

By-Laws For The Mason Dixon Wrestling League

I. Name: The Mason Dixon Junior Wrestling League

II. Purposes:

1. To promote, support, and develop amateur wrestling in the community, specifically, within the four state area (Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania).
2. To foster the ideals of good sportsmanship through participation, competition, and fellowship.
3. To improve the degree of amateur wrestling by providing coaching, facilities, and competition.
4. To impress upon the wrestling community the importance of integrity and honesty by upholding the sound traditions of this sport.

III. Membership:

1. Membership shall consist of those teams set forth in these by-laws and any other teams which would join this organization in accordance with the procedure set forth in these by-laws (see Appendix A for Divisional breakdown of teams).
2. The Mason Dixon Junior Wrestling League shall primarily promote, develop, and support folk style wrestling for children age fourteen (14) and under with no high school experience. The definition of “high school experience” is as follows;
 - No 9th graders who participate in a high school match (JV or Varsity), regardless if they meet the age restriction are not eligible to wrestle in Mason Dixon Events.
 - A 9th grader is eligible if he meets the age restriction and is not wrestling on a high school team, or does not appear on a high school roster.
 - An 8th grader who sometimes “wrestles up” to high school JV meets is still eligible to wrestle in Mason Dixon.
 - If that 8th grader somehow wrestles in a high school varsity meet – then he is not eligible anymore.
3. For wrestlers age fifteen (15), an exception can be made on a case by case basis by the League Directors. All matches involving a fifteen year old will be considered an exhibition match. Special requests should be made by the December meeting.
4. Any organization that is desirous of becoming a member of the Mason Dixon Junior Wrestling League may apply in writing to the League President. (See APPENDIX B) The application shall provide the name of the organization, age range of wrestlers, number of wrestlers, number of years in existence, other league associations, and the names and addresses of the primary organizers and/or officers and directors. After a review of the application by the Board of Directors, the application shall be submitted to the membership for approval or denial. The vote shall occur by verbal ballot and shall be anonymous. Each team designated by these bylaws to vote at meetings of the membership shall have a right to one vote. A majority vote of a quorum of the representatives from the member teams authorized to vote shall be required to approve a new member team.
5. In the event that a new member team is approved, that team shall participate for one (1) season in a probationary status and during such time shall not have any voting rights nor host any home matches. During the coaches meeting at the end of the season and after the Championship Tournament, another vote shall be taken by the membership to accept the new team as a full member and to determine which Division the new team belongs to. A majority vote of a quorum of the representatives from member teams authorized to vote shall be required to confer full membership of a new team.

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6. In the event any member team of the organization is desirous of resigning membership, it must be done so in writing through its duly authorized agent at least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the wrestling season as it may be established by the members of the league from year to year.
7. In the event that a member team fails and/or refuses to comply with these by laws or any other rules and regulations created by the league, that team may be removed after a hearing before the membership upon motion and a vote of two thirds (2/3) of a quorum of the representatives from member teams authorized to vote.
8. All members, through their membership, agree that they shall abide by the by laws and any other rules and regulations adopted by the league.

IV. Directors:

1. The business of the organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of at least one person appointed from each member team appointed by the member teams. Each team may appoint more than one person. Each team shall have one (1) vote and such voting may not be done by proxy.
2. The directors chosen for the ensuing year shall attend the annual and all other meetings of this organization and they shall serve for the term of one (1) year.
3. The Board of Directors shall have the control and management of the affairs and business of this organization. Such Board of Directors shall only act in the name of the organization when it shall be regularly convened by its chairman after due notice to all the directors of such meeting.
4. The Board of Directors may make such rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may, in its discretion, determine necessary.
5. Vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment by the member team with which the vacating Director was affiliated. The replacement Director shall serve for the balance of the year.
6. The president of the organization, by virtue of his office, shall be chairman of the Board of Directors. All other officers of the organization shall serve as directors in addition to their position as officers.
7. Coaches shall be allowed to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors but shall have no right to vote unless he/she is a director.
8. A director may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such removal. The Board of Directors may entertain charges against any Director. A Director may be represented by counsel at any removal hearing. The Board of Directors shall adopt such rules as it may, in its discretion, consider necessary for the best interest of the organization for this hearing.

