WESTERN MONTANA LITTLE GUY WRESTLING INCORPORATION BY-LAWS

[UPDATE IN SPRING OF 2026 – THESE RULES WILL GOVERN THE 2027 SEASON]

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The western Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program was established in 1975 to promote kids wrestling without prohibitive costs to the wrestlers and their families. Through participation and enjoyment of competition in this program, we hope that the wrestlers will gain physical stature and improve their self-images. We hope that wrestling clubs in this program will create situations that make wrestling an enjoyable experience for the athletes. We further hope that a positive experience in this program will lead these young athletes to further participation in the sport of wrestling at the high school level.

I. PROGRAM INCORPORATION

1. WESTERN MONTANA LITTLE GUY WRESTLING INC.
   A). The Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling program is registered with the state of Montana as a non-profit corporation
   B). Three executive officers are appointed by the board of directors to satisfy the state corporation requirement. Current officers: Bob Owen, Ken Hill, & Scott Kinney
   C). The corporation executive officer's liability insurance will be paid annually from the program Working Fund.
   D). The corporation papers will be held by the executive secretary.
   E). The official corporation name for the program is **Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling Inc.**

II. FACILITY RETAL FUND

1. Each club will contribute $2 per wrestler annually to the "Facility Rental Fund"
   A. Clubs bidding Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments that face Gym Rental fees may apply for funds to offset the cost of the rental fee.
   B. Bid forms for Unit, Intervalley, and WMC Tournaments must include the amount of the gym rental fee.
   C. The WMLG Wrestling board of directors will assign the amount of the gym rental fee the program will share with the club that wins the bid for the tournament.
   D The amount the WMLG Wrestling program contributes will initially be from 25% to 50% of the fee until the Facility Rental Fund builds up to a larger amount.

III. CLUB LIABILITY INSURANCE *$2.00 PER WRESTLER*

1. LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

A). The Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program will enlist an insurance carrier to provide liability insurance for clubs in the program.

B). Liability insurance will cover the following areas:
   a. Accidents by wrestlers and coaches in wrestling practices
   b. Accidents by wrestlers while competing in sanctioned competitions
   c. Accidents by fans and spectators at sanctioned competitions
   d. Accidents by club representatives transporting wrestlers to and from sanctioned competitions.

C). The premiums for the club liability insurance will paid by all participating clubs.

D). Each club will pay an assessed amount per wrestler enrolled in their club.

IV.

1. ANNUAL CHARTER FEE ASSESSED TO ALL CLUBS

A). Each club will be levied a $100.00 Charter Fee each year to be paid before the start of the season.

V. SAVINGS ACCOUNT ,CLUB CHARTER FEE, & T.V. ADVERTISEMENT

1. PROGRAM SAVINGS ACCOUNT
   A). A savings account for the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling program is located at the Whitefish Credit Union bank in Polson.
   B). The funds collected for Charter Fees, Web-site fees, Liability Insurance, and Scholarship Fund will be deposited in this "Working Fund" account.

VI. PROGRAM WEB-SITE AND WEBSITE FEE

1. WMLG WRESTLING WEB-SITE
   A). The program web-site is contracted to a web-site administrator at $1000.00 to be paid by the WMLG working fund.
   B). *westernmontanalittleguywrestling.com* will have information on all aspects of the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling program.
   C). Each club will be assessed an annual $50.00 internet web-site fee to be paid by all the clubs before the start of the season.

VII. COACHES CERTIFICATION & REGISTRATION

1. **CLUBS MUST REGISTER ALL OF THEIR COACHES BEFORE SEASON STARTS**
   A). Each club must send a roster of their coaches to the program secretary before the season starts
   B). All coaches are required to to purchase either a Montana Coaches Association Card, a USAW Card, an AAU Card, or be certified by the Montana High School Association to coach in the current year.

C. The Club-submitted roster will include the certification information for each coach.
D. Coaches should be prepared to show their certification card when picking up a wrist band to coach at competitions.

VIII. RATIONAL AND BENEFITS

1. COSTS FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE AND FACILITY RENTAL FUND
   A). Each club must purchase the liability insurance from the company selected by the board of directors.
      a. Each club must submit the total number of wrestlers that are enrolled in their club to their Unit representative.
      b. The insurance premium per club will be based on the total number of wrestlers enrolled in their club.
      c. Each club will pay $2 per wrestler for liability insurance before the season
   B). Each club will pay $2 per wrestler toward the Facility Rental Fund before the season
   C). There will be no entry fees charged to wrestlers that are competing in WMLG wrestling competitions.

2. RECIPROCATOIN TO THE PROGRAM
   A). All money derived from the WMLG Wrestling Program will go back into the WMLG Wrestling Program to promote kids wrestling in Western Montana.

   B). Sharing of gate receipts will drive the bidding process for the three season-ending wrestling tournaments.

3. BENEFITS TO HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING PROGRAMS
   A). Folkstyle (high school style) technique will be taught to wrestlers in the program.
   B). National high school federation rules will be used in all competitions.
   C) The young athletes will be trained in the basics of wrestling and encouraged to continue in the sport of wrestling at the high school level.

4. SCHOLARSHIP FOR IN-STATE COLLEGE BOUND WRESTLER
   A). The WMLG Wrestling program will offer scholarship monies to former WMLG wrestling participants that plan to join the University of Great Falls, Montana State Northern programs.
   B). Preference will be given to incoming Freshmen to these college programs.
   C). Veteran wrestlers in these programs may apply to be considered for scholarship.
   D). Applications for this scholarship are available on the program web-site.
   E). The board of directors will review applications and select the scholarship recipients at the annual Spring meeting.

5. OTHER PROGRAM BENEFITS
   A). Provides an organized six-week dual meet and tournament schedule for all clubs and participants.
   B). The number of participants in the Unit Tournaments will be distributed to limit the one-day tournament competition to six hours or less.

