

WRESTLING

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WRESTLING

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

	Week/Day	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
First Allowable Assessment	Tuesday, Week 18	November 4	November 3	November 2
Second Allowable Assessment	Monday, Week 20	November 17	November 16	November 15
Last Allowable Assessment	Monday, Week 33	February 16	February 15	February 14
Minimum Wrestling Weight Deadline	Saturday, Week 33	February 21	February 20	February 19
Growth Allowance Date (2lb)	December 25	December 25	December 25	December 25
First Allowable Practice	Monday, Week 20	November 17	November 16	November 15
First Allowable Contest	Monday, Week 22	December 1	November 30	November 29
SDHSAA No-Contact Winter Moratorium	December 23-26 Annually – No Competitions or Practices are Allowed			
Last Day for Team Duals for Seeding	Thursday, Week 31	February 5	February 4	February 3
Last Date for Regular Season	Saturday, Week 32	February 14	February 13	February 12
State Team Duals	Saturday, Week 32	February 13 (A) February 14 (B)	February 12 (B) February 13 (A)	February 11 (A) February 12 (B)
State Individual Boys/Girls Seeds Released	Saturday, Week 33	February 21	February 20	February 20
State Individual Boys/Girls Inquiries by 11am	Sunday, Week 33	February 22	February 21	February 20
State Individual Boys/Girls Seed Meeting at 12pm (Final Brackets will be sent out after meeting)	Saturday, Week 33	February 22	February 21	February 20
Region Meet Completed by	Saturday, Week 33	February 21	February 20	February 20
State Meet/Season Ends	Thu/Fri/Sat, Week 34	February 26-28	February 25,26,27	February 25,25,26
Summer Moratorium		July 1-7	July 1-7	July 1-7

STATE TOURNAMENT DATES AND SITES

2026 Boys Team Dual State Tournament at Pierre, February 13 (Class A) 14 (Class B)
 2026 Combined Class Wrestling Tournament at Sioux Falls, February 26-27-28
 2027 Boys Team Dual State Tournament at TBD, February 12 (Class B) 13 (Class A)
 2027 Combined Class Wrestling Tournament at Rapid City, February 25,26,27
 2028 Boys Team Dual State Tournament at TBD, February 11 (Class A) 12 (Class B)
 2028 Combined Class Wrestling Tournament at Rapid City, February 24,25,26

Participation in school activities teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one's school. Interscholastic activities constitute a part of the right kind of "growing up" experiences for students. Participants learn to accept success and failures, gain poise and confidence, achieve tolerance and understanding of others and gain the self-satisfaction of accomplishing goals. Under a well-administered school program, students and spectators become better citizens through participation and observation of activities conducted under established rules. Please refer to the **Sportsmanship Section of the SDHSAA Athletic Handbook** for policies and statements concerning the following items:

- * General Sports Objectives and Coaching Responsibility
- * Fundamentals of Sportsmanship
- * Racial Harassment, Violence and Taunting (See General Section)
- * Athletic Code of Ethics
- * Code of Sport Ethics for Coaches

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD

In an attempt to recognize the academic excellence of the athletic teams and fine arts groups in each school, the SDHSAA created the "Academic Achievement Team Award". The "Academic Achievement Team Award" is designed to recognize "varsity" level "teams" that achieve a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher. For additional information about the "Academic Achievement Team Award", refer to the "Academic Achievement Team Award" section of either the ATHLETIC or FINE ARTS HANDBOOK

RULE REVISIONS FOR THE 2025-26 SEASON

National Federation Rule Changes

These have not been released yet

South Dakota Rule Changes

1. **Remove Region Seeding Requirements wording.**
REMOVE-Contestants must have a minimum of eight matches actually wrestled at the weight class in which they are entered for competition at the Region Meet in order to be considered for seeding. Any injury, illness, or ineligibility will not alter the above rule. This minimum number may be reduced provided committee members and head coaches in a Region vote by majority to do so.
2. **Fill byes in state tournament bracket with 5th place the 6th place if needed.** In both boys and girls, we will fill the brackets that have byes with 5th place from regions.
3. **State Dual Handbook Wording** - We have gone through and updated the wording in the handbook on the State Dual Seeding procedure. The change in wording is listed in State dual Tournament, Section A, Subsection 3 and 4 on page 13.
4. **Cutoff date to have your last Dual event count towards Seeding for State**
Duals The cutoff date will for duals to be considered for State Dual Seeding will be Thursday of Week 31
5. **Change the State Dual Seeding from taking the top Ten Power point teams for seeding to the Top 16 teams in the Dual Seeding.**
6. **Change in Dual Team Qualification.** You will need to have 10 Duals on record instead of 8 to qualify for state dual seeding
7. **Changing the Daily/Session Mat Schedule for the State Wrestling Tournament** – The daily schedule can be found on page 15 of this handbook
8. **Change to the NFHS Weight Class for Girls to 14.** - Change from the NFHS 12 weight classes to the NFHS 14 Weight Class (New NFHS) 14 Weights – 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 155, 170, 190, 235
9. **Eliminating Females from Wrestling in Male Dual Events** - It is a separate sport, and it does not count towards either record for male or female

2024-25 Rule Change Reminders

1. Utilize the NFHS weight class of 235 as the highest weight in girls wrestling, starting in 2024-25.
2. Set girls regionals as the Thursday or Friday of NFHS Week 33, combining regions 1A/1B, 2A/2B, 3A/3B, and 4A/4B

South Dakota Deviations from NFHS Rules

1. We allow 3 people in the corner as opposed to 2, and the 3rd must be a student manager.
2. We allow teams to weigh in at home prior to tournaments and at dual meets with more than 4 teams rather than at the event an hour prior to the event.

CLASSIFICATION

The member schools of the South Dakota High School Activities Association are divided into two classes of Class "A" and Class "B" for Boys' Wrestling and Team Duals. Class "A" shall be those schools with an ADM (9-11) of 225.000 and above. Class "B" includes all other schools. We will only have one class for the girls.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Athletic Contest Contracts

According to Article VIII, Section 2 of the SDHSAA Constitution, all contests must be sanctioned by the Principal or Superintendent of the schools involved. It is recommended that athletic contest contracts, as furnished by the SDHSAA (located in the General Sport Information Section, forms GENERAL #2 and GENERAL # 3) be used for all levels of competition including regular season matches, as well as tournaments, triangulars, etc.

B. Sanction with Non-members

The SDHSAA will not sanction any games/matches with a college team, independent team, alumni team, or any other school team comprised of adults. Sanction will be approved with an unaccredited high school team provided the member school submits the appropriate form located in the sanctioning events section of the athletic handbook.

