

# WILD CARD PROPOSAL

# COUNTY TOURNAMENT

## SITUATION

Since (1) the New York State Wrestling Committee is counting "wins" as a criterion for the selection of At Large wrestler participation in the New York State Intersectional Tournament, and since (2) Section VIII has chosen to draw byes in tournaments in order to provide seeded wrestlers with an opportunity to have an additional match, and since (3) the Division I Section VIII Sectional Tournament (Division I County Tournament) automatically distributes byes to the six Qualifying Tournament Champions, then the Division I Section VIII Sectional Tournament format is in contradiction to the policy of drawing byes for the ostensible purpose of enhancing the opportunities of Section VIII's seeded wrestlers to attain sufficient points to be selected as At Large wrestlers in the New York State Intersectional Tournament.

Arguably the use of "wins" as a criterion for At Large selection has resulted in the adoption of strategies that promote (1) strong teams loading up their line up against weaker teams with scores being run up, (2) pitting top wrestlers against far weaker opponents in dual matches instead of a lower ability wrestler out of fear that the top wrestler would not have sufficient At Large points prior to the State Tournament, (3) throwing weaker drawn wrestlers against seeded wrestlers in tournaments who then have no chance to wrestle back to a place if they were in the sixteen man bracket when wrestlebacks start from the quarters. Even when the loser is given a second (exhibition) match they have in effect been denied an opportunity to compete for a place in the tournament because the purpose in placing them against the seeded wrestler was to give the seeded (better?) wrestler an extra victory. This philosophy is unsportsmanlike. Counting wins has produced this year's inane forfeit rule whereby, among other things, an opponent can gain a forfeit victory over a named wrestler who never took the mat, and that named wrestler takes a loss, but this "is not head to head" [sic] according to the rule.

One method of addressing this issue is to have the New York State Wrestling Committee drop "wins" as a criterion of At Large selection. Section VIII could then go back to assigning byes to the seeds, which during these economic times helps to save money and time by reducing the possibility of first round wrestle back matches in tournaments. Until this happens there are actions that we can take in Section VIII.

## MISSION

Bring Section VIII Sectional Tournament policy into conformity with the policy that is used during the season and in the Qualifying Tournaments, while protecting the opportunities for Section VIII wrestlers to be selected for At Large berths in the New York State Intersectional Tournament.

*Continued* →

## EXECUTION

The current Division I County Tournament bracket contains an open line against each of the Qualifying Tournament Champions and against 3B and 4B. At present the lines coming in against 3B and 4B are being filled with Wild Card wrestlers.

Our process for selecting Wild Card Wrestlers to the Section VIII Division I Sectional (County) Tournament is to rank all of the entered 5th and 6th place finishers from the Qualifying Tournaments. The first two of these individuals become the Wild Card wrestlers and the remainder are Alternates.

### PROPOSAL

- Step 1: The coach of any 5th or 6th place Qualifying Tournament finisher who wishes to be considered as a Wild Card or as an Alternate must present an accurate and completely up dated record for that wrestler to the Wild Card/Alternate Seeding Chairman at the Section VIII County Tournament Seeding Meeting. Wrestlers with no record sheet or incomplete record sheets go to the bottom of the list and remain there. *This is a change.*
- Step 2: All entered individuals will be listed on the board with Procedure I Quality Points. *This is not a change.*
- Step 3: Any 5th place finisher will be immediately given a head-to-head advantage over the 6th place finisher that they defeated in their Qualifying Tournament, and will receive the Quality Point total of the defeated 6th place finisher if the 6th place finisher had more quality points than the 5th place wrestler who defeated him in the Qualifying Tournament and both wrestlers are on the board. *This is not a change.*
- Step 4: The Seeding Committee will then move on to Procedure II, and will follow the seeding procedures defined in the Section VIII Wrestling Coaches Handbook. *This is not a change.*
- Step 5: The Wild Card/Alternate candidates will then be arranged in a final ranking. There could be eight Wild Card wrestlers and four Alternates if all twelve 5th and 6th place finishers have been entered. *This is a change.*

### OPTION ONE

Place the first Wild Card against 4B and the second Wild Card against 3B as we do now, and then fill the remaining six bye lines from the top of the bracket down with Wild Card candidates three through eight. The ninth Wild Card candidate then becomes the first Alternate, and so forth. Alternates will fill scratch openings from top-down.

### OPTION TWO

Fill all eight lines (the six bye lines and WC-1 and WC-2) from the top of the bracket down with the first eight Wild Card candidates. The ninth Wild Card candidate then becomes the first Alternate, and so forth. Alternates will fill scratch openings from top-down.

