

*******GRAPEVINE WRESTLING LEAGUE*******
CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this organization is the Grapevine Wrestling League.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to provide a competitive wrestling league for member teams in New Jersey and to provide rules and guidelines for member teams to follow in preparation for and during competition.

The intention of the league is to create an atmosphere for the youth wrestler, which will aid in the teaching skills, sportsmanship, and will encourage continued participation in the sport.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership shall be open to any New Jersey junior wrestling team, which has demonstrated good sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fiscal responsibility. Any team that petitions the league for acceptance and shows these characteristics may be voted into the league with a two-thirds majority.

It is the responsibility of all members to abide by the league Constitution and By-laws, consistently demonstrate good sportsmanship and ethical conduct, pay all dues and fees in a timely manner, and have representatives at all league meetings. Failure to comply with these standards is cause for removal from the league with a two-thirds majority vote of league members.

The member teams of the Grapevine Wrestling League must abide by the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as the New Jersey Law against Discrimination (LAD).

Each member teams must declare an administrator. The team administrator or his representative must be present at all league functions. This administrator will be responsible for the distribution of information to his team. He must inform the league secretary of all team leadership changes within 7days of the change.

ARTICLE 4: ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1: *Organization and Election of Officers*

The Grapevine League will be composed of one administrator from each team. Each team is entitled to one vote. League officers will be elected by a simple majority vote at the last meeting in March and will serve for one year. The elected positions will be: Director, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

SECTION 2: *Duties of Elected Officers:*

Director - The Director is responsible for giving guidance and advice to the league officers and members to assure that the purpose as described in Article 2 is maintained.

President - The President is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the operation of the league. He will chair all meetings and call for votes of approval on all issues. He will delegate authority, assign specific functions and create special committees as needed.

Vice President - The Vice-President will assist the President in his duties and will assume the President's responsibilities in his absence.

Secretary - The Secretary will prepare minutes of all League meetings and distribute them to all members. He will prepare, maintain and distribute a current directory of names, addresses and telephone numbers of all League members. He will maintain files on all correspondence and insurance policies. He will maintain accurate attendance records of each League meeting. He will aid the president in the preparation of League meeting agendas.

Treasurer - He will collect, disburse and maintain records of all financial transactions of the League. He will account for all receipts and disbursements and make these records available when requested by League members. He will provide a financial report at each League meeting.

ARTICLE 5: QUORUM

A quorum for a League meeting will be two thirds (2/3) of the current League voting members. A quorum is required in order to vote on any issue.

ARTICLE 6: AMENDMENTS

To amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the League, the amendments must be presented, read and discussed at one meeting and voted for by a three quarter majority of the voting members attending the following meeting.

ARTICLE 7: INSURANCE

Each member team shall carry liability insurance covering their team, coaches and referees when at a Grapevine function. Member teams shall also provide secondary medical insurance for the wrestlers.

ARTICLE 8: FEES

Membership fees and penalty fees will be voted on annually at the first meeting of the new season. All fees will be due prior to the start of the first meet. Penalty fees will be due within sixty (60) days of the date incurred. Penalty fees may be waived by motion (refer to Article 17)

A penalty fee will be assessed for each occasion where a member team fails to have a representative at any scheduled league meeting.

- 1) At the conclusion of each program year, the Treasurer shall prepare a budget, which reflects the projected revenues and expenses for the next program year. This budget will be presented to the board of directors in sufficient time to review and make adjustments for presentation to the general membership at the final meeting of the current year. The general membership will vote for application to the next year.
- 2) Minimum membership and tournament fees will be based upon the revenues projected for the next program year and will be due a payable at the first meeting of the appropriate program year. (Each program will be invoiced in sufficient time to submit to their recreation departments for payment.) That meeting is usually held in October. Any change in the membership fee applicable to each program based upon the number of wrestlers in any program will be associated in January of the current program year.
- 3) Penalties for late payment of the minimum dues will be assessed at \$25.00 per month.