C. Wrestling Schedules and Weight Certification Forms are Due:

1. Wrestling Schedules must be completed online at www.sdhsaa.com in the Bound area/schedules. The online schedules need to be completed no later than November 18.
2. Weight Certification - We will follow the Optimal Performance Calculator format for weights during the season. Please see additional information released to SDHSAA.com website for full regulations

D. Weight Classification

Competition for boys' individual competition and team duals will be in the following fourteen weight classes – 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190, 215 & 285

Competition for girls' individual competition will be in the following fourteen weight classes – 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 155, 170, 190, 235

We no longer have a minimum weight that wrestlers will need to be at to wrestle 106/100.

E. Meet Limitation

1. All individual wrestlers are restricted to a maximum of 15 weigh-ins, regardless of the number of duals and/or tournaments or the level on which they occur (Varsity/JV/Freshman/Etc).
2. Wrestlers may not compete in more than the number of meets allowed a squad. Wrestlers, therefore, may not participate in more than 15 weigh-ins (duals/tournaments) regardless of the squad where participation occurs.
3. **Updated 2023** - No wrestler shall represent the school in more than one weight class in any meet or wrestle in more than six matches (championship or consolation), excluding forfeits in any one day of competition.
4. Exhibitions, default and forfeiture are considered competition.
5. A wrestler wrestling exhibition or receiving a forfeit or default in a preliminary or "JV" match is not eligible to compete in a varsity match in that same session.
6. If a wrestler weighs-in and does not wrestle or does not receive a forfeit at the match that night, the weigh-in does not count as one of the official weigh-ins.
7. **(New, 2019) Of the fifteen allowable weigh-ins for a competitor, up to three may be a "combination" weigh-in. Combination weigh-ins are specifically for events that include both individually bracketed tournaments as well as dual/team competition either on the same date(s) or consecutive date(s). These combination weigh-ins would only count as one of the fifteen allowable weigh-ins for a competitor a maximum of three times during a single season. A fourth such combination event would constitute two weigh ins.**

F. Rules of Competition

Rules passed by the National Federation Wrestling Rules Committee and published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official wrestling rules for all SDHSAA schools except in cases modified by SDHSAA regulations.

G. Certification of a Minimum Weight

The Certification process can be found on the SDHSAA website under wrestling and then under Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC) Program. <https://www.sdhsaa.com/activity/wrestling/>

H. Weigh-in/Skin Check Information

1. **Updated 2024 -All contestants shall weigh in and be skin checked according to NFHS Rules/Regulations, including in legal uniform with straps up.** If the person doing skin checks suspects something under the singlet

area, a check with straps down can be done. For female wrestlers, if something is suspected below singlet, the person doing skin checks, the athlete and the coach/appropriate adult should go to a more private area to complete a check with the straps down. Reminder for female athletes – a legal uniform also includes undergarment/sports bra.

2. Time of weigh-in for dual meets (4 teams or less) shall be a maximum of one hour and a minimum of thirty minutes before the meet is scheduled to start. If a “sub-varsity” meet precedes the “varsity” meet, weigh-in starts one hour before scheduled start of “sub-varsity” meet and must end one-half hour before the “varsity” meet starts. All wrestlers, varsity and sub-varsity, must make weight during this period.
Supervision of weigh-in should be by the referee or other authorized person. Both teams shall be present, and it is the responsibility of the visiting team to arrive at the scheduled time of the weigh-in. If the visiting team is late, the home team may start weigh-in at the scheduled time if the meet referee or a school official, not a coach, is present and conducts the weigh-in in person. The two coaches involved in a dual meet may conduct the weigh-in.
3. For regular season tournament competition (5 or more teams) teams will be allowed to weigh in at home and can take place no earlier than one hour prior to departure.
4. Weigh-ins for the second day of a two-day tournament during the regular season will be conducted as follows: Teams traveling home after the first day will be allowed to weigh in at home no earlier than 7:00 AM or 1 hour prior to departure if departure is prior to 7:00 AM. Teams not traveling home and staying in a motel will be required to weigh in with the host school at the host site at a time designated by the host team management no earlier than 7:00 AM.
5. The weigh-in for regional and state tournaments must be conducted at the site of the tournament.
NOTE: During the regular season, sub-state and state tournament competition, weigh-ins for two-day tournaments will be conducted on each day of the tournament. A one-pound allowance is granted over the weight limit of the previous day.
6. Contestants may only compete at the weights in which their day-of weigh-in allows them to do so in accordance with the OPC rules and regulations. This includes that a wrestler may wrestle no more than one class above where their weight qualifies them at via weigh-ins, and at no time may a wrestler compete at a weight class for which they have yet to qualify by OPC rules.
7. Meets may be wrestled on consecutive days. A one pound allowance shall be given to a team that wrestles on consecutive days whether it is dual to dual, dual to tournament, or tournament to tournament, even though some members of the team may not have wrestled. Their opponent(s) in the second meet shall also be given the one pound allowance. A team wrestling on consecutive days must notify their opponent(s) forty-eight hours in advance so they can plan on the allowance. If a team wrestles on a Saturday and again the following Monday, Sunday will be treated as a dead day, and a one pound allowance for consecutive days of competition will be allowed. A maximum of two pounds may be granted for consecutive days’ competition.
NOTE: A team receiving a one pound allowance is based on that same level of competition. Wrestler(s) who wrestle on a Junior Varsity team one day and the varsity team the following day does not warrant the granting of the additional pound. From a varsity match to a varsity match on consecutive days does permit the giving of an additional pound to that team and its opponent.
8. In the event a regular season scheduled dual match, or tournament is postponed/canceled due to inclement weather, school closing, or any other Act of God, the extra pound allowance for a match or tournament scheduled for the next day, shall be permitted provided participating schools have been given a 48-hour notice. The acceptable person(s) to receive that notice shall be the head coach, principal or athletic director.
9. Competitions that are postponed for one calendar day or more, for reasons beyond the control of the participating school(s), or practices that cannot be held in these situations due to school policy shall be treated the same as competitions when there are consecutive days of competition in terms of the one pound allowance, with the exception of the required 48 hour notice.
10. A two-pound growth allowance will be granted on December 25.
11. If a team wrestles multiple dual in one day only one weigh-in is required. A copy of the original weigh-in must be presented at the scheduled site and time of the second weigh-in, should one exist. A wrestler not participating in the first dual must have been weighed at the first weigh-in or he must weigh-in at the second.

