

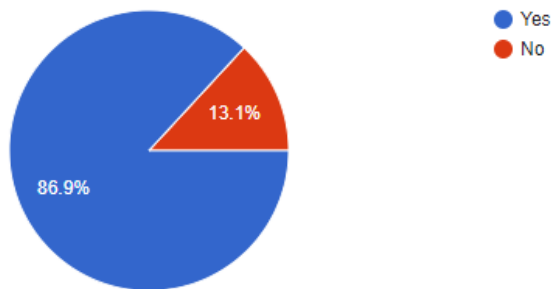
WWCA SECTIONAL SURVEY, 2022

RESPONSES

DIVISION	# OF PARTICIPANTS	# OF PARTICIPANTS POSSIBLE	% OF RESPONDENTS
1	78	128	60.9%
2	63	103	61.2%
3	50	102	49.0%
TOTAL	191	332	57.5%

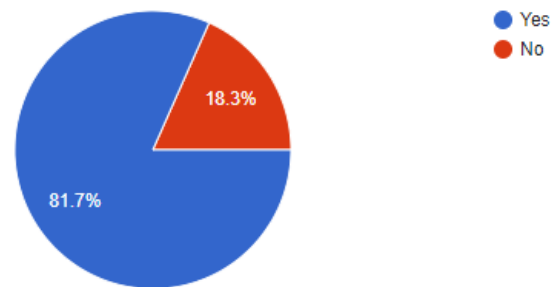
QUESTION 1: WOULD YOU FAVOR REDUCING THE WAIT TIME BETWEEN MATCHES THAT ARE 4-6 MINUTES IN LENGTH FROM 45 MINUTES TO 30 MINUTES?

DIVISION	YES		NO	
1	69	88.5%	9	11.5%
2	56	88.9%	7	11.1%
3	41	82.0%	9	18.0%
TOTAL	166	86.9%	25	13.1%



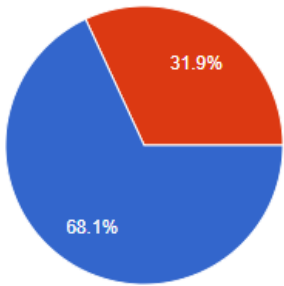
QUESTION 2: WOULD YOU FAVOR HAVING THE OPTION OF STARTING DUAL MEETS AT THE LOWEST WEIGHT CLASS IF BOTH THE VISITING AND HOME COACH AGREE?

DIVISION	YES		NO	
1	66	84.6%	12	15.4%
2	50	79.4%	13	20.6%
3	40	80.0%	10	20.0%
TOTAL	156	81.7%	35	18.3%



QUESTION 3: DO YOU SUPPORT THE CURRENT POSTSEASON INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING STRUCTURE?

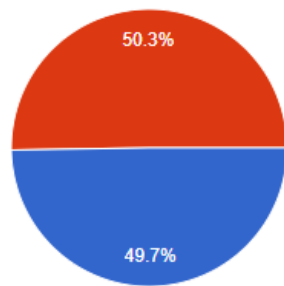
DIVISION	YES		NO	
1	57	73.1%	21	26.9%
2	37	58.7%	26	41.3%
3	36	72.0%	14	28.0%
TOTAL	130	68.1%	61	31.9%



Legend: ● Yes (blue), ● No (red)

QUESTION 4: DO YOU SUPPORT THE CURRENT POSTSEASON TEAM QUALIFYING STRUCTURE?

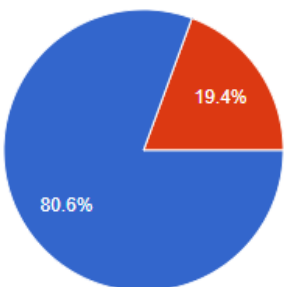
DIVISION	YES		NO	
1	32	41.0%	46	59.0%
2	29	46.0%	34	54.0%
3	34	68.0%	16	32.0%
TOTAL	95	49.7%	96	50.3%



Legend: ● Yes (blue), ● No (red)

QUESTION 5: WOULD YOU FAVOR SEEDING THE TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE TEAM SECTIONALS?

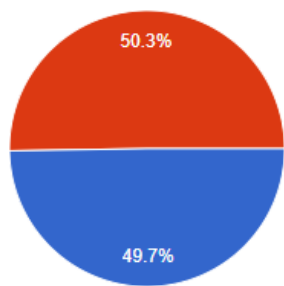
DIVISION	YES		NO	
1	63	80.8%	15	19.2%
2	48	76.2%	15	23.8%
3	43	86.0%	7	14.0%
TOTAL	154	80.6%	37	19.4%



Legend: ● Yes (blue), ● No (red)

QUESTION 6: DO YOU SUPPORT THE CURRENT STATE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE?

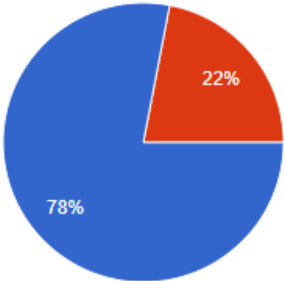
DIVISION	YES		NO	
1	44	56.4%	34	43.6%
2	29	46.0%	34	54.0%
3	22	44.0%	28	56.0%
TOTAL	95	49.7%	96	50.3%



Legend: ● Yes (blue), ● No (red)

QUESTION 7: DO YOU SUPPORT THE CURRENT STATE TEAM TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE?

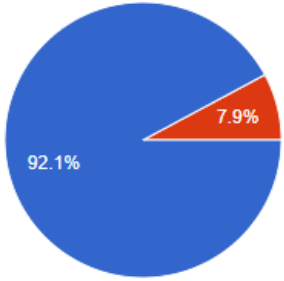
DIVISION	Yes		No	
1	60	76.9%	18	23.1%
2	47	74.6%	16	25.4%
3	42	84.0%	8	16.0%
TOTAL	149	78.0%	42	22.0%



Legend: ● Yes, ● No

QUESTION 8: WOULD YOU FAVOR A DOUBLE-ELIMINATION FORMAT IN ALL DIVISIONS IN THE INDIVIDUAL STATE TOURNAMENT UNDER THE CURRENT STRUCTURE?

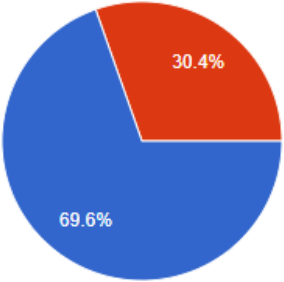
DIVISION	Yes		No	
1	72	92.3%	6	7.7%
2	58	92.1%	5	7.9%
3	46	92.0%	4	8.0%
TOTAL	176	92.1%	15	7.9%



Legend: ● Yes, ● No

QUESTION 9: WOULD YOU FAVOR A STRUCTURE WHEREBY TEAMS MUST QUALIFY FOR THE TEAM STATE TOURNAMENT SERIES THROUGH DUAL MEET COMPETITION ONLY?

