**WMLG WRESTLING GIRLS COMPETITION**

**RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION**

The Montana High School Association will institute Girls Wrestling during the 2020-2021 High School Wrestling Season. Girls have been wrestling for various high school teams for years in competition against male athletes. Girls will now be afforded an equal opportunity to participate in the sport of wrestling against female opponents.

 **FORMAT FOR WMLG GIRLS**

               The Beginners (ages 6 – 8) and the Novice (ages 9 – 10) girls are still able to competitively compete against boys of the same age. The disparity comes when the boys begin to mature after age 11 and girls are no longer on an equal footing as the boys. So The Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling association will not develop additional weight classes for girls in the Beginner and Novice classes.

               The Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling would like to institute girls weight classes in the Middle (ages 11 – 12) and Juniors (ages 13 – 14) groups. The weight classes will start off limited in number, and will be further addresses at each Spring WMLG Board of Directors meeting as participation or need dictate.

**Middle (ages 11 – 12) Girl Weight Classes**

               65, 75, 85, 95, 105, 120, 147 & 187

**Junior (ages 13 – 14) Girls Weight Classes**

               80, 90, 100, 112, 126, 135, 145, 160, & 205

**Preseason Girls Wrestling** – During the first 3 weeks of competition it will be left to the discretion of the host team to put Middle and Junior Girl Weight Classes into their home events if possible. As a tournament director, they could ask visiting teams to specifically mark the girls entered into the event. If enough girls have entered, they can create a Girls bracket if enough participate. Otherwise, Girls will still have to wrestle boys during the first 3 weeks of competition, because of limited participation by girls at some events.

**Qualifying Tournaments**:

               **Unit Tournament:**

                                                 Middle Girl Weight Classes Top Eight Qualify for Inter-Valley Tournament.

                                                            Eliminated Girls from Full Unit Brackets will fill in IV brackets.

                                                 All Juniors will not wrestle and will advance to Inter-Valley Tournament.

               **Inter-Valley Tournament:**

                                                 Middle Girl Weight Classes advanced from Unit Tournament

                                                            Eliminated Girls from Full Unit Brackets will fill in IV brackets.

                                                 Juniors Girl Weight Classes – all will advance to WMC

               **Western Montana Championship**

                                                 Middle Girl Weight Classes advanced from Inter-Valley Tournament

                                                            \***Eliminated girls from Inter-valley may fill in bracket for WMC**

                                                 All Junior Girl Weight Classes advanced from IV bracket