



Championship Operations Packet

2026 Girls Wrestling Championship Operations Packet

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Contact Information

Wrestling Committee

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Section VIII	Sean Severin	smseverin165@gmail.com
Section IX	Eric Hartmann	ehartmann@pjschools.org
Section X	Randy Morrison	Randymorrison01@hotmail.com
Section XI	Martino Sottile	msottile@southcountry.org

NYSPHSAA Staff

Executive Director	Dr. Robert Zayas	rzayas@nysphsaa.org
Assistant Director	Todd Nelson	tnelson@nysphsaa.org
Assistant Director	Joe Altieri	altieri@nysphsaa.org
Assistant Director	Kristen Jadin	kjadin@nysphsaa.org
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Director of Sports Information & Digital Content	Lexi Swatt-Sheerin	lswatt@nysphsaa.org
Director of Finance	Lisa Hand	lhand@nysphsaa.org
Distribution Coordinator	Jill Gregorius	jgregorius@nysphsaa.org
General Manager (TPG)	Zach Betkowski	Zach.betkowski@teallpropertiesgroup.com

Championship Information

Championship Date

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Championship Site

MVP Arena
51 South Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207

MVP Arena continually reviews its security systems. As a result of these ongoing reviews, and with the goal of continuing to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for their guests, tenants, and co-workers, MVP Arena has added numerous procedures and security measures to its existing comprehensive security program.

Bag policy: CLEAR plastic, vinyl or PVC bags no larger than 12" x 6" x 12" will be allowed. Small clutch bags no larger than 4.5" x 6.5" (approximately the size of a hand) will be allowed and do not need to be clear. Larger and other types of bags are prohibited. There is no storage or check-in for prohibited bags. For patrons with young children in attendance, diaper bags are allowed and subject to search.

Inflatable beds, portable mattresses, or similar items are prohibited.

Walk-thru metal detectors will be used at all entrances of the facility. If needed, security will perform pat downs on patrons in addition to the metal detectors. Cell phones are permitted but cameras will not be allowed inside. Professional lenses are prohibited.

Patrons should plan to arrive earlier than normal to allow for traffic, parking and security procedures.

There is no storage or check-in area for prohibited items. We encourage you to visit the page for the event you are interested in attending for event specific policies.

For security and operational reasons, and because outside food and beverage are not permitted, teams and individual participants are not permitted to order food delivery services to the venue.

This info can all be found on the MVP website:

<https://mvparena.production.carbonhouse.com/plan-your-visit/security-procedures>

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Admission & Ticket Sales

Tickets for the NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championships are managed by the MVP Arena. They can be purchased in advance through Ticketmaster (additional fees apply) or on-site at the MVP Arena ticket window. Ticket window hours will be posted on the NYSPHSAA website.

Attendees are strongly advised to purchase tickets only from authorized sources—MVP Arena box office or Ticketmaster—to avoid potential issues with secondary ticketing platforms. For additional details or to purchase tickets online in advance, please visit the [NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championship Ticket Page](#) on the NYSPHSAA website.

Tickets are general admission except for optional premium seating during the finals. Bus drivers with proper ID will be admitted to regionals, semifinals and finals free of charge. There are no discounts for senior citizens or students. Children age 5 and under are free. Only NYSPHSAA passes will be honored at the championship site. No Section Lifetime, Service or other passes will be accepted. Regional ticket prices are determined by the host section.

Coaches' ZOOM Meeting

A ZOOM meeting for all participating coaches will take place on Monday, February 23 @ 6:00pm. This meeting is intended for all coaches and Section Coordinators to go over details and answer questions regarding the NYSPHSAA Championship. Coaches will need access to a computer during this call and will be able to ask questions throughout. The ZOOM information is below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84402902960?pwd=2yHNK9yRbuLISfCJMwfHAZZu8M0gU.1>

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 844 0290 2960

Passcode: 692209

CP Sportswear – Official NYSPHSAA Merchandiser

CP Sportswear, NYSPHSAA Official Merchandiser, will be selling T-shirts, and other products throughout the tournament.

Team Hotels

Lodging for Sections has been reserved by the Section Coordinator at the following NYSPHSAA partner hotel:

Hilton – Albany (\$154/night)

40 Lodge Street

Albany, NY 12207

**Girls wrestlers and coaches are permitted to stay only Wednesday night at this hotel due to boys athletes checking in Thursday.*

Team Supervision

We urge all wrestlers to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the principles of NYSPHSAA athletic participation. Each individual spending the night in a

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tournament hotel shall be responsible for any vandalism done to the room, including theft. Coaches are specifically responsible for the conduct of their respective teams during all phases of the Tournament, including all nonplaying time as well as travel to and from the tournaments.

Athletic Trainer

An athletic trainer will be on the site to deal with emergencies and injuries. They will be able to tape student-athletes given the school provides the tape and pre-wrap. The Athletic Trainer can consult with athletes and coaches and will service injured athletes throughout the tournament.

Hospitality Syracuse, Inc.

NYSPPHSAA partner, Hospitality Syracuse, Inc – a franchisee of Taco Bell, invites you to their nearby Taco Bell locations.



1010 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12205

56 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205

676 New Loudon Road
Latham, NY 12110

237 Route 9W
Glenmont, NY 12077

Parking

Team Bus Parking will be available near the arena after the team is dropped off at the back entrance. Team Bus Parking is also available at the respective hotels for those within walking distance to the arena.

MVP Arena Parking Information for fans can be found using the following link:
<https://www.mvparena.com/center-info/parking/>.

Entry to Facility

Participants and coaches can enter through the Team Entrance in the back of the arena. Fans may enter the arena at the atrium of the South Pearl Street side of the venue.