C). Established and uniform admission prices are in place for all of the competitions.
D). The three-week dual and invitational tournament period at the beginning of the season allows clubs to have competitions within their communities.
E). The inclusion of high school wrestlers as coaches and officials helps enhance their understanding of the sport of wrestling.
F). Each area (Unit) of the program is represented on the board of directors that govern the program.
G). Involvement in the program will help promote healthy lifestyles among the youth in our communities.
H). Scholarship monies will be available to former WMLG wrestlers that desire to continue wrestling at the college level at either the University of Great Falls, and Montana State Northern University.

6. FACILITY RENTAL FUND

Each club will contribute $2 per wrestler annually to the "Facility Rental Fund"

A. Clubs bidding Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments that face Gym Rental fees may apply for funds to offset the cost of the rental fee.
B. Bid forms for Unit, Intervalley, and WMC Tournaments must include the amount of the gym rental fee.
C. The WMLG Wrestling board of directors will assign the amount of the gym rental fee the program will share with the club that wins the bid for the tournament.
D. The amount the WMLG Wrestling program contributes will initially be from 25% to 50% of the fee until the Facility Rental Fund builds up to a larger amount.

7. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The following are some general objectives that will be emphasized in the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program. Organizers, directors and coaches will promote these ideals as they administer the individual clubs:

A). Teach the athletes to be responsible for their own actions.
B). Provide an opportunity for achievement.
C). Provide an opportunity for wrestlers to compete with other wrestlers
D). Help young athletes realize the correlation of working hard and success.
E). Maintain a short (six-week) season to maintain a high interest level in the young participants.
F) Discouragement of extreme weight reduction practices, yet promotion of weight management and proper nutrition.

IV. GOVERNING RULES OF THE WRESTLING PROGRAM

The following rules will govern the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program. These rules will be examined annually to make changes, deletions, or revisions for the improvement of the over-all program.

1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A). A representative from each of the four Units will be elected annually in January by an e-mail ballot administered by the four current Unit Representatives

B). The vote results will be sent to the program secretary who will e-mail the results of the newly elected Unit Reps to all clubs
C). Three executive officers have been appointed by the board of directors to fill corporate positions, and to participate and vote in all program meetings.
D). When an executive officer chooses to leave their position, a new executive officer will be appointed by the entire board of directors.

2. DUTIES OF THE BOARD MEMBERS

A). Determine the dates and sites for the Unit, Inter-Valley, and WMC Tournaments.
B). Select and purchase awards for the season-ending tournaments
C). Review and change the by-laws of the WMLG Wrestling Program in the Spring meeting each year.
D). Review complaints and direct sanctions on Clubs that violate the rules of the program.
E). Select and administer the liability insurance for the program.
F). Select and contract the executive liability insurance for the program.
G). Send program information from Unit Representatives to Club Representatives.

3. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

A). Set up board of directors meeting dates, times, and locations for the meeting.
B). Set the meeting agendas
C). Maintain the program bank savings account for the "Working Fund" (currently at Whitefish Credit Union in Polson)
D). Provide the board of directors with an annual financial account of the "Working Fund"
E). Collect the liability insurance premiums, charter fees, and web-site fees from individual clubs.
F). Pay liability insurance premiums for all clubs.
G). Pay annual "Web-Site" fee
H). Compose a newsletter outlining the business conducted at all board of directors meetings.
I). Renew the Montana State incorporation license annually.
J). Pay the executive liability insurance annually.
K). $150.00 will be allocated annually to compensate the secretary /treasurer for duties rendered.
L). Register the coach's names and certification information at the beginning of the season.

4. PRE-SEASON INFORMATION PACKET

A). All clubs will complete a packet listing information on Club Contacts, Sign-up times, information on invitational tournaments or dual meets that they will host, and the club's season schedule.
B). The packet will be mailed by a club representative to the WMLG Wrestling Web-Site.

C). Each club that is hosting an "Invitational" competition in the first three weeks of the season will send the information on that meet to the web-site programmer by January 31st.

X. ADMISSION PRICES FOR COMPETIONS

1. NO ENTRY FEE CHARGED FOR PARTICIPANTS
   A). Wrestlers that enter sanctioned WMLG Wrestling competitions will not be charged an entry fee or an admission fee.
2. ADMISSION PRICES FOR DUALS AND INVITATATIONALS
   A). Host clubs will charge no more than $3.00 for adults and $2.00 for all others to be admitted as spectators to these competitions.

3. ADMISSION PRICES FOR THE UNIT, INTERVALLEY AND WMC TOURNAMENTS
   A). Admission prices for the Tournaments will be $5.00 for adults and $2.00 for all others.
   B). Spectators for all Tournaments with two-day formats will pay just one admission for both days.
   C). Hand stamps will be used to identify spectators that paid admission on day one.

5. RAFFLES AND CONCESSIONS UNREGULATED
   A). Concessions, raffles and other fund-raisers are not regulated by the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling program.

XI. TOURNAMENT SITES & BIDDING PROCESS

1. TOURNAMENT SITES CHOSEN ON BID BASIS

A). The sites for the Unit, Inter-Valley and WMC Tournaments will be bid for based on the amount of the gate receipts the host club will share with the visiting teams.
B). The share percentage of the gate will be divided in relation to the number of wrestlers that each visiting club enters in the tournament.
C). Bids for the combined Western Montana Championship will be submitted before the Spring board of directors meeting, and the site for that tournament will be assigned in that meeting.
D). Bids for the Unit and Inter-Valley Tournaments will be submitted before the January board of directors meeting and the tournament sites for those meets will be assigned at that meeting.
E. Clubs bidding Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments that face Gym Rental fees may apply for funds to offset the cost of the rental fee.
F. Bid forms for Unit, Intervalley, and WMC Tournaments must include the amount of the gym rental fee.
G. The WMLG Wrestling board of directors will assign the amount of the gym rental fee the program will share with the club that wins the bid for the tournament.
H. The amount the WMLG Wrestling program contributes will initially be from 25% to 50% of the fee until the Facility Rental Fund builds up to a larger amount.

