

*The oldest and toughest  
Sport in the  
World and the...*

**SYWO**

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*Southern Youth Wrestling Organization*

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SYWO rules and procedures handbook

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## **1 General Rules**

### **1.1 – Association Rules**

- 1.1.1 Age will be determined as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year and the current grade of the wrestler.
- 1.1.2 Proof of age is not mandatory in SYWO. However, if challenged only an official birth certificate will be accepted as proof.
- 1.1.3 Challenges to age must be made through an SYWO officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer).
- 1.1.4 High school students are not eligible for SYWO competition.

### **1.2 – Fees**

- 1.2.1 SYWO Club Members will pay an annual fee of \$1.00 per wrestler if more than 25 wrestlers or \$25.00 minimum fee if less than 25 wrestlers payable to SYWO.
- 1.2.2 SYWO Club Members will pay \$8.00 per wrestler for insurance payable to SYWO.
- 1.2.3 SYWO Club Members tournament entry fees will be \$4.00 per wrestler payable to the tournament host.

### **1.3 – Membership**

- 1.3.1 Membership is considered current once membership and insurance fees are paid and the registration forms have been signed and turned into the SYWO along with the SYWO Wrestler Information Form and Coaches/Spouse form. (refer to the SYWO registration instructions form located on the [www.sywo.org](http://www.sywo.org) website.)
- 1.3.2 All coaches, administrators, parents and wrestlers must sign the code of conduct.
- 1.3.3 SYWO Club Members are chartered following their first season of membership.

### **1.4 – Length of Season**

- 1.4.1 The SYWO season will be no longer than 6 weeks/6 tournaments.
- 1.4.2 The Season will start the first weekend following the Alabama high school state tournament.

## **2 Tournament Scheduling**

### **2.1 – Committee Formation and Duties**

- 2.1.1 The tournament scheduling committee is made up of the SYWO Officers (President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer).
- 2.1.2 The scheduling committee will do what is necessary to confirm and coordinate the tournament schedule.
- 2.1.4 The committee members duties include, but are not limited to: contacting clubs, confirming dates, scheduling meetings and conflict resolution.
- 2.1.5 To ensure that all of our tournaments are quality tournaments, coaches/spectators will be provided a tournament evaluation form to complete concerning the current tournament. The evaluation forms can be obtained from any SYWO board member. The evaluation forms must be turned into an SYWO board member. The evaluation forms will be compiled following the tournament and the results will be provided back to the tournament host. A record will also be tracked by the SYWO board and used for future tournament scheduling.

### **2.2 – Tournament Locales**

- 2.2.1 There will be only one scheduled tournament per weekend, unless the number of participants dictates otherwise.
- 2.2.2 Doubling up of tournaments must be agreed upon by the entire organization.
- 2.2.3 The tournament locale must be big enough to utilize a minimum of 4 mats and have enough seating for all spectators.

### **2.3 – Tournament Hosting**

- 2.3.1 The tournament host will be decided at the annual SYWO Season Kickoff Meeting by SYWO Charter Club Members (for charter member requirements see item 1.3.2 of this document).
- 2.3.2 If there is a conflict, the host will be decided by the SYWO Charter Club Members present at the meeting via a vote.
- 2.3.3 The tournament host will have to discuss why they deserve to host the tournament.
- 2.3.4 The tournament host will purchase the medals for their tournament. The medals will have SYWO on the back of the medals.

## **2.4 – Revolving Tournament Availability**

- 2.4.1 If a group has not hosted a tournament the season prior, they get first choice of tournament dates, unless otherwise agreed upon by Charter SYWO members at the prior seasons' meeting.
- 2.4.2 The tournament schedule dates will be discussed at the SYWO Kickoff season meeting and the groups can place their bid for a tournament then.

## **2.5 – Confirmation of Dates**

- 2.5.1 All clubs must confirm their dates by December 30<sup>th</sup> of the previous year for the upcoming season.