I. SDHSAA Forms

1. Updated, 2020. All Weights must be tracked for all competitions within TrackWrestling and the NWCA/OPC system. Further information, including a tutorial, shall be featured on the SDHSAA website prior to the start of each year’s season.

J. Wrestling Scale Certification

1. The accuracy of each school’s wrestling scales must be checked annually for use by a licensed individual as below. If you are using a Body Fat Scale (Tanita bioelectrical impedance Body Composition Analyzer) to check

weights it does not need to be certified but must be approved by the SDHSAA before certifying weights for participants

2. The Department of Public Safety Office of Weights and Measures will assist with the certification of the scales. The service does not include any scale repair. For scale repair, it is the responsibility of the school to contact a certified scale service and have the scale re-inspected after repairs are complete.
When purchasing new scales, the only scales that the Department of Public Safety will “certify” are those that have a Certificate of Conformance from the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP). Many medical scales do not meet these standards. NTEP scales are often identified as “Legal for Trade”. Weights and measures Inspectors or the Office of Weights and Measures may be able to assist you in determining whether a scale has an NTEP certificate. If you choose a scale without NTEP certification, the scale cannot be used for competition, as per administrative rule they cannot be certified any longer.
3. Weights and Measures Inspectors will certify and seal those scales determined to be accurate and consistent with current government and industry standards. ONLY Scales that have been “calibrated and placed into service” by a registered service agent or “certified and sealed” by the State of South Dakota may be used for weigh-ins for high school competition.

K. Licensed Officials Mandatory

1. Only “Registered” or “Certified” officials may be used in interschool varsity wrestling competition. No official shall be eligible to officiate in any interschool varsity wrestling contests unless (s)he is licensed by the SDHSAA Office and has completed all requirements of registration for wrestling.
2. Officials from Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana must have received reciprocity with South Dakota to be eligible to officiate interschool varsity wrestling matches in South Dakota.
3. The SDHSAA office publishes a list of all “registered” and “certified” wrestling officials along with a listing of all “out-of-state” officials.

L. Head Coaches Must Complete On-line Rules Meetings, TrackWrestling Tutorial and Pass Open Book Test

1. All head coaches in South Dakota high school sports programs must complete an on-line rule meeting in their sport(s). In addition to completing the on-line rules meeting, each head coach must complete and pass the on-line open book test in the sport.
2. The Board of Directors has adopted the following penalty code for non-compliance with this policy:
A fine of \$50.00 will be assessed against the school member if the head coach fails to complete an online rule meeting and complete and pass an online open book test. If the head coach fails to complete both requirements, the fine will be \$75.00.

M. Collaboratives/Practice Co-Ops (NEW 2016).

Schools may now form a “practice co-op” or “collaborative” with another member school, due to demonstrated need by way of lack of facilities, lack of coaching staff, or lack of participant numbers. No more than five wrestlers from the “satellite” school who demonstrate the need, grades 7 through 12, may participate in the collaborative. The school requesting the collaboration will be seen as its own entity for competition, although coaches or facilities may be shared.

TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATIONS

A. Official Tournament Management Program

Each region must use TrackWrestling as its program for tournament management software. The program is completely web-based and accessible through www.trackwrestling.com. This tournament management program will automatically communicate results to the SDHSAA and State Tournament hosts. Regions are responsible for staffing the tournament management software, while the SDHSAA will cover the expense of licensure and obtain the program rights for each region.

UPDATE – 2022: Schools & Coaches are responsible to ensure that accurate information is entered in the TrackWrestling system in accord to a system of deadlines established by the SDHSAA. Those deadlines are as follows:

Week 22 Dec 1-6	All Competition Results through	December 3rd must be entered online in TrackWrestling.
Week 23 Dec.8-13	All Competition Results through	December 10 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
Week 24 Dec.15-20	All Competition Results through	December 17 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
Week 25 Dec.22-27	All Competition Results through	December 24 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
Week 26 Dec.29-Jan 3	All Competition Results through	December 31 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
Week 27 Jan.5-10	All Competition Results	January 7 must be entered online in TrackWrestling

	through	
Week 28 Jan.12-17	All Competition Results through	January 14 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
Week 29 Jan. 19-24	All Competition Results through	January 20 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
Week 30 Jan.26-31	All Competition Results through	January 28 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
Week 31 Feb 2-7	All Competition Results through	February 4 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
Week 32 Feb. 9-14	All Competition Results through	February 11 must be entered online in TrackWrestling
By Region Meet Seeding Meeting	All Competition Results through	The Entire Regular Season must be entered online in TrackWrestling

B. Each Region will Conduct Their Own Tournament

NOTE: Girl's regionals will take place Thursday, Friday or Saturday of NFHS Week 33, combining regions 1A/1B, 2A/2B, 3A/3B, and 4A/4B. Boys Regionals can also be run on Thursday, Friday or Saturday of NFHS Week 33.

1. Committees: A Committee is to be formed within each region with each school having the opportunity to designate an administrative staff member (superintendent, principal, athletic/activities director) who is not coaching wrestling to represent their school on the committee.
2. A committee chairperson (superintendent, principal, athletic/activities director) is to be elected, and each committee shall function following generally accepted Rules of Order. The regional chairperson must be currently employed as an administrative staff member from a region member school. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting with a distribution made to each school represented on a timely basis.
3. A description of the duties and responsibilities of the region committees may be found in the general section of the Athletic Handbook.
4. All schools participating in the meet/tournament shall be notified as to time and place of any meetings.
5. The current region's chairperson must submit to the SDHSAA Office the name of the individual that will be the chairperson for the following year. This notification, along with an indication of the date and site should be made prior to May 1. If a committee chair can not be named for the following year, the committee must designate a school and administrative position that will assume the chairmanship duties. Failure to name either an individual or a school, including the designated administrative position, for the chair will result in naming the current chairperson as the chair for the following year. If the above information is not supplied to the SDHSAA Office by May 1, a \$50.00 fine will be assessed against the region not in compliance. Fines will be assessed for the ensuing school year. The new region committee is responsible for payment.
6. **Input of Coaches** - All committees are required to give coaches an opportunity to have input to the committee prior to any decision making by the committee.
7. Financial Report:
 - a. Sub-State Ticket prices
 - i. Students - \$4.00
 - ii. Adults - \$7.00
 - iii. Failure to charge the correct prices will result in the participating schools making up the financial shortage
 - b. Not later than one week after the completion of the tournament, the Committee Chairman shall complete a financial report and submit it to the Finance Director of the SDHSAA on forms provided by the SDHSAA office.
 - c. Forty percent of the gross receipts of all Class "B" and "A" Region Tournaments shall be forwarded to the SDHSAA office for deposit in the general treasury of the Association.
 - d. Both receipts and disbursements are to be run through a regular school account or a school activity account.
8. There are to be no matches conducted the day or night prior to the region wrestling tournaments.