2. BOARD CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING TOURNAMENT SITES
   A). Lowest bid (club willing to share the greatest amount of the gate receipts)
   B). Format for competition (one-day or two-day competition)
   C). Adequate number of wrestling mats
   D). Quality of tournaments the club has conducted in the past
   E). Adequate seating capacity (the seating numbers must be submitted with the bid)
      a. The WMC Tournament site must have at least 2000 seats available in the facility
   F) Hotel/Motel accommodations for two-day tournaments
   G). Vote by the board of directors

XII. DIVISION OF UNITS AND TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS

1. ASSIGNMENT OF CLUBS TO UNITS:

Unit One	Unit Two	Unit Three	Unit Four
Columbia Falls WC	Polson	Missoula Spartans	Challis, ID
Whitefish	St. Ignatius/Charlo	Superior	Florence
Eureka	Arlee	Frenchtown	Stevensville
Flathead Valley	Ronan	Plains	Corvallis
Kalispell WC	Bigfork	Bonner	Hamilton
Libby WC	Ruis (C.Falls)	Thompson Falls	Darby
Glacier Wolfpack	Browning WC	Northern Bitterroot (Lolo)	Salmon, ID
Mizfits (Libby)	East Glacier		

2. ENROLLMENT IN PROGRAM
   A). Wrestlers must be enrolled in the Western Montana Little Guy Program and a member of a program Club to enter a Unit, Inter-Valley, Beginner Championship or WMC Tournament.
   B) Wrestlers under the age of the Beginner Group (Pee Wee) are not a part of the WMLG Wrestling organization and will not be included in the Unit, Intervalley, nor the WMC Tournament competitions.
   C) Pee Wee wrestlers (under the age of 6) wrestling events are not covered by the program liability insurance. If a club hosts a Pee Wee competition, they must provide their own liability insurance for the Pee Wee portion of the event or risk litigation in the case of an injury or other complications.
   D) WMLG Wrestling "Open" competitions that include wrestlers from Non-WMLG Wrestling programs must provide separate liability insurance to cover those competitions.
   E) Clubs are not allowed to advertise non-WMLG Wrestling competitions on the program website.

3. COACHES WRIST BANDS FOR TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS
   A) Host clubs must provide coaches' wrist bands for all multi-club competitions.

B) Wrist bands will allow the coaches to be at mat-side for competitions
C). Competition hosts for the Unit, Inter-Valley, and WMC Tournaments will issue one coaches' wrist band per every 5 wrestlers that are entered in the tournament.
D). Marshals should allow wrestlers and coaches with wrist bands only at mat-side during competition.
E). Clubs must submit a coaches roster to the tournament director for the Unit, Intervalley, and WMC tournaments.
F). If the coaches number exceeds the "one coach per 5 wrestlers entered" rule, the club will pay an additional $5 per coach for the extra coaches.

4. MAT MARSHAL FOR ALL COMPETIONS

A) Clubs that host any WMLG Wrestling competition will designate at least one person to marshal the mats.
B) The duty of the marshal will be to continually walk the perimeter of the mats and remove any person that is not a wrestler or a coach with a wrist band from mat-side and move them behind the rope.

5. MANDATORY CLUB HELPERS FOR UNIT, INTERVALLEY AND WMC TOURNAMENTS

A) Each participating Club will provide two helpers (Referees or Table Workers) for the Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments for every 20 wrestlers they have entered in the competition.
B) Clubs with less than 20 participants will provide one helper.
C) The names of the volunteer helpers will be sent to the tournament director prior to the first day of the competition.
D) These volunteer helpers will be admitted free to the tournaments.
E) There will be a $50 charge per session for any club that cannot provide help. This fee will be paid to the tournament director prior to the beginning of the tournament.

XIII. AGE AND WEIGHT CLASSES IN THE GROUPS

1. AGE RESTRICTIONS

A) For the Unit, Inter-Valley and WMC Tournaments, wrestlers cannot wrestle in an age group younger than the group that their age on January 1st requires them to wrestle.
B). Wrestlers that are 15-years-old before September 1st of the school year are not eligible to participate in the program.
C). The Beginner Group starts at 1st Grade and boy & girl wrestlers must be at least 6-years-old to compete in any sanctioned WMLG Wrestling competition.
D). All age groups will be determined by the wrestler's age as of January 1st of the current year.
E) Wrestlers must be enrolled in 1st – 8th Grade to be eligible to wrestle in WMLG.
F). Wrestlers can move above the age group for which they are qualified, but not below.
G) Eighth-Grade wrestlers that compete in high school competition will be exempt from competing in WMLG Wrestling competition.

2. GROUP AGES

A). Wrestler's age on January 1 of the current year will determine which group (Beginner, Novice, Middle or Junior) they will compete in.

B). Boys and Girls Wrestlers from 6-years-old to 8-years-old will be in the Beginner Group

C). Boys Wrestlers 9 and 10-years-old will be in the Novice Group

D). Boys Wrestlers 11 and 12-years-old will be in the Middle Group

E). Boys Wrestlers 13 and 14-years-old will be in the Junior Group (the exception would be an 8th Grader that turned 15-years-old after January 1st

F). Girls Wrestlers 9 and 10-years old will wrestle in the Girls Novice Group

G). Girls Wrestlers 11 and 12-years old will be in the Girls Middle Group

H). Girls Wrestlers 13 and 14-years old will be in the Girls Junior Group

I). All girls are allowed to wrestle in Boy's brackets for the first three weeks of the season.

J). Novice, Middle and Junior Group Girls must wrestle in girls brackets in the Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments.