ARTICLE 9: TEAM ROSTERS

Member teams shall provide a roster at January meeting. The secretary will provide a standard format to use when submitting the roster. Any additions or deletions should be given at subsequent league meetings. Veteran wrestlers must be marked with a (v) after his name. A veteran wrestler is someone who has participated in any wrestling program in any previous year.

Each team must certify that each of their roistered wrestlers meets the following minimum requirements. A team may adapt membership requirements that exceed the league requirements:

- the wrestler must be listed on the team's roster before the 4th league match of that season.
- the wrestler must be available to wrestle at 50% or more of the league match of that season.

A wrestler must meet the requirements listed above to be eligible to participate in any league tournament. The team representing the wrestler may request a waiver of these requirements or rules for that wrestler at any league meeting that is held at least 3 days before the event. The league meeting must meet quorum requirements. A waiver request must receive a simple majority.

The age of the wrestlers is determined by their age of December 31 of that season.

ARTICLE 10: RATING

Member teams will include each wrestler's rating on the roster. The purpose of this rating is to help assure fairness and competitively when pairing for competition. The rating will be on a scale of one to six using the following guidelines:

Level 1 – First year inexperienced, not athletic wrestler.

Having difficulty learning basic skills.

Must be protected from level 3 wrestlers

(Each team may rate 2 wrestlers for every 25 roistered wrestlers at this level)

Level 2 – First year average wrestler

He is able to learn basic skills but has not mastered any.

Average aggressive and competitive nature

Coaches must monitor and adjust his level to 3 as he gains experience

(Each team can rate 2 veteran wrestler for every 25 roistered wrestlers at level 2.

This exception must met the following criteria:

1. He can not compete against level 4 wrestlers

2. Has not had a competitive match in his last 3 bouts while rated as a level 3 wrestler.

Level 3 – A veteran wrestler with below average athletic ability and /or competitive nature, or

A first year wrestler, who has above average athletic ability, is aggressive and / or has a very competitive nature. This first year wrestler has been able to learn and master a number of basic skills.

(Each team can rate 5 veteran wrestlers for every 25 roistered veteran wrestlers at level 3)

Level 4 – Average veteran wrestler or exceptional first year wrestler.

Level 5 – Above average veteran wrestler.

He has mastered basic skills and some advanced skills.

He is capable of wrestling in tournaments.

He can compete with level 5 and 6 rated teammates at practice.

He must be rated a level 5 wrestler if he has placed (novice and forfeit placing excluded) in any open tournament during the current season.

Level 6 – Experience / exceptional veteran wrestler.

Capable of wrestling competitively in any tournament and places first or second consistently.

ARTICLE 11: PAIRING

Pairing at meets must be done with the object of setting up matches which are as competitive as possible.

Every effort must be made to keep ages within +/- one year, weight difference within 10 percent and rating within +/- 1 level. The head coach of the relevant teams must approve any match that does not meet these

guidelines and the assigned referee must be advised of the situation prior to the match.

ARTICLE 12: CONDUCT

It is the responsibility of the team's administrator, coaches, and parents to demonstrate good sportsmanship and behavior at all times. Abusive behavior towards any wrestler, coach, parents, or official will not be tolerated.

Any action, which conflicts with the rules of the CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS of the league, will not be tolerated. It is the duty of each team administrator or his representative to control the conduct of their team.

Complaint Procedure:

The procedure to address a formal complaint is as follows:

1. The complaining team or teams must submit their complaint in writing to any league officer.
2. A executive meeting will be held within 7 days to discuss the complaint and send a letter to the president of the team or teams which are the subject of the complaint requesting an response to address the complaint. This letter must be sent to all member teams. The complaint letter will list each alleged infraction of the Constitution and By-laws and the complaining team.
3. The complaints will be discussed at the next league meeting or at the discretion of the "Board of Officers" at a special league meeting. All teams involved in the complaint must be present.
4. After the complaint has been discussed, the complaint must be closed by one of the following motions:
(2/3 majority is required)
 - a) withdraw of the complaint by the teams that lodged the complaint
 - b) dismissal of complaint
 - c) to caution
 - d) to expel

The presiding league officer will rule the complaint as closed if none of the above motions are approved.

