

NWJCWA

The first tournament is always a learning experience for many new parents, coaches and wrestlers. Below is a list of things I have learned through the years that will help make the day go smoother for everyone.

- 1. Weigh your kids in before the tournament.** Do not guess, estimate or take parent's word for their wrestler's weight. Scales should be available at the tournament for last second weighing, but this just adds to the morning confusion.
- 2. Fill out weight cards before you come to the tournament.** Trying to fill out cards at the tournament with all the distractions around is very difficult. Attach (tape) a copy of the wrestlers USA card to the weight card. Remember, White-Beginner, Yellow-Intermediate and Blue-Experts. Using +'s and -'s for Kids that are borderline is also helpful in matching up the kids.
- 3. Make sure you turn in only one card for each wrestler competing.** Many times kids are not bracketed because coaches overlook turning in a card for them. This causes very disappointed kids and irate parents. On the flip side, please do not turn in a weight card for kids who are not competing or more than one card per wrestler!!!
- 4. Out of courtesy for their opponents, wrestlers should stay and compete for the whole tournament (All rounds).** Leaving the tournament early means a wrestler's opponent will be shorted an expected match.
- 5. If a wrestler must leave the tournament, please notify the bracket room so the wrestler can be removed from the bracket.** This way an opponent knows they will not have a match in the last rounds so they can leave early too.
- 6. Please inform parents that your club is expected to provide table help (a timer, a score keeper and a referee).** Referees should be a high school aged wrestler or an experienced kid wrestler, parent or coach. Assure them that the job is not hard and the first tournament is the best place to learn because expectations are not high. ****Starting in 2018 all Adult (over 18) referees must have a USA Leadership Card.****
- 7. Make sure your kids know what age group they are in.** Newer kids will not understand what a Pee Wee, Bantam or Midget is and will not go to staging when called. ****Important****
- 8. Inform your parents and coaches that this tournament is not a national championship.** We are here for the kid's pleasure and enjoyment not the parents or coaches ego. Parents are to conduct themselves accordingly. You know the drill – don't argue or fight with the referee, coaches or other parents etc.
- 9. Once in a while, in order to get kids matches, kids will get pored up with kids from an older age group.** If this happens, the younger kid(s) join the older group for the day. For instance, your Novice will go to staging when the School Boys are called. Parents of kids changing age groups must be notified of the change. Age group changes must be approved by all coaches and parents involved.

The league tournaments are a blast. Everyone always has a very good time. If you're planning to attend, an RSVP with an estimate of the number of kids you're bringing will help with planning. Remember, White-Beginner, Yellow-Intermediate and Blue-Experts. Using +'s and -'s for Kids that are borderline is also helpful in matching up the kids. USA Cards are required.