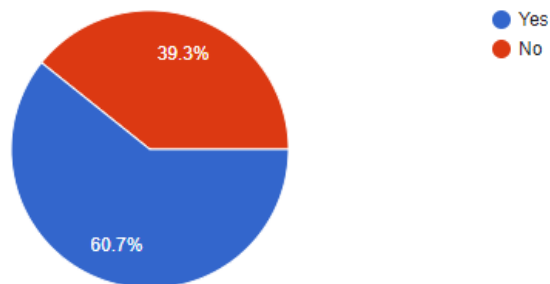
DIVISION	Yes		No	
1	62	79.5%	16	20.5%
2	43	68.3%	20	31.7%
3	28	56.0%	22	44.0%
TOTAL	133	69.6%	58	30.4%



Legend: ● Yes, ● No

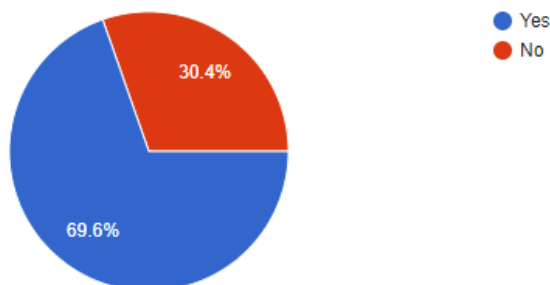
QUESTION 10: DO YOU SUPPORT THE CURRENT STRUCTURE USED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF TEAMS IN EACH DIVISION?

DIVISION	Yes		No	
1	47	60.3%	31	39.7%
2	33	52.4%	30	47.6%
3	36	72.0%	14	28.0%
TOTAL	106	60.7%	75	39.3%



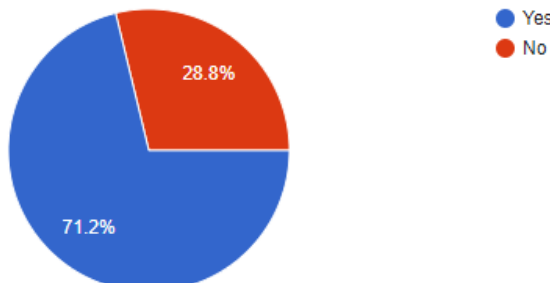
QUESTION 11: DO YOU SUPPORT THE CURRENT TOURNAMENT SERIES CALENDAR ORDER OF EVENTS (INDIVIDUAL REGIONALS > TEAM SECTIONAL > INDIVIDUAL SECTIONALS > STATE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT > TEAM STATE)?

DIVISION	Yes		No	
1	47	60.3%	31	39.7%
2	43	68.3%	20	31.7%
3	43	86.0%	7	14.0%
TOTAL	133	69.6%	58	30.4%



QUESTION 12: DUE TO THE NUMBER OF INCOMPLETE ROSTERS AND THE HIGH NUMBER OF BYES AT THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS, WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF TWO REGIONALS, OF 13 TO 14 TEAMS PER REGIONAL, INSTEAD OF FOUR REGIONALS PER D2 AND D3 SECTIONAL?

DIVISION	Yes		No	
1	67	85.9%	11	14.1%
2	41	65.1%	22	34.9%
3	28	56.0%	22	44.0%
TOTAL	136	71.2%	55	28.8%
D2/D3	69	61.1%	44	38.9%



SHORT ANSWER RESPONSES

WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE TO INCREASE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING IN WISCONSIN?

Remain at 14 weight classes.

Allow soft facial hair.

Invest in middle school programs that help new wrestlers learn the sport so that kids don't feel like they have to wrestle k-8 youth every Saturday and Sunday or they can't wrestle in high school.

Recruit

Start after Thanksgiving, then we are wrestling over one holiday instead of two.

More Friday night invitationals, frees up more Saturdays.

Allow 8th grades to wrestle with the high school schedule.

work with school districts to show the importance of pre high school sports and try to get them to put them back into the districts overall educational plans

Coaches need to be in the school.

Figure out a better way to get JV matches. They get on the bus at 4:15, weigh in at 5 and they don't get a match. Sit around to watch varsity and then they do not get home until 9:30. Long day for no wrestling.

All sports that are offered at the school should be a mandatory part of the physical education curriculum.

They should allow 8th graders.

Combined JV/Var tournaments can take the whole team. Multi duals have helped

More junior varsity level competitions. We need to provide more opportunities for new/inexperienced kids to the sport

Include a Middle School Tournament structure, Regional, Sectional and State.

This is cultural. Wrestling is so unique, today's kid can't handle it. We need to build strong Middle School Programs, emphasizing participation.

Develop good working relationship with football. Football is suffering much like wrestling.

Adjust the weight decent plans (eliminate).

Improve the 1.5% decent plan rule.

Shorten season

Allowing females to compete in both state series

All 3 periods start on the feet, eliminate or lessen mat wrestling. People are in the sport for the takedowns. Top & Bottom don't get people interested in the sport.. Shorter matches would increase participation and shift focus to skill and less on conditioning

More weight classes, not less, at least keep 14. Multiple post season entries per weight from same school. Ex, track events

Fewer weight classes. Go from 14 to 10-12

Encourage more Friday night tournaments, 30 minute wait times will help shorten up Saturday tournaments, continue to encourage female events that run at the same time as male events, reducing weight classes- most teams cannot field a full line-up of 14.

Junior high inclusion like Minnesota. Also starting the first day of practice the Monday after Thanksgiving. Or allowing practice to start the same time and then suspending all practice over the thanksgiving holiday to start the Monday after thanksgiving.

REduce the number of weight classes in order to put more value on the JV Wrestling. There is no value in wrestlers on both Varsity and JV going to a dual for a forfeit or no JV matches.

