WMLG Wrestling Board of Directors 2026 Spring Meeting Notes

The board of directors for the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling program met at St. Ignatius High School on Wednesday, June 3rd for their annual Spring Meeting. The following business was discussed and changes were made for the betterment of the program.

ON SITE WEIGH IN FOR THE UNIT TOURNAMENTS

The board rejected a proposal to have satellite weigh-ins for the Unit Tournaments. The consensus was that the Unit weigh in was the only one where wrestlers must be present and accountable for their weight. This type of weigh in is also compatible with the standard used by USAW and AAU tournaments.

NOVICE GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE "OUT OF SEASON" COMPETITION RULE

The board ruled to continue with requiring Novice Group wrestlers that participate in competitions outside of the LG Wrestling season to move up to the Middle Group for the Unit Tournament competition. (Clubs may petition to keep wrestlers in the Novice competition per the criteria listed in the bylaws)

THE QUALIFYING STANDARDS FOR THE INTERVALLEY AND WMC TOURNAMENTS WILL REMAIN

A proposal to allow all wrestlers in all groups to advance from the Unit and Intervalley Tournaments was rejected. The board determined that the Intervalley and WMC tournaments would become too large to manage, and many venues that currently host those tournaments would not be large enough to conduct competitions with that number of entrees.

NEW RULE ON COACHES CERTIFICATION

All coaches in the WMLG Wrestling program will now have to be certified in one of the four following categories to be eligible to coach in competitions:

1. Possess a current USAW Coaches Card
2. Possess a current AAU Coaches Card
3. Possess a current Montana Coaches Association Card
4. Be a current high school coach having passed the MHSA coaches test in the current year
5. High school wrestlers volunteering to coach in clubs will be exempt from this rule

CLUBS MUST REGISTER COACHES WITH PROGRAM SECRETARY BEFORE THE SEASON STARTS

Club directors will be required to send a list of their coaches and their certification designation to the WMLG Wrestling secretary before the season starts.

CLUBS MUST SUBMIT A ROSTER OF COACHES TO THE UNIT, INTERVALLEY AND WMC TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

This list will be used to grant free admission and the coach will be issued a wrist band making them eligible to coach at mat side during the competition.

$5.00 PER EXTRA COACH WHEN THE NUMBER OF CLUB COACHES EXCEEDS THE NUMBER ALLOTED FOR THE UNIT, INTERVALLEY AND WMC TOURNAMENTS

Clubs must pay $5 for each extra coach beyond the "One Coach per each 10 Wrestlers Rule".

ORDERING AND PAYMENT FOR AWARDS (MEDALS,TROPHIES, & RIBBONS) WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOST CLUB FOR UNIT, INTERVALLEY AND WMC TOURNAMENTS

Host clubs must order and pay for all awards for the Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments.

A CHECK LIST OF SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE PROGRAM WEBSITE

Due to some lax conduct, especially in invitational competition in the first three weeks of the season, a list of Security Requirements will be available on the program website. Failure to enforce these rules could lead to clubs being banned from hosting WMLG Wrestling competitions.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND SUSPENDED FOR ONE SEASON

Due to a lack of participation in applying for program scholarships to former WMLG wrestlers that are participating in Montana college wrestling programs, the requirement of payment of 10 percent of gate receipts at Unit, Intervalley and WMC Tournaments, that requirement will be suspended for the 2027 season.

WRESTLERS MAY NOT COMPETE IN MORE THAN ONE BRACKET AT THE UNIT, INTERVALLEY NOR WMC TOURNAMENTS

THE NOVICE GROUP WILL WRESTLE FIRST AT UNIT TOURNAMENTS

This rule will ensure that Novice Group wrestlers that have been moved to the Middle Group due to the "Out of Season Wrestling" rule will be able to compete in the Unit Tournaments in a Middle Group bracket.

DATES FOR THE 2027 SEASON

First Practice: Monday, February 22 (Monday following the State High School Tournament)

Unit Tournaments: Saturday, March 20

Intervalley Tournaments: Saturday, March 27

WMC Tournament: Friday & Saturday, April 2 & 3