

CONSTITUTION
Of The
Buckeye Wrestling Association
("BWA")

(Last updated: September 8, 2025)

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE:

An Ohio youth wrestling League, the Buckeye Wrestling Association, or "BWA" shall be founded to better promote the historic sport of wrestling. The BWA and its member clubs aim to aid in the physical development of all participating youth, and to promote good sportsmanship, community pride, and spirit as an integral and important part of the overall athletic and mental skills of the participants.

ARTICLE II: RULES AND REGULATIONS:

This League is bound by and shall operate under all rules and regulations of the National Federation of State High School Associations ("NFHS"), the Ohio High School Athletic Association ("OHSAA"), and the articles of this Constitution. Modifications to these rules and Eligibility Requirements are detailed in Addendum A.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP:

- 1.0 Clubs may seek membership by submitting a written request to the Sectional Director. Applications for membership will be considered at either of the Sectional's two annual meetings. If approved, they will be granted full membership.
- 2.0 Yearly Dues for membership in the BWA shall be amended and approved as detailed in Attachment B ("Budget") and shall be paid prior to December 15th of the current season. If the Dues are not paid by the Sectional Tournament, that Club shall not participate in the Sectional or All-Star (Medals) Tournament.
- 3.0 Transfers: When a wrestler begins the season with one team he may not transfer to another team within the league without prior approval. The decision of the BWA Board shall be final.
- 4.0 Team Transfer Rule: No team can change, or request a league change, without prior approval of the BWA Board and the 2 Sectional Directors involved. The BWA Board will have veto discretion. Such requests shall be made prior to November 1st.

ARTICLE IV: WITHDRAWAL:

Member Clubs wishing to withdraw from the BWA shall present written notice to the Sectional Director prior to the Fall BWA Directors Meeting.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS:

This Constitution of the Buckeye Wrestling Association may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the member teams. All electronic/proxy votes will be accepted.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD of DIRECTORS ("BOARD")

The BWA shall establish a Board to be responsible for operating the League and performing such tasks as: establishing requirements for participation including age and Eligibility Requirements, Tournament sites, setting a schedule for starting practice and competition, and conducting all other business connected to establishing, maintaining, and perpetuating a youth wrestling league.

1. BOARD MEMBERS. The Board of Directors of the BWA shall consist of the Directors from each Division and five (5) Officers. The Officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Vice-President of Membership, Treasurer, Secretary, and Tournament Director.
 - A. NO OFFICER shall hold two Officer positions on the Board, but may Chair a Committee if necessary.
2. ELIGIBILITY. Only BWA Division Directors or coaches in good standing shall be eligible for nomination and election to the Board of Directors of the BWA. Board members may be nominated by any Division Director, or designee who has been a member of the BWA for one season.
3. TERM of OFFICE. All elected positions shall be for a term of two (2) year beginning at the Spring Meeting. Vice-President, Secretary, and Tournament Director will be elected in odd numbered years (i.e. 2019, 2021, etc). President, Vice President of Membership,,and Treasurer will be elected in even numbered years. No term limits shall be applicable.
4. ELECTIONS. Nominations and Elections shall be held at the Fall meeting.
 - A. NOTIFICATION. All Members of the BWA shall be notified by email of the Date, Time and Location of the Fall meeting in which Elections will be held, and any subsequent Election meetings.
5. VOTING. Nominations and Voting will be conducted as follows:
Odd Numbered Years (i.e. 2019, 2021, etc.)
 - A. Nominations for Vice-President followed by voting for Vice-President.
 - B. Nominations for Secretary followed by voting for Secretary.
 - C. Nominations for Tournament Director followed by voting for Tournament Director.Even numbered Years
 - D. Nominations for President followed by voting for President.
 - E. Nominations for Vice-President of Membership followed by voting for Vice-President of Membership.
 - F. Nominations for Treasurer followed by voting for Treasurer.
 - G. Sectional Director, or Designee, must be present at the Spring Meeting to be nominated for Board and/or to cast a vote.
6. RESIGNATION / TERMINATION.
 - A. Should a Board Member resign, the remaining board shall have the power to appoint another Member or Board Member to the open position for the remaining term.
 - B. If the President resigns or leaves the position before the end of the current two-year term or the position of President opens for any other reason, the Vice President shall then serve as President for the remainder of the term. The new President shall then appoint a member of the BWA (including current Sectional Director) to serve as Vice-President.
 - C. Termination. If it is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Board present at a meeting with quorum, a Board member may be removed from the Board of Directors of the BWA. The Board shall then have the power to appoint another Member to the open position for the remaining term.
7. MEETINGS and QUORUM.
 - A. The Board shall hold a minimum of two meetings for all Sectional Directors of the BWA, one in August/September and one in March/April (elections). All Sectional Directors will be given notice by email of the Date, Time, and Location of these meetings.