- V. Officers:** The Officers of this organization shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

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3. The President shall preside at all membership meetings.
 - a) He/She shall, by virtue of his office, be Chairman of the Board of Directors. As such he/she will not be able to cast a vote except in the event of a tie.
 - b) He/She shall present, at each annual meeting of the organization, a report of the work of the organization.
 - c) He/She shall appoint all committees, temporary or permanent.
 - d) He/She shall see all books, reports, and certificates as required by law are properly kept or filed.
 - e) He/She shall be one of the Officers who may sign the checks or drafts of the organization.
 - f) He/She shall have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the Chief Executive Officer of any organization.
4. The Vice President shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the President to exercise his/her office, become acting President of the organization with all of the rights, privileges, and powers as if he/she had been duly elected President.
5. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the minutes and records of the organization
 - a) It shall be his/her duty to file any certificate required by any statute, federal, or state.
 - b) He/She shall give and serve all notices to members of this organization.
 - c) He/She shall be the official custodian of the records
 - d) He/She shall present to the membership at any meetings any communications addresses to him/her as secretary of the organization
 - e) He/She shall submit to the Board of Directors any communications which shall be addressed to him/her as secretary of the organization
 - f) He/She shall attend to all correspondence of the organization and shall exercise all duties incident to the Office of Secretary.
6. Officers shall by virtue of their office, be members of the board of Directors. No officers shall for reason of his office, be entitled receive any salary or compensation.
7. All officers shall be chosen by the Board of Directors and shall be chosen by a vote of a quorum of the Directors at the annual meeting. Nominations shall be made from the floor and voted upon by verbal ballot.

VI Meetings:

1. The Annual Membership meetings of this Organization shall be held during the month of August as fixed by the President of this Organization every year. The Secretary shall notify every team in good standing at

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its address as it appears on the Membership Roles of this Organization a notice telling the time and place of such Annual Meeting. An additional meeting will be held at the end of the season and after the Championship Tournament. Each team is responsible for providing their designated representative's best method of contact. It is then the responsibility of each team to further notify their individual team contacts of any upcoming meetings.

2. The presence of the majority of the member teams shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of this organization.
3. Special meetings of this Organization may be called by the President when he deems it for the best interest of the Organization. Notices of such meetings shall be provided to each team contact at least ten days before the scheduled date set for such special meeting. Such notice shall state the reasons that such meeting has been called, the business to be transacted at such meeting, and by whom called.
4. At the request of six or more members of the Board of Directors of the Organization, the President shall cause a special meeting to be called but such request must be made in writing at least thirty days before the requested scheduled date.
5. No other business but that specified in the notice may be transacted at such special meeting without the unanimous consent of all present at such meeting.

VII Voting:

1. At the request of three or more member teams, ballots shall be provided and there shall not appear any place on such ballot any mark or marking that might intend to indicate the person who cast the ballot.
2. At any regular or special meeting, if a majority of the member teams so require and a quorum is present any motion may be voted upon, with each team receiving one vote per team, and the majority vote carries the motion.
3. At all votes by ballot, the chairman of such meeting shall immediately, prior to the commencement of balloting, appoint a committee of three who shall act as "inspectors of election" and who shall, at the conclusion of such balloting, certify in writing, have validated by the Secretary/Treasurer, to the chairman the results and the certified copy shall be physically affixed to the minute book of the minutes of that meeting.

