



COPPER STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Question	Answer
<i>What constitutes a "school-based program"?</i>	A school-based program is one that has a school-approved coach with an organized competition schedule. Most importantly, the determining factor is that school administration approve their wrestlers to officially represent the school in the tournament.
<i>May a 5th grader compete in the tournament?</i>	No - the tournament is only open to currently enrolled 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th graders.
<i>Who decides if a wrestler may compete for his/her school??</i>	School administration determine whether or not a student is eligible to participate in the tournament (in terms of academic, behavior, home-school eligibility, etc...) To be clear, a student must be enrolled in and attend the school they represent – no exceptions (except as noted below with 6 th graders or with home-schooled students).
<i>Our school does not have a 6th grade but we allow 6th graders to practice and compete with us. Are they eligible??</i>	No - all wrestlers from a team must be currently enrolled at that school. If a school does not offer a grade level for enrollment, then wrestlers from those grades are not eligible for competing in the tournament. There is one exception and that is in the case where an elementary and a middle school may be called separate schools but share the same campus. For example, at several rural schools, the elementary school contains the 6 th graders but it shares the same campus as the middle school and it is standard school policy that they are allowed to participate in athletics. This situation is substantively no different than a K-8 school.
<i>May a team enter more than one wrestler per weight class?</i>	No – each team is allowed only one entry per weight class.

<p><i>Is there an age limit?</i></p>	<p>Yes – a wrestler cannot turn 15 before September 1st of the academic year in which the tournament is held. For example, for the 2025 tournament, a wrestler is ineligible if he/she turned 15 before September 1, 2024. If he/she turned 15 after September 1, 2024, he/she is eligible to participate in the 2025 tournament.</p>
<p><i>How many times may a wrestler compete in the tournament?</i></p>	<p>A wrestler is allowed to participate a maximum of three times in the tournament (assuming his/her school has a 6th grade) but no more than once in a given grade level. If a wrestler competes one year in the tournament at a given grade and is retained in the subsequent year in the same grade, he/she is not allowed to participate in the tournament the following year.</p> <p>Because of the advantage that a retained wrestler has in the subsequent year, if it is discovered and verified that a wrestler did, in fact, compete twice in the same grade level the previous years, that wrestler will not be allowed to compete the following year.</p> <p><i>There is one exception to this rule and that would be where the participation in wrestling is specifically stated as a legal requirement as part of a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).</i></p>
<p><i>What are the requirements for academic eligibility?</i></p>	<p>Each school sets its requirements for academic eligibility and is expected to abide by them for the wrestlers it enters.</p>
<p><i>May a wrestler compete for a school and a club in the same season and still wrestle in the tournament?</i></p>	<p>Yes – as long as the wrestler meets the eligibility (grade, school enrollment, academic) requirements for the tournament and the wrestler is enrolled in the school and an active member of the school-based team.</p>

WEIGH-INS

Question	Answer
<i>How are weigh-ins conducted?</i>	Weigh-ins will be conducted in the gym. Each wrestler is allowed only one opportunity to make weight at each weigh-in. If a wrestler fails to make weight on one scale, he/she may attempt to make weight on the other scales but must do so immediately.
<i>What garments may be worn for weigh-ins?</i>	A competition singlet must be worn for all weigh-ins – no exceptions. A wrestler may not “strip-down” to a suitable undergarment – he/she must make weight wearing the singlet.
<i>Is there a Saturday weigh-in?</i>	Yes - there will be a Saturday weigh-in, beginning at 8:00 am. All wrestlers will be granted an additional one-pound weight allowance.
<i>If a team has a competition on Thursday, will a one-pound weight allowance be granted to all teams for Friday?</i>	No – due to the nature of the tournament (teams entering from across the state), all weights on Friday will be at the weights posted on our website.

GENERAL

Question	Answer
<i>Can a coach challenge a ruling?</i>	Yes – a coach may challenge a ruling per National Federation Protocol. Final decisions will be made by the Tournament Directors.
<i>How are wrestlers seeded in the tournament?</i>	Wrestlers are seeded according to the seeding criteria listed in the Information Sheet. Additionally, the tournament is a little unique in that we also maintain geographic balance and attempt to avoid seeding wrestlers who may have met often in the same ¼ or ½ bracket. Our goal is to identify and separate the 8 best wrestlers and then balance the ½ and ¼ brackets according to criteria and geographic balance.
<i>If a seeded wrestler does not make weight or does not show, is the weight-class re-seeded?</i>	Yes – the weight class is re-seeded by moving every seeded wrestler “up” the applicable number of seeds according to how many seeded wrestlers do not make weight or do not show. However, if this results in seeding that is contrary to our objectives of maintaining geographic balance (for example, moving three seeded wrestlers from the same grouping into the same ½ bracket or two into the same ¼ bracket), we may not move up every wrestler one seed.

This is not meant to be a comprehensive listing of questions or rules and may be added to, or edited, at any time as the occasion demands interpretation of the rules.