Tournament Credentials

NYSPPHSAA State Tournament credentials will be provided to participants, coaches and support staff by each Section Coordinator. **Adults are not permitted to wear athlete credentials. If it is determined they are, the credential will be confiscated, and they will be removed from the game site.** Coaches will also receive a wristband which provides floor access.

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Signs & Banners

Patrons are allowed to hang banners and signs, but they must not interfere with patron safety, building mechanical systems or with NYSPHSAA Championship or Sponsor signage. If they do, they will be removed immediately. The signs must be in good taste, as determined by NYSPHSAA. No signs with initials are permitted, nor are banners on sticks or poles. It is imperative Section Coordinators and Coaches communicate this to their fans.

Media

[Lexi Swatt](#), NYSPHSAA Director Sports Information & Digital Content, will accept media credential requests for the tournament. Requests must be made prior to **Tuesday, February 24 at NOON** to assure a temporary credential(s) will be available and that seating arrangements can be provided.

Radio

Radio requests must be submitted **one week prior** through the NYSPHSAA office. Download the [radio contract](#), complete it, then email to [Lexi](#). Lexi will confirm approval and site details. The fee is **\$250 per session**. A separate agreement is required for **each** match.

Broadcasting/Streaming

The NFHS Network holds exclusive rights to stream all NYSPHSAA Regional and Championship events. No other live streams are permitted.

Videotaping for instructional use requires NYSPHSAA approval at least three days prior to the event.

Championship Format

Practice

Practice will be held on Wednesday, February 25th from 4-7pm at MVP Arena. Athletes and Coaches will enter through the back doors of the arena. The back doors will open no earlier than 3:45pm on 2/25/2026.

Weigh-Ins

Weigh-Ins will be held 7:30-8:30am.

Belongings

Individuals are responsible for their own belongings.

Qualifiers

All Sectional Champions Automatically Qualify.

Sections with 2nd auto qualifier by weight

Section 1 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 94, 100, 107, 185, 235

Section 2 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 94, 100, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185, 235

Section 3 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 94, 100, 107, 114, 185

Section 4 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 165, 185

Section 5 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 94, 100, 107, 114, 120, 235

Section 6 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185, 235

Section 7 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at

Section 8 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 114, 120, 126, 152, 235

Section 9 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 107, 114, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165

Section 10 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at

Section 11 will have a 2nd auto qualifier at 94, 100, 107, 114, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165

Sections with 1st Alternates

Section 1 will have the 1st Alternate at 114

Section 2 will have the 1st Alternate at 107

Section 3 will have the 1st Alternate at 120, 132, 138, 145, 235

Section 4 will have the 1st Alternate at 94, 100, 152

Section 5 will have the 1st Alternate at 126

Section 6 will have the 1st Alternate at

Section 7 will have the 1st Alternate at

Section 8 will have the 1st Alternate at 165

Section 9 will have the 1st Alternate at

Section 10 will have the 1st Alternate at

Section 11 will have the 1st Alternate at 185

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At-Large Selections

The chart below outlines athlete allocations by section and weight class. Green-shaded numbers indicate that the section is allocated two athletes for that weight class. White-shaded numbers indicate that the section is allocated one athlete for that weight class. If a section cannot provide the allocated number of athletes, the next eligible athletes will be moved up accordingly.

	94	100	107	114	120	126	132	138	145	152	165	185	235
3	1	1	3	8	11	11	2	2	2	9	1	8	
1	3	3	5	11	2	2	11	11	9	11	4	5	
2	11	11	11	5	8	9	6	9	11	2	6	1	
11	2	9	9	2	9	6	4	4	6	6	3	2	
5	5	5	8	4	4	4	9	6	8	4	2	6	
4	4	2	1	3	5	3	3	3	4	8	11	3	
6	6	6	6	9	3	5	5	8	3	3	9	4	
9	9	4	2	6	6	8	8	5	5	1	8	11	
8	8	8	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	9	
10	7	10	7	10	7	10	7	10	7	10	7	10	
7	10	7	10	7	10	7	10	7	10	7	10	7	

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Seeding

The Seeding meeting will take place on **February 20th at 6pm via zoom**. Seeding for the tournament will follow the criteria as outlined on the [Seeding Criteria](#) document.

Point of Emphasis

In accordance with NYSPHSAA/NFHS rules, a key point of emphasis for the tournament is that wrestlers must have their straps up at all times while on the arena floor.

Protests and Appeals

Please refer to the [NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Rules Guide Sheet](#), Section 9, Article 9 *Correction of Errors*.

Finals

The finals will be conducted on one mat following consolations. A media table will be set up for press and specific areas around the mat will be permitted for press to sit on. No press or other individuals will be permitted to walk on the other competition mats surrounding the finals mat.

Awards

For NYSPHSAA championships, the top 6 individuals in each weight class will receive a medal. Each state champion will also receive a Champion T-shirt. Presentation of awards will take place after all wrestling is completed. Championship Participation Certificates are also available digitally for each athlete on the NYSPHSAA website using the link below.

[NYSPHSAA Championship Participation Certificate](#)

Sportsmanship Award

One student-athlete from each section will be selected to receive a Sportsmanship Award and receive a T-shirt during the opening ceremony. The student-athletes selected have consistently shown positive sportsmanship traits throughout the entire season. The promotion of sportsmanship is a priority for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Student-athletes, coaches and fans are encouraged to give your best and be a great sport!

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Schedule

Session 1	
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:30 AM	Preliminary Rounds
10:45 AM	Quarterfinals
1:00 PM	Semifinals & Wrestlebacks
Session 2	
5:00 PM	Finals Opening Ceremonies
5:15PM	Consolation Finals & Finals

At the break, girls need to go in stands during boys practice. Practice can go to floor level when boys are done with practice.

Announcement floor now open to girl competitors and coaches.