VIII Order of Business:

1. Roll Call
2. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting
3. Reports of the committees
4. Reports of Offices
5. Old and unfinished business
6. New business
7. Member team comments
8. Announcements
9. Adjournment

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IX Divisions:

The board of directors and officers, if they deem it appropriate from season to season, may randomly divide member teams into separate divisions for the wrestling season. The decision to create divisions and the method to do so shall be done by motion approved by a majority of a quorum of the member teams of this organization.

X Wrestling Season:

The board of directors and officers shall establish each year the time period that will constitute the wrestling season for the Mason Dixon Junior Wrestling League. At the August meeting a list of host teams will be presented to the board of directors. This will be voted on for approval and each team will be given a copy to confirm that the host dates. This meeting will be followed by a "Draft" meeting in September. At the draft meeting the order of draft will be determined by the previous years Team placement in the Championship Tournament. No team will trade or change their schedule without approval from the host teams. Each membership team shall abide by the wrestling schedule and make good faith effort to encourage full participation of its wrestlers at each scheduled league match and/or tournament.

XI Weight Classes:

1. The league shall use the following guidelines as to divisions and weight classes. By majority vote of the directors, upon motion duly made, additional weight classes may be created.
2. A wrestler's age is determined by his/her age as of December 31st of the current wrestling season. Example, for the 2017 wrestling season, use the wrestler's age as of December 31st, 2016.
3. The following weight classes and divisions are the current weight classes as of the date of passage of these bylaws:
 - a) Bantam Division: Ages seven and Under
Weight Classes: 36 - 40 - 44 - 48 - 52 - 56 - 60 - 64 - 72 - 80 - 100
 - b) Midget Division: Ages eight and nine
Weight Classes: 50 - 55 - 60 - 65 - 70 - 75 - 80 - 90 - 100 - 110 - 120 - 150
 - c) Junior Division: Ages ten and eleven
Weight Classes: 58 - 62 - 66 - 70 - 74 - 78 - 82 - 86 - 91 - 98 - 105 - 115 - 130 - 163
 - d) Intermediate Division: Ages twelve, thirteen, and fourteen (Age 15 reference article III.3)
Weight Classes: 70 - 77 - 84 - 91 - 98 - 106 - 113 - 120 - 126 - 132 - 138 - 145 - 160 - 182 - 228

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XII Weight Verification:

1. Before any regular season matches begin, an informal weight verification will take place at one practice of each member team. Each team shall verify the weight of each wrestler. It shall be determined by each team what age group and weight division each wrestler on each team shall wrestle by the December meeting. As a wrestler's weight changes through the season, each team is responsible for keeping opposing teams apprised of the changes.

XIII Responsibilities and Conduct of Member Teams:

1. In the event of a protest regarding a wrestler's age, the head coach of the member team to which the wrestler is being challenged as to age, shall provide in confidence a copy of the Birth Certificate to the League President or Vice President to be valid within 3 days of the protest. Protests may only be made during the season up to and including the seeding meeting. No protests will be accepted during the Divisional or Championship Tournaments.

Each member team shall submit a team roster to the league secretary by December 31. Rosters shall be in the same format and include wrestler name, age division, weight class, experience, and rating (see Appendix C). A blank copy of the roster will be provided by the League secretary. A final roster shall be submitted by each member team to the league secretary no later than January 31st.

Once the first match of the season has taken place a wrestler may not switch teams within the league without the consent of both the coach of the team they are leaving and the coach of the team they are going to, with the exception of moving out of one area and into another. If anyone disagrees with a decision made by the coaches they may appeal to the league directors.