## SUMMARY

In this way the six Qualifying Tournament Champions will have an opportunity for an additional win equal to all of the other wrestlers in the Section VIII Division I Tournament, Section VIII policy regarding the distributions of byes in tournaments will be consistent, six additional wrestlers will have the opportunity to participate in the County Tournament, and although their fate may rival those who rode with Gen. Custer, it will be their choice. This could add six matches per weight class in the opening round if all eight lines are filled, and could add up to four more matches in the first round of wrestlebacks.

*Respectfully submitted: C. Forziat 07 March 2011*

# WEIGHT CERTIFICATION PROPOSAL

## SCHEDULE

### SITUATION

The Weight Certification Schedule has produced hours of delays especially for teams scheduled later in the day. Wrestlers are trying not to urinate in their trousers, and are afraid that if they go to the bathroom that they will not be able to urinate on cue whenever their team gets called. Bus drivers get paid for extended hours. There was no time built into the schedule for the assessors to have a reasonable lunch break without throwing the team arrival schedule even further off. We can do better.

### PROPOSAL

In setting the schedule alternate traditionally large enrollment teams with traditionally lower enrollment teams. This gives the assessors a chance if they go overtime with a large team to catch up to the schedule with the smaller team. The extra twenty minute cushion built in at 11:00 AM and 2:20 PM gives the assessors a catch-up period and a chance to get a coffee/bathroom break for themselves. The gap between 12:40 PM and 1:20 PM serves as a catch up period and an opportunity for assessors to get some lunch. If a station wishes to move ahead, and the next scheduled team is available, no problem.

In 2010 Herricks was scheduled for 2:00 PM, arrived on site at 1:45 PM and was not sent in for certification until 4:36 PM. There is no point in issuing a schedule if it is going to be so dysfunctional. Teams must be given a realistic time schedule. Assessors need a realistic work schedule that enables them to complete their assignments with minimal discomfort to the wrestlers and their coaches, and enables the assessors to have reasonable breaks. The schedule below is offered as an example.

TIME	STATION A	STATION B	STATION C	STATION C
10:00 AM - 10:20 AM	Wantagh	Uniondale	MacArthur	Mepham
10:20 AM - 10:40 AM	Roslyn	V. S. South	Wheatley	Hempstead
10:40 AM - 11:00 AM	Sewanhaka East	Plainedge	Syosset	Sewanhaka West
11:20 AM - 11:40 AM	Port Washington	V. S. North	Westbury	Hewlett
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	Massapequa	Long Beach	Bellmore JFK	Farmingdale
12:20 PM - 12:40 PM	Mineola	Seaford	Plainview	Southside
1:20 PM - 1:40 PM	Great Neck North	Freeport	Locust Valley	East Meadow
1:40 PM - 2:00 PM	Manhasset	Roosevelt	Oyster Bay	Carle Place
2:00 PM - 2:20 PM	Garden City	Glen Cove	Island Trees	Lev. Division
2:40 PM - 3:00 PM	G. N. South	Lawrence	North Shore	Calhoun
3:20 PM - 3:40 PM	Herricks	Lynbrook	Hicksville	Cold Spring Harbor
3:40 PM - 4:00 PM	V. S. Central	Oceanside	Jericho	Bethpage
4:00 PM - 4:20 PM	Baldwin		Clarke	

*Respectfully submitted: C. Forziat 07 March 2011*

# WEIGHT CERTIFICATION PROPOSAL

## ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### SITUATION

In Section VIII none of our wrestlers have 14 days to certify. By using the Saturday after Thanksgiving there are only five days left. Those wrestlers who missed that first day only have two days in which to certify.

Thanksgiving is arguably the World's best holiday. No gift giving required, get together with family and friends and have a nice meal. We have screwed it up making it harder to sell wrestling to the parents of freshmen and first year team members.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire a sufficient number of proficient assessors, and to have one date on which they can all be available.

The current cost of our present assessment process is upwards of \$12,000.00 for the assessors, which does not take into consideration school district bus transportation expense or host site custodial expense. The financial cost is most likely to rise. Costs not measured by money include the stress on the kids of certifying and having to choose between that or family trips to visit relatives, not to mention the number of coaches who end up spending five days at a test site. This is indefensible. We can do better, and must seek improvement.

Most teams have numbers of individuals for whom the certification of their minimum weight is a non concern perhaps because their percent body fat is so high they will never go to the minimum weight, or because their age and lack of experience are of less consequence than their growth and enjoyment of the sport. These students could be certified the weekend before Thanksgiving and would be the happier for it. This would leave only those wrestlers who are most concerned about their minimum weight to certified on Thanksgiving weekend. Presumably they would be the more experienced team members and their parents would be far more understanding of the process.

The significant problem with such a plan is the near impossibility of acquiring sufficient numbers of proficient assessors for two dates, and the financial cost would be prohibitive.

