

Wrestling Competition Procedures

This document is geared specifically for families of new wrestlers to gain an understanding of what to do and expect during regular meets as well as tournaments. Depending on the amount of wrestlers competing, the size of the facility, the number of mats, quantity of rounds/matches and the overall operation and organization of the event, some competitions could make for a fairly long day. This especially goes for those who are not accustomed to the sport. The best way to pass the time, besides watching and learning, is to bring along items to occupy yourself and your family (books, magazines, games, etc.). We advise that you show patience and good sportsmanship and always remember why you are there.

Always be certain of the scheduled start time and allow yourself plenty of time to arrive no less than 30 minutes (but preferably 45 minutes) prior to the start of the event. Upon arriving, find a spot in the bleachers to sit and then find your child's bout numbers (see below). Once this is known, your wrestler should then put on their wrestling shoes and find a place on the mat with the rest of the team to begin warming up. They should show up wearing their singlet and warm-ups. Prior to the event starting, bout numbers will begin to appear in one of many places, such as at the head table, at a mat table or they will possibly be projected or hung on a wall. The bout numbers will tell you which mat your child's matches will be held. Depending on the school, not all mats will necessarily be held in the main gym, so be aware of the location of all mats before the start of the event. You are responsible for knowing your child's bout numbers and for paying attention to the bout display.

When your child's bout number appears, make sure your child has all of his/her equipment and find one of his/her coaches to let them know that their match will be coming up soon, then go to that mat area to begin warming up. When your child is on deck (next match), he/she needs to go to that mat's scoring table and give their name to the attendant. They will give your child either a green or red ankle band to put around either ankle. Your child should listen to his/her coach's advice before going onto the mat as well as directly after the match.

Important: if you informed your parent rep that your child will be wrestling in an event, please make every attempt to be there. It's understood that illnesses can happen unexpectedly, especially this time of the year; if this happens, you need to inform your parent rep as soon as you know that your child will not be competing. If you know this the day or night before, do not wait to inform your parent rep the next day (or not at all). For the regular Saturday matches, it takes a good bit of time to pair up the wrestlers the night before, but it's even more chaotic the next morning before the start time for the coaches to try to find replacements for the kids that your child was supposed to wrestle. As for tournaments, BSYWC pays the registration fees for some of these events in order to provide as much competition opportunity for each wrestler as possible. We ask that you to take this into consideration. *Furthermore, for our regular Saturday home matches, if you have volunteered or have been assigned to work during the event and your child is ill, it is still your responsibility to work during your scheduled time slot; if this is not possible, then you must find a replacement (family member, friend, etc.).*

Regular Saturday Matches

On Friday nights, some of our coaches will travel to the host school to pair each participating wrestler for the next day's matches. The coaches try to get each wrestler at least two matches. During the regular-season Saturday matches, the coaches from each team do their best to pair the children to create the closest matches possible. Wrestlers are paired up based on weight (preferably within a few pounds of each other), similar years of experience, ability (i.e. knowledge of technique, level of aggressiveness, etc.) and age division. For the CPYWL, the age divisions are as follows, with the wrestler's age as of January 1: Bantam: 6 and under; Midget: 7 & 8; Junior: 9 & 10; and Intermediate: 11 & 12. Note that the wrestler's practice group (A, B or C) has no bearing on the age division.

On Saturday morning (refer to the calendar for start times, as they vary), the first thing your child should do is find a BSYWC coach to get their bout numbers. The coach will direct your child to the coach who has the bout numbers, and that coach will write the numbers on the child's hand.

Tournaments

Youth tournaments are structured with brackets, based on age division and weight class, in one of three ways: seeded (based on record, previous achievements and head-to-head results), blind draw (or blind seeding, in which there may be no basis of placement other than perhaps to keep teammates in opposite brackets), or round robin (each wrestler competes with all wrestlers in their bracket, usually two or three matches). Some tournaments require weigh-ins prior to the tournament, so make sure you read and understand the registration form.

Upon arriving, you should find your bout number(s) posted on the brackets displayed in a lobby or corridor and write them down. For seeded- or blind draw-format tournaments, you will probably only know the first-round bout number. After that first match, depending on whether your child wins or loses, another bout number will be assigned that you will need to check before the next round starts. For round robin tournaments, all bout numbers for your wrestler are typically predetermined.

Most seeded and blind draw tournaments use a double-elimination arrangement, at least from the quarter-final round, to assure each wrestler gets a minimum of two matches. However, this may vary depending on the tournament's size, time limits, etc.

If you ever have any questions on the above, please feel free to approach a club officer, coach or parent rep. We'll be glad to help. Just remember to have fun!