- B. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be scheduled and coordinated as deemed necessary by the Board for conducting business of the BWA.
 - C. QUORUM for the Board of Directors to conduct BWA business shall be the President or Vice President and a majority of the elected Board Members.
 - D. PROCEDURAL. Meetings shall follow Robert's Rules (see Addendum B).
8. VOTING. If a vote ends in a tie, the process will be to open discussion on the topic and then proceed with a revote. If the revote also ends in a tie, the President's vote will decide the outcome.
- A. ON-LINE VOTING. To expedite BWA issues, Board members have the ability to submit motions for Board approve via email. All Board members must be notified via the motion and given the opportunity to 'discuss' via email and vote. Voting rules apply (Article VI.7.D).
 - B. EMAIL MOTIONS. In order to expedite BWA business in a timely manner, the Board of Directors may utilize email to make motions for BWA business. Any motion made, must be transmitted to all Board Members, it must have a second, and it must receive majority approval of all active Board Members.
 - C. BWA Secretary shall record any and all Email Motions and On-Line Voting and Report them in the minutes of the next BWA Meeting.
9. FUNDS DISPERSALS.
- A. Proposed expenses must be presented to the Board for approval. All expenditures must be pre-approved and will require the signatures of two elected officers. One signature must be the Treasurer's and the other signature must be either the President's, Vice-President's, Secretary's, or Tournament Director.
 - B. Receipts are required for all expenditures - regardless of amount.
10. DISSOLUTION of the Buckeye Wrestling Association. The Board has the power, by vote, at any time, to dissolve the BWA in accordance with all laws and regulations pertaining to a registered non-profit corporation.
- A. NOTIFICATION. Should the Board vote to dissolve the BWA, the President shall take the responsibility of drafting a letter explaining what circumstances motivated the decision to dissolve. A copy of this letter will be mailed at League expense to all Sectional Directors of the BWA within one week of the vote to dissolve.
 - B. REMAINING FUNDS. If there are funds remaining in the account(s) of the BWA, these shall be distributed by the Board to other non-profit organization(s).

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS RESPONSIBILITIES

The following defines the primary responsibilities of each officer but is not an all-inclusive list of potential responsibilities that may arise.

1. PRESIDENT. The President will provide direction for the BWA and be the point person for any meetings, internal and external.
- A. Meetings. President shall schedule BWA Meetings (Date, Time and Location) and provide notice to all Board Members and/or Sectional Directors as necessary. President shall establish agendas and lead the order of business at all meetings.
 - B. Oversee and monitor other club officers to ensure that duties enumerated in these by-laws are performed. Assure compliance to set regulations and standards for all business transactions and the accuracy of all BWA reports and documents.
 - C. Negotiation and Signing Authority. President, with majority Board approval shall be allowed to negotiate on behalf of the BWA. With majority Board approval, President may sign final agreements on behalf of the BWA and its Board of Directors.
 - D. Collaborate with the Treasurer to ensure that the BWA files all reports, pays all necessary fees, and meets all obligations to continue to be recognized from year to year by the government and the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Ohio as a non-profit, tax exempt corporation.
 - E. Voting. President shall have no voting power unless a motion has twice been voted to a tie. Then the President shall cast the deciding vote.