Work with the football programs to encourage them to get kids out for wrestling.
More exposure throughout the year. promote all the different styles.
Use of two piece singlets for every team. Maybe a freshman State tournament would be a great edition.
Lower the number of weight classes. Reduce by 2. We have been in 28 duals this year and majority of times dealing with rosters that were not filled.
Less Saturday tournaments, more weekday quads
Ideas for improving youth programs
Coaches need to work and stop making excuses. Make connections in the community, invest in the youth, change with the times, build your program, stay positive, promote, and make young people a priority. We have one of the largest teams in the state year in and year out. Have to work at it. Reducing participation is not going to gain participation #'s.
When you know let us all know. Seriously though, I have coached for nearly 30 years and at all levels and have tried so many different things. I thought the compression fit t-shirt and shorts option might help and it did nothing at our school and a very low percentage even wear them now anywhere across the state.
I've found the best tool in our program is having the wrestlers on the team recruit friends. Other sports like football need to understand how much wrestling training can help their multi-sport athletes. USA Wrestling does a nice job of promoting this.
Not sure how but it would be nice if we could limit having athletes involved in so many things at once. This year we had wrestlers on our team, also play club volleyball, club hockey, & choose baseball club practice over Saturday tournaments. That doesn't even include the pull from other HS teams for off-season training, we lose kids every year as their coaches in another sport want them training, I know some percentage may use this as an excuse to not wrestle. Felt with low numbers if I didn't give them that option, they would not even be on the team.
We try to make it fun by playing games at the end of practice. We are doing the best job we have ever done promoting our sport in social media this year. We will have to see if that helps us out. I think in general the WI press does not cover wrestling very well until the state tourney series. This responsibility falls somewhat on the coaches.
Having events where the parent and wrestlers become closer helps retain families and kids.
Some believe we are wrestling too many Saturdays and our season is too long. I'm starting to think they may be correct, but as a diehard wrestler I do not necessarily want to see it change. However, I have always wondered what would happen if we started our season after Thanksgiving weekend. When the holiday is done, and deer hunting season is done too. And there is a little more time after football season finishes too.
Ask Mukwonago, they have GREAT numbers! What are growing wrestling states doing differently, like Arkansas or Texas? Maybe Wisconsin is too afraid of change and that is limiting our growth?
Teach coaches the importance of working with their Administration and AD. I did not get this until after multiple years of coaching. Keep working on the coach mentorship program. What is the current status? Is there even a mentorship program? The WWCA and WIAA could do much more to communicate with and improve coaches in so many areas.
Find ways to reduce Saturday events, the changes last year helped. Kids want their weekends. Reduce weigh ins, change structure to add weight early and reduce during the season Start the season after Thanksgiving, having a sport where dieting is necessary through two major holidays is tough.
Limiting the amount of weight classes.
Allow Middle school wrestlers to wrestle in HS.
Eliminate shaving requirements
Fewer/no duals. Many duals are full of forfeits. When students see these, they rightfully assume wrestling is full of senseless rules.

Start the season after Thanksgiving.
Perhaps more Friday night tournaments to free up more Saturdays.
Start after Thanksgiving
Advertisement of the sport and focus at the middle school level.
We have to make JV more important. The JV State Series is an incredible start. I think it's time we add a JV Team State.
Recruitment at the local level
Allow 8th grade to participate in High School if they wanted to opt. in. Try to limit Saturdays if possible, some of this is on the coaches. Regional tournaments could easily be held on a Friday night. I would like to see JR. High wrestling showcased with some high school duals during the week. Maybe even run a small tournament along side a HS tournament. Get the kids out in front of the crowds as much as possible.
By having less WIAA restrictions on the sport of wrestling. We have more regulations than any other sports.
Out of WWCA control but in general youth clubs are wrestling too many matches and I believe students do not want to compete at the High school level then.
<p>*decrease in weight classes (I am in favor of 13)</p> <p>*promotion of the sport within each school</p> <p>*increased presence on social media (the Wisconsin Wrestler Podcast and wiwrestling.com have been some good examples)</p> <p>*increased exposure of the sport to general audience- Currently the state tournament, for example, requires an NFHS subscription or a trackwrestling account plus cable to watch the state finals. The girls and boys state basketball tournaments are broadcast on local TV so thousands of kids and adults in the state can watch.</p> <p>*eliminating the negative stereotypes surrounding wrestling including, but not limited to "cutting weight". Too many wrestlers and coaches either brag or complain about "starving" themselves when discipline and nutrition are really what should be encouraged and promoted. People outside of the wrestling circles see this as a turn off to the sport. Too many current parents also recall what went on in the 80's and 90's in regards to weight loss, thus keeping their kids out of that culture.</p>
Have clear rules in youth tournaments similar to WIAA tournaments. Some tournaments are very overwhelming to little kids and they quit at a young age. Crowd Control.
Advertising campaigns
Middle school participation (ex: MN),
Stop the super teams from recruiting kids from all over to open enroll
Promoting youth in HS dual meets - making those dual meets exciting atmosphere
Starting the Season After Thanksgiving would help out.
Give students physical education credit for being on sports teams.
Love the 14 events. You can set your schedule anyway you want and that's huge. This will help. More quads on weeknights and less Saturdays for the lower level kids. I think we are on the right track
Fewer weight classes and an end to school choice.
Stop overly promoting K-2 to wrestle in tournaments
Wish I had a suggestion. We have tried different ideas with poor results.
Start after Thanksgiving break. Need less Saturday events (not sure what that would look like right now or how that fits into the 14 events).
More Friday night competition
Collegiate and Olympic level wrestling ambassador tour of high schools in Wisconsin? Offer to come in and talk with middle schoolers and high schools about the benefits of the sport.
More Friday tournaments.

More promotion at the youth and middle school levels.
Allow 8th graders
Lower # of weight class. Current structure limits ability to develop lower level wrestlers and forfeits make our sport less desirable to watch.
Start after Thanksgiving
Shorter season. Start the season after Thanksgiving and reduce the maximum number of events. This would also help with losing kids because of state football running into our season. The same types of kids play both sports. We lose kids every time we go to state for football.
Keeping interest down at the youth
Wrestling is growing right now due to the addition of the WIAA girls state tournament. My suggestion is to wrestle that tournament up until the finals/placement matches and then have the girls state finals match take place on a 4th mat the same night as the boys state finals. Placement matches could be wrestled Saturday during the day as well. The Kohl Center holds 6 putting out a 4th next to the D2 mat would not ruin the aesthetics of the look at all. It would be putting woman's wrestling at the center of the biggest stage in the sport.
I would like to see club basketball have less of an influence on kids at younger ages. I know in our school the seasons are set up so kids can do both but they never really get a chance to wrestle if they become join the club team.
Greater promotion and funding by certain school administrations. Cohesion between wrestling coaches and other coaches (particularly football) in the school to encourage their athletes to try wrestling.
Starts at the youth level by developing fun environments for kids to grow. Actively seeking students in schools to encourage participation in our sport for those who have not tried.
Have schools have it part of the curriculum. Main reason here for kids not joining is they know absolutely nothing about wrestling.
More Friday tournaments, most kids do not enjoy giving up all of their Saturdays.
Increasing participation at the youth level. More beginner tournaments targeted toward kid's success & getting them hooked on the sport.
Not sure
Start season after Thanksgiving. More Friday tournaments.
Promote the sport online in on other media. There is no coverage anywhere in the Madison area. We also have to address the "gay" stigma that scares students away.
Start season after deer hunting season. (Monday after)
Overall there is still a stigma that is attached to wrestling. With more female wrestlers joining the sport that part of the stigma may go away as the girls start wrestling only girls. Boys wrestle only boys. However, there isn't enough buy in that wrestling can help with multiple sports participation. There needs to be more education into how wrestling helps athletes in other sports.
Make wrestling a credit class. Have a Thursday day tournament instead of Saturday tournament
106 should not be the lightest weight class . Discouraging for kids under 100 pounds
Friday tournaments so kids dont have to give up every Saturday.
Tough question- I hate our 1.5% rule. How about we make kids wrestle at a wt class for half of the events they participate in. This is what Minnesota does and it makes a lot of sense. YOu want to wrestle 145 at the end of the season then you must make that wt for half the events on your schedule. Keeping track of wt stuff is too much for kids to handle and it is actually making them cut wt when they don't have to. We need more simplicity. I also think our season is to long. Lets start after deer season. Push our 1st competition back to second week in Dec. This gives all the football players a nice break. We don't need to wrestle 50 matches.
Start after Thanksgiving for starters. WLP needs to be looked and changed.