2. Each home team of a regular season match is responsible for providing the following:
 - a) Contacting each visiting team on the Monday prior to the scheduled match to confirm arrival times, location, directions, and any other information.
 - b) Visiting teams will contact the home team by Thursday, prior to the match of any scratches. The visiting team will continue to update the home team of scratches as they occur prior to the match.
 - c) A facility in which to wrestle
 - d) Refereeing for matches
 - e) Personnel to operate the clock, scoring table, and all other organizational duties required to provide smooth operation of the match
 - f) Making every effort to start the match on time
 - g) Match Parings-
 - i. Every attempt shall be made to have each wrestler wrestle a minimum of two matches. Exceptions to this can be made with the approval of the wrestler's coach
 - ii. The criteria for setting up matches is as follows:
 - a. Utilize the criteria outlined in Appendix C to make all matches if possible. If a wrestler needs additional matches, move on to the next criteria
 - b. Can wrestle one weight class up or down in the same age division
 - c. Can wrestle up or down in another age division if the younger wrestler has weight or experience advantage
 - d. Other match parings can be set outside these criteria with the approval of the visiting coach during the week prior to the match. This gives the coach time to check with the parents if he feels that it is needed

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- e. If it is not safe or possible to pair up a wrestler, the wrestler's coach should be informed as early as possible so that word can be relayed to the wrestler and/or his parents.
 - f. Common sense should be utilized when creating match ups. Discretion should be exercised when considering skill level and/or experience of wrestlers.
- h) Match Results
- i. Match results shall be given to the visiting coach immediately at the conclusion of the match. If carbon copies are not utilized by the Home team, then it is the Home Team's responsibility to scan and email the results within 3 days of the meet to all teams.
 - ii. Team scores of matches should be avoided. Teams should be encouraged to wrestle all wrestlers, rookies or experienced wrestlers, as many times as conditions permit in order to develop skills of all levels without worrying about "team scores."
 - iii. Individual records from each match should be kept in some manner by the wrestlers coach for use at seeding meetings at the end of the year.
- i) The visiting team is responsible for arriving at the host team's facility approximately thirty to forty five minutes before the match is to start so that coaches may rematch for no-shows, wrestlers can warm up, time schedules for host's sport facilities can be kept on a schedule, and every effort to start the match on time can be made.
- j) If the snow emergency plan goes into effect for the host team's county the event will be cancelled. If the snow emergency plan is in effect for the county of a visiting team, the visiting team may elect not to attend the event without penalty.
- k) Conduct
- i. Coaches of member teams are responsible for the behavior of their wrestlers
 - ii. Wrestlers should not be allowed to run around the mats or in the stands
 - iii. Wrestlers from each team should be seated as a group if possible
 - iv. Coaches of visiting teams are responsible for leaving host team's facilities in the same condition as when they arrived and are responsible for any vandalism by their team members
 - v. Good sportsmanship and respect shall be shown to referees, coaches, opposing wrestlers, and facilities. Coaches shall not tolerate unsportsmanlike conduct by any wrestler, parent, or coach at any time. Any use of profanity or threatening gestures will result in removal from the premises immediately by the Offenders Head Coach first, then the Head Coach of the host team and finally by law enforcement. A second offense will result in a two week suspension from any league events. A third offense will result in banishment from the league

XIV Tournament Guidelines:

1. At the conclusion of each regular season, the Mason Dixon Junior Wrestling League shall sponsor a tournament which shall be open to all eligible wrestlers.
2. Any wrestler who has participated in the equivalent of four (4) of the eight (8) league meets shall be eligible to participate in their Divisional League qualifier tournament if deemed necessary.

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3. Any wrestler that turns 15 years of age prior to January 1st of the current wrestling season are not eligible to participate in this League tournament.
4. If wrestlers show up to wrestle for a regularly scheduled match but has no match that day due to a lack of an opponent, it shall still count as a match towards the qualification for participation in the league tournament. If a host team notifies a team in advance that no opponent is available a wrestler can be given permission by his head coach not to attend the meet and this shall also count towards the qualification for the divisional league tournament.
5. Any event that is cancelled due to inclement weather shall count as an attended event. Exceptions due to serious illness or injury may be made on an individual basis if presented to the League President or Vice President prior the seeding meeting.
6. For listing of Host teams for both the Divisional Qualifier Tournaments and Championships – see Appendix D
7. For guidelines regarding Hosting a Divisional Qualifier Tournament – see Appendix E.
8. For guidelines regarding Hosting the Championship Tournament – see Appendix F.