2. VICE PRESIDENT. Vice President shall hereafter be referred to as "VP."
 - A. Committee Oversight. VP will assure that all Committee Chairs are performing their responsibilities and assist them in doing so whenever necessary.
 - B. BWA Season Schedule. VP shall set date(s) for Start of BWA Practice, and Tournament dates.
 - C. Verify all Financial statements and bank statements at Board Meetings.
 - D. Website. VP shall coordinate with Board to assure the BWA website stays updated and has all necessary information for current and prospective members.
 - E. The Vice President will perform all duties of the President should the position be temporarily or permanently vacated during a term.
3. VICE-PRESIDENT of MEMBERSHIP. VP of Membership shall be the primary point of contact of current members of the BWA and for those considering membership in the BWA.
 - A. Insurance. VP shall assure All member clubs, coaches, participants, and sanctioned events have secured necessary USA Wrestling credentials. Insurance for the BWA will be secured through USA Wrestling Membership.
 - B. Recruiting. To continue and grow the membership of the BWA, the VP of Membership shall seek clubs across the State of Ohio.
 - C. Resource. Current and prospective clubs shall seek information and resources through the VP of Membership.
 - D. Literature. Any necessary literature for recruiting clubs shall be designed and budgeted by VP of Membership to be approved by the Board.
 - E. Website. Any information that is needed for current and prospective members shall be coordinated with VP and Secretary to website manager.
4. TREASURER. Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial obligations of the BWA, and for assuring all required documentation is provided to State and Federal agencies for the BWA and all Board Meetings.
 - A. Banking. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all Banking transactions of the BWA. Monthly verification of all accounts (checking, savings, etc.) will be provided to the Board. These accounts shall be cross checked by Vice-President.
 - B. Expenses. Accurate records and receipts shall be kept for all BWA expenses. All expenses should be pre-approved by the Board.
 - C. Revenues. Work with all Board Members to coordinate the effective and accurate collection of revenues. Assure that revenues are deposited within 48 hours.
 - D. Tax Documents. If necessary, with a professional account, annually prepare all required State and Federal tax forms for a non-profit 501c3 corporation.
 - E. Provide and annual report at the Spring Meeting.
5. SECRETARY. BWA Secretary is the historian for the BWA and should take great pride in the responsibility to record the history of the club.
 - A. Meeting Minutes. Record and store all meeting minutes whether present or not. This includes recording all Email Motions and Voting responses. These minutes shall be presented at every club meeting for approval.
 - B. Communication. As needed, Secretary shall communicate with Board, Members, and external associates.
 - C. Membership Roster. Secretary shall create and maintain a BWA roster of all Sectionals and their member Clubs information including all current contact information.
6. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. BWA Tournament Director (hereafter referred to as TD) is responsible for coordination and operation of ALL Post-Sectional Tournaments.
 - A. Post Sectional tournament location(s). TD shall determine the number and locations of District Tournaments and the Sectionals that will send Qualifiers to them.
 - B. BWA Championship Tournament. TD will determine the location of the BWA Championship Tournament.
 - C. TD Shall determine the number of qualifiers to advance to each District and BWA Championship Tournament
 - D. TD shall secure officials for the BWA Championship Tournament.
 - E. TD Shall Purchase all awards for any District Tournaments and the BWA Championship Tournament.

- F. TD shall serve as Tournament Director for the BWA Championship Tournament.
- G. TD shall secure a tournament software provider for the BWA Championship Tournament.

ARTICLE VIII: COMPETITION:

1.0 Division (aka League) Competition:

- A. Each Division within the BWA shall be able to determine how their Sectional competes on a weekly basis. These options may include dual meets (team scores kept or not), round robins, all-star matches, etc
- B. All BWA competitions scheduled must be submitted to the Board of Directors at a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event in order to secure sanctioning.
- C. The Goal of each division should be to get participants two matches (on average) at each Sectional competition
- D. The Goal of each Division should be to have five to seven (5-7) scheduled competitions for each club prior to the Sectional Tournament, or All-Star (Medals) Meet.
- E. Weigh-ins shall be conducted at each Division competition.
- F. Participants are required to weigh-in in their competition singlet or two-piece uniform. Participants cannot remove their uniform (singlet or shorts and compression shirt) to make weight. Other garments may be removed (socks).