More social media and TV coverage
Fewer matches
More Stat -wide Pre - season publicity, State wide encouragement to participate in multiple Sports, At all levels in State : publicize Top -Multiple sport Wrestlers, their accomplishments and college careers
I would like to see less restrictions on the number of exhibition events and matches. The kids that need these types of matches are the same ones who we need to have a positive experience to keep them coming back. Retention is just as important as recruitment. Make 50 matches the cap rather than limit the number of events. Its getting harder and harder to get matches for JV caliber kids.
Allow middle school to wrestle like Minnesota does.
Coaches need to be recruiting in their high school and middle schools. More events and opportunities for kids. reducing them will only hurt the sport.
I think I would highly promote having MS during HS season for the smaller schools. Perhaps allow MS to wrestle JV, JV wrestle MS, as that is the best way to get more matches and let wrestlers have matches against others of similar skill level.
I also would like to allow "exhibition" matches for dual meets. When schools have low numbers, it takes a toll on records and has a negative impact on the dual meet score when coaches are bumping athletes all around just to make match-ups. Wrestlers are almost forced to move weight classes to get a match when they worked hard to make weight all week. I would prefer in some situations to allow for forfeits and set up an extra exhibition match. I understand not being able to wrestle two different wrestlers on one team but if I have a varsity wrestler who is "average to good" and the other team has a state caliber wrestler the weight above, I am put in a tough spot as a coach to bump my wrestler for a almost certain loss, which effects record and seeding in the future, along with limits my teams chance to win the dual. It is beneficial for both parties to take their points for the dual and then wrestle an exhibition match for experience for both wrestlers if they both received forfeits in the dual.
The environment of dual meets with low numbers is perhaps the biggest factor affecting wrestling. The only way to change the culture of wrestling in a school with low numbers is to create exciting events. By adding in more levels and getting more matches, we can make our tris/quads very exciting and appealing to everyone involved.
Maybe a shorter season by starting two weeks later.
An emphasis on shorter Saturday tournaments if possible. Not sure if the WIAA can control this or not. Doubt it but tournaments should be encouraged to run efficiently.
It might sound dumb, but music played during events. Make events more fun. Compare the excitement of a basketball game compared to a wrestling dual. I hate to say it but it's true.
Kids work ethic and grit are lower than it was in the past, we can't directly change that. The sport can increase grit and work ethic in kids that go out for it and stay out. We can advertise that aspect of the sport to parents and kids. Add 'I am a wrestler' to an application or resume, people will take a strong look at that.
Increase coaches competency for how to recruit and retain athletes in the sport.
Increase penalties for coaches belittling officials. This won't have a direct impact in the number of kids coming out for wrestling right away but it would have a positive effect over time as those types of coaches would act better or leave the sport.
Recruiting athletes from the football program has helped us tremendously. I don't know how this is applicable on a statewide scale but if other programs could do the same it may help. With more and more athletes specializing in one sport, we lose more 3 sport athletes every year. Also, maybe some good old fashion advertising/outreach could help. We often find it appalling how many students and parents have absolutely no clue about folkstyle wrestling even though it

has been around forever.

1) Eliminate open enrollment. 2) Go back to a standard weight loss per day. 3) Cut back on the number of weekend tournaments. 4) start after Thanksgiving and only require 5 practices before the first meet.

REFLECTING ON YOUR RESPONSES TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTIONS, WHAT ISSUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE WWCA ADDRESS FOR THE SPORT OF WRESTLING IN WISCONSIN OR TO THE NFHS?

Double elimination at state

seeding team state

Start season after thanksgiving
13 man roster.

Post season format for all divisions needs updating and we need to shift to equal divisions

3 equal divisions

Double Elimination at individual state and team state qualifying format not run through individual

13 weight classes. It's hard to fill a full team and be competitive. Takes the fun away from other athletes. Throwing a first year kid out against a state qualifier isn't fun for either party. Cut and release and embarrassing kids will cause them to quit.

Weight classes. Possible shorten season last week of November to end of February

Try to create a competition balance between the regionals / sectionals throughout the state. Some are much more difficult than others. It would be nice to see the top 16 wrestlers in each weight class get to State and complete.

Out of bounds rules like college

Shorter season or start after the major winter holiday. Example, start after January it's.

Hold the officials to higher standards. More mandatory continuing ed. for officials. Maybe the WIAA tourney series pay scale can reflect continuing ed. (not the pointless level).

30 minute minimum between matches

Decent plan needs to be addressed, to restrictive for the kids.

work on programs and clinics for the students who cant afford the higher level of wrestling training so they could have a chance against other opponents

I would like to see the WWCA along with the Officials Association and the WIAA organize a seminar that would be available for any senior interested in becoming an official. We are all aware of the official shortage but until their is a system in place I'm not sure how we will see a change. This could potentially be held during the break between sessions of the state tournament on Friday or Saturday.

Promoting our sport

Having two Regional tournaments

weight classes. I have always been not in favor of dropping weight classes. Less participation never is a good option, but 106 has been really bad the past couple years for our sport.

A team sectional and an individual sectional (super sectional) on separate weekends, eliminating individual regional, for the state qualifying process. Allow for exhibitions (varsity and JV) before or after single dual meet events.

Team State qualification process. Unfortunate that some of this states top teams were eliminated at regionals (Rapids, Wausau West, Milton, Neenah) based on current format taking only the regional championship team. Also would be great if our regional or sectional assignment was seeded based on how we perform during the season similar to football and basketball.