XV Amendments:

These by-laws may be altered, amended, repealed, modified, or added to by a majority vote of a quorum of the representatives from the member teams. All suggested changes shall be submitted to the league secretary 15 days prior to the next meeting. The proposal must include the current language and the proposed language.

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APPENDIX A Team Breakdown

Berkeley Springs Junior Wrestling (BSJW)
Front Royal Raptors (FRR)
Jefferson Junior Wrestling Association (JJWA)
Martinsburg Mat Club (MMC)
South Berkeley Dragons (SBD)
~~Warren County Mateats (WCM)~~
Willie Walters Wrestling Club (WW)
Tuscarora Youth Wrestling (TYW)
~~Hagerstown YMCA (YMCA)~~
Williamsport Wrestling Club (WWC)
Shenandoah Valley Elite Wrestling Club (SVEWC)
Ranger Wrestling Club (RWC)
Hardy County Youth Wrestling Club (HC)
Virginia Eagles Wrestling Club (VAEWC)
Iron Eagles Wrestling Club (IEWC)
Eastern Loudon Wrestling Club (ELWC)

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APPENDIX B – New Teams

Application for Membership in the Mason Dixon Junior Wrestling League (MDJWL)

Name of Wrestling Organization:

Primary Contact:

Secondary Contact:

Primary Signature:

Secondary Signature:

Years program in existence:

List approximate number of wrestlers in each age group:
Bantam age 5 to 7
Midget age 8 to 9
Junior age 10 to 11
Intermediate age 12 to 14

Other league affiliations:

Please send application to league secretary via email: Leslie Abshire, leslie71178@gmail.com

Date Received:

After a review of the application by the Board of Directors, the application shall be submitted to the membership for approval or denial. The vote shall occur by written ballot and shall be anonymous. Each person designated by these by laws to vote at meetings of the membership shall have a right to vote. A majority vote of a quorum of the representatives from the member teams authorized to vote shall be required to approve a new member team.

Board of Directors:

Approval

Denial

President Signature (MDJWL)

Vice President Signature (MDJWL)

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APPENDIX C – Rating System

Please use as a guideline when pairing wrestlers for regular events.

- 4 - Placed 1-4 at Mason Dixon Championship
- 3 - Winning record last year
- 2 - Has wrestled before
- 1 - Brand New Wrestler

After 3 weeks

- 4-100% to 75% wins
- 3-75% to 50% wins
- 2-50% to 25% wins
- 1-25% to 0% wins

Update your rosters weekly to achieve the best matches.

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APPENDIX D – Team Rotation for Hosting Championships & Qualifiers

Mason Dixon Hosting Rotation		
Revised Order		
Year	Championship	
2017		FRR/SB
2018		MMC/JJWA
2019		WW/SVEWC
2020		BS/TYW
2021		WWC/RWC
2022		HCWC/VAEWC
2023		IEWC/ELWC
2024		FRR/SB

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APPENDIX E – Championship or Divisional Qualifier Tournament to be used if determined necessary and approved by the membership.