C. Appeal and Grievance Procedure for Region Committees

1. If at all possible, the committee shall solve its own problems and make its own decisions.
2. Protests based upon a challenge to the interpretation given to a contest regulation or administrative ruling thereon must be submitted in writing within 24 hours after the contest, to the chairman of the region committees. The committee shall render its decision promptly to the Executive Director of the Association, and shall notify the protester, by telephone, to be followed by a written notice of its decision sent by email or mail to the protester. An

appeal from the decision of the region committee shall go directly to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final. The appeal must state the decision of the region committee and the basis for the request to overrule that decision.

3. Part V, Section 1 of the SDHSAA Constitution and By-Laws states, “**Decisions of the Judges.** Judges’ decisions in any contest are by their nature necessarily regarded as final and shall not be considered as the basis for protest.”

D. Withdrawal from Region Meet

Should a school find it necessary to withdraw from a qualifying meet after filing an intent to participate, such school shall notify the committee chairman of its withdrawal by a predetermined date established by the committee. Failure to supply such a notice makes the school responsible for its share of the expenses of the meet. If a school finds itself unable to give notice of withdrawal before the deadline because of weather conditions, the illness of contestants, or some other act of God, release from this responsibility may be obtained by filing a report of the circumstances with the Executive Director of the Association.

E. Tournament Entries/Seeding (REVISED 2016)

1. **(NEW: 2018):** Each region is responsible for their own seeding and drawing process. Final entries for region competition are due at 9:00 AM CT on the Wednesday of Region Tournament weekend, regardless of the date of the event, and must be entered into TrackWrestling. The only movement of wrestlers allowed after this deadline will be for documented injury or illness. In order for entered wrestlers entered to be moved between weight classes, a documented injury/illness must exist.
2. Region Chairman will have the wrestling weight certification sheets of schools in their tournament sent to them from the SDHSAA Office prior to tournament time for verification of each competitors certified weight. This should be done prior to creating brackets.
3. Tournament Brackets:
 - a. When the number of competitors is not a power of two - that is 4, 8, 16, there shall be byes in the first round.
 - b. The number of byes shall be equal to the difference between the number of competitors and the next high power of two.
 - c. Each bracket is to be considered individually because in an eight team tournament, there could be weight classes that have four or less contestants. If this is the case, there will be no first round byes and the wrestlers would automatically be placed in the semi-finals.
 - d. No quarter-bracket shall have more than one bye in excess of its paired bracket.
4. **REGION Seeding and Drawing Rules (Updated 2017):**
 - a. **UPDATED, 2020:** If it is determined that there should be wrestlers seeded in a given weight class, there will be a minimum of **five** and a maximum of six wrestlers seeded for an eight-man bracket. If a sixteen-man bracket is to be used, a minimum of **five** a maximum of eight wrestlers may be seeded.
 - b. All non-seeded wrestlers will draw for bracket positions.
 - c. The entire season varsity record is to be used for seeding, regardless of the weight class. This would include out-of-state and tournament matches.
 - d. Forfeits will count as wins. Defaults and disqualifications will count as wins and/or losses. In Tournament competition, should a wrestler choose not to compete against an opponent in any round, it will count as a forfeit and therefore a loss.
 - e. Byes do not count as wins.
 - f. The following criteria will be used to seed wrestlers for the Region Tournaments (listed in priority order):
 - 1) Head to Head Competition – If two wrestlers have wrestled more than once and one has a better record against opponent, the higher seed goes to the wrestler with the most wins. If two wrestlers have identical records against each other the higher seed goes to the wrestler with the most recent win.
 - 2) Record against common opponents – TrackWrestling default Common criteria shall be used
 - 3) Returning state place winner at any weight (order of place).
 - 4) Returning region place winner at any weight (order of place).
 - 5) Wrestler who earned state/region place at the weight class nearest to the one being considered.
 - 6) Winning percentage – percentages recorded in thousands (no rounding).
 - 7) Coin flip.If more than two wrestlers are being considered, return to the top of the criteria with the remaining wrestlers once a seed has been awarded or a wrestler eliminated from contention for that given seed.
 - h. Procedure for seeding and drawing for eight-man bracket:
 - 1) Place number 1 seed on line one.
 - 2) Place number 2 seed on line eight.
 - 3) Place number 3 seed on line five.
 - 4) Place number 4 seed on line four.

- 5) If there is a number 5 seed, it should be placed on line 3 or drawn for line 2, 3, 6 or 7 depending on the wishes of the committee.
- 6) Draw line numbers for BYES (if needed). Byes will be distributed evenly between each half-bracket.
- 7) Seeded wrestlers will have the same opportunity to draw a bye as any other wrestler.
- 8) Draw line numbers for the remaining wrestlers in order on entry list.

F. Substitutions

In the Region Tournaments substitutions may be made after the seeding and drawing meeting, up until weigh-in time ends, provided the substitution is requested because of illness, injury, or disciplinary action.

No substitution is permitted for a wrestler who does not make weight.

- a. For illness or injury, the substitution will be permitted only if a doctor's written excuse or a written excuse signed by a school administrator is submitted to the Committee in charge.
- b. For disciplinary action, the substitution will be permitted only if the reasons are verified in writing, by the school's administration.
- c. The substitute designated to replace his teammate will do so in the position of the original draw unless the substitute is replacing a "seeded" wrestler, whereby there shall be a re-seeding and re-drawing of that weight class.

NOTE: If there is not a substitute designated to replace a teammate who is a "seeded wrestler" there also shall be a re-seeding and re-drawing of that weight class. **Any re-draw eliminates positions established in a previous draw.**

- d. If an athlete is entered at the seeding meeting and fails to meet the requirements following weigh-ins (illness, injury, not making weight, etc.) and there is no replacement, the open spot becomes a forfeit not a bye. Byes will only be used if no wrestler is actually entered during the seeding meeting.

G. Injury or Illness of a Contestant After Weigh-ins End

1. A contestant suffering injury or illness following weigh-ins and prior to their first match may default their match in the first round and go into the consolation round.
2. A forfeit or default because of an injury or illness which occurs in a previous round does not eliminate a contestant from further competition.