<p>We really need to create a WIAA Team State structure in which the process of the event starts with a dual meet competition vs the individual regional. It would be best for Wisconsin wrestling to advance the best program on to the WIAA Team Sectionals and the WIAA Team State Tournament. The current process of releasing assignments in May does not allow teams to be seeded or qualify for team state based on how successful of a season they have had.</p> <p>It could be possible to determine regionals/sectionals at a later date using the WIAA Team State Seeding criteria so that teams could be placed in a regional/sectional based on season results.</p> <p>Double elimination at the WIAA Individual State Tournament is also important as we are seeing this year most of the #9-#12 wrestlers are eliminated from WIAA State if seeds hold while the #13-#16 wrestlers are advancing on the backside in cases where seeds hold.</p>
Bracket format at state individual.
Not allowing females to compete in boys regionals
<p>Modify the seeding at state to make beaten opponents criteria lower in the list.</p> <p>Creating super sectionals and have a full dual meet tournament to determine team state. Would be willing to serve on a committee to develop a plan to propose to coaches.</p> <p>I think we should also go to equal divisions and make state series the same for all divisions.</p>
<p>Lift off-season coaching restrictions. Competing in the classic 8 conference some teams have close to full lineups of club wrestlers paying 140\$ a month to be trained. Off season coaching restrictions make it so difficult for a kid without the money for club to compete at the highest level. The gap between the elite and regular student athlete is widening. Money shouldn't be dictating success, untie coaches hands and give everyone a shot.</p> <p>Lift practice/scrimmage restrictions with other teams. We have schools co-oping and competing together but we have restriction's on 2 teams practicing together? Some teams have one heavy weight or 106 we should be able to look for people for them to practice with. These restrictions are holding us back on a National & world level. Let people wrestle/coach as much as they want and with whoever they want, why stop/restrict opportunity?</p> <p>We need to look at the restrictions that are there and ask first how is this restriction being upheld, because if it isn't then it's only hurting the teams following the rules, and then if these restrictions are really helping everyone. Right now they are not.</p>
I would like to split the top teams up similar to football. Take top teams and send them to different sectionals
Eliminate the decent plan. Worst medical policy ever. Zero data to prove kids are safer, yet big spotlight shining on the politics of the decision (voting privil at the NFHS). Disgusting.
Needs to be double elimination at the state tournament
3 equal divisions with 16 qualifiers per division for the state tournament. Junior high inclusion. Shortening the 45 minute wait to 30 min or less. Use the third mat at sectionals as a qualifier for the girls state tournament and wrestle the girls tournament at the kohl center with the boys.
We could reduce the number of divisions to 2 and have 2 16 wrestler brackes with double elimination and then have a raised 1st and wrestle the 3rd and 5th place matches along side the two divisions. We could even keep the current regionals and then do 4 super sectionals and have top 4 from each at each level and division move on.
The 45 minute wait time between matches needs to go. If we could change one thing, that is a priority for me. Stop making it harder for kids, no one wants to spend ALL day at a tournament, speeding up tournaments would be beneficial. I've asked other coaches and wrestlers and everyone is in agreement.
Double Elimination at State
<p>The seeding criteria at individual state.</p> <p>The team state qualifying process.</p>
No shaving
Specifically in D1, the Southeast WI Sectionals are highly uneven in the quality of individual sectional. Last season, 7 of the 14 state champions came out of 1 of the 4 sectionals and my guess is 4 or 5 state champions will come out of the Oshkosh North sectional this season. Moving Arrowhead into the Oshkosh North sectional this year made zero sense.

New Berlin West, Homestead, and Racine Park Sectionals are not as stiff in competition and efforts could easily be made to adjust team assignments to even the quality between those 4. Making it to the state tournament is a goal for many of the kids and evening out the quality would provide a more equal playing field.
Changing the weight classes to accommodate teams and eliminate forfeits.
Do not go down from 14 weight classes. If they want to change the weights fine to abide by federation stuff, but do not go down to 12-13.
-Instead of Girls' State the week before Conference Tournaments, create 4 qualifying tournaments that weekend. Top 4 from each qualifier advance to Girls' State Tournament held along side Boys' State in the Kohl Center
-Use 8 mats for Sessions 1 and 2 at Individual State Tournament
-2-2-2 format for ALL matches at Individual State
-For D1, put 4 Regionals into 1 Sectional, (maintaining 16 Regionals, but only 4 Sectionals) and advance Top 4 to Individual State Tournament (still qualifying 16 to state)
IMO as a nearly 30-year coach, seeding rollout was very poorly done! Knowing it is human nature to be resistant to change, more should have been done to teach coaches about how it was going to work and rollout over a several year period. When Keven Tritz started Trackwrestling he came to the WWCA clinic every year and asked for and received feedback from coaches that were interested and had run tournaments. He used our ideas to make his program better and the next year you would see improvements including some of the suggestions from coaches. Now look at Trackwrestling!
Team State qualification on dual meet competition. Individual sectionals and relative strength of teams involved should be looked into
Officiating consistencies
A super regional 12-14 teams Get 16 wrestler brackets at state Double elimination at state Girls wrestle the same weekend as boys at state Eliminate off season coaching restrictions Allow more scrimmages
I believe once you weigh in for regionals you must wrestle at the weight for every postseason competition including team sectionals and team state.
Weight Management system, out of bounds rules, supporting points, allow leg sleeves without a pad
Equality across all divisions. Look at our neighbors (Iowa and Minnesota) for options of equality in state wrestling.
Rest time between matches reduced
Use the stalemate call more and reduce the subjective use of stalling calls.
Get rid of duals, especially for smaller schools. Allow more seasonable weight loss. Many of my kids wrestled the entire season under their minimum weight and were unable to gain weight during the season. Sectionals should be double elimination.
I know this is the first year of seeding all wrestlers at all weights, but I don't like the seeding method. It doesn't reward the wrestler that wins Sectionals or even beats a wrestler at their sectional. A wrestler that wins a Sectional or takes 2nd can be seated below a kid that takes 3rd. I also don't like that the same kids from a Sectional can wrestle each other in the opening round. Below I will recommend my solution.
To move D2 and D3 state tournament to the same format as D1. 16 man brackets
Equal divisions, same # of qualifiers in individual and team state in all divisions. Move team state to Resch Center in Green Bay. Much better venue that would accommodate the wrestling community.
Reducing weight classes