K). There are no restrictions on Beginner Group wrestlers that wrestle out of season.

3. NOVICE GROUP "OUT OF SEASON WRESTLING RULE"

A). The definition of "Out-of-Season" wrestling would be: "Participation in any wrestling competition between September 1st and the beginning date for WMLG Wrestling practices (the first Monday following the State High School wrestling tournament)

B). Wrestlers in the Novice Group that wrestle outside of the season will be elevated to the "Middle Group" competition for the Unit Tournament.

C). Wrestlers in the Novice Group may wrestle in either the Novice or Middle Group competition in the first three weeks of the season (prior to the Unit Tournament)

D). At the Unit Tournament scratch meeting, club representatives may petition to have Novice wrestlers that have wrestled "out of season" to allow the wrestler to remain in the Novice competiton.

E) In situations where the Middle Group tournament competition at the Unit Tournament precedes the Novice Group competition, the petitions must be settled before the Middle Group competition starts.

1) Criteria for the petition to remain in Novice Group competition should include information that proves that Novice wrestler in not an elite wrestler based on their record in "out of season" competition and their record in the first three weeks of the season.

F). A vote by one representative from each club in the Unit Tournament will determine if the petitioner will be in the Novice or the Middle competition. (The petitioning club will not have a vote)

G). A tie vote by club representatives would place the petitioner in the Novice competition.

H). Clubs with Novice petitions will inform the Unit Tournament manager of the names and weigh classes of the Novice wrestlers they intend to petition.

I). Club representatives will have a two-minute period per petitioned wrestler to plead their case for placing the wrestler in the Novice competition. (a vote will follow that presentation)

4. WRESTLERS CAN WRESTLE IN ONE BRACKET ONLY AT THE UNIT, I. I.V. AND WMC TOURNAMENTS
   A). Wrestler can enter one bracket only at the Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments.

5. RANKING SYSTEM FOR BEGINNER GROUP
   A). The Beginner Group will use a ranking system for all competitions, including the Unit and Inter-Valley tournaments
   B). Wrestlers will be ranked from 1 to 4 in the following manner:
   #1 Ranking = All quality experienced wrestlers, and any wrestler that competed in "Pre-season" competition
   #2 Ranking = Wrestlers with "good" to "very good" ability in wrestling
   #3 Ranking = Wrestlers of mediocre ability (30-60% win potential) #4 Ranking = Wrestlers lacking ability and new to the sport of wrestling

   C). Coaches may move Beginner Group wrestlers up and down in the ranking system as they evaluate their ability.

6. WEIGHT CLASSES
   A). The following weight classes will be used by the Beginner Group for Boys And Girls:*BEGINNER WEIGHTS:* 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 95, 108, 109-130, 131-156.
   B). The following weight classes will be used by the Novice Group for Boys
   NOVICE BOYS WEIGHTS: 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100,110, 124, 140, 158, 159-190
   C). The following weight classes will be used by the Middle Boys Group:
   MIDDLE BOYS WEIGHTS: 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 120, 130, 147, 166, 187, 188-224, 225-269
   D). The following weight classes will be used by the Junior Boys Group:
   JUNIOR BOYS WEIGHTS: 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 112, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 205, 240, 241-285

   E). The following weight classes will be used by the Novice Girls Group
   NOVICE GIRLS WEIGHTS: 55, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 110, 124, 140, 158, 159-190
   MIDDLE GIRLS WEIGHTS: 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 112, 120, 147, 166 & 187
   F). The following weight classes will be used by the Junior Girls Group:
   JUNIOR GIRLS WEIGHTS: 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 112, 120, 126, 135, 145, 160, 182, & 205

XIV. TIME OF MATCHES

1. BEGINNER, NOVICE, MIDDLE GROUPS WRESTLE 3-MINUTE MATCHES
   A). Beginner, Novice & Middle Groups will wrestle three periods lasting one-minute each
2. JUNIOR GROUP WRESTLE 4-MINUTE MATCHES
   A). Junior Group wrestlers will wrestle a 2-minute first period and 1-minute each for the second and third periods.
3. HIGH SCHOOL FEDERATION RULES FOR OVERTIME MATCHES
   A). The national high school federation wrestling rule for overtime matches will apply to all overtime matches.
4. CRYING DELAYS WILL BE THE SAME AS "TIME OUTS"
   A) Wrestlers that delay a match by crying and refusing to continue wrestling will be charged with a "time out".
   B) Federation rules call for a maximum of one and one-half minutes of time for "Time Out".
   C) If the wrestler is unable to continue wrestling at the conclusion of the 11/2-minutes, they will be disqualified and their opponent will win the match
   D) A maximum of two "Time Outs" are allowed in a match. A third "Time Out" would be an automatic disqualification.

XV. REFEREES

1. ELIGIBLE OFFICIALS FOR COMPETITIONS
   A). M.O.A. members
   B). High school wrestlers
   C). Wrestling Coaches
   D). Other persons with good knowledge of national high school federation wrestling rules.

2. ONE OFFICIAL FOR EVERY 20 WRESTLERS ENTERED
   A). Each club entered in a competition is encouraged to provide one official for every twenty wrestlers that their club enters .
   B). Host clubs will ensure that there are enough referees for the competitions

3. "HEAD OFFICIAL" AT UNIT, INTER-VALLEY AND WMC
   A). The tournament director of the Unit, Inter-Valley, and WMC Tournaments will appoint a "Head Official" for that competition.
   B). Head Officials will monitor and aid all other officials.
   C). Head Officials will make the final decision on all disagreements between coaches and mat officials.
   D). Head Officials will conduct a pre-tournament session with all officials working the tournament going over rules and conduct expectations.

4. HOST TEAMS ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE M.O.A. OFFICIALS FOR THE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

A) Host teams are encouraged to have at least two M.O.A. officials for the qualifying tournaments.
B) M.O.A. Officials will be paid $50.00 per age group competition when working qualifying tournaments.
C). The funds for paying the M.O.A. referees will come off of the top of the gate receipts .