1. The host team for each year must notify the league President no later than the August membership meeting if that team will or will not host the tournament.
2. Each team shall be assessed a fee per wrestler for the Mason Dixon Championship or Divisional Qualifier Tournaments. **The fee to be charged each wrestler will be voted on at the August meeting each year.**
3. There will not be applications required to wrestle in the either Tournament, all those wrestlers listed on the team roster provided is sufficient.
4. All Tournament Rosters are due to the Host Team the Friday prior to the scheduled weigh-in that will occur the following Wednesday (ie: 6 days prior).
5. All Overall and In-Weight Records for each wrestler are due to the Host Team by the end of the day Monday prior to the scheduled weigh-in (ie: 2 days prior).
6. The weigh-ins shall occur the Wednesday prior to the tournament, between 6:00pm and 8:00pm for all entries.
 - The weigh-ins shall last a minimum of two (2) hours for all entries and will be conducted by the host team.
 - The host team may appoint a representative to conduct a satellite weigh-in at their discretion.
 - No team weigh-ins are required, entries can weigh-in any time within the time period specified.
 - All entries will be allowed on the scales as many times as needed during the weigh in period. A weight allowance of 0.2 pounds shall be given to all entries for underwear.
 - Weight classes for each entry are determined by the Tournament Roster submitted the previous Friday. The Host team shall allow changes to the specified weight classes when the Overall and In-Weight records are provided on Monday.
 - If a wrestler does not make his/her specified weight, he/she may move up or down one weight class.
 - Skin, hair, and nails shall be checked at weigh-ins with any violations noted. Copies of the ***“NFHS Physician Release for Wrestler to Participate with Skin Lesion”*** should be made available to the wrestlers and parents at weigh-ins.
 - Unlimited wrestlers **are required to weigh in for Skin Check Purposes.**
 - There will be NO additional weigh-ins conducted before the Qualifier Tournament **unless approved by the league directors.**
7. The seeding meeting for the Tournament shall be held by Host Team on Thursday before the tournament. Seedings shall be according to Overall and In-Weight records, a wrestlers rating during the season, and any head-to-head match ups during the season or in any tournaments.
8. All entry fees payable on a team basis with cash or one check for the total amount for the entire team are due at the seeding meeting. Any team who has not paid their entry fees are ineligible to compete.

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9. Coaches passes shall be made available to each team and handed out at the seeding meeting. Quantity should be (1) pass per 10 wrestlers at a minimum.

Tournament Format

- School – minimum number of hours required are twelve, depending on the number of entrants.
- Minimum of 4 mats are required to host the tournament. If only 4 mats are used, the host team should consider a “split time” to minimize the total number of people in the facility at one given time. Due to the size of the facility, a “split time” may be required if sufficient seating is not available for all wrestlers and their families.
- Tournament will be double elimination wrestling to 5th place. The 5th (or sometimes 6th place) wrestler MAY advance if the other divisional qualifier does not have 4 wrestlers in any given weight class, or if the 1st – 4th place finisher decides to not advance or cannot wrestle due to injury.
- **Awards (trophies or medals) and who receives (ie: 1st – 4th only) shall be voted on at the August meeting each year. Both qualifier tournaments shall be the same.**
- Host teams can charge admission to the event currently set at Adult = \$5, Students < 12 years old = \$3, and children < 5 years old = Free.
- Host team to provide full concessions as well as pay for all referees. Referees MUST be certified (any chapter).
- Each team (less the Host team) shall provide a minimum 3 table workers as set forth by the Host team in a pre-determined schedule. Host team shall provide their own people to collect gate as well as all concession help required.
- The host team will provide team awards for top 3 teams. Team points are awarded as follows:
1st Place = 16 points
2nd Place = 10 points
3rd Place = 6 points
4th Place = 4 points

The host team will provide team awards for age/division champions (4 total).

10. Host team is required to submit a Tournament Agenda to each team within it’s respective division no later than February 1st. The information contained in the agenda should be as follows (at a minimum);
- Time and location(s) of weigh-ins
 - Time and location of seeding meeting
 - Entry Fee for wrestlers as well as admissions
 - Location of tournament
 - Arrival times, coaches meeting times, and wrestling times for each session
 - Description of awards (who gets them and whether they are trophies or medals).
 - Team responsibilities chart for table worker help.
11. The above description outlines a successful format that has been used in the past. However, if the Host team feels they have improvements they want to instill into their tournament – they are free to provide suggestions and/or improvements. All deviations to the above format MUST be voted and approved by the league.