

Team GA Beginner Tournament Standards

Mission

Provide a venue for first and second year wrestlers to compete against other wrestlers with similar years of experience. To give them an opportunity to succeed, keep them interested in wrestling, and grow the sport in the state of Georgia.

Objective

Reduce the number of wrestlers leaving the sport after one or two years due to an initial lack of success. To allow them to build confidence by wrestling kids with the same level of experience rather than finding themselves competing against much more experienced wrestlers week after week.

Qualifications

Team GA sanctions two (2) types of Beginners' Tournaments; it is the Tournament Directors choice which to run.

1. Rookie – This tournament is for first year wrestlers only, first year the wrestler has held a USA card, or entered any other competitive wrestling event. Those who participated in the Mat Rats, 4 year old and younger, are exempt from this stipulation unless they competed in any Beginner, Open Tournaments, or Tournament Duals during the previous season.
2. Novice – This tournament is for first and second year wrestlers that have never placed at State.

Appeals and Complaints to these qualifications should be submitted to the Beginners Tournament Committee for consideration.

Tournament Operations

Tournaments will be available for all age groups U6 thru U14. It is up to the Tournament Director whether it is open to little kids only (U6, U8, U10) and/or big kids (U12, U14). Whichever they choose, it must be stated clearly on all advertising for the event.

1. General Information:
 - A. USA Sanctioned Tournaments in the state of Georgia are classified as: Beginners' Tournaments, Open Tournaments, and Dual Tournaments (A.K.A. Duals).
 - B. Friday night tournaments should run from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. with weigh-ins starting no later than 5 p.m. Wrestlers must be in line by 5:30 p.m.
 - C. Sunday afternoon tournaments should run from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m with weigh-ins starting no later than 1 p.m. Wrestlers must be in line by 1:30 p.m.
 - D. Tournaments should be run in 4 hours or less.
 - E. No brackets larger than a 5 man Round Robin Bracket.
 - F. Wrestlers may compete in only one (1) weight class.
 - G. Grouping kids by weight will be done to maximize the number of matches and will be done following Team GA Guidelines.
 - H. Tournament Directors are responsible for medals and or ribbons awarded, but must at very least place to 3rd.
 - I. The Tournament Director or the Team GA Representative will handle any question about rules and/or eligibility on site and their decision is final.
 - J. A coach or wrestler violating the Beginner's Qualifications Rule is subject up to a one (1) year plus ten (10) day suspension from all Team GA events. Each case will be examined by the committee and an appropriate reprimand imposed. A repeat violator could face expulsion from all Team GA events.
 - K. The results of matches will be posted similar to the results being posted during "Open" Tournaments.
 - L. If Volunteer Referees are used as opposed to Certified Referees, it will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director to inform and train the Volunteer Referees of the National Federation High

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School (N.F.H.S.) Rules Book rules on Infractions, Rule 7, and Penalties and Injuries, Rule 8, for the safety of all participating wrestlers.

- M. Although most if not all wrestlers in the “6U” age group are considered all to be beginners, the “6U” shall continue to participate in all little kids Beginners’ Tournaments.
 - N. Only two individuals will be allowed in the coaches’ corner for each wrestler.
2. Weigh-ins:
- A. All wrestlers must step on the scales, at the site of the event before the tournament starts.
 - B. All weigh-ins should start a minimum of one (1) hour before the tournament’s scheduled start time of competition.
 - C. If a wrestler does not make weight, they forfeit and will not be allowed to wrestle in the tournament at any weight class or age group.
 - D. In case of several forfeits in a bracket or brackets, the Tournament Director may re-bracket the weight classes to better suit the wrestlers who did make their registered weight, or the weight class in which they were bracketed, if there is enough time and resources to do so and to begin wrestling within the proposed time of competition.
3. Setting up Mats:
- A. Tournaments can run no fewer than four (4) full mats, not two (2) mats split. Each full mat should have a minimum boundary of wrestling area equal to or greater than an area of a 28’ diameter circle which is required by NFHS rules.
 - B. It is recommended to provide a warm-up mat for each room of wrestling.
 - C. The boundary of the mat should be at least 5 feet from any physical object such as a wall, tables, bleachers, etc.
 - D. Surrounding and secured to the wrestling boundaries shall be a safety mat area of at least 5 feet wide.
 - E. The boundaries of wrestling must be marked on all mats. (See the “Team GA Beginner Tournament Mat Layout.pdf”).
 - F. Each wrestler’s coach should be provided a marked area on each mat to coach their wrestler during the competition. (See the “Team GA Beginner Tournament Mat Layout.pdf”).
 - G. Splitting mats is not recommended but acceptable only as long as these guidelines are followed:
 - i. Must be clearly posted on all event flyers and advertisements that you will be using split mats.
 - ii. Team GA should be notified at least a month prior to the date of tournament of the use of split mats.
 - iii. The mat being split can be no smaller than a 38’x38’ high school mat regulated by NFHS rules.
 - iv. All “6U” age group should be assigned to all the split mats before any other age group. Afterwards, only the lower weight classes in the “8U” and “10U” age groups can be assigned to a split mat.
 - v. A mat being split in half must be done in a manner to allow no more than two clearly marked 10’ diameter circles at least 20’ apart from center to center (10’ apart from edge of each circle) and a boundary for wrestling of at least the area of a 20’ circle for each 10’ diameter circle. (See the “Team GA Beginner Tournament Mat Layout.pdf”).
4. Match Procedures:
- A. 3 – One minute periods for all age groups.
 - B. Once a wrestler wins, the match is officially over. Therefore, the scoring of points ends and is recorded as the official score even though the match may continue for development and mat time.

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- C. If either wrestler wins by a Pin or Technical Fall in the 1st Period, the match moves to the second period and begins. The one that lost is granted choice: Neutral, Top, Bottom, or can discontinue the match.
 - D. If either wrestler wins by a Pin or Technical Fall in the 2nd Period, the match moves to the third period and begins. The one that lost is granted choice: Neutral, Top, Bottom, or can discontinue the match. If one wrestler was pinned in the first period and the other wrestler pinned in the second period, either wrestler may chose to discontinue the match.
 - E. If either wrestler wins by a Pin or Technical Fall in the 3rd Period, the match is over.
5. Criteria for Ties in Round Robin Brackets:
- A. Head to head in the event of a two-tie. (Track Wrestling / USA Wrestling)
 - B. Activity Points. (Track Wrestling / USA Wrestling)
 - Note: Activity Points should be set by Track Wrestling. Pins, Forfeits, Defaults, and D.Q. should all be weighted equally as it is in the N.F.H.S. Rules Book.
 - C. Pins. (Track Wrestling / USA Wrestling)
 - D. Technical Falls. (Track Wrestling / USA Wrestling)
 - E. Major Decisions. (Track Wrestling / USA Wrestling)
 - F. Pin Time. (Track Wrestling / USA Wrestling)
 - G. Technical Fall Time. (Track Wrestling / USA Wrestling)
 - H. Match Points. (Track Wrestling / USA Wrestling)
 - I. Wrestler with the Lowest Weight. (USA Wrestling)

Note: In case of a three- way- tie, once the top wrestler is determined from the above criteria, then the second and third ranked wrestler will be decided on by a “head-to-head” competition.”