# **3 Conduct of Tournaments**

## **3.1 – Pre-Registration for tournaments**

- 3.1.1 All tournaments require all wrestlers and coaches/spouses to be pre-registered with the SYWO at the beginning of the season. All clubs must send in wrestler numbers and a coaches/spouse list no later than 6:00pm on the Wednesday prior to the tournament.
- 3.1.2 There will be a \$5.00 late fee assessment to those clubs that register later than 12:01am Thursday prior to each tournament weekend.
- 3.1.3 The preferred method of pre-registration is via e-mail however, faxes will be accepted.
- 3.1.4 When pre-registering your wrestlers, you must identify how many wrestlers you are bringing to the tournament by grade class.
- 3.1.5 All wrestlers must already be listed in the SYWO Wrestler Information Form database. The SYWO wrestler information form will be turned in at SYWO registration time. All deviations will be settled by one or more of the SYWO board members.

## **3.2 – Pre-Registration Allowance**

- 3.2.1 Payment is required for the number of wrestlers that are registered.
- 3.2.2 A check/cash must be turned in the weekend of the tournament to the tournament director. This will be strictly enforced and SYWO will handle any deviation of this rule on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.2.3 1 coach per 6 wrestlers is the allowance; overages will be charged a \$10.00 fee payable to the tournament host.

### **3.3 – Tournament Hosting Requirements**

- 3.3.1 Tournament hosts shall abide by the Organization rules, by-laws, code of conduct and follow the SYWO Tournament Rules.
- 3.3.2 Tournament hosts are responsible for staffing their event. If a club is having trouble staffing their event they can contact an SYWO officer for assistance in securing adequate staffing.
- 3.3.3 There must be at least one certified official at each tournament. Officials are secured by the SYWO President and the AHSAA Head Official for this region. Officials' fees will be paid by the tournament host. The fee schedule is: up to 300 wrestlers \$150 per official, 301-350 wrestlers \$175.00 per official, 351-424 wrestlers \$200.00 per official, >424 wrestlers \$250.00 per official.
- 3.3.4 The officials may present the medals to the winners at the end of each match during the finals. This is at the discretion of the tournament host.
- 3.3.5 There must be at least one adult (not teenagers) at each score table.
- 3.3.6 At weigh-in time to track the wrestlers' weight the tournament host will write the wrestlers weight on their left or right shoulder at weigh-in time to aid in tracking wrestlers who are wrestling up a grade class. The following colors will be used for each grade class 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will use red, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade will use black, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade will use green and the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade will use blue.
- 3.3.7 MEDICAL Professionals are required at all tournaments! No exceptions. It is the responsibility of the tournament host to secure a medical professional. In most cases this will be a volunteer position, however if there are any required fees, it is the responsibility of the tournament host to pay those fees.
- 3.3.8 If a tournament host is having trouble securing a medical professional, contact an SYWO officer for assistance.
- 3.3.9 A computer can be used to run the tournament however a hard copy of the brackets must also be present in the event of computer failure.
- 3.3.10 Coaches are to help inform parents and wrestlers to keep the mats clear and stay in the stands.
- 3.3.11 The tournament host must clean the mats between sessions to keep the spread of skin diseases to a minimum.

### 3.4 – Tournament Hospitality Room

- 3.4.1 Tournament hosts will provide a hospitality room for use by tournament workers (adults and children), officials, coaches/spouses, and SYWO officers.
- 3.4.2 **Absolutely no children**, including but not limited to coaches/officers' children, are allowed in the hospitality room. Coaches/officers' children should eat from the concessions to support the program. *\*Exception: Tournament workers who are children are the only exception to this rule and will be provided some type of badge or wristband for identification.*
- 3.4.3 All coaches/spouses and SYWO officers will have an ID card for entry into the hospitality room. Without proper ID they can be turned away at the discretion of the tournament host.
- 3.4.4 The tournament host has the right to enforce the above rules and any deviations will be handled by the SYWO President.

### 3.5 – Tournament Admissions

- 3.5.1 The host will set tournament admissions. Recommended charge: \$4.00 Adults, \$2.00 Students, and \$6.00 tournament weekend pass. Children 5 and under are free.

