



# NEWS

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## **Fairness In Competition Bill Approved By Education Committee**

*A2162a now goes to the entire Assembly for consideration*

Albany, NY (May 10, 2006) – The New York State Assembly Committee on Education today overwhelmingly approved Assembly Bill A2162a – also known as the “Fairness In Competition” bill – by a vote of 24-6. The legislation now goes to the floor of the Assembly for consideration by the entire house.

“We are thrilled with the committee’s support and look forward to the Assembly passing the bill,” said NYS Wrestling Coaches Association President Rich Romeo. “Every other state in the country has a multiple-entry system that gives athletes an equal or similar chance to qualify for the state tournament. We have an obligation to be fair to New York’s student-athletes and this kind of change is long overdue.”

“This legislation has become necessary because, even though members of the NYSPHSAA wrestling committee agree that the current system is not fair - they have been unable to change the NYSPHSAA policies. Their efforts have been restricted by their local sections and NYSPHSAA policies,” said Romeo.

The legislation, sponsored by Assemblyman Joe Morelle, would require a multiple-entry system for state tournament competition based proportionally on the number of schools competing in a section. The bill, amended last January, limits this multiple-entry requirement to individual sports not organized into the five standard classifications of school population for state championship competition. Also exempt are those sports where a statewide standard of time or distance is used.

The sports affected are wrestling, golf, bowling, tennis and gymnastics.

“This is a big step forward in the legislative process but we still have a ways to go,” said NYSWCA Executive Director Dick Farfaglia. “We will start working immediately to get passage by the Assembly and then the Senate. We will be contacting coaches in the very near future to let them know what they can do to help”.

“We want to thank Assemblyman Morelle, the bill’s sponsor, who has been with us from the beginning and would also like to thank Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan, Chair of the Committee on Education, for her leadership and support of the Fairness In Competition Bill,” said Farfaglia.

The Senate Bill, S2064a is sponsored by Senator Tom Libous. Many in the wrestling community will remember that Senator Libous was the architect of state legislative action that returned wrestling to Binghamton University.