Having a single wrestler from a school in a co-op makes you take on the whole enrollment of the school.
Wisconsin needs 3 equal divisions. Every division should be the same. Same number of teams to team state, same number of qualifiers to individual state. You do that, and then all of a sudden more coaches can get on board with other decisions as we would all be "equal".
I would love to take a look at the drastic increase in stall calls from regular season to post season. And the why behind it.
Team sectionals. It's not good to have it between individual regionals and sectionals. Tough for kids to make weight and it seems some teams do not even bring a full team. I would also like to see a consolation side to the bracket. Let them wrestle for third place at least. I think there are some issues with the individual seeding at state this year. I would like to see the four sectional winners seeded for their efforts at sectionals and then either draw the others in or put them on opposite side like it has been done in the past. I realize no matter what system is used, there will be some mismatches and people will be upset. But even if a 500 wrestlers beats a returning state champ at sectionals, they should be awarded for that in a tournament series.
The interpretation of the 1.5% weight loss plan
Please start the season after Thanksgiving.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommend the WIAA waits until after the Holiday tournaments to place teams into regionals to try to break up the stronger teams so they do not compete in same regional. 2. I believe the section individual should allow double elimination. There is no need for the 5th place match but double elimination would be great for students. 3. I believe the state tournament needs to be double elimination. Students work too hard to get to state only to be eliminated first round and not get another opportunity.
Seeding teams within the sectional for both the team and individual state tournament series.
Guidelines for parents and coaches to follow at youth tournaments.
Wrestling athlete numbers
Reduce number of weight classes, move team state series to after the individual state tournament,
Out of bounds like college and skin funk like college.
These tournament series are a good idea, but I think pursuing a super sectional as was proposed years ago is a better idea. Evening out divisions as well
Out of bounds rule - make more like college
Girls that wrestle at girls state should be able to wrestle in regionals to help in score team points but not able to advance from regionals individually.
2 regionals together or sectionals with all the teams. True team qualifier not on a weeknight. We have a plan in district 4 we are working on. Even divisions would help. Seed or separate teams in a sectional if we stay with regionals. Out of bounds rules!!!!
8 grade included, less weight classes, allow high school coaches to help coach at outside WIAA events
of weight classes
Would it be possible to add a fourth mat at state for girls wrestling? It's great that they have their own tournament now, but putting them down on the floor at the Kohl Center going forward would really give them the exposure they deserve.
Reducing wait time before matches
What discussion is taking place about the number of weight classes in Wisconsin? What are other coaches leaning towards?
Get the state individual seeding squared away.
More education for official on trapped arms. Saw too many concussions this year from it.
Change team state, make State double elimination
Less weight classes.

<p>Dual meet regional competition.</p> <p>No seeding of state tournament.</p> <p>Double elimination ind state tournament.</p>
Start date is a big one
I don't know what is being done for the girls wrestling rules/teams but it would be nice to have COOPs for girls wrestling to have girls wrestling girls instead of them practicing with the boys. Like is done with girls hockey. I think it would increase participation outside of the urban areas.
I disagree seeding division 2 and 3
If we are going to seed every participant in D2 and D3, 16 wrestlers need to qualify. No kid who got third at sectionals should earn a bye at State because of what they did earlier in the year...no other sport rewards regular season action for the postseason in this way. The 16-0 Patriots were not given the super bowl title when they lost to the lowly Head throwing Giants just because they were "better all year" that notion is ridiculous... Having 16 would make it so everyone wrestled Thursday night regardless of how Trackwrestling seeded. Wrestlers who won sectionals and weren't a top 4 seed would not be getting completely disrespected the way that they are this year.
Nothing additional from me. Of all the rules I am most in favor of changing would be the wait time.
Single elimination for d2 and d3 state tournament
Fine tuning on seeding in the Individual State Tournament.
Individual state tourney seeding was not done properly. Seeing sectional champions seeded lower than opponents they beat at their own sectional was simply not right. I'm in favor of trying to get the top 2 wrestlers in each weight class in the championship match if they are able to win out. Seeding the top 4 sectional champions would likely do this and ensuring sectional competitors of the sectional champion are on the opposite side of the bracket would guarantee the most likely chance that the best two wrestlers are in the finals.
Individual State tournament seeding debacle
fewer weight classes
Clarification on stalling. Clarity on the out of bounds rules to make things more simple.
Please remove the seeding of the state tournament. You could combine 2 regionals and then take top 2 for the state tournament and have 16 man brackets and run double elimination at state.
Reduction of weight classes
Weight loss - I like the old half pound a day - it was easier to move wrestlers for dual meets and then return them to weight for individual tournaments. The individual wrestling vs team wrestling is pitted against each other. It makes it hard on the wrestler/coach. Team wrestling bring more kids to the sport.
Only seed the sectional champs at the state tournament and cross bracket the 2nd/3rd place finishers.
Positive promotion. We need to force news medias to cover the sport and positive stories around the sport.
Start date, number of weight class, and a division 4 to help with numbers of participants to the sport.
Fix the state "seeding...". What a complete disaster. My sectional was not pulled in. All other matches were there. We were seeded behind the kid we beat head to head in the 2nd place match. Why rush to get the brackets out???!! This all happened because the sectional tournament level was unassigned. It is sectionals, why would I need to assign that level. It's the only level it can be. The bracket I am discussing is D3-126. Burzynski beat Anderson and was seeded behind him. There are several other brackets that are far worse. D2-132 for example. Anderson, Hart, and Koenig all on the same side. How is that good for wrestling? I realize this was done to make things better...it didn't. This is worse.
Starting to develop girls teams that would also compete. It's still growing in our state but having females only wrestle females would help both premote the sport and also help develop more wrestlers.
Double elimination state tournament
Golf, Track, and Cross country all completed mostly on weekdays. I feel are sport could do the same and student would have more opportunities to watch and maybe feel like wrestling could be for them.

I think the Super regional is a must. I would like to see us have a section dual meet tournament before the individual regional to determine who moves on. Do we really need conference tournaments? Wrestle those same kids again...
Please take a deep look at the seeding criteria for the state tournament. Look at making double elimination a priority at the state tourney.
Weight loss program
A double elimination state tournament bracket. Wisconsin is the only state that has two divisions in which there is not even an option for a 2nd match at the state tournament. Every surrounding state either has a true double elimination or has a bracket like division 1 where there is a chance to wrestle back. (Minnesota) Why don't the first round losers in D1 go 0-1 on there state tournament? Seems silly to me. We're talking about the state tournament here. The time schedule can allow for a double Elimination bracket. Wisconsin needs better.
Stalling needs to be addressed more quickly. Too much time is going by before stalling is called.
Equal division
Make sure at Team Sectionals there is a true rotation system to allow Teams to see different Teams
In the current format, I'd like to see a weight allowance for team sectionals on Tuesday night.
The individual state tournament seeding needs to have a panel of wrestling knowledge guys to use the algorithm to seed sections. Just relying on the computer didn't work and makes Wisconsin look silly
I would like to see double elimination brackets for sectionals and state. I can attest it is not a great experience for kids if they only get one opportunity to wrestle and they lose. Find a way to allow these kids more opportunities at the bigger tournaments.
Double elimination for everyone at all levels of post season and working to improve state seeding.
I don't like the new seeding criteria for state where my athlete can wrestle the sectional champ first round at state in an elimination match. I highly favor the super regionals of 13-14 teams so we can get the correct wrestlers to state and the best teams to team sectionals. The new match and contest changes were great!
I trust the leaders in our sport. Our district 5 rep, Curtis Fiedler and the WIAA lead, Mel Dow. We have to trust our leaders to make wise decisions that have a positive impact on our sport. While gathering input from coaches of course. ie - this survey.
Proper seeding of the state tournament.
1) Open enrollment is detrimental to wrestling. When you pull one good kid out of a small program it causes irreparable harm to that program. Recruitment has become a major issue and it needs to stop. 2) The current weight loss program has put the focus on weight loss. There is absolutely no reason for any wrestler to be limited to a daily weight loss that represents a couple of ounces of water intake or urination. There are many times when this weight plan keeps a kid from going up a weight to be able to compete because it takes so long to go down. It is also foolish to have a different weight loss plan for every kid. Make it standard and if that does not work then use like 3 groups. 3) cut back the number of weekend tournaments. Sure each team can do that but then we are on an unfair playing field for the kids on the current team. 4) Start after Thanksgiving week with practice and then cut back to five practice days before the first meet. A few years back we brought this up in a sectional meeting and every single coach wanted to move the season start date.
Seeding only sectional champions at individual state. And keep 2 and 3 on opposite sides as was before