2.0 Sectional Tournament:

- A. A Sectional Championship Tournament shall be held each year to determine qualifiers for the next level of the BWA Championship Tournament (District or State). The date of this tournament and subsequent tournaments will be determined by the VP prior to the Fall BWA meeting.
- B. All participants must meet Eligibility Requirements to be allowed to participate in the BA Sectional Tournament. See Addendum A.
- C. Seeding Meeting should be held before the Sectional Tournament. The rules for seeding wrestlers and completing brackets are detailed in Attachment D ("Tournament Seeding Criterion")
- D. The Tournament will follow the same bracketing used in the OHSA State Wrestling Tournament. Tournament and Match Scoring will follow the NFHS rules.
- E. AWARDS. Each Sectional is responsible for providing awards for the Sectional and All-Star (Medals) tournaments.

3.0 All-Star (Medals) Tournament:

- A. Each Sectional has the option to host or combine with another Sectional(s) for an All-Star (Medals) tournament. The format and location of this tournament is up to the participating Clubs.
- B. No All-Star Wrestlers shall qualify for the Post-Sectional BWA Tournaments.
- C. AWARDS. Each Sectional is responsible for providing awards for the All-Star (Medals) tournaments.

ARTICLE IX: BWA, SECTIONAL CLUB, & ADMISSION PRICES:

- 1. The Board of the BWA shall determine the necessary 'Division Fee' to be collected by the BWA to pay for operating expenses, Championship Tournament costs (Rental & Custodial, Officials, Awards, Computer, security, trainer, etc.). this fee shall be communicated to all Division Directors at the Fall Meeting. [\$1,000 for the 2024-2025 season]
- 2. Sectional/District Tournament Directors shall determine the necessary admission costs for their tournament.

3. The Tournament Director Shall determine the Admission costs for the BWA Championship Tournament.
4. Division Directors shall determine the Club fees to be charged to facilitate the running of the Division competition.
5. Division Directors shall charge adults and students any reasonable price for admission to BWA Sectional Competition, but no more than that charged for other school athletic events.

Addendum A

Buckeye Wrestling League

Rules Modifications & Eligibility Requirements

(THIS PAGE CHANGES EVERY YEAR)

For the 2022-2023 season, the BWA will have these Modifications to the NFHS and OHSA Rules.

1. Season

- A. First Practice: September 1, 2024 with USA Club charter and kids cards
- B. Sectional tournaments: February 2 or February 9, 2025
4-5 Sectional Tournaments
Top 3-4 finishers to BWA Championship (not from the same team)
- D. BWA League Championship Tournament: Feb. 16, 2025.
Site: TBD (likely Spire)

2. NFHS & OHSA Rules Modifications for BWA for 2024-25 Season

- A. Headgear is mandatory, Modifications such as crossed straps and tape are permitted.
- B. Uniforms are optional. -- No loose clothing. If a team uniform is supplied, it must be worn
- C. Wrestling shoes are optional but the wrestler must at least have gym shoes without metal eyelets.
- D. Varsity matches (or as designated) periods will be 1:30-1:30-1:30. (consi's for tournaments will be 1-1-1 minutes)
- E. All-star (medal) match periods will be two - 1 minute periods which can end in a tie. (except for All-Star tourney which will follow overtime rules below)
- F. Middle school Federation rules apply for overtime
- G. A tech fall will be a 15-point differential. (changed from 12pt starting the 2024-2025 season)
- H. Weight Classes: 49, 52, 56, 60, 64, 67, 70, 73, 76, 79, 82, 86, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 120, 132, 150, 175. (21 weight classes)
 - a. No varsity wrestler may participate under 44 pounds (does NOT include growth allowance)
 - b. A wrestler will be permitted to wrestle "up" only TWO (2) weight class from which they weigh-in at.
- I. Wrestlers will be given a minimum of 15 minutes recovery time between matches.
- J. There will be no limit to the number of matches a wrestler can wrestle in one day.
- K. In stride with OHSA and OAC the BWA will adopt the 3pt takedown, 2/3/4pt nearfall, and college out of bounds rules (new for 2024-2025)
- L. In the case of a team score tie at post season tournaments we will have the following tie-breaker: (new for 2024-2025):
 - 1. Total 1st place individuals, total 2nd place individuals, etc
 - 2. Most total team pins, total team techs, total team majors

3. Eligibility - Wrestlers:

- A. All wrestlers are required to have an Active USA card membership which will provide insurance for them wherever they travel to for wrestling (not just Sundays).
 - a. All USA card numbers are required on team roster for verification.
- B. Regular season eligibility: The BWA is limited to students 6th grade and under, with birth dates after August 1, 2013 (for the 2025-2026 season). No Participant can turn 13 before August 1, 2025.
 - 1. Birth certificates are required upon request.
 - 2. All wrestlers/parents must sign the State Required Concussion Awareness.
 - 3. All wrestlers/parents must sign the State Required Lindsay law awareness.