5. REFEREES WILL MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO MORE THAN TWO COACHES AT MATSIDE FOR EACH OF THE WRESTLERS BEFORE STARTING A MATCH
   B). If at any time during the match, more than two coaches, parents or spectators are at the matside for either of the wrestlers, the referee should stop the match until the violators comply with the rule.
   C). If the violators do not comply with the two-coach-per-match rule, the referee should issue a Red or Yellow card to have them removed from the venue.

6. DUTIES OF M.O.A. OFFICIALS INCLUDE MONITORING CONDUCT OF COACHES & SPECTATORS

A) In the pre-tournament conference with officials, M.O.A. Officials will remind them to start each match by first checking to see that there are no more than two coaches per wrestler at mat-side. They should not start a match until the coaches are in compliance with this rule
B) M.O.A. Officials will monitor mats to make sure coaches are adhering to the "Two coaches per Mat" rule.

XVI. AWARDS FOR UNIT, INTERVALLEY & WMC

1. THE SELECTION AND COST OF AWARDS FOR THE UNIT, INTERVALLEY & WMC WILL BE THE RESPOSIBILITY OF THE HOST CLUB
   A). Team trophies and individual medals will be order and paid for by the host club

XVII. TOURNAMENT SECURITY

1. ALL COMPETITIONS WILL HAVE A MARSHAL
   A) The host team of any competitions or tournaments will provide a mat marshal that will patrol the mats and enforce rules such as "Two Coaches per Wrestler" at a mat during the match. Monitors will also keep parents and spectators behind the rope barrier.

2. ROPE BARRIER REQUIRED FOR ALL COMPETITIONS

A) The host team for all competitions will erect a rope barrier between the mats and the bleachers. Coaches, wrestlers and officials will be the only persons allowed inside of the rope barrier during competition.

B). A check list for tournament security will be available on the program website.

C). Clubs that fail to adhere to the check list may be subject to fines and elimination from hosting future tournament competition.

XVIII. YELLOW AND RED CARD SYSTEM

1. HOST TEAMS WILL USE A "YELLOW" & "RED" CARD SYSTEM TO CONTROL BEHAVIOR OF COACHES, PARENTS, AND FANS.

1. At qualifying tournaments, the "Tournament Director" and M.O.A. Officials will have Yellow and Red Cards that they can issue to unruly wrestlers, coaches or fans.
2. If a person is issued a "Yellow Card", they will be escorted from the venue and serve a 30-minute "Time Out" in which they can not come back into the venue.
3. Yellow Card violators must check in with the M.O.A. or Tournament Director that issued them the card before being re-admitted to the tournament venue.
4. Unruly wrestlers, coaches or fans may be issued a "Red Card" for flagrant misconduct or for their second "Yellow Card" violation.
5. Red Card violators will be escorted from the venue and cannot be re-admitted to the tournament venue for the remainder of the tournament.

XIV. JUNIOR GROUP MAT SIZE REQUIREMENT

1. HALF-SIZE OF REGULATION MAT FOR WMC

A). The Junior Group competition at the WMC Tournament will be wrestled on mats no smaller than one-half the size of a federation regulation competition mat.

B). This rule is strongly encouraged at all Junior level competition.

C) Host clubs are encouraged to provide "Full-sized Mats" for Junior competition.

XX. WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES

1. GROOM CHECK AT SCALES

A). **Wrestlers will be checked for fingernail length and skin infections at all tournament weigh ins.**

B). **Weigh-in officials will refer wrestlers with questionable skin lesions to the tournament director. The tournament director can require the wrestler to get a doctor's note verifying that his skin problem is not contagious before allowing the wrestler to enter the tournament.**

2. DUALS AND INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT WEIGH-INS

A). Honorary (home) weigh-ins conducted by clubs are allowed for invitational and dual meet competition in the first three weeks of the season.

3. WEIGH-IN FOR UNIT TOURNAMENT

A). Weigh-ins for the Novice & Middle Group wrestlers at Unit Tournaments will be conducted at the site of the tournament

B). Times for weigh-ins will be announced by the tournament director with consideration giving to staggered starting times.

C). Wrestlers will be given <u>one</u> opportunity to step on the scale for the official weigh-in.
D). A "Check Scale" will be available for wrestlers to check their weight before stepping on the official scale for their one opportunity.
E). If a wrestler does not make the weight he is attempting to qualify for, he/she will be moved to a higher weight class.
F). The high school federation rules governing the use of sweat mechanisms will be enforced.

4. WEIGH-INS FOR INTER-VALLEY & WMC TOURNAMENTS

A). Weigh-ins for the Novice & Middle Group at Inter-Valley and Western Montana Championship tournaments will be conducted at home on Thursday after 5:00 pm of the tournament week.
B) **Junior Group wrestlers must weigh in at the tournament site on the day of the competition for the Inter-Valley Tournament as this is the first "qualifying" weigh-in for that group.**
C). **Inter-Valley tournament directors will designate a time slot for the Junior weigh in**
D). Clubs will exchange coaches with a neighboring club to conduct the weigh-in for Novice and Middle Groups for the Inter-Valley Tournament.
E). Club representatives will provide a uniform list of wrestlers and qualified weight classes for the weigh-in official. (guest coach).
E). The official form for this weigh in can be downloaded from the program web-site
F). The guest coach will conduct the weigh-in and sign the form.
G). Club representatives will present the signed weigh-in form to the tournament director before competition begins.
G). The visiting coach that conducts the weigh in will make a list of the wrestlers that do not make weight and give that list to the tournament director.
H). Wrestlers that do not make weight on Thursday will have one chance to make weight on a scale at the tournament site on the day of their group's competition.