H. Weigh-in

1. For Region competition the weigh-in shall be at the tournament site a maximum of three hours and a minimum of one-half hour before the first session each day.
2. For those who have a two-day tournament, there shall be a one-pound allowance granted on the second day over the weight limit of the previous day.
3. Any contestant failing to make weight during the time period allotted for weigh-ins shall be ineligible for the weight class in which he is entered and also any of the other weight classes.
4. For the State Tournaments the weigh-ins shall be at the tournament site in conjunction with each day's competition in a matter determined by the site host and SDHSAA staff. A one-pound allowance is granted for the second days competition over the weight limit of the previous day. A two-pound allowance is granted for the third day of competition.
5. Medical personnel (doctor, certified athletic trainer, PA, etc.) must be present at all post seasons weigh ins to conduct the skin check.

I. Late Arrivals for Weigh-ins

Contestants who arrive late (after the close of official weigh-ins) for a Region or State Tournaments due to an "Act of God" (including inclement weather), may be weighed in and declared eligible to participate provided the reason for the late arrival is approved by the Tournament Committee and the following stipulations are met.

1. A late wrestler must be weighed in, dressed in wrestling uniform and appear at the designated mat, ready to wrestle, within five minutes after his match has been called, in order to compete.
2. A late wrestler who should not only miss weigh-ins but also first round competition would be eligible for the consolation round provided he makes weight prior to his assigned match being called.

J. Tournament Advancement

1. Four from each weight class shall advance from the Region Tournaments (Class "A" and "B") to the State Tournament.

K. Scoring – Updated 2019

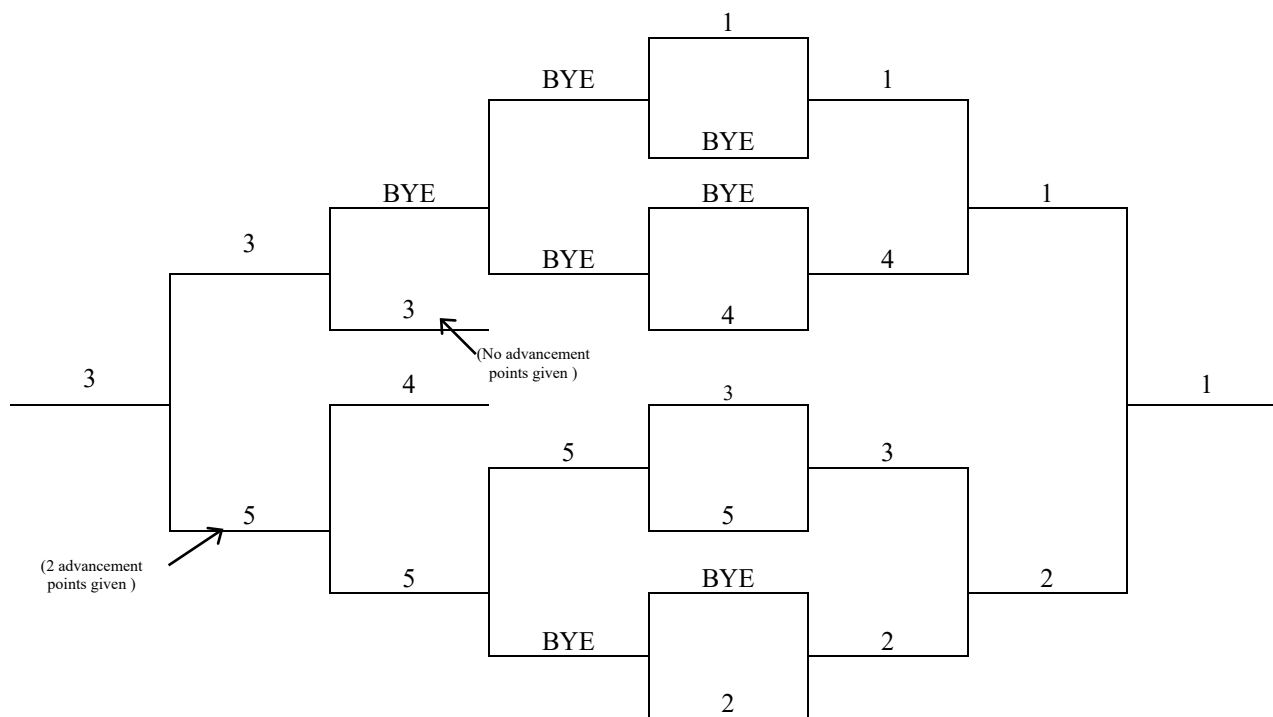
1. **(New – 2019)** Six places in each weight class will be scored in Region competition. Scoring will be as follows:
 - First place - 16 points
 - Second place - 12 points
 - Third place – 9 points
 - Fourth place - 7 points
 - Fifth place – 5 points

- Sixth place – 3 points
2. Eight places in each weight class will be scored at the State Tournament. Scoring will be as follows:
 - First place - 16 points
 - Second place - 12 points
 - Third place - 9 points
 - Fourth place - 7 points
 - Fifth place - 5 points
 - Sixth place - 3 points
 - Seventh place - 2 points
 - Eighth place - 1 point
 4. **Advancement and additional points**, for team scoring, are awarded as follows:
 - a. **2 team advancement points** shall be scored for each match won in the championship bracket, except for the final first-place match. A wrestler receives a bye in a round, where at least one match is wrestled, shall be awarded 2 advancement points for that round if he wins his next match - this would result in a total of 4 team points (2 for the win and 2 for the bye). No points are awarded for the bye if the wrestler loses the next match following the bye.
 - b. **1 team advancement point** shall be awarded for each match won in the consolation elimination, except for the final third place match. A wrestler who has received a bye in a consolation round, where at least one match is wrestled, shall receive one advancement point, provided he wins his next round match - this would result in a total of 2 team points (1 for the win and 1 for the bye.)
 - c. **2 additional points** shall be scored for each match won by default, disqualification, fall or forfeit throughout the tournament.
 - d. **1 1/2 additional points** shall be scored for each match won by a technical fall.
 - e. **1 additional point** shall be awarded for each match won by a major decision.
 5. **Points for a bye.**
 - a. There shall be no byes after the first round of competition in either the championship or consolation bracket.
 - b. As explained above, a wrestler receiving a bye in the first round of the championship bracket or in the first round of the consolation bracket shall receive either 2 points or 1 point, respectively, if he wins his next round match.

****NOTE:** If there are two byes in the same consolation bracket, resulting when you have only five wrestlers entered in a weight class, and a “bye” vs “bye” situation appears, there would be no advancement points involved in a future win by a participant because his win would be the third place match. He cannot “get credit” for a match that never existed.