- C. Tournament Eligibility:
 - 1. Each wrestler must weigh in and compete at their Sectional weight (or lower) at least three (3) times during the regular season to compete in the Sectional tournament.
 - 2. Each wrestler must have made scratch weight at their entered weight class (or lower) at least one (1) time and will not receive growth allowance until done so.
 - 3. On December 25th each wrestler will be allowed a 1 lb growth allowance. (56 is 57, etc)
 - 4. At Sectional Tournament each wrestler each wrestler will be allowed an additional 1 lb growth allowance. (56 is 58, etc)
 - 5. At District and BWA Championship Tournament weights are the same as sectionals. (56 is 58, etc).
- 4. **Eligibility - Coaches:**
 - A. All coaches must have an active USA Wrestling Coaches Card.
 - a. Cards must be made available upon request.
 - B. All teams must have at least one person with a certified CPR card.
 - C. All coaches must have passed State Required Concussion training.
 - D. All coaches must complete the requirements of the Ohio law titled the Lindsay law.
- 5. **Eligibility - Team:**
 - A. All clubs must have an Active USA Wrestling Club Charter membership and must be made available upon request.
 - B. Any club hosting an event and wishing to have USA Wrestling insurance coverage (a 'sanctioned event'), must assure that all clubs participating and all participants are card carrying members of USA Wrestling.

Addendum B
Buckeye Wrestling League
BWA MEETING AGENDA FORMAT

The meeting of the Board and the general membership shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with an agenda. The agenda shall be as follows:

- A. Call to Order (President)
 - 1. Roll Call - Board: ____ of 5, Member Clubs: ____
 - 2. Quorum - Pres ____, VP ____, ____ of 3 Board Members
 - 3. Agenda Review
- B. Minutes / Communications (Secretary)
 - 1. Read, Correct, and vote on approval of prior meeting minutes
 - 2. Read Communications, to and from
- C. Financial Reports (Treasurer)
 - 1. Read, correct, and vote on approval of current account balances. VP Signature.
 - 2. Read and approve bills payable
- D. Reports
 - 1. BWA Championship Tournament – John Burd (Austintown)
 - 2. Standing and special committees – Website (DJ Vondruska, Lutheran)
 - 2. Officers and Trustees
- E. Unfinished Business
 - 1. Postponed to this day
 - Open Board position, Vice President
 - Voting years: Pres, VP Members, Treas in even years
 - 2. Tabled (by motion to take from the table) - none
- F. New Business
 - 1. ELECTIONS
 - a. President – Nominations & Voting
 - b. VP of Membership – Nominations and Voting
 - c. Treasurer – Nominations and Voting
 - 3. COMPETITION SCHEDULING – Club Competition Form
 - 4. Any emergency matters
- G. Comments from general Members
 - 1. New Business – Sectional/League meetings
- H. Adjournment

Addendum C

Buckeye Wrestling Association

BUDGET – 2025-26 Season

BWA MEMBERSHIP DUES:

\$ 1,000.00 per Division (League)

Championship TOURNAMENT ADMISSION PRICES:

\$ 10.00 – Adults

\$ 5.00 – Seniors (65+)

