OHIO YOUTH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

643 EAST TALLMADGE AVENUE

AKRON, OHIO 44310

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(330) 253-9959

RULES AND REGULATIONS

August 17, 2026

I. Season

A. First Practice **November 1, 2026.**
B. Duel meets: November 22nd , December, January as shown on schedule.
C. Sectional tournaments **January 24, 2027** Top 4 finishers to Districts.
    1. OYWA will assign the teams to sectionals.
    2. A coaches meeting will be held to determine seeding for sectionals
    3. An example of seeding criteria is at the end of rules.
D. District tournament **January 31, 2027**. Top **5** finishers to State.
E. State tournament **February 7, 2027.**
F. **Girls State tournament: To Be Announced (TBA)**

II. Eligibility:

A. Regular season eligibility:
    1. The Ohio Youth Wrestling Association is limited to students from kindergarten to 6th grade, with birth dates after **August 1, 2013** (for the 2026-2027 season). Your roster will be checked. Birth certificates and/or report cards are required upon request. The child may wrestle but will not be eligible to wrestle in the Sectional, District, or State tournaments.
    2. No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another person, or otherwise be discriminated against in the Ohio Youth Wrestling Association, league, meets, or tournaments.

B. Tournament Eligibility:
    1. Each wrestler must weigh in at all varsity events and compete at a varsity level at least **3 times** to be eligible for the Sectional tournament. To qualify for the All-Star tournament wrestlers must weigh-in a minimum of **3 times** during the regular season.
    2. Each wrestler must have made weight at his entered weight class (or lower) at least one (1) time.
    3. On January 1ST each wrestler will be allowed a 1 lb growth allowance. (56 is 57, ect)
    4. At the Sectional Tournament each wrestler will be allowed a 1 lb growth. allowance. (56 is 58, ect.)
    5. At the District and State Tournaments weights are the same as sectional. (56 is 58, ect)

6. This tournament is intended for VARSITY Ohio Youth Wrestlers who participate each week in our dual meets. Missing a scheduled OYWA event to participate in a non-OYWA event will not be tolerated and will affect tournament eligibility. Two (2) varsity matches qualify the wrestler as a varsity wrestler. ***SEE RULE XVII-E***
7. Each league must have a minimum of **four (4) scheduled weeks** of matches for participation in the tournament.
8. **Same Team that subdivides into two (A & B, etc.) are required to meet prior to the 4th round.**
9. **Tournaments will only be approved at the OYWA fall sectional meeting for the upcoming wrestling season. The tournament must be held during the season and will count toward season weigh-ins. The sectional manager must be present during weigh-ins and throughout the event. Each sectional must report the wrestler's name, school, tournament and intended weight class to the commissioner and support desk.**

C. **All coaches must have a background check every two years. Background check process will be available from September 15 and will not be processed after December 15th, for each league season. Coaches pass will be issued to be used for all practices and dual meets. BADGE must always be visible while on the floor. USA wrestling coach pass will be honored.**

D. All teams must have at least one person with a certified CPR card.

E. All coaches must either (1) hold a pupil-activity program permit or (2) successfully complete every two years, an online training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussion and head injuries.

F. **All coaches/managers/directors are required to sign the online Rules Form by the date required.**(end of rules)****
   1. **Managers/Directors – November 1st**
   2. **Head Coach – November 21st**
   3. **Assistant Coach – December 1st**

G. **All coaches and parents must complete the requirements of the Ohio Law titled Lindsay Law.**

III. Roster:

A. Rosters, schedules, and all coaches' names will be submitted to the OYWA commissioner and support desk on or before December 1st, 2026. Please use the OYWA APP* to submit. In the event a new coach is assigned or removed by a team the commissioner and support desk must be notified within 5 days of the move.

IV. Transfers:

A. When a wrestler begins the season with one team they may not transfer to another team within the league without prior approval. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.

B. Team Transfers Rule: No team can change, or request a league change, without prior approval of the Commissioner and the 2 League Directors involved. The Commissioner will have veto discretion, such request shall be made prior to November 1ST.

