record of league meets scores and standings.
- G. The President shall notify all parties involved in situations of altercations or unsportsmanlike conduct not already covered in the PIAA rules. The situation will be brought before the Board of Directors for further discussion and a vote by the Board of Directors will determine the disciplinary action that is deemed necessary.

VICE-PRESIDENT

- A. Conduct and preside over meetings in the absence of the President.
- B. Shall verify liability insurance for each League team prior to the start of the regular season.

SECRETARY

- A. Shall take minutes at each meeting and distribute the minutes to each team prior to the next meeting.
- B. Shall handle all the publicity of the league

TREASURER

- A. Shall handle all finances of the League and maintain official records..

#### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

- A. Maintain order at all League meetings.
- B. Remove anyone who becomes unruly during a League meeting.

#### ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. Consists of one representative from each team in the League.
- B. Each team shall have ONE (1) VOTE on the board. If more than one representative from a team is present during a vote, the SENIOR MOST representative as listed on the team's "REPRESENTATIVE LIST" will be the recognized vote by the Chair.
- C. Each team shall submit a written list no later than the October meeting consisting of one primary and two secondary representatives to the Board. This representative list should be written in order of voting seniority as that team wishes the Chair to recognize them. The representative list will be the only persons recognized by the Chair to cast a vote for their team. The list can be amended at any time by notification in writing to the Executive Board, and will take effect at the next League meeting. The list shall contain accurate names, addresses and telephone numbers and email address and will be the sole list used when communication between the Executive Board and any team is deemed necessary. If the primary or alternate representatives cannot attend the meeting, any person may attend the meeting for that team to avoid a fine for a missed meeting, but that team shall be refused voting privileges for that meeting.
- D. Shall act as a Grievance Committee. All disciplinary action not taken by the President shall go before the Grievance Committee for ruling. The President will have the power to vote only in the case of a tie vote.

#### ARTICLE V LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

- A. The teams in order of admittance are as follows: Wilkes-Barre YMCA, Wyoming Valley West, Crestwood, Pittston, Wyoming Area, Benton, Summit, Berwick, Tunkhannock, Back Mountain, West Scranton, Hanover, Honesdale, Scranton, Delaware Valley, Nanticoke, Hazleton, Wild Pats.
- B. All new teams must be admitted into the league by a 2/3-majority vote of the members present at a league meeting.
- C. All new teams accepted into the League must pay a one-time good faith entrance fee equal to one year's dues. This fee will be applied toward the following year's dues.
- D. Annual dues of \$75.00 for each team must be paid on or prior to the March meeting or a late charge of \$10.00 will be added. Team membership in the league is from November to October.
- E. At the November meeting, each team will submit a list of all their coaches (name, address, telephone number and e-mail) to the Executive Board for approval. Also at the November meeting, a copy of Act 34 and Act 151 clearances for each coach must be submitted to the president. Any coaches added to the list after the November meeting must have clearances and be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

#### ARTICLE VI LEAGUE MEETINGS

- A. All League Meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. The President will inform all members as to the location and time of that meeting. Meetings will take place in the months of September, November, January, February, and March
- B. A quorum must be present to conduct official business of the league. A quorum shall be one member over half of the total team membership.
- C. Each team shall have (1) ONE ROLE CALL VOTE.
- D. The By-laws may be changed by a 2/3 vote of the membership present at a league meeting.
- E. A 2/3-majority vote of the Board of Directors approval at a league meeting is necessary for a team to gain entrance into the league. A roll call vote will be taken.
- F. A fine of \$25.00 will be imposed on a team if they are not present at a league meeting. Fines must be paid prior to the League Tournament seeding meeting or wrestlers from that team will not be allowed to enter the League Tournament. Also all fines must be paid to date for voting privileges.
- G. The league schedule will be adopted by all teams at the first meeting in September.
- H. A team must be present to vote on League matters at a League meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII RULES COVERING LEAGUE MEMBERS

- A. To compete in the league, wrestlers must be at least 5 years old on or before December 31 of the year, must NOT be 13 years old on or before December 31 of that year; and must not be in grade seven or above. (NOTE—'of that year' means the year the season starts)
- B. Any team using an ineligible wrestler shall forfeit all meets that the ineligible wrestler participated in.
- C. Proof of any wrestler's eligibility must be available upon request by the opposing coach. Proof shall consist of a copy of a birth certificate.
- D. The league starts with the first scheduled league meet, and ends with the league tournament. Team practice start and end dates are at the discretion of each team.
- E. Organized practice time for league teams shall not exceed (7) SEVEN HOURS per week.
- F. A wrestler must stay with the same team he registered with for the duration of the season unless his family moves out of the area. The Board of Directors does not need to vote on this club change.
- G. The Board of Directors must approve, by a 2/3 vote, a transfer of a wrestler who wants to change teams for reasons other than a change of address.
- H. To compete for your team, a wrestler must be a member of your team, practice with your team, and not be a member of another Penn League team.