5. BEGINNER GROUP WEIGH-INS

A). Beginner group wrestlers will be weighed by their own club coaches and their weight group will be written on their hand.
B). The Beginner Group wrestler's ranking (1-4) will be written on their shoulder.

XXI. GATE SHARING AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. TOURNAMENT BID AGREEMENTS

A). Clubs may bid to host the Unit, Inter-Valley, and WMC Tournaments by the amount of the gate they are willing to share with visiting clubs.
B). Forms for the tournament financial statement are available at the program web-site
C. The bid form must include the name of the person or persons that will operate the "Track Wrestling" operation of the tournament. *(THIS PERSON MUST HAVE VERY GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF "TRACK WRESTLING" OPERATION)*

D). Share checks and financial statements will be mailed in a timely fashion upon completion of the tournament. Checks should be postmarked no later than one week following the tournament.
E). Host clubs that fail to comply with the one-week postmark rule will be fined $100.00 which will be added to the WMLG Wrestling "Working Fund".
F). Host clubs that fail to get the share checks out for a two-week period following the tournament will forfeit the right to bid a Unit, Inter-Valley, or WMC Tournament the following season.
G). Promptness in completing and mailing the financial statements and share checks will be used as criteria for considering bid assignments by the board of directors.
H). Ten percent of the total gate receipts must be sent to the program secretary to be put in the "Scholarship Fund".

2. ONE ADMISSION CHARGE FOR TWO-DAY TOURNAMENTS
   A). Club hosting two-day Unit, Inter-Valley, or WMC Tournaments can charge only one admission for the two days.
   B) A wrist band or stamp can be used to verify admission to the 2nd day of competition.

XXII. UNIT, INTERVALLEY & WMC TOURNAMENTS RUN ON "TRACK WRESTLING" WEBSITE

1. ALL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS WILL BE RUN ON "TRACK WRESTLING" SITE
   A). The three season-ending tournaments (Unit, Intervalley, & WMC) will be run on the "Track Wrestling" computer program
   B). Persons in charge of running the Track Wrestling competition must be very literate of the Track Wrestling program used to administer the tournament.
   B). The WMLG Wrestling program will pay the "Signup" fee for the member clubs to join the Track Wrestling administration.
   C). The program will hire one of the board members to coordinate the data for The Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments.
   D). The program tournament Track Wrestling Coodinator will be paid $1000.00 from the WMLG Wrestling Working Fund annually.

XXIV. AWARDS

1. MEDALS
   A). The generic medals for the Novice, Middle and Junior Groups are pre-ordered and paid for through the program working fund.
   B). Each tournament host will pay the WMLG Wrestling working fund for the medals they use for their tournaments.

C). The cost of the medals for the Unit, Inter-Valley and WMC Tournaments will be off-set by utilizing a maximum of 20% of the total gate receipts by tournament hosts.
D). Any medals not utilized by the host team may be returned to the program secretary and the cost of the unused medals will be reimbursed to the host club.
E) The cost of awards for the Beginner Group at the Unit, and Inter-Valley Tournaments will ordered and paid for by the tournament host.

XXV. TROPHIES

1. TROPHIES ORDERED AND PAID FOR BY HOST CLUBS
   A) The three trophies for "Small", "Medium", and "Large-Team" competitions for the Inter-Valley, and WMC Tournaments will be ordered and paid for by the host clubs.

XXVI. STARTING DATE & ORDER OF COMPETITIONS

1. STARTING DATE
   A). The Monday following the state high school tournament is the first date for club wrestling practices to begin.
   B). The season will run for six weeks

2. ORDER OF COMPETITIONS
   A). The first three weeks of the WMLG Wrestling season will consist of invitational competitions (dual meets and tournaments).
   B). The fourth weekend of the season will be the date for the Unit Tournaments
   C). The fifth weekend of the season will be the date for the Inter-Valley Tournaments (***This will be the final season competition for the Beginner Group wrestlers.*)**
   D). The sixth and last weekend of the season will be the date for the Western Montana Championship for Novice, Middle and Junior Group wrestlers that qualified.

3. WRESTLERS MUST REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS IN THE UNIT & INTER-VALLEY TOURNAMENTS IF THEY DO NOT INTEND TO COMPETE IN THE NEXT TOURNAMENT.
   A). When a wrestler enters the Unit or Inter-Valley Tournament and does not intend to wrestle in the next tournament, the following procedure will be followed.

   B). Wrestler must report his intentions to the tournament director before the competition starts

C). When a placer or multiple placers opt out, the next placer would move into that seeding spot/s for the following tournament.

D). In the case of non-placing wrestlers being tied in their advancement on the bracket and the need to move one or more on to the next tournament, the tournament director will draw lots to determine which of these wrestlers will advance.

E) All Novice and Middle Group wrestlers must weigh in and be present at the Unit Tournament and/or the Inter-Valley Tournament to be placed on the bracket for the following tournament.

F) **Wrestlers in the Novice, Middle and Junior Groups may weigh in, be at the tournament site to default, and be placed on the bracket for the next tournament if there is an open bracket**

G). To default and be considered for placement on a bracket at the WMC Tournament, a wrestler must sign a form in the presence of the Intervalley Tournament director at the Intervalley Tournament site.

H) The "Default Form" will be available to Intervalley Tournament directors on the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling website.