Free – Coaches with USA card

Free – Under 13

BALANCE – Sept. 8, 2025			\$ 5,570.21
<u>Income:</u>			
Division Assessments (7 x \$1,000)		\$ 7,000.00	
2022 Championship Tourn. Gate		\$ 7,500.00	
Estimated TOTAL INCOME 2025-26		\$ 14,500.00	
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Misc. (Legal, Filing, Etc.)		\$ 0.00	
Meeting Meals (coaches & executive)		\$ 0.00	
2022-23 web fees (WIX.com) - DONATED		\$ 0.00	
Championship Tournament Fees			
A. Trainer		\$ 300.00	
B. Security		\$ 400.00	
C. Banner		\$ 0.00	
D. Computer Fees		\$ 100.00	
E. Facility Rental		\$ 3,500.00	
F. Officials (12 x \$250)		\$ 3,000.00	
G. Awards		\$ 3,900.00	
H. Food for Workers/Refs		\$ 200.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES 2022-23		(\$ 11,200.00)	
Estimated 2025-26 Season Profit/Loss			\$ 3,300.00
PROJECTED BALANCE – 3/1/2026			\$ 8,870.21

Addendum D

Tournament Seeding Criterion

(revised 9/8/2025)

The seeding of wrestlers for the Tournament shall follow this procedure:

- A. All member schools shall submit their line-ups, by weight class, to the Tournament Director between 72 and 24 hours prior to weigh-ins. All line-ups should be typed or legible and include the wrestler's name, record, grade, USAWrestling ID number, and any seeding criteria by number.
- B. Starting with the 49 lb. weight class, ALL eligible seeded wrestlers will be determined by the following criteria. No seed shall be refused or declined.
 1. Previous Year BWA League Championships placewinner in the same weight class by place, 1st through 6th
 2. Previous Year BWA League Championships placewinner in a different weight class by place, 1st through 6th
 3. Previous Year BWA League Championships qualifier in the same weight class by 2024 BWA Sectional Championships place, 1st through 4th (plus 5th if wrestler made it in as an alternate)
 4. Previous Year BWA League Championships qualifier in a different weight class by 2024 BWA Sectional Championships place, 1st through 4th (plus 5th if wrestler made it in as an alternate)
 5. Previous Year OAC Boys Division 4 State Championships placewinner in the same weight class by place, 1st through 8th
 6. Previous Year OAC Boys Division 4 State Championships placewinner in a different weight class by place, 1st through 8th
 7. Previous Year OAC Boys Division 3, 2, or 1 State Championships placewinner in the same weight class, first by Division, 3 through 1, second by place, 1st through 8th
 8. Previous Year OAC Boys Division 3, 2, or 1 State Championships placewinner in a different weight class, first by Division, 3 through 1, second by place, 1st through 8th
 9. Previous Year OYWA "State" Championships placewinner in the same weight class by place, 1st through 6th
 10. Previous Year OYWA "State" Championships placewinner in a different weight class by place, 1st through 6th
 11. Previous Year OYWA "State" Championships qualifier in the same weight class by 2024 OYWA District Championships place, 1st through 4th
 12. Previous Year OYWA "State" Championships qualifier in a different weight class by 2024 OYWA District Championships place, 1st through 4th
 13. Current season winning percentage of 50% or higher in varsity matches (all-star matches don't count) with a minimum of four matches (varsity wins by forfeit do count)
 14. Tiebreaker #1 = Next-highest non-tied criterion
 15. Tiebreaker #2 = Head-to-head varsity match result (all-star matches don't count)
 16. Tiebreaker #3 = Coin flip
- C. All seeds will be placed on the assigned lines as determined by the National Federation rules for 16-man Bracket (or 8-man) - (#1 on line 1, #2 on 16 (or 8), #3 on 9 (or 5), #4 on 8 (or 4), #5 on 5 (or 3), ~~and~~ #6 on 12 (or 6), #7 on 13 (or 7), #8 on 4 (or 2). All remaining wrestlers and byes will be drawn by computer program or pills. Coaches may agree to place byes on the highest seeded wrestlers available.
- D. All results from sectionals must be provided to the Tournament Director within 24 to 48 hours of the conclusion of the last match

Addendum E

Current Board of Directors

(revised 9/8/2025)

The following are the elected Board of Directors for BWA:

- A. President – Dominic McEwen (Firelands)
- B. Vice-President – Jeff Varney (Kenston)
- C. Vice-President of Membership – Mike Turovsky (Weslake)
- D. Treasurer – Justin Eckert (Riverside)
- E. Secretary – DJ Vondruska (Lutheran West)
- F. Tournament Director – John Burd (Austintown Fitch)