ARTICLE 13: MATCH RULES

1. Each team will display their "Weight / Rating Cards".
2. The host team must insure that all referees are state certified or grapevine league certified.
An assignor will schedule all referees. The host team's administrator or his representative must contact the assignor no later then 14 days before the match. He must provide the assignor the following information:
Match time, number of mats and estimated length
Match location
Match participants
Estimated number of participants
The number of referees needed
The Assignor must be informed of any changes as soon as possible.
The Assignor and only the assignor will determine who is assigned to referee at each match. He will use state certified referee's if possible.

ARTICLE 14: MATCH GUIDELINES

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1. Every wrestler should have at least one match as long as there is a competitive wrestler from an opposing team and the match meets the requirements of Article 11. In order to assure that every wrestler is able to compete it should be understood that some wrestlers might need to wrestle more then one match in order to accommodate the opposing teams. **No wrestler may leave a meet until all matches are made and his**

coach gives permission.

2. No match should be wrestled where both competitors are wrestling their second matches until all wrestlers have wrestled one match.
3. During a meet, two wrestlers from the same team should not be matched against each other unless there is no appropriate match from the opposing teams and the coach agrees.
4. Every effort should be made to limit the time of a meet to four hours. If the host team cannot provide facilities that can assure a reasonable time frame for completion, they should request that one of the opposing teams host the meet.

ARTICLE 15: MATCH ETIQUETTE

1. A wrestler should report to the host team's facility on time and immediately check in with his coach for roll call. This will enable the coaches to begin the match-ups so the matches can begin on time.
2. A wrestler should be seated with his team or his family while waiting to be called for his bouts.
3. When a wrestler is called "ON Deck" for a mat he should report to the mat's scoring table or to the area designated by his coach and wait for further instructions from his coach or referee.
4. A wrestler should be prepared to wrestle when placed "On Deck". For example, he should have his wrestling shoes on and tied, sweats off and headgear on.
5. No parent or wrestler should be sitting, standing or kneeling on the edge of the mat during any match.
6. At the completion of his bout the wrestler should keep his headgear on, shake the hand of his opponent, and then shake the hand of his opponent's coach, and return to his coach for a debriefing. After his debriefing he should return to the stands.
7. Parents are asked to supervise their non-wrestling children as well as their wrestlers. They should not be running around the school halls or outside unsupervised.
8. A wrestler should not leave a match before it is completed without asking his coach for permission. He may be needed for a rematch with someone who has had his match canceled.
9. Scoring and timekeeping should be done by adults.

ARTICLE 16: EDUCATION GRANTS

Education Grant applications and program information must be provided to every Grapevine league participant each season by the team's administration. The league will provide applications and information at each Grapevine League Tournament and to area high schools.

The treasurer will announce at the last league meeting of the season the amount of money in excess of the league's funding requirements. This money will be placed into the education grant fund. Each team that has a candidate may request a distribution share by submitting a completed candidate application.

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Candidates must meet the following requirements.

1. He must be a high school graduate.
2. He must have participated in a Grapevine program for two full seasons.
3. He must be accepted to a post-high school-training program. The school must be classified under section 501(c) (3) with Foundation of 509(a) (1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).

4. He must successfully participate as a high school senior in a high school wrestling program.
5. He must be in financial need.

The value of each share will be determined by dividing the amount in the grant fund by the number of teams submitting a claim. A grant may not exceed \$500.

The executive board will review and validate each candidate's compliance to the requirements listed above before distributing the grant share. Any member of the executive board that has a conflict of interest regarding an applicant must abstain from the application validation decision.

Any money remaining after the distribution will remain in the grant fund.

The grants will be dispersed by check payable to the school.

16:1 Method of payment of Education Grants

1. The treasurer will check his record to see if the candidate's (wrestler) teams have paid all money owed to the Grapevine League. No Education Grant money will be given out if the said team owes money to the Grapevine League until all money is paid in full.

ARTICLE 17: MOTIONS

League actions must be presented as a "Motion" at a regular or special league meeting. Motions must be presented by a member team and must be seconded by a team other than the team presenting the motion for acceptance. The motion will be accepted if it receives a simple majority of the teams present. Each team has 1 vote. ARTICLE 5: QUORUM must be satisfied before a vote can be taken on any motion.