Example shown below: In the top half-bracket, wrestler number 3 would receive 7 points for this third place win (4 + 3). No advancement points are involved in this situation.

In the **bottom half-bracket**, wrestler number 5 would get 4 points for fourth place finish plus 1 point for advancing after his win in the match against wrestler number 4 and 1 additional point for winning the next match after the bye.



L. Overtime Matches

Winners of overtime matches shall be determined by procedure listed in the NFHS Rule Book.

M. Awards

1. State Tournament. Team awards will be presented to the top six teams. Trophies will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams with plaques presented to the next four teams. Medals are awarded to the top eight places for each weight class and for each member of the top 6 teams. Board of Directors Members will personally present all individual and team awards.
2. The SDHSAA has an agreement to provide all medals and plaques and will order all medals and plaques for all region meets. Two Plaques (Champion & Runner-up) will be awarded at each region tournament. Medals will be awarded to the top four individuals in each weight class, and the top two teams. Orders will be sent directly to region chairman by the companies. Region committees will be expected to pay for all awards presented.
3. Any individual winning an award must be dressed in school issued uniform/warm-up, or appropriate civilian attire (participant has completed his event earlier) in order to receive said award during a public awards ceremony. The wearing of "caps" or "hats" during an awards ceremony is not appropriate attire.

N. Officials

1. Only certified officials are eligible to officiate sub-state and state athletic tournaments, including any certified official with an out-of-state address/residency, provided the registration is specific to the SDHSAA.
2. Chairmen of Region Tournaments are requested to forward the names of the officials contracted to work their tournament. The SDHSAA office staff will check to see that each of the officials has fulfilled the necessary requirements.
3. Assistant Referees - The SDHSAA recommends the use of Assistant Referees as much as possible during the sub-state tournaments, especially during the semi-final and final matches.
4. Selection of State Wrestling Tournament official information will be conducted in accord with the SDHSAA Officials Handbook.

O. Cheerleaders Rules

Cheerleaders, for their protection, are requested to take a position off the mat and at a distance that will not interfere with the wrestlers or the official(s). Because the number of teams and individual athletes in a limited space makes safe stunting difficult to perform, cheerleaders will not be allowed except during the finals matches of the State Tournament.

P. Signs & Banners

The displaying of signs, banners or placards at the State Wrestling Tournament is prohibited. Local managers will be instructed to not permit these items to be brought into the arenas. Exception: Banners and/or signs displayed by the SDHSAA, Radio and Television stations, and management signs are approved.

Q. Videotaping Policy

At State and Sub-State Events:

1. In all SDHSAA activities, the video recording of any State or Sub-State level contest for resale purposes by individuals or commercial business organizations is prohibited without expressed advanced approval from the SDHSAA and its contracted television broadcaster. The contracted television broadcaster that has purchased exclusive rights for the live telecast of SDHSAA events does possess resale rights.
2. Provided that the video recording is not intended for broadcast, participating schools may video record the game or event that involves their team or athletes at a State or Sub-State event. Schools wishing to video record any Sub-State or State contest for broadcast on a local access cable station (after a 24 hour delay) must secure permission from the Sub-State contest committee or the SDHSAA.
3. Any member school that wishes to video record a game or event that does not involve its own team or athletes, at a Sub-State event, must receive permission from the committee in charge as well as the teams involved.
4. Upon advising the SDHSAA and the team(s) and/or individuals involved in a specific State event, schools may video record other teams and/or individuals for scouting purposes at said state event.
5. Parents or guardians may, for their personal use, video record the game or event that involves their son or daughter at a Sub-State or State event provided that the video recording is not intended for broadcast.

At Regular Season Games, Meets or Tournaments:

1. The host school always has the right to video record any regular season competition that is held in its facility without seeking permission from anyone.
2. The visiting school(s) that wishes to video record should seek permission from the host school. In the interest of promoting good will and friendly relationships between the schools, it is recommended that permission be granted by the host school whenever the request is made.
3. Any member school that wishes to video record a regular season game or event that does not involve its own team or athletes must receive permission from the host school as well as the team(s) that are involved in the competition.
4. Parents or guardians who wish to video record a game or event, during the regular season, that involves their son or daughter should request permission from the host school. It is recommended the host school allow parents to video record their children during the regular season events.

NOTE: In all cases, lights that are distractive are prohibited. Likewise, camera placement that creates a safety concern is also prohibited.

STATE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT

A. Format

1. At the State Tournament a Double Elimination format with multiple mats used as necessary.
2. **UPDATED - 2018:** Beginning with the 2016-17 SDHSAA State Tournament, wrestlers will be seeded for competition by the Wrestling Advisory Committee and their designees. Ten wrestlers in each weight class will be seeded, and each Region Champion is guaranteed to be given one of these top-ten seeds, regardless of any other criteria. Wrestlers will be seeded using the criteria as listed in the "Region Tournament" section of this handbook, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Region Champions are guaranteed a top-ten seed
 - b. After "Head-to-Head" and "common opponents" are evaluated, "Current Year, Region Place" shall be considered prior to other criteria.Additionally, once the ten seeded wrestlers have been established, a draw will be conducted to place the remaining six qualifying wrestlers. Two wrestlers from the same region will be allowed to match up with one another during the first round of competition.
3. **NEW, 2017, UPDATED 2019:** The committee reserves the right to reseed/redraw a bracket if a forfeit occurs within the top eight seeds prior to the start of State Tournament competition. Should a wrestler, for any reason (weight, injury or illness) become unable to compete at the first day of competition prior to the conclusion of weigh-ins, an alternate wrestler will be selected from the pool of fifth-place region finishers. This alternate will be determined by comparing the four fifth-place region wrestlers using the SDHSAA State Seeding criteria. **NEW, 2025-** If, due to lack of wrestlers in a region, a bye advances to the state tournament, the byes shall be filled by fifth place region finishers using the same comparison process as is used to select the alternate. If there are more than four byes pulled forward into a bracket, the 6th place region finishers will be compared to fill the remaining byes. Once all byes are filled, an alternate will be selected from the remaining fifth, then sixth place finishers.

3. **NEW, 2016** – The SDHSAA and/or South Dakota Public Broadcasting will conduct a “fan vote” via social media to determine the order of the Individual Championship matches. Fans, coaches, athletes and the general public will have the ability to cast their vote for which match will be featured as the final match of the night for each Class ‘A’ and Class ‘B.’ For example, if the 145-pound match is selected as the final match of the night, wrestling for that class will begin at 152-pounds.