### 3.6 – Grade and Weight Classes

- 3.6.1 The following are the class, associated grade, weight classes, and match lengths:

Class	Grade as of 09/01/08	Weight classes	Match length - Minutes
1	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	75, 85, 95, 103, 112, 119, 125, 130, 135, 145, 155, 165, 175, 189, LHWT(cutoff 215), HWT(cutoff 285)	1 – 2 – 2
2	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	63, 68, 74, 80, 86, 93, 100, 109, 119, 125, 132, 143, 150, LHWT(cutoff 165), HWT(cutoff 180)	1 – 1½ – 1½
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	VTP(less than 43), 47, 52, 55, 59, 63, 67, 71, 76, 82, 91, 99, 117, LWHT(cutoff 130), HWT(cutoff 160)	1 – 1 – 1
4	K-2 <sup>nd</sup>	VTP(less than 37), 39, 43, 47, 52, 55, 59, 63, 67, 71, 76, 82, 91, 99, LWHT(cutoff 117), HWT(cutoff 140)	1 – 1 – 1
		<b>***All Consolation Rounds are:</b>	1 – 1 – 1

\*\*Class 1 - Boys who have not turned 15 prior to September 1, 2008.

\*\*Class 2 - Boys who have not turned 13 prior to September 1, 2008.

\*\*Class 3 - Boys who have not turned 11 prior to September 1, 2008.

\*\*Class 4 - Boys who have not turned 9 prior to September 1, 2008 and are no younger than 4 years of age.

- 3.6.2 The following are the days and times for tournament weigh-ins and start times:

Friday Night: Class 1 – weigh-ins 5:15-6:00pm – start 6:30pm

Saturday AM: Class 4 – weigh-ins 7:00-7:45am – start 8:30am

Saturday AM: Class 3 – weigh-ins 11-11:45am – start 12:30pm

Saturday Afternoon: Class 2 – weigh-ins 2:30-3:15 pm – start 4:30pm

- 3.6.3 Weigh-in times/days are subject to change. If you wrestle multiple classes (no more than 2 a tournament) you must weigh in for each class regardless if it is the same day.
- 3.6.4 There is no weight allowance for any SYWO tournament, place your wrestler accordingly. Weigh-in is the same as the high school rules underwear or less.
- 3.6.5 There will be only one weigh-in per class per wrestler (i.e., once a wrestler has weighed in for that class they cannot be forced to weigh in again for that same class).
- 3.6.6 A wrestler can only step on the scales one time for weigh in (i.e., they cannot come in, weigh, leave go to the restroom, run around and then come back in and weigh to try to make weight, they get one chance).
- 3.6.7 A wrestler can wrestle their weight/age group and up one class per tournament (e.g., a class 4 wrestler can wrestle class 4 and then class 3).
- 3.6.8 Weigh-in times, both beginning/ending, will be strictly enforced.
- 3.6.9 A minimum of 2 scales are required at all tournaments, and is the responsibility of the tournament host.
- 3.6.10 Wrestlers, who are in one grade class and are more than 5lbs lighter than the lowest weight class in that grade class, will wrestle the lowest weight in that grade class. They will not be allowed to move down to another grade class.
- 3.6.11 Wrestlers, who are in one grade class and are more than 5lbs heavier than the heaviest weight class in that grade class, will be allowed to move up to the next grade class. They will not be allowed to remain in the same grade class and wrestle overweight.

### **3.7 – Competition Rules**

- 3.7.1 The SYWO follows the AHSAA rules for wrestling and will refer to them at all tournaments. Special rules for youth wrestling are listed below and will be referred to at all tournaments.
- 3.7.2 Because SYWO allows wrestlers to wrestle up a grade class the 5 match per day rule is null and void.
- 3.7.3 At least a 15-minute break between each match will be enforced at all tournaments.
- 3.7.4 10 Second Headlock Rule for K-4<sup>th</sup> In order to prevent injury to a K-4<sup>th</sup> wrestler, the Head-Arm Pinning Combinations with hands locked, will be limited to 10 seconds at which time the hold will be deemed potentially dangerous and wrestlers will be brought back to the referee's position.
- 3.7.5 Locking hands (not the headlock) for K-4<sup>th</sup> grade will be given 1 verbal warning by the official. The next infraction will involve a penalty of 1 point, the next 1 point, the next 2 points, and then 2 points for any infractions following. No disqualification for locking hands.
- 3.7.6 At any SYWO Tournament there will be no more that two coaches per wrestler per team in the corner on a mat during a match.
- 3.7.7 **ONLY Wrestlers who are in the hole, on deck, or actually wrestling are allowed in the mat area.** (Coaches help to control the wrestlers. If you see them violating the rule above please make them go back to the stands.)
- 3.7.8 Fingernails must be clipped and clean and will be checked at weigh in.
- 3.7.9 Absolutely no hair care products are allowed.