#### ARTICLE VIII RULES GOVERNING LEAGUE MEETS

- A. PIAA Wrestling Rules will be used except as indicated below. The Official Book as designated by the PIAA is the National Federation of state High School Wrestling Rules Book
- B. The schedule will be adhered to by both teams except in the case of a national emergency or extremely bad weather conditions.
- C. The home team will determine a Saturday or Sunday meet, as well as the time of the meet. Mutual consent of both coaches must be given to wrestle a weekday match.
- D. No weight allowance will be given during the regular season or tournament.
- E. No Weight Certification Program will be used.
- F. WEIGHT CLASSES for League competition shall be as follows: 42-46-50-54-58-62-66-70-74-78-82-86-91-98-105-115-130-165, and an optional UNL weight class from 165 up. Must weigh over 165 to compete in the UNL weight class .
- G. Both opposing coaches will be present at the weigh-in, but a referee is not mandatory. Wrestlers will weigh in with a singlet and socks on only, nothing else. This is considered stripped weight. A wrestler will have only two tries to make weight. A wrestler is not allowed to gain or lose weight by any artificial methods during the weigh-in period. If a wrestler does not make weight the first time, he can go to the bathroom but not do any physical activity, and then step on the scale only one more time. The wrestler in question must return to the scale prior to the conclusion of the official weigh-in. A wrestler may compete in his actual weight class at weigh in or one weight class above his actual weight class at weigh in. Both coaches will record actual weight.
- H. Headgear will be optional during 2009-2010 season, but mandatory thereafter.
- I. Wrestlers will not be penalized for not securing their laces.
- J. The length of bouts for all league matches are as follows: Varsity—1-1½-1½ minutes. Junior Varsity—1-1-1 minutes. The Overtime rules in the Official Rule Book will be used for all matches .
- I. In the case of a dual meet tie, the tie breaking criteria in the Official Rule Book will be used.
- J. Provisions must be made for a representative of the visiting team to have a seat at the scoring table.
- K. All referees for varsity must be PIAA or New York approved and sanctioned officials. They may not be relatives of any team member. The home team must provide the referee.
- L. The official score sheet must be signed by the referee, official scorer, and both coaches. The host team coach is responsible for sending the official score sheet to the league President and all the league coaches within 48 hours.
- M. Varsity matches will begin with the lightest weight and continue thru the heaviest weight.

#### ARTICLE IX ROSTERS

- A. A team roster of all the team's wrestlers will be handed in, or emailed by the November meeting in weight order. The roster will consist of the wrestler's full name, age, grade, date of birth and weight.
- B. Any team that does not submit a complete team roster at the November league meeting will be fined \$25.00. Any team that does not submit a team roster prior to a meet will forfeit the meet since the wrestlers are ineligible.
- C. All additions to the league roster will be submitted to the president and all teams in the League.
- D. For varsity purposes only, any wrestler who was added to the roster during the season must sit out one week, before he/she becomes eligible to wrestle. He/she is eligible to wrestle junior varsity. (NOTE—the season starts with the first scheduled dual meet, Article VII D)

#### ARTICLE X MEDICAL

- A. Each home team must provide a first aide kit at each home meet.
- B. Any wrestler, who requires extensive medical treatment during the season, can only be reinstated upon written authorization from both the parent(s) and the physician. This is to be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Failure to comply with this rule will be reviewed as an extremely serious offense. The resulting penalties for noncompliance will be determined by the Board of Directors.
- C. In cases of body rashes of any type the Official PIAA Form must be filled out and submitted before the wrestler is allowed to wrestle. The meet PIAA official will make the final determination as to whether or not the wrestler is allowed to wrestle.

#### ARTICLE XI VIOLATION OF BY-LAWS

- A. The executive board (League officers) will investigate bylaw violations by league members, and present its findings to The Board of Directors (Club Representatives). The Board of Directors will determine appropriate sanctions, which could include probation, loss of voting rights, or fines.
- B. Teams on probation may be voted out of the league for additional by-law infractions by a 2/3 vote of the membership present at a league meeting.