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CLARIFY ANY OF YOUR EARLIER RESPONSES TO ANY OF THE PREVIOUS QUESTIONS?

Work on one thing and get it done
I'm not sure how to answer the question about duals deciding who goes to state. I know some teams don't need to wrestle duals at the end but maybe expand to top 2 teams in. A regional.

If you took top four out of regionals and made sectionals a 16 team tournament (you would need to seed it too) and took the top four out of that sectionals to state, I think you would have a better chance of having all 16 wrestlers balanced at state. Or make state a 32 man bracket and take top four out of Sections to make sure all quality wrestlers make it no matter where they live.

team state should take place before individual state

I would like to see the top two teams from Regionals in D1 advance to team sectionals.

Based off seeding and D1 seeds 9-12 would be eliminated with current format.

Take top two teams from D1 regionals to have a 4 team, team sectional.

Recruiting kids too wrestling is a topic of concern. How can we get more kids involved in this great sport. I think Football and Wrestling need to work together. The transition from the fall sport to the winter sport should be smooth and would benefit both sports immensely.

Wrestling would benefit football a lot more than football would benefit wrestling, clearly.

The development of powerlifting clubs is not beneficial to either sport and does not develop multi sport athletes, especially kids. Way to much specialization by club sports has been a huge problem.

So difficult to qualify for State, guys deserve the double elimination and the chance to go out swinging. Too much rides on the first match draw right now

I would prefer the team sectional duals not break up the week between regionals and sectionals because it hurts the teams preparation for that tournament. Instead have those duals the Tuesday after individual State. Also no matter what you do with the divisions it would get closer to having the top 16 wrestlers in the state in D1 if you had 16 wrestler 4 regionals combine to create super sectionals instead of 8 smaller sectionals.

Super sectional instead of different Regional and Sectional weekends. Teams need to qualify for team state through a dual format. Maybe top two from each conference then seed team sectional

I would be in favor of a team Sectional in Div. 1 on one weekend of 16 teams narrowed down to 1 - 4 dual meet matches to qualify for team state. The next weekend is individual with 16 wrestlers and the top two qualifying. Double elimination, wrestle-backs, go 6 matches that day at 1-2-2. The dual meet on a Tuesday the week of Sectionals is tough on the kids, etc.,,,

It also makes more sense to qualify for a dual meet tournament under a dual meet format. This way we could also compete Saturday - Saturday.

Finally, the assignment of teams to Sectionals has always been a mystery. Mukwonago and Stoughton meet in the state finals back-to-back years and end up in same Sectional the past two seasons. With Covid-19, some of the teams were very depleted or down both competitively and in #'s. I understand geographical issues and travel. However, it was a significant imbalance with three of the Sectionals in the Milwaukee area being very down. Is it possible to have host sites lined up and then align competitively the Sectionals. There just doesn't seem to be a rhyme or reason. We should not be able to beat an area team by 25+ in a dual meet and then they go and shut out their Regional competitor, while we have to go in the gym of the #2 ranked team, Milton, in state to win by 11. This also impacted individual qualifiers. Nicolet should not be sending 10 kids etc., while Mukwonago sends 3.

Seeding teams at team sectionals does not matter in D1.

We need double elimination at the individual WIAA state tourney.

Teams should be seeded for regionals given the current structure. At least avoid any combination of the top 4 teams in the same regional.

A combined regional 12-14 teams is a great way to improve the best wrestlers advancing, that should always be the goal.

Our state tourney is fantastic, a few more kids participating (16) and having a double elimination would really grow the weekend.

I really think less weigh ins and less weekends will help us grow the sport.

I favor D2-D3 Sectional champs get a first round bye or at least do not wrestle a preliminary match at state vs a kid from your sectional. Strongly in favor of 16 man bracket at Regionals with a true wrestle back to 3rd

I think State should only seed the 4 wrestlers that took 1st at their Sectional. The wrestlers that took 2nd and 3rd should move to the opposite side of the bracket that the wrestler that took 1st from the same bracket. This is what was currently done. The best wrestlers in the weight class should take first in their Sectional. Yes if there is a tougher Sectional than another by putting the kids on the opposite side of the bracket means they can still meet up in the finals. Yes a number 1 kid can get caught and pinned and not place 1st at their Sectional, but that is why we love the sport. Anyone can beat anyone. These wrestlers are coming from all areas of the State and trying to seed them is almost impossible. I do not want people involved in the seeding, because there is bias that you can't stop. By only doing the Sectional champs that is only 4 wrestlers and there shouldn't be as much controversy. There was a lot of conversation about concerns with the seeding of all wrestlers at State at Sectionals between coaches. When the seedings came out the concerns showed up.

In regard to the regional format above, that would create a longer day. I actually like having a slightly shorter day of regionals.

As a D2 program I am not satisfied that D1 gets more kids and more teams to state. It's time to make everything 3 equal divisions. It's time to scrap Regionals and do Super Sectionals. Regionals weekend should be replaced by a true Team Sectionals dual tournament. I love the progress that the WWCA and WIAA are making. The sport is continuing to move in the right direction.

Current structure of state tournament. I said no due to the flaw in the seeding where 3 individuals from the same sectional are in the same quadrant. That just should not be the case. This means a student wrestles the same two people they just competed yet 5 or 6 days earlier. Doesn't seem to make sense at a state tournament. Needs to be some way to adjust that scenario so one can be moved to opposite quadrant?

I am favor of a "super regional", however, I believe the teams within the sectional need to be seeded. Putting two regionals together that are traditionally very competitive does not provide equity. I believe other sports seeded within their sectional in order to separate those competitive teams. One example: separating the top 4 or even 8 teams would be beneficial. All other teams would be placed into a regional based on geography.