ARTICLE 18: WHEN THINGS ARE DUE TO THE LEAGUE

18:1 *Team Listing Update*

In with the minutes from the executive meeting will be a team/phone/address blank form to be completed and turned in to the secretary at the next general meeting. If a team has lost theirs or was omitted from the minutes it is the responsibility of the individual team to contact the secretary and obtain another form.

The completed form is to be turned in at the first general meeting of the wrestling season. If you are not sure of all the helpers—simply omit that section. The most important sections are the **Team Name**; **Team President** (complete area); **Who receives the mail** (complete area).

If nothing has changed from the previous season then simply write the team's name on the appropriate section and write across the top **NOTHING CHANGED FROM PREVIOUS SEASON**.

If a team is under new leadership and the mail is to be sent to a complete new group of leaders it is the previous season's individual team's President's responsibility to inform the secretary by the beginning of September so she can make sure the correct individual will get the mail for that team. An email or fax notification would be sufficient. All that she will need is who to send the mail to for that team.

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If the individual team's completed home list is not turned in to the secretary by the first general meeting a \$25.00 fine will be imposed on that team.

18:2 *Team Directions*

In with the minutes from the executive meeting will be a reminder to bring a copy of the team's directions to the first general meeting of the season. By directions is meant directions to where a team will be holding their home matches. Each team is responsible to bring enough copies for all the teams as well as one for the secretary and one for the Assignor to the first general meeting of the season.

The directions are to be turned in to all the appropriate people by the December meeting. If it is not met a \$25.00 fine will be imposed on that team not compiling with the team rules.

18:3 *Team Rosters*

In with the minutes from the executive meeting will be a copy of a blank team roster that is to be completed and turned in at the December meeting-January a fine will be imposed to the team not compiling with the league rules.

Granted there will be additions and deletions to the team rosters-but a basic must be turned in at the December meeting-January the latest. At the December (January the latest) meeting enough copies must be brought to the meeting one copy for each team and one for the secretary.

If the teams and the secretary do not get copies of the team rosters by or at the January meeting a \$25.00 fine will be issued to the team that does not compile with the leagues rules.

18:4 *Team Insurances*

It is the responsibility of each individual team to obtain copies of their insurance policies from their recreation or whomever. It is the responsibility of each individual team to be aware of when their insurance expires.

At each meeting will be posted a copy of all the team's and dates listed when their insurance's expire. Copies of this will be in with the minutes.

When an insurance expires it is the responsibility of each individual team to obtain a copy of the updated insurance and give a copy to the secretary within a time period of 2 months after the expiration date. The exception to this would be for the team whose insurance expires in March, April or May of a year. They do not have to turn in their insurances till the first general meeting of the next season.

If copies of updated insurances are not turned in the appropriate time span of 2 months after expiration date a \$25.00 fine will be issued to that team not compiling with the league rules.

18:5 *Copies*

Do not come to the meeting expecting the secretary to make copies for you.

ARTICLE 19: SECURITY AT HOME MATCHES

It will be the sole responsibility of the Home Team to provide security at the event. It is recommended that the security consist of (but not limited to), hall and door monitors, and a roaming monitor.

It is recommended that a check (inspection) of the building (before and after the event) is conducted with a representative of the facility and a list of any issues is completed.

In the event that any damage or mischief does occur, the burden of the cost will be on the home team or any individual(s) caught doing the damage or mischief.

It is strongly recommended that any and all **legal action** be taken if those caught refuse to reconcile damages.

ARTICLE 20: MATCH RESULTS

The home team for each match will be responsible for reporting the results of each home match that they host. The format of such reporting will be reports #7 and #2 from the pair'em' system dual meet menu.

These reports will be forwarded no later midnight of the Wednesday following each match to those persons designated by the league.

Failure to submit said reports will result in a fine of \$25 per day and will continue until such time that said reports are submitted.

The reports from each individual match will be combined by a member so designated by the league who will forward said results to the director of each program.