XXVII. UNIT TOURNAMENTS

1. UNIT TOURNAMENT FORMAT
   A). Each Unit will have a non-scoring "Unit Tournament" on the fourth weekend of the season.
   B). The Junior Group will not participate in the Unit Tournaments.
   C). Unit Tournament managers have the option to wrestle one or two of the groups on Friday evening and the remainder of the groups on Saturday.
   D). Competition MUST start with the Novice Group, then Middle Group and the Beginner Group will be the last competition on Saturday.
   E) The Beginner Group competition will be an ability-grouped "Red/Blue" format using the ranking system of (1-4) adopted by the program.
   F) The format for Beginner Competition will be Four-person round-robin groups marshalled to a mat and remain at that mat until all have wrestled each other.
   G). Bracketed weight classes are not allowed for Beginner Group competition.
   H) The Novice and Middle groups will be in bracketed tournament format
   I). Unit tournament managers must count the number of entrees from each club in Novice, and Middle, Groups. Clubs will also give the Unit Tournament manager the number of Junior Group wrestlers they plan to enter in the Inter-Valley Tournament . This total must be passed along to the Inter-Valley Tournament directors to determine team sizes for the Inter-Valley, and WMC Tournaments.
   J). Unit Tournament managers will e-mail the results of the tournament to the program web site by the next Monday following the tournament they hosted.

2. CRITERIA FOR PLACEMENT ON BRACKETS
   A) Seeding criteria for the Novice & Middle Group for placement on the Unit Tournament bracket will fall in this rank order:
      1) – Placement in the WMC the past year (top four in "A" bracket)

2) – Placement in the Inter-Valley Tournament the past year (top four)
3) – Placement in the Unit Tournament in the past year (top four)
4) – Placement in any WMC in years prior (top four in "A")

B). All unseeded wrestlers will be drawn into the brackets with attention to separating same-club members in the first round of competition.

3. LARGER BRACKETS USED FOR LARGER WEIGHT GROUPS

A). Beginner Group wrestlers will be placed in groups by ranking for round robin competition.
B). Brackets will <u>not</u> be used for Beginner Group competition.
C). Novice Group brackets will utilize 8-man, 16-man or 32-man formats depending on the number of wrestlers entered at the weight class.

4. REFEREES

A). Each club entered in the Unit Tournament should provide one referee for every 20 wrestlers their club enters in the competition.
B). High school wrestlers , M.O.A.s, wrestling coaches, and other persons with good knowledge of folkstyle wrestling rules are eligible to referee in the Unit Tournaments.
C). Tournament directors will appoint a "Head Official" that will have the following responsibilities at the tournament:
   a. Conduct a pre-tournament session to review rules and help prepare the younger officials for the competition
   b. Monitor all of the other officials in the Unit Tournament
   c. Make final decisions on disagreements between coaches and officials

4. AWARDS

A). The top four place-winners in each bracket in the Novice and Middle Groups will receive a medal
B). Beginner Group awards are ordered and paid for by the tournament host club (Ribbons or Medals may be used for awards for this group)
C). There will be no team score competition in the Unit Tournaments

5. PLACERS ADVANCING TO THE NEXT TOURNAMENT

A). All Beginner Group wrestlers may advance from the Unit to the Inter-Valley Tournament on the following weekend.
B). Eight placers in the Novice and Middle Groups in each bracket will advance to the Inter-Valley Tournamen
C). All Junior Group wrestlers can enter the Inter-Valley Tournament.
D). **Any corrections or changes to the placement of wrestlers on the bracket must be approved by the Unit Tournament director. The Unit Tournament director will be the only person to direct the Inter-Valley tournament director to make changes on the Inter-valley bracket.**

<u>XXVIII. INTER-VALLEY TOURNAMENTS</u>

1. INTER-VALLEY TOURNAMENT FORMAT
   A). Units One & Two participants will compete at one Inter-Valley Tournament, and Units Three & Four participants will advance to the other Inter-Valley Tournament.
   B). Inter-Valley Tournament managers will wrestle the Junior Group on Friday evening and have the option of including the Middle Group on Friday's competition.
   C) The Beginner Group will wrestle last on Saturday.
   D) The Beginner Group competition will be an ability-grouped "Red/Blue" format using the ranking system of (1-4) adopted by the program.
   E) The format for the Beginner Group will be Four-person round-robin groups marshalled to a mat and remain at that mat until all have wrestled each other.
   F). Bracketed weight classes are not allowed in Beginner Group competition.

2. BRACKETING FOR INTER-VALLEY TOURNAMENT
   A). Bracketing examples with seeding for the Inter-Valley tournament are available on the program web-site. (westernmontanalittleguywrestling.com)
   B). 16-Man brackets will be used for the Novice and Middle Groups
   C). Examples for building these brackets will be on the program website.
   D). Junior Group wrestlers will be seeded onto brackets with the same criteria used for the Unit Tournaments.

3. ADVANCEMENT TO THE WMC
   A). The Intervalley Tournament is the <u>final</u> competition of the season for the Beginner Group.
   B). Novice and Middle Groups will advance the top eight placers in <u>all</u> brackets to the Western Montana Championship Tournament.
   C). All Junior Group wrestlers will advance to the WMC Tournament regardless of placement in the Inter-Valley Tournaments.

4. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS
   A). The top four placers in each bracket will be awarded a medal.
   B) Beginner group awards may be either Ribbons or Medals.
   B). Beginner Group awards are ordered and paid for by the tournament host club

5. TEAM COMPETITION
   A). There will be team competition for "Large Team", "Medium Team", and "Small Team" competition at the Inter-Valley Tournament. (One Trophy of Plaque for 1st Place in each designation)
   B). **The team size designation will be determined by the Inter-valley tournament director based on the club numbers that were sent to him by the Unit Tournament directors. That number will include all of the Junior Group wrestlers that will be entered in the Inter-valley Tournament. That number will <u>not</u> include any Beginner Group wrestlers. This designation of team sizes will carry over to the Western Montana Championship Tournament.**

a. The top one-third total numbers will be "Large Teams"
b. The middle one-third total numbers will be "Medium Teams"
c. The lower one-third total numbers will be "Small Teams"

C). Team scoring will include the Novice, Middle, and Junior Group wrestlers only.

