

October 11, 2018

To: IHSA Wrestling Coaches & Athletic Directors

From: Fred Arkin & Colleen Kristoff – Co-Chairpersons – IWCOA Steering Committee on Girls Wrestling

Re: 2018-19 High School Wrestling Season – Girls Wrestling in Illinois

Coaches & ADs

The 2018-2019 school year marks a turning point for high school wrestling in Illinois, as the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) is providing leadership to promote girls wrestling as its own competitive sport.

Through it's steering committee, the IWCOA will provide member schools with information and other resources necessary to participate in girls wrestling, including schedules, rules and regulations.

**Coaches & AD's the IWCOA asks you support the statewide effort to promote Girls Wrestling by doing the following:**

1. Logon to the IHSA website; resources/download tab and sign-up for Girls Wrestling as an Emerging Sport.
2. Make sure all of your girls wrestlers are IHSA certified.
3. Enter your girls roster on TrackWrestling and update each wrestler stats throughout the season (no charge from Track)
4. Add girls divisions to your events. It is easy to add a girls division to a Track event
5. Report your girls events to IWCOA to add to our master schedule include: date, location, event format (dual, festival or tournament), open or invite and contact name & email/phone

SEND TO: [ilhsgirlswrestling@outlook.com](mailto:ilhsgirlswrestling@outlook.com)

6. Complete Emerging Sports Forms and return to IHSA; Resolution & Registration (beginning of the season) and Report (end of the season)

In return, the IWCOA will also maintain, evaluate and report data the IHSA regarding school involvement, individual participation and competitions. TrackWrestling will be utilized and the IWCOA asks all coaches to manage their girls roster and stats on Track (separate instructions to follow) to insured we capture all statewide data.

Per the IHSA, girls only wrestling competitions for the 2018-2019 season will be competed as a separate division of boys wrestling (similar to JV, JVII, Sophomore & Freshmen). As in the past, girls may still compete in boys wrestling events, however must remain in compliance with IHSA By-Law 5.171. Girls not competing in the IHSA state tournament series will be allowed to compete in five tournaments, while those wrestling in the IHSA state tournament series will be allowed to compete in four tournaments prior to the IHSA regional tournament. Total tournaments can be a combination of girl's division and boys' events.

The IWCOA will be sponsoring two statewide open tournaments on the weekend of Jan 26-27, 2019 one will be held at Shepard H.S. in Palos Heights and the other TBD. Also, post IHSA season the IWCOA will also be hosting it's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Girls State Wrestling Championship series concurrent with the Frosh/Soph State.

*For more information go to the IWCOA website at <https://iwcoa.net> Or contact the IWCOA at: [ilhsgirlswrestling@outlook.com](mailto:ilhsgirlswrestling@outlook.com)*