B. Passes and Complimentary Tickets at State Tournament

Passes will be distributed in accord with current SDHSAA Board of Directors policy, as found in the General Section of the Athletic Handbook. Additionally, floor-passes will only be provided to those coaches who have completed the Coaching Education Requirements and are listed on the SDHSAA website for that team’s official roster.

C. State Tournament Reserved Seat Ticket Information – Combined Tournament, Sioux Falls-Rapid City

1. Member School Pre-Sale Ticket Orders
 - a. Only all-tournament tickets will be sold in advance.
 - b. Tickets for the Combined Tournament will be sold only by the host venue. Ticket Order forms will be sent to Member Schools in the first two weeks of January. There is no limit on the number of adult or student all-tournament tickets a school can purchase.
 - c. Each school order must be accompanied by a check or money order made payable to the host venue for the exact amount of the order.
 - d. The deadline for school orders to be received by the host venue is February 1. Any orders received after that point will be filled in the order they are received and potentially mixed in with general public sales.
 - e. There are NO REFUNDS on ticket orders
2. General Public Pre-Sale Orders
 - a. The general public is encouraged to make their orders through their local school district to ensure they receive priority seating for the tournament.
 - b. Members of the general public not ordering tickets through their school may contact the host site directly or purchase tickets online beginning on or around February 1.
 - c. As with the school orders, there are NO REFUNDS on any tickets purchased.
3. Ticket Prices will reflect the current prices approved by the SDHSAA Board of Directors.
4. Ticket Specifications:
 - a. All adults will be required to purchase a reserved seat ticket good for seating as assigned to gain entry.
 - b. Students wishing to sit with their school/parent groups must purchase a reserved seat ticket.
 - c. Discounted student tickets will be for seating in specified sections separate from team personnel.
 - d. Student Tickets are good for those in Grades 1-12. Kindergarten or younger are admitted free, but not necessarily provided a seat in the reserved section without a ticket. College students are considered adults and must purchase an adult ticket to gain entry.
 - e. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the event. Doors will open 90 minutes prior to the first session on Thursday and 60 minutes prior to each of the remaining sessions.

D. Coaches Conduct and Dress

Coaches are asked to dress appropriately (comfortable, but not sloppy; no hats, t-shirts, denim jeans, or sweat pants). Coaches are in the spotlight, not a fan in the stands. (BOD’s action: April, 2008)

STATE DUAL TOURNAMENT

A. Format & Qualifying Procedures (New 2019)

1. On an annual basis, all teams will be considered for participation in the Dual Championships. There is no longer an opportunity to “opt out” of the event other than by way of competing in less than the required number of duals.
 - a. Teams will need to have the entirety of their DUAL schedule posted to the SDHSAA.com website no later than December 1st. No further events can be added to the schedule after that date, and only SDHSAA-office approved changes may be made to the schedule without a win/loss/forfeit being awarded. **NEW 2025-** Duals scheduled for after the power point cutoff date may not be rescheduled to before the power point cutoff after the December 1st schedule deadline.
 - b. **NEW, 2025-** Teams must compete in a minimum of **ten regular-season** varsity duals to be considered as eligible for the SDHSAA State Dual Championships.
2. To determine the eight qualifying dual teams for each classification, the SDHSAA Seed Point Formula will be utilized for all regular season duals.
 - a. All SDHSAA teams will report all regular season DUAL results against teams from either South Dakota or a state contiguous to South Dakota to the SDHSAA website to establish accurate team records. Result reporting will simply be an indication of “Win” or “Loss” of any/all direct team dual competition, both those that are singularly scheduled, as well as those as part of a team-bracket tournament.

- b. Seed points will be awarded according to the following criteria based upon records of schools involved in dual competition: Seed points will be awarded based upon opponent's win percentage as shown in the chart below.

*Win percentage = number of varsity dual wins divided by the number of varsity dual matches contested.

Opponent's DUAL Winning Percentage	Points for Win	Points for Loss
.750 and above	50	39
.500 - .749	47	36
.250 - .499	44	33
.249 and below	41	30

1. No points are deducted for wrestling teams which are classified below your classification.
 2. No additional points are awarded for wrestling teams which are classified above your classification.
 3. No duals against non-varsity opponents will count toward seed points
 4. A team's seed point average will be determined by dividing the total number of seed points earned by the total number of duals wrestled against varsity opponents, regardless of the opponent's classification.
3. **Updated, 2025:** To determine the eight teams in the State Dual, the top sixteen teams by power point average with at least 10 duals will be evaluated for qualification. Each of the top sixteen teams will be evaluated against each of the other fifteen teams in criteria order to evaluate seed points, which are the number of teams within the group of fifteen that each team has criteria over. Criteria will be, in order: Head-to-Head, Common Opponents, Power Point Average, Last year's place @ State Duals, Last year's place @ State Individual, Coin Flip. Once all teams have been evaluated against all other teams within the selected group, the teams will be listed in order of seed points (number of teams they have criteria over) in descending order, with the team with the highest number of seed points at one and the team with the lowest seed points at sixteen. Teams who are tied in seed points will be evaluated against each other by criteria to determine order. For example, if two teams are sitting at 3 and 4 and each have 6 seed points, those two teams would be evaluated against each other in criteria order until it can be determined who has criteria over the other, and the team with criteria would be placed at three. If three or more teams are tied in seed points, they would be evaluated against each other until a tie is broken positively or negatively and the remaining teams would be re-evaluated starting at the top of the criteria. In order to break a three or more-way tie in seed points via head to head or common opponents, every team in the group would have to have wrestled each other (head to head) or all share a common opponent. Once the ties have been broken and every team is listed in seed point order, if a team right below another team has direct (head to head or common opponent) criteria over the team above them, those two teams would be flipped. Example- Team A has 5 seed points and is the 6 seed. Team B has 4 seed points and is the 7 seed. Team B has head to head criteria over Team A, A and B would be flipped for the 6 and 7 seed. This is only applicable for teams who are right next to each other in seeds. If A is the 2 seed, B is the 3 seed, and C is the 4 seed, but C has direct criteria over A, C cannot jump B to get to A.
4. Once all ties in seed points have been broken and direct criteria among teams right next to each other have been established, the top eight teams advance to the state tournament. Should a tie in seed points exist for the last qualifying spot for consideration of a top eight seed, the following criteria shall be applied to break the tie (if multiple teams are tied, items i through vi shall be used in consecutive order to break the tie either positively or negatively, and the remaining teams will then be re-evaluated using the criteria.
- a. **Criteria will be, in order:**
 - i. **Head-to-Head,**
 - ii. **Common Opponents,**
 - iii. **Power Point Average,**
 - iv. **Last year's place @ State Duals,**
 - v. **Last year's place @ State Individual,**
 - vi. **Coin Flip**
5. In order to qualify for, medal and place at the State Dual Team Championships, teams must be able to fill:
- a. Ten of the fourteen weight classes in Class A in all State Championship Dual Matches
 - b. Eight of the fourteen weight classes in Class B in all State Championship Dual Matches
6. Eight teams will qualify for the quarterfinal round of team dual competition. Four teams will qualify for the semifinals and consolations semifinals. A State Championship, Third Place and Fifth Place match will be held for each classification, with awards being presented to all four teams who advance to those matches.