Duals should determine who goes to team state. Having an individual format determine who wrestles at a team sectional does not make sense. I believe we can come up with an alternate format with a different tournament series schedule. Seeding teams within the sectional could be part of this.

16 person double elimination brackets for the state tournament. Dual teams should wrestle duals to qualify not qualify by individual tournaments

I am in favor of a larger regional to help with the bye situation and overall depth of some regionals but I am not in favor of using an individual tournament as your qualifying event for team sectionals. It needs to be separate (my tournament team can look very different from my dual meet team).

I think the by issue could be solved by lower number of weight classes

I support the 30 minute rule if the medical professionals agree with it.

We need a sectionals in central Wisconsin a lot of teams that went to Oconto Falls see each other a lot throughout the year. Most of those schools are anywhere from 20 mins to an hr away. Also I disagree seeding part at state either we go to 16 man brackets and everyone wrestles at state or keep it the same and seed the guys that win sectionals at division 2 and 3.

Winning a sectional has always led to a bye. I do feel seeding the tournament is a good thing, however, I feel we overlook the value of winning a sectional. Winning a sectional means a wrestler performed better than their 1/4 of the state in a playoff situation where the pressure was on. These head to head wins and the winning of a sectional should be worth x2 what any regular season win is. Spoken by a coach who did not have a single athlete compete at State this year. This is simply my opinion on a fair system. Adding 4 wrestlers so nobody has to wrestle in a true "pig tail" match Thursday night to me is the simple fix.

What makes D1 so much better than D2 and D3 that they get to have 4 extra competitors? There is often less Quality wrestling at many D1 sectionals than at D2 and D3.

I am concerned if you take the team dual record to qualify for the team state series you may see teams develop softer schedules in order to qualify.

Only said no on the format of the Individual State Tournament because I think the current format undervalues the matches that just took place between State Qualifying wrestlers at Sectionals.

The current structure of the post-season is not bad. Some regionals have lower numbers that resulted in byes making it on to sectionals, which I feel is a disservice to our athletes and having a super regional would allow for more athletes to continue on. There are some issues with some of the regional assignments, as our regional had 3 wrestlers who are on pace to be 4X state champs, but there is no perfect way to spread out previous state place winners and qualifiers. The seeding for this years state seems as though there are definite improvements to be made and things that should be considered when seeding the tournament.

We are in favor of super regional.

When referencing the current system I am interpreting that to mean before this year. The seeding of the state individual tournament needs adjusting or return back to past practice.

Going to the 2 Regionals combining will crush schools that are not powerhouses. Many of their wrestlers do not wrestle in youth and sometimes wrestle for the first time when they are in high school. Or the wrestle a little in youth and don't realize they cannot play basketball until they are in 10th or 11th grade. Having a chance at success at Regionals is a big thing for them. To save wrestling we need to help the schools struggle to fill their weights not destroy them.

Something needs to be done with regionals. There is no parody. The far north regionals are not good at all. There should never be a bye in a sectional bracket. Fill it by lottery or something.

A 30-minute wait still seems pretty long for the wrestlers. During the summer they wrestle within 15 minutes in between each match so I would say 15-20 minutes would be perfect between wrestling matches.

Right now I feel the wrestling season is a grind and kids that are on the fence don't want to sacrifice that much time and all the weekends. Lets reduce wt. classes and shorten the season, get rid of the 1.5 % rule. How can we get team state at the kohl center? We also need to figure out seeding the state tournament.

I think there should be a team dual regional weekend. 4 team dual regionals, top two teams from each regional go to Madison for team state. 8 team dual bracket. Wrestle back to third. Place the top 4 teams. If you don't have room at the Barn, move it to a different venue. Look at surrounding states Iowa Minnesota, Wisconsin can perform better. Also, the following weekend can be individual super regionals. Take top four from 4 super regionals, 16 man state brackets. That kohl center could hold 8 mats. If your wondering how it would work please go look or watch a Minnesota or Iowa state tournament. Those high school leagues aren't concerned about policing all the wrestlers and making sure there all the unused space between mats. Those states are solely worried about a great experience for wrestlers and fans. WIAA is so worried about policing the wrestlers and their bags, or where the coaches sit, or how many coaches passes we get. There's three chairs in the corner, give every team at least three passes to sit together so it's not a big run around. Our neighbors across the river do a very nice job, it's time for Wisconsin to catch up.

Thanks for all your hard work to make Wrestling go in this State.

I would like to see at the individual state tournament the top 4 champions at d2 and d3 seeded with the bye if we continue with a 12 man system. The remaining 8 wrestlers then are seeded based on the criteria established this season. I feel right now being a sectional champion is not given its due credit and recognition at the state tournament.

Wisconsin team state should wrestle for third. Entire towns shut down to go, why not wrestle a duel before the finals especially in the age of super teams. Wouldn't take much and WIAA could sell more tickets to another session.

Division 1 schools do not have 13 to 14 teams in a regional so why would division 2 and 3 do this? I would like to see more opportunities for kids rather than reducing them.

Team State qualifying should be through duals only not an individual tournament. Not all teams would need to qualify for team dual regionals. Maybe just teams with .500 win percentage and better.

I appreciate the continued work in wrestling. I know that seeding the state tournament with the format we used received a lot of criticism, myself included. However, I like that our state is being proactive at trying new things to boost numbers an participation.

The new method of seeding the state tournament has some issues. Common opponents is not a consistent metric under any circumstances. Using previous year's state tournament results so highly on the criteria list gives a disadvantage to all underclassmen. I like the concept of the points system algorithm. We just need a fairer set of criteria for it. The tournament should certainly be seeded. In the old format it was common for the two best wrestlers to meet in the semifinals. Maybe only seeding the top 4 then placing the rest based on sectional finish would be better. Turning D2-D3 into 16man double elimination brackets would require proper seeding system. It's a process of trial and error but WI wrestling is headed in a positive direction. I look forward to good things in the future.

1) Leave Regionals alone. If we are trying to build numbers in programs then allow us to compete somewhat locally. We have been in very strong regionals and weak regionals. Do we really want to travel 100 miles for a regional? Do we want to never host a regional? The answer is obvious. Two suggestions for Regionals and Sectionals D2+3. Send top 3 to sectionals. And all wrestlers get 2 matches. 2) all wrestlers at State should get two matches. you take a kid from Superior driving to Madison and being one and done??? There is time to do this. 3) State seeding is beyond awful. We are not even following Wiaa rules per Winter Regs book. Sectional first should NEVER be on the same side as 2nd and 3rd. 2 and 3 should never meet until the semis if they win. In a 12 man bracket the sectional champ is to get a rd1 bye. Bad seeding is far worse than no seeding. Look at the D3 285 bracket and see where the three from our sectional NE are placed. That type of seeding destroys the whole idea of what a state meet is about. Two kids from the same sectional meeting right away and the winner wrestles the other one from the same sectional.