#### ARTICLE XII PENALTIES FOR UNFAIR ACTS

- A. The Executive Board will impose monetary fines and suspension of persons involved in unfair acts, and if appropriate, the reversal of a meet or rescheduling of a meet, either from the beginning or from the point at which the unfair act occurred. (This is for coaches and wrestlers).

#### ARTICLE XIII RULES OF CONDUCT

- A. Consumption of or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited at all league meets, duels, or tournaments and official functions.
- B. Any coach or assistant who is caught literally displaying rude gestures, foul language, or striking a wrestler (on or off the mat) will be suspended pending review by the Executive Board.
- C. The President of the League will be notified by both coaches in cases of disqualification for flagrant misconduct. The offending wrestler is ineligible for the next scheduled dual meet or tournament. The Board of Directors will review the disqualification at the next scheduled meeting, unless the President decides a special meeting is needed to review the incident. Additional penalties may include a longer suspension from League competition.
- D. Any parent or fan of any team at a Penn Elementary Wrestling League activity, involved in conduct unbecoming as determined by the Penn League Board of Directors (determined by a 2/3 vote) would be banned from attending Penn Elementary Wrestling League meets, tournaments and other activities for the remainder of the season which the unbecoming conduct occurred and for the entire following season. However if the person involved in the unbecoming conduct is found guilty of criminal charges, the person will be banned from Penn Elementary Wrestling League activities for life.
- E. If an event Official determines that any person, coach, wrestler, or fan, is guilty of misconduct, then it shall be considered a violation of league rules. Said person, coach, wrestler, or fan, shall be

reported to the Penn League Board of Directors and further action may be taken in accordance with the Penn League By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE XIV LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

- A. An award officially named the "PENN ELEMENTARY WRESTLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS" will be given to the League Champions.
- B. League Champion will be determined in the following manner:
  1. The team with the best record in league competition is champion.
  2. In the case of a tie, the winner of the dual meet between the two teams will be the champion.
  3. In the case where more than two teams have identical records and head to head competition cannot determine the champion, the team with the greater score differential (points for minus points against) for the meets between the teams in contention will be the league champion. For example: Teams A, B, & C have identical records and head to head competition cannot determine the champion the team with the greater score differential in meets A vs. B; A vs. C; & B vs. C will determine the league champion.

#### ARTICLE XV LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

- A. A league tournament will be held at the conclusion of the league season.
- B. The tournament will rotate among the league members. New members of the league will be added to the end of the rotation order which means that a new team will not host the tournament until all the current teams have had a chance to host the tournament. The following is the rotation order: : Wilkes-Barre YMCA, Wyoming Valley West, Crestwood, Pittston Area, Wyoming Area, Benton, Summit, Berwick, Tunkhannock, Back Mountain, Hanover, West Scranton, Honesdale, Scranton.
- C. Weight classes.
 

PeeWee	38,42,46,50,54,58,62
Bantam	42,46,50,54,58,62,66,70,74,78
Midget	50,54,58,62,66,70,74,78,82,86,91,98,105,115,130
Junior	58,62,66,70,74,78,82,86,91,98,105,115,130,165,UNL
- D. The team holding the tournament must use at least four full sized mats.
- E. Trophies or medals will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> places. Each host will have the choice of what size and what price range will be purchased in accordance with their budget.
- F. The Host Team will purchase tee shirts for the finalist (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> places).
- G. An OUTSTANDING WRESTLER AWARD (The Bill Purcell Trophy). This award is given to the sixth grader who during his Penn League career most exemplifies Penn League wrestling through sportsmanship and wrestling achievement. The coaches will vote for this award during the league tournament seeding meeting.
  1. Each coach will nominate one wrestler from his club
  2. Nominations along with supporting information will be submitted in writing to the president by January league meeting. (NOTE—supporting information could include but not be limited to: number of years in the league, league record, league tournament record, MAWA achievements, PJW achievements, other wrestling achievements, sportsmanship, hardships overcome)
  3. The president compiles the nominees and supporting data on a ballot.
  4. Each team will have one vote.
  5. A coach may vote for a wrestler from his own team.
  6. Voting shall be on a point basis as follows: 5 points for first; 3 points for second; and 1 point for third.
  7. Each coach must vote for THREE wrestlers designating First, Second, Third after their names.
  8. A second vote of the top 5 wrestlers will then be taken using the same point formula, resulting in the outstanding wrestler for the league season.