V. Starting & Weigh in times: This is extremely important

A. The teams that wrestle first are responsible for moving mats, taping and setting up scoring tables.
B. The teams that wrestle last are responsible for storing mats and returning the scoring table. This is a must. Don't shirk your duties. Unless this rule is carried out the Board of Directors may assess a fine to each team to cover the excessive gym rental. (after one warning).

VI. Weigh In:

A. Present yourself at the scale with your entire team.
B. Have your wrestler line up by order of weight class- 49 lb. first and on up to **205** lb. last.
C. Weighing for each wrestler will only be conducted once. No one will be permitted to check his league weight or come back to try again. If you want to check weight, do so at home. The official league scales are the only scale aloud in the gym.
D. This League will not tolerate any wrestlers attempting to severely cut weight by undo measures the day of the match. By this we mean, (1) Running in the gym with excessive clothing on. (2) Any other method other than a normal body function. This league cannot and will not endorse children of this age trying to reduce extreme weight.
E. All wrestlers are required to weigh in wearing a singlet and optionally, socks. Attire may not be altered once the wrestler steps on the scale.
F. Any wrestler 3rd grade and above is required to wrestle varsity if there is a spot available (if you have a 49, he must go to varsity) Exception: agreement between both coaches that it is a total mismatch.
G. The Ohio Youth Wrestling Association reserves the right to evaluate any excessive weight loss and thereby determine the wrestler's eligibility.

VII. Scales: **Weigh-ins must have tenths recorded.**

VIII. Sportsmanship:

A. Each team must have one person (beside coaching staff) responsible for policing the gym. This person will be responsible for keeping order of both wrestlers and non-wrestlers during the time your team is in the gym. Excessive coaching or fan reaction in an unsportsmanlike manner will not be tolerated and could result in ejection from the gym. This includes non-coaching people (fans). Continued actions will be referred to the Board of Directors for possible expulsion of the entire team or coach from this league for one year. Please control your coaches, wrestlers, and fans. Wrestlers are required to shake hands before and after each bout. Let us maintain this friendly expression throughout this league. All such incidents are to be reported to the Commissioner.
B. Only two coaches will be permitted on the mat or within the ten-foot area around the mat during any match. Both are required to stay in the same corner. Keep all non-participating wrestlers away from the mat.

IX. Official Score Sheet:

A. Each head coach or designated person should immediately upon entering the building contact the manager at the weigh-in station to pick up (1) the official score sheet and (2) the All-Star wrestlers list. After weighing in, contact the opposing coach to determine your line up. Once this has been determined, fill out the All-Star sheet and hand deliver to the person in charge of the All-Star mat. Please list weights, grades, and ages of all your All-Star wrestlers.
Very Important: The official score sheet must be turned in at the end of each session.

X. Scoring & Timing:

A. Each team is to provide one score keeper and one time keeper. It is very important that these people be knowledgeable about wrestling.

XI. All Star Matches:

A. Mats will be designated as the All Star Mats. There will be an official to work this mat. Also, there will be one person in charge of scheduling these bouts. Turn your "All Star" sheet over to this person. Please, where at all possible, limit your All Star matches to your time period only. Do not send them out early and do not keep them behind your time. Each wrestler will have a minimum of one match. Please record the actual weight, grade, and age of each wrestler on the All-Star sheets.