D). The top 15 placers will determine a club's team score.
a. 1st Place = 7 Points
b. 2nd Place = 5 Points
c. 3rd Place = 3 Points
d. 4th Place = 1 Point

E). Placers must be opposed by at least one wrestler from another club and have at least three wrestlers competing in the bracket to score points for their team.

6. AWARDS

A). The top 4 wrestlers on the brackets for Novice, Middle and Junior competitions for boys and girls will be awarded medals.

B). Trophies will be awarded to the clubs for first place in the "Small", "Medium", and "Large" team competition for boys competition and for girls competition.

XXVIV. WESTERN MONTANA CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Any corrections or changes to the placement of wrestlers on the bracket must be approved by the Inter-valley Tournament director. The Inter-valley Tournament director will be the only person to direct the WMC tournament director to make changes on the WMC bracket.

2. JUNIOR GROUP WILL WRESTLE ON FRIDAY NIGHT

A). **Tournament directors at the WMC will run the Junior Group Tournament on Friday evening.**

3. NOVICE AND MIDDLE GROUP TOURNAMENT FORMAT

A). Novice and Middle Group wrestlers will wrestle on 16-man brackets with eight placers from each of the two Inter-Valley Tournaments entered.

4. JUNIOR GROUP TOURNAMENT FORMAT

A). If the number of entrees in a Junior weight group is 16 or less wrestlers, they will all be entered in the same 16-man bracket.

B). If the number of entrees in a Junior weight group is greater than 16 wrestlers, the top four placers in each of the two Inter-Valley Tournaments will wrestle on an "A" bracket, and the remaining wrestlers will be on a "B" bracket.

C). Bracketing examples with seeding are available on the program web-site (montanasportsline.com) for the WMC Tournament.

5. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

A). The top four placers in all brackets will be awarded medals

6. TEAM COMPETION
   A). The same format that was used for the team competition in the Inter-Valley Tournaments will be used for the WMC Tournament.
   B). Only the Junior "A" brackets will be used for teams scoring.
   C). The top four "B" bracket wrestlers will receive medals, but will not be counted in team scoring
7. AWARDS
   A). The top 4 wrestlers on the brackets for Novice, Middle and Junior competitions for boys and girls will be awarded medals.
   B). Trophies will be awarded to the clubs for first place in the "Small", "Medium", and "Large" team competition for boys competition and for girls competition.

XXVV BEGINNER GROUP IS NOT INCLUDED IN WMC

A) Beginner Group wrestlers finish their season at the Intervalley Tournament.
B) No club in the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program will be allowed to host Beginner or Pee-Wee wrestling competitions on Friday or Saturday of the Western Montana Championship Tournament.

XXVVI. CROWD CONTROL & COACHES RULES

1. TWO COACHES PER MAT WITH WRIST BAND
   A). Two coaches for each wrestler in a match are allowed.
   B). Coaches will position themselves in the opposite corner of the mat from the opposing coaches.
   C). Mat officials will stop competition and ask coaches to comply with the two-coach rule when more than two coaches for one wrestler are at mat-side for the competition.
   D). At the Unit, Inter-Valley, and Western Montana Championship Tournaments all coaches will wear a coaches wrist band provided by the tournament management.
   E). Only persons wearing coaches wrist bands will be allowed at mat-sides to coach during wrestling matches at the Unit, Inter-Valley, Beginner Championships, and WMC Tournaments.

2. CROWD MANAGEMENT
   A). A tournament marshal will be appointed by the host club for the Unit, Inter-Valley and WMC Tournaments to help monitor and control the fans and parents.
   B). The first and most important responsibility of the marshal will be to keep non-coaches behind the ropes and away from mat-side while competition is in progress. ***(This includes fans attempting to photo or video a match)***
   C). Coolers and food containers will not be allowed in the event facility for the Unit, Inter-Valley, and WMC Tournaments.
   D). All club representatives are responsible for the sportsmanship and general conduct of parents and fans in their club.
   E). Coaches should take an active part in helping control their fans.

F) Host teams are strongly encouraged to use these management practices in dual and invitational competition in the first three weeks of the season.

XXVVII. UNIFORMS

1. SINGLETS OR TWO-PIECE FIGHTING SHORTS & COMPRESSION SHIRTS FOR COMPETITOIN
   A) Wrestling singlets or fighting shorts with compression shirts are required for all competitions.

XXVVIII. SANCTIONS

1. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE
   A). The board of directors reserves the right to apply the following sanctions to clubs that are out of compliance with the rules that are outlined in the WMLG By-laws.
      a. Letter of reprimand to individual or club representative
      b. Fines levied on clubs up to $500.00
      c. Loss of bidding privileges for the Unit, Inter-Valley and WMC Tournaments for one or more years.
      d. Loss of charter to WMLG Wrestling program (no longer allowed to participate)

2. **PENALTY FOR COACHES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**
   A). Coaches that are habitually unsportsmanlike or abusive to referees, participants or tournament workers can be suspended from coaching in the WMLG Wrestling program for the remainder of the season in which they are in violation and for the following season.
   B) Tournament or competition directors can alert program board members about the behavior and should write an incident report to present to the board.
   C) The board of directors will review the report and vote by majority on the suspension.
   D) To be reinstated to coach in the WMLG Wrestling program in the seasons following a suspension, the offending coach must appear before the WMLG Wrestling board of directors at the annual Spring Meeting. In that meeting, the suspended coach can present reasons for reinstatement.
   E) The board of directors will vote by majority to allow or disallow reinstatement of the coach.

SPORTSMANSHIP CREED

The success of our Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program is totally dependent on the conduct of the adults that work in the program. The teaching of sportsmanship is a top priority for coaches and parents. Coaches must set an example for the young

competitors by refraining from profanity and maintaining control when dealing with officials. Being positive with these young athletes will make it a rewarding experience for all involved.

We cannot allow our egos as coaches, parents, and fans to get in the way of modeling good sportsmanship to the wrestlers in the program.