

January 25, 2007

Fan of Wrestling,

I thought it was important for everyone who reads the forum to actually get the facts on the future weight classes in New York State. I never realized that my response to a member on the Section V Executive Committee would be forwarded to parents who would feel it necessary to post my opinions on this forum without ever talking to me. Had I known that was the intent, I would have expanded my response to include the process that will take place.

At the last State Wrestling Meeting, the topic of going to Federation Weights was brought up. Wrestling, like many other sports, follows the NFHS rules, with a few exceptions. There has been a movement to align with the Federation rules. This was the first time in my two years as Section V Chair that the weight class issue has been brought up at our State meeting. It happened at the end of our meeting and discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

My response to the Section V Executive member was brief. If I had known it was going to be shared and critiqued on a forum, I would have included the following information.

While my personal opinion is we should align with all Federation Rules, I represent Section V at the NYS meetings. Before this issue would ever be voted on, I would do what I always do, and that is to gather information from the varsity coaches and in this case, Athletic Directors, of all schools that field a wrestling program in Section V. I will be collecting data from this years sectional class tournaments on the # of entries and grade level of the 96-pounders and 275-pounders.

The results of these surveys, along with the data collection, would then go to the Section V Wrestling Committee. This committee consists of the Sectional Chairs of each class, as well Chairman from each league. In addition the NYS Chair sits on this committee. The majority of people on this committee are varsity coaches. This group provides me with input on all levels of wrestling, including League, Sectional, and State matters. This year, the Section V Wrestling Committee, with input from all coaches, decided that the State Qualifier would be seeded for the first time. In addition, there will soon be a survey sent out to all schools asking for their vote on whether to add multiple entries to the Class Sectional Tournaments for 2008. Coaches originated this proposal. The bottom line is we work well as a collective group in Section V trying to promote and improve our Sport. The issue of the weight classes will be handled in the same way. My vote would represent these groups.

After reading this, anyone who still has concerns on this matter feel free to email me @ cbourne@bcs1.org. I would be happy to set up a meeting to discuss this with you.

Chris Bourne
Section V Wrestling Chairman