XII. Current National Federation rules (as modified below by OYWA) will apply:

A. Headgear is mandatory, Modifications such as crossed straps and tape are permitted.
B. Note Federation rules 4-2-1 for wrestlers' appearance and health.
C. Uniforms are optional–No loose clothing. If a team uniform is supplied, it must be worn.
D. Wrestling shoes are optional but the wrestler must at least have gym shoes without metal eyelets.
E. All Star will start in a standing position. No overtime.
F. All time periods are 1-1-1 minutes. **For sectionals/districts/state they are 1 minute & 30 seconds (1:30).**
G. 2 minutes allowed for injury time out. Maximum of two injury time outs. Loss of contact lenses or equipment adjustment will be referees discretion.
H. Middle School Federation rules apply for overtime.
I. A tech fall will be at 15 pt differential.
J. High school point system will be in use.
K. All Star: Two one-minute periods. 1-1.
L. Weight Classes:
49,52,56,60,64,67,70,73,76,79,82,86,90,95,100,105,110,120,132,150,175, 205.
    1. No Varsity wrestler may participate under 46 lbs., max weight for a heavy weight is **205 lbs.**
    2. A wrestler will be permitted to wrestle "up" only one weight class.

XIII. Preparation:

A. Important: To ensure the smooth operation of all matches you are to have your wrestlers warmed up, external warm up clothing off, headgear on and ready to wrestle when their turn comes up.

XIV. Records:

A. We will not keep any team won-lost records. This league was organized for the sole purpose of introducing wrestling to those youngsters in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades and to teach the sport and sportsmanship that goes hand and hand with wrestling. The discipline lesson learned in practice, body conditioning and actual competition was the prime objective of the founding fathers of the Ohio Youth Wrestling Association. In conjunction with this theme, we expressly do not stress winning as the ultimate goal. These young people will soon learn competitive spirit. Also, for this reason we ask you to go through the league's office with any News Releases. Please keep news releases in a positive spirit.

XV. Admission Charge:

A. You (the Coach) are asked to inform your spectators prior to coming to the gym that there will be a normal admission charge. In the past we have experienced "surprise" people when they realize there is an admission charge.

XVI. First Aid:

A. The Ohio Youth Wrestling Association does not supply first aid equipment. If any wrestler requires first aid, it will be the responsibility of each team to provide such care and equipment.

XVII. Administration: Dan Kemp, Commissioner (turbograndam91@gmail.com), Robert Conley, Associate Commissioner, Jennifer Williams, Admin Associate (jenny@dieselectric.com) Dale Hartwig, (dale@rjccomputing.com) OYWA Support Desk.

XVIII. Rules/Disciplinary committee:

A. Rules/Disciplinary committee will be made up of 6 members
B. Any wrestler, coach, and/or spectator who violates any OYWA Rules may be reprimanded at the discretion of the committee.
C. All decisions of the Rules/Disciplinary Committee are final.
D. **Disciplinary actions can include one or any combination of, but not limited to, disqualification from tournaments, reprimand, probation, suspension, and expulsion.**
E. **Any wrestler that wrestles at a NON OYWA sanctioned event during a scheduled OYWA sanctioned event will automatically be suspended from the Sectional tournament**
F. **OYWA sanctioned events: No one is allowed on the gym floor unless you have an approved OYWA or USA Wrestling background check, and are an official coach. All background checks must be always worn and visible. Failure to adhere to this**

rule will result in expulsion from the building.

G. **Scorer's table will be individuals approved by the league or district manager.**

H. **All referee(s) must be OHSAA certified.**

I. **OYWA League Venues (buildings) are required to have our OYWA insurance policy in place and paid no later than December 20th.**

J. ****All coaches/managers/directors are required to sign the online Rules Form by the date required.**

1. **Managers/Directors – November 1st**
2. **Head Coach – November 21st**
3. **Assistant Coach – December 1st**

OYWA APP LINK *

Seeding criteria is at the discretion of each sectional and the coaches. The following example.

Sectional seeding criteria.

One entrant per team at each weight class.

One wrestler is entered into a weight class and the seeding meeting is completed, that wrestler cannot change weight classes.

A maximum of eight seeds per weight class, No seed can be refused or declined.

1. State place winner in the same weight class, any year.
2. State place winner in a different weight class, any year.
3. State qualifier in the same weight class, any year.
4. State qualifier in a different weight class, any year.
5. Top six finish at Districts, same weight class, previous season.
6. Top six finish at Districts, different weight class, previous season.
7. Higher winning percentage over 50% (minimum of 5 matches).