



NEWS

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NYS Assembly Passes Fairness In Competition Act

Bill Now Goes To NYS Senate

Tonight, by an overwhelming vote of 81 to 45, the New York State Assembly approved the Fairness In Competition Act (A.2162-A). The legislation, sponsored by Assemblyman Joe Morelle, would require a proportionally based, multiple-entry state tournament format be used for certain individual sports, most notably wrestling.

“This is a huge victory for us in that a state legislative body, representing the people of the state, has said that the NYS Wrestling Tournament is fundamentally unfair and a proportionally based multiple-entry system must be used to make it right,” said Rich Romeo, President of the NYS Wrestling Coaches Association.

“We want to thank Assemblyman Morelle for his tireless efforts on behalf of New York’s wrestling community – especially our athletes,” said Romeo.

The Fairness In Competition Act now goes to the NYS Senate for its approval where Senator Tom Libous is sponsoring the legislation. The bill already enjoys considerable support in that house but will have to move quickly through their legislative process as the legislature is expected to adjourn late next week.

“We need coaches, boosters and parents to act again - now. Go to our web site located at <http://www.sectioniiwrestling.com/NYSWCA/> to find and e-mail or call your Senator,” said Dick Farfaglia, Executive Director of the NYSWCA. “If you contacted your Senator already, please do it again and tell him you understand the Fairness In Competition just passed the Assembly and ask him to support the bill (Senate number S.2064-A) in the senate. Contact your assistant coaches, parents and fans and ask them to do the same. Coaches can reproduce the NYSWCA Fairness flyer and send it home with your athletes”.

This Fairness In Competition Act was introduced in January 2005 after repeated attempts by the NYSWCA and Assemblyman Morelle to convince the NYSPHSAA to reform the state wrestling tournament were rejected. The New York State Wrestling Tournament is the only tournament in the country where sections, regardless of the number of schools competing, send a single entry to the tournament.

The NYS Public High School Athletic Association opposes the bill. They are conducting a negative campaign claiming the legislation would bring havoc to interscholastic athletics, create enormous financial hardship for school districts and harm academic achievement. The expectation is that NYSPHSAA will continue their opposition in the senate.

“As coaches, we know the Fairness In Competition Act is the right thing to do and that these claims by NYSPHSAA are not at all true,” said Romeo. “The Senate needs to hear that message loud and clear. Please act today.”