

Fred Arkin, Co-Chair IWCOA Steering Committee for Girls Wrestling

Last year there were 446 girls certified on 212 IHSA boys teams Distributed as follows

# Wrestlers	# Teams
1,2 or 3	246
4	15
5	4
6	3
8	2
10	1
12	1
13	1
16	1

This data is not adequate for the IHSA to consider adding a sport.

I have also attached the IHSA guidelines for adding a sport. What the IHSA needs is documentation of participation numbers in order to add girls wrestling as a sport. To gather participation numbers the IWCOA is partnering with Trackwrestling. Track will provide teams at no cost a platform to manage their girls teams roster and statistics. We are encouraging all teams to utilize Track for their roster, stats and competitions in order to capture the data pertinent to the IHSA (an instructional email will be sent in the next couple of weeks). At the end of the 2018-19 season participation data will be presented to the IHSA. As long as we can prove that over 10% of IHSA member schools participated in regularly scheduled competitions we will have a strong position for adding girls wrestling as a recognized sport.

Also regarding terms and conditions the IHSA will follow the National Federation. This will include season dates, style, weight classes, etc. The process of creating the guidelines for the recognized sport will be an IHSA process most probably proposed by an advisory committee to the IHSA AD committee and Board of Directors for approval. This is down the road once there is enough documented participation.

Where the grassroots efforts need to be focused is making sure coaches and ADs do the following:

1. Register with the IHSA for girls wrestling as an emerging sport
2. Sign-up with Trackwrestling and enter all girls rosters
3. Enter girls stats in Trackwrestling
4. Run competitions utilizing trackwrestling (very easy to add alongside boys events) we will have some templated competition formats available on Track
5. Make sure girls compete on Jan 26-27 at one of the two open events.