GIRLS WRESTLING:

SDHSAA Wrestling began a Girls' Division in 2020-21. The above-mentioned handbook information applies to our female competitors in whole, save for the following exceptions and notices.

1. During the season, girls are no longer able to compete in the boys' division of the individual tournament by SDHSAA By-Law. **(2025)** Girls are no longer able to compete in boys dual events in the regular season or post season.

State Wrestling Dual Team Tournament Tentative Time Schedule – Updated for 2025-26

Class A on February 13, 2025

Class B on February 14, 2025

Tentative Schedule #1			
8:30 AM	Weigh-Ins		
11:00 AM	Quarterfinal Duals	Team	Mats 1, 2, 3, 4,
15 min after	Semifinal Duals	Team	Mats 1, 2, 3, 4,
2:00 PM	Championship/3rd Place /5th Place Duals	Team	Mats 1, 2, 3,

Tentative Schedule #2			
8:30 AM	Weigh-Ins		
11:00 AM	Quarterfinal Duals (Seeds 1/8 & 4/5)	Team	Mats 1, 2 (Main Gym)
12:30 PM	Quarterfinal Duals (Seeds 2/7 & 3/6)	Team	Mats 1, 2 (Main Gym)
15 min after (approx. 2:00pm)	Semifinal Duals	Team	Mats 1, 2 (Main Gym)
	Consolation Duals	Team	Mats 3, 4 (Aux Gym)
3:30 PM (approx.)	Championship/3rd Place	Team	Mats 1, 2 (Main Gym)
	5th Place Duals	Team	Mat 3 (Aux Gym)

State Wrestling Individual Tournament Time Schedule – Updated for 2025-26

FEBRUARY 26-28,2026

THURSDAY - FIRST SESSION			
8:00 AM	Weigh-Ins		
10:00am	First Round Matches	Individual	Mats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

THURSDAY - SECOND SESSION			
4:00 PM	Quarterfinal Matches	Individual	Mats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

FRIDAY - FIRST SESSION			
6:30 AM	Weigh-Ins		
9:30 AM	1st Round Consolation & 2nd Round Consolation	Individual	Mats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

FRIDAY - SECOND SESSION			
3:00 PM	Semifinals & 3rd Round Consolation Matches	Individual	3rd Round Conso - Mats 1,2,7,8 Semi - Mats 3,4,5,6
to follow	4th Round Consolation Matches	Individual	Mats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

SATURDAY - FIRST SESSION			
8:00 AM	Weigh-Ins		
10:00 AM	Place Matches (no face-offs/intros)	Individual	Mats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,
1:00 PM	Championship Matches	Individual	Mats 3,4,6

Daily Mat Schedule for Individual State Class A Boys, Class B Boys and Girls Wrestling Tournament

DAY 1 (Thursday)

1st Session – 10:00am

A Boys 1st Round on Mats 7 & 8

B Boys 1st Round on Mats 1 & 2

Girls 1st Round on Mats 3, 4, 5 & 6

- After completion of the Girls 1st round matches, put the next available A Boys 1st Round matches on mats 5 & 6 and the next available B Boys 1st Round matches on Mats 3 & 4

2nd Session – 4:00pm

A Boys Quarterfinals on Mats 7 & 8

B Boys Quarterfinals on Mats 1 & 2

Girls Quarterfinals on Mats 3, 4, 5 & 6

- After completion of the Girls Quarterfinal matches, put the next available A Boys Quarterfinal matches on mats 5 & 6 and the next available B Boys 1st Quarterfinal matches on Mats 3 & 4

DAY 2 (Friday)

1st Session – 9:30am

A Boys 1st Round Consolation on Mats 7 & 8

B Boys 1st Round Consolation on Mats 1 & 2

Girls 1st Round Consolation on Mats 3, 4, 5 & 6

- After completion of the Girls 1st round consolation matches, put the next available A Boys 1st Round consolation matches on mats 5 & 6 and the next available B Boys 1st Round consolation matches on Mats 3 & 4

1st Session - Continued

A Boys 2nd Round Consolation on Mats 7 & 8

B Boys 2nd Round Consolation on Mats 1 & 2

Girls 2nd Round Consolation on Mats 3, 4, 5 & 6

- After completion of the Girls 2nd round consolation matches, put the next available A Boys 2nd round consolation matches on mats 5 & 6 and the next available B Boys 2nd round consolation matches on Mats 3 & 4

2nd Session (Day 2) 3:00pm

A Boys 3rd Round Consolation on Mats 7 & 8

B Boys 3rd Round Consolation on Mats 1 & 2

Girls 3rd Round Consolation on Mats 3, 4, 5 & 6

- After completion of the Girls 3rd round consolation matches, put the next available A Boys 3rd round consolation matches on mats 5 & 6 and the next available B Boys 3rd round consolation matches on Mats 3 & 4

2nd Session - Continued A Boys 4th Round Consolation on Mats 7 & 8

B Boys 4th Round Consolation on Mats 1 & 2

Girls 4th Round Consolation on Mats 3, 4, 5 & 6

- After completion of the Girls 4th round consolation matches, put the next available A Boys 4th round consolation matches on mats 5 & 6 and the next available B Boys 4th round consolation matches on Mats 3 & 4

DAY 3 (Saturday)

1st Session – 10:00am – Placing Matches

B Boys 7th, 5th and 3 place matches on Mats 1 & 2

Girls 7th, 5th and 3 place matches on Mats 3 & 4

A Boys 7th, 5th and 3 place matches on Mats 5 & 6

Note: Run all 7th place matches before 5th place matches etc.

2nd Session – 1:00pm - Finals

B Boys Finals on Mat 3

Girls Finals on Mat 4

A Boys Finals on Mat 6