



Montana High School Association

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TO: MHSА WRESTLING SCHOOL CONTACTS AND HEAD WRESTLING COACHES

FROM: BRIAN MICHELOTTI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

RE: QUESTIONS REGARDING WEIGH-INS BEFORE A TWO DAY TOURNAMENT

The MHSА Executive Board approved a change in regard to weigh-ins that will be in effect for the 2013-14 season. The MHSА will continue to follow NFHS rule 4-5 on weigh-in procedures for all regular season matches/tournaments and post-season competition. We will have one exception this year for regular season, two day events. The new language states:

For regular season tournaments that are held on two consecutive days, schools can weigh-in participants the night before the opening of the tournament at their home site with school administration present to verify those weigh-ins. The team participants will still be required to follow NFHS weigh-in rule 4-5 and must weigh-in on site the second day at the tournament site.

The rationale for the MHSА Executive Board approving this new rule included the following:

- To save schools money (no meals, lodging, etc) because they would not have to leave a day early due to early morning weigh-ins on the first day of a two day tournament.
- To allow teams' safer travel because they could travel later in the morning on the first day of a tournament because they would not have to arrive at the tournament site for an early morning weigh-in.

We have received many questions about the implementation of this new rule, so we wanted to share the questions and answers with all MHSА Wrestling Schools Administrators and Head Coaches.

Question # 1 – Are skin checks still required on the first day of the tournament?

Answer – Yes, the MHSА will not waive the skin checks at any event. Tournament Administration must schedule a skin check with MOA Officials present just prior to the opening round of a tournament.

Question # 2 – We have a tournament on Friday/Saturday. Because of distance, our team must travel to the tournament site on Thursday. We have a practice scheduled at the tournament site on Thursday night. Can we weigh-in on Thursday night with the tournament manager present?

Answer – No – The rationale for this rule being put in place was for cost saving and safe travel. If a team travels the day before they would not be allowed to weigh in at the tournament site on Thursday night. They would need to weigh in on Friday morning at the scheduled weigh-in.

Question # 3 – The new MHSА rule states “schools can weigh-in participants the **night** before...” What is the earliest time of the day that we can weigh in at our school and still meet the “night” before weigh-in?

Answer – The MHSAA has set a time of 4:00 pm. Weigh-ins after 4:00 pm are acceptable weigh-ins to comply with this new rule. An example of this would be a team traveling the night before to the site (as in question # 2), could weigh in at their home site with an administrator present after 4:00 pm and then travel to the tournament site with their home weigh-in being the legal weigh-in for the tournament's first day.

Question # 4 - Our team has a dual meet on Thursday, the day before a two day tournament. Does that weigh-in count?

Answer – Yes, it counts. Regardless of the time of the day in which the dual weigh-in occurs on Thursday, the dual weigh-in would count for 2 contested events (Thursday and Friday).

Question #5 – Can a Certified Athletic Trainer do the weigh-in the night before the tournament?

Answer – No. The rule was specifically passed with school administration present to perform the weigh-ins. The rule could be amended for future wrestling seasons.

Question # 6 – Do tournaments have to offer a weigh-in for schools on the first day of a tournament, or can they mandate that schools weigh-in the night before?

Answer – Tournaments must offer a weigh-in on the first day of the tournament. NFHS Rule 4-5-2 must be followed, which states:

Contestants of the same gender shall have the opportunity to weigh in shoulder-to-shoulder or by team(s) at the tournament site a maximum of two hours before the first session of each day.

We would suggest that tournament manager's contact the schools attending to see how many schools will weigh-in the night before and how many will weigh-in the first day. This will help for staffing purposes at weigh-ins.

Consecutive Days of Competition weight allowance questions.

Question # 7 - We have teams competing in our two day tournament that have a wrestling match on Thursday. Wrestlers who weigh in on Friday morning will get one additional pound for consecutive days of completion allowance, but do the teams weighing in on Thursday get an additional pound on their "night" before weigh-in?

Answer – No. If a team opts for the night before weigh-in in this scenario, they would have to make scratch weight on the Thursday night weigh-in. Wrestlers weighing in on Friday would get one pound for the consecutive days of competition allowance and then all wrestlers would get the maximum of two pounds for consecutive days of competition for the required Saturday weigh-in.

Question # 8 – Can we have some wrestlers on the team weigh-in on Thursday night and then have some weigh-in on Friday morning because they get an additional pound?

Answer – No – This is an all or nothing rule. ALL wrestlers from the same team must weigh-in the same format. We will not allow some wrestlers to weigh-in the night before and others from the same team to weigh-in the following morning. This would create many problems for tournament managers and not the intent of this rule.

Note – The consecutive day of competition allowance can only be granted if there is a competition the day preceding the weigh-in. For example if there are no matches are scheduled by any of the teams competing in the tournament on Thursday, teams opting to weigh-in on Thursday night and also those teams opting to weigh-in Friday morning both must make scratch weight.

The MHSAA has produced a weigh-in form (PDF or Word document) that can be used to fax or email the approved weigh-in, with the administrator's signature or confirmation, to tournament managers. This file is located on the MHSAA Wrestling Page at www.mhsaa.org.

Additional Questions

Coach's Questions - We will wrestle in a dual on Thursday, so we will make scratch Thursday night and then I will fax or email that weigh-in sheet for our kids competing in the two day Class B/C tournament and also a two day Class AA tournament.

My question would be about the weight certification (50 % Rule Form) document that we complete: Would I put this Thursday weigh-in down **twice** for making weight for both the Thursday dual and the first day of competition at the tournaments?

Answer - Yes, the weigh-in on Thursday counts as two contested events for each competing wrestler (one for the Thursday dual and One for the Friday tournament).

Administrator Questions - If a team chooses to weigh-in the night before and a wrestler does not make weight, that wrestler cannot weigh-in at the meet the next morning and would not be eligible to compete. Correct?

Answer – Yes. The wrestler cannot weigh-in on site the next morning and cannot compete at that weight class where he did not make weight. That wrestler could compete at the next highest weight class, if allowed.

Additional Question – In regard to the original question # 2 in your memo, the rationale for this rule being put in place was for cost saving and safe travel. We are hosting a tournament. Does this mean that as the home team we are required to weigh-in on Friday morning and are not allowed to weigh-in on Thursday night?

Answer – No, the reason for this rule is safe travel and cost savings for **visiting** schools. Home teams are still allowed the same opportunity to weigh-in on the night before their tournament begins with administration verification.

Coach's Question – We have a two-day tournament. On the first day of the tournament everyone wrestles in a tournament. On the second day of the tournament, the wrestlers who were eliminated from tournament are placed into a tournament that has a mixer format. If a wrestler does not make weight on the second day of this tournament, is he allowed to wrestle at the next highest weight class?

Answer – No, the wrestler cannot wrestle in any tournament format (mixer, bracketed tournament, etc.) on Saturday if he does not make the **same** weight he weighed in at on Thursday night or Friday morning. We need to promote proper weight management and with the addition of the new night before a two-day tournament allowance, wrestlers must make weight the second day at the same weight in order to be eligible to compete.