- H. An OUTSTANDING WRESTLER AWARD will be given in each age division for performance during the league tournament. The Bill Purcell award winner SHALL NOT BE EXCLUDED for an Outstanding Wrestler Award for performance during the league tournament. (This section on rules of voting for Outstanding Wrestler shall be read to the coaches immediately prior to the actual vote.)
1. Each team can nominate only one wrestler from each age division.
  2. A coach CAN nominate a wrestler from his team.
  3. Each team votes for one wrestler in each age division.
  4. A coach CANNOT vote for a wrestler on his team.
  5. If there is a tie, a second vote is taken.
- I. The (SCOTT BENZA) trophy will be awarded to the wrestler with the most PINS in the least amount of time.
- J. COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD will be voted on during the seeding meeting, and the award will be presented at the league tournament.
1. Each team votes for one coach by secret ballot.
  2. Coaches CANNOT vote for themselves.
  3. The president tallies the votes.
  4. In case of a tie, a second vote is taken. If the president is involved with the tie, the re-vote will be the responsibility of the vice president, or next charge if the vice president is also involved, and so on through the league officers.
- K. If voting procedures are not adhered to, they are invalid.
- L. The host team will be asked to donate a portion of their profit to the League treasury if the profit margin allows them to do so.
- M. Registration fees for each wrestler will be determined prior to the tournament by the Board of Directors. If a team does not enter at least six wrestlers the team must pay a registration fee equal to six wrestlers' registration fees.
- N. All teams in the league will participate in the tournament.
- O. Admission charges for the tournament for adults and students will be determined prior to the tournament by the Board of Directors. Children under 5 years old will be admitted free.
- P. At the seeding meeting teams will designate the 18 wrestlers to be used for team scoring.
- Q. All League Rules/By-laws will apply unless otherwise noted.
- R. Tournament Seeding.
1. Seeding for the tournament will be done by the league coaches at the seeding meeting held at the conclusion of the league season.
  2. All teams must submit a list of wrestlers and their weight classes for the league tournament to the president and all league coaches at the seeding meeting. All rosters are final and wrestlers may not change weight classes once the list has been submitted. Substitution of a wrestler not on the original list will not be allowed.
  3. At the seeding meeting teams will designate the 18 wrestlers to be used for team scoring.
  4. Seeding will be revised on the day of the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Committee which is the Tournament Director, League President and League Vice President.
- S. There is no weight allowance.
- T. Any wrestler not making weight will not be allowed to wrestle.
- U. The HOST TEAM pays for:
1. Awards for the first four place winners in each weight class
  2. Awards for the outstanding wrestler in each age division
  3. Tee shirts for the finalists
- V. The PENN LEAGUE pays for:
1. Award for the dual meet team champion
  2. Awards for the top three teams at the individual tournament (if team score is kept)
  3. Bill Purcell award for the outstanding sixth grader
  4. Scott Benza award for the most pins at the tournament
  5. Award for the coach of the year

W. Team Scoring

1. Prior to the tournament the Board of Directors will decide if team score will be kept.
2. The league will purchase team trophies for (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place)
3. Team points for the league tournament will be awarded according to the National Federation Rules regarding tournament scoring. The host team must keep scoring for the tournament.
 

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	14 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	10 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	7 points
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 points
4. At the seeding meeting teams will designate the 18 wrestlers to be used for team scoring.
5. Any wrestler not making weight will not be allowed to wrestle. If that wrestler was to count in team scoring, another wrestler cannot be designated to take his place as a scorer.

ARTICLE XVI LEAGUE NOVICE TOURNAMENT

- A. The Board of Director will determine if a Novice Tournament will be held each year.
- B. The tournament will rotate among the league members. New members of the league will be added to the end of the rotation order which means that a new team will not host the tournament until all the current teams have had a chance to host the tournament. The following is the rotation order: : Hanover, Wilkes-Barre YMCA, Wyoming Valley West, Crestwood, Pittston, Wyoming Area, Benton, Summit, Berwick, Tunkhannock, Back Mountain, West Scranton, Honesdale, Scranton, Delaware Valley.
- C. The tournament will be for first and second year wrestlers.
- D. Wrestlers will be grouped using the Madison system, which is grouping the wrestler by their actual weight, not weight class.
- E. Wrestlers will be grouped in two age groups: 5-8 and 9-12
- F. The tournament will be round robin
- G. There will be an honor weigh in
- H. The entrance fee, application deadline and other particulars will be determined by the league each year.

ARTICLE XVII ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

- A. Parliamentary procedures are covered by Robert's Rules of Order.