### PROPOSAL

Investigate the use of body composition scales for the purpose of weight certification. Such an investigation would need to be done this spring, and must involve a minimum of twenty subjects, an appropriate body composition scale, and at least three certified, proficient assessors. Each subject would be identified by number only, each assessor by letter. With four separate rooms, three with human assessors using the current process of weight assessment, one with the body composition scale. At least two recorders would supervise the scale, and each assessor would have at least one recorder/secretary to assist them. *It is understood that there is an inescapable human variable factor involved in our current weight assessment procedure. We understand that the results from the three human assessors will probably vary a bit. These assessors should not be embarrassed by reality.*

As long as each subject remains essentially unchanged from station to station, the hydration factor would be neutralized. However, in the event that a body composition scale claims that it also measures hydration level, then each subject must go to that station first to have the scale determine hydration level. Then they can proceed to traditional specific gravity test station where their urine would be tested. Next they would return to the body composition scale (presumably a bit lighter having urinated) where their new weight would be recorded (and used by the human assessors) and their scale determined minimum weight certification would be determined. *At this stage we should not be concerned whether the subjects are acceptably hydrated. Hydration is less of an issue than comparing/contrasting the percent body fat results taken on each subject while they are in the same condition for each assessment.*

Before any valid conclusions can be reached, we must perform a tight and careful study. The more subjects that we test, and the more assessors that we involve in the evaluation process, the better the data. If we can get the personnel, this test could be done more than once in different locations.

*continued* →

## *What do we do with the results?*

### OPTION I

If the results of the body composition scale are acceptable, we would be well advised to obtain four such units. Establish a certification session on the first Saturday of the season with four stations and time slots. Coaches would have to make a reservation for an available time slot. Any appeals would take place on the following Monday and Tuesday. A second certification session would occur on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Any wrestlers who were insufficiently hydrated on the three days of the first session would also come to the second session. Any wrestler who was certified during the first session is done, and has no further appeals.

### OPTION II

If the results of the body composition scale are close, but somewhat questionable, they could be used on the first Saturday to certify those individuals for whom the certification of their minimum weight is a non concern perhaps because their percent body fat is so high they will never go to the minimum weight, or because their age and lack of experience are of less consequence than their growth and enjoyment of the sport. Any appeals would take place on the following Monday and Tuesday. A second certification session would occur on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Any wrestlers who were insufficiently hydrated on the three days of the first session would also come to the second session. Any wrestler who was certified during the first session is done, and has no further appeals. The second session could be done by the current process, but this would delay the expense recovery time.

### EQUIPMENT

While there are numerous body composition scales advertised, they range in price from \$80.00 to \$300.00 and are recommended for home use only. Tanita [[www.tanita.com/en/wrestling-scales](http://www.tanita.com/en/wrestling-scales)] produces a body composition scale [model TBF-300WA] which has been approved by Midlands, NHSCA, NCAA, USA Wrestling, NWCA, and Dan Gable International Wrestling Institute among others. It is available through Competitive Edge [[www.thecompetitiveedge.com](http://www.thecompetitiveedge.com)] and is advertised on their website for sale at \$1,735.02 (case is \$132.00), and through Worldwide Sport Supply [[www.wwsport.com/wrestling](http://www.wwsport.com/wrestling)], at \$1,795.00. Travel cases (\$100.00), thermal printout paper, would be an additional expense (\$27.00/roll and does 150-200 readouts) and may be available locally. Ground shipping from Competitive Edge is free. They stock the scales and ship out in about a week. Worldwide backorders them from Tanita. A scale plus carry case plus box of thermal paper (five rolls) from Competitive Edge (recommended by Tanita) would cost about \$1,900.00. Purchasing and using four scales represents a savings of about \$4,400.00 in the first year alone under Option I. This scale can also be used for weigh-ins only (no need for the thermal paper) and could be excellent at the County Tournament.

According to Mike at Tanita, over 30 states are using this scale for weight certification, and it is recommended by the NWCA. All calibration and any recalibration is done by Tanita, but local scale companies can check them for accuracy. Unless a scale is damaged it will match the readings of the other scales in use. Oregon has been using them for five years and is only now sending them in for calibration check for the heck of it. If calibration checks are desired the scale should be sent to Tanita during spring or summer.

### FOLLOW THROUGH

Should we decide to use a body composition scale we must determine a method of obtaining them in sufficient quantity. Do we have Section VIII make the investment with the understanding that they will pay for themselves in the first year resulting in the saving of a significant chunk of money in the future, and that they provide a better service for our clients (the kids). Or do we hope that some of our member districts might make the investment. We would also be well advised to notify the New York State Wrestling Committee that we would like to experiment with this form of weight certification. This really should not be a problem, since that is exactly what Ken Boucher and Section Nine did back in the early nineties with the Futrex machine that got this whole percent body fat certification process started in the first place.

*Respectfully submitted: C. Forziat 07 March 2011*