



Established 2013

BY LAWS OF THE CENTRAL JERSEY YOUTH WRESTLING LEAGUE

ADOPTED: September 26, 2013
LAST REVISED: November 15, 2022

ARTICLE I

- 1.1 The name of this league shall be known and incorporated as the **Central Jersey Youth Wrestling League (CJYWL)**.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 This league has been organized to develop and promote the sport of wrestling, with no affiliation to any local, regional or national organization. Through the medium of supervised competitive wrestling, guided and governed by these by laws and recognized current Federation Wrestling Rules, is to seek to implant in the youth of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, scholarship, and reverence, so that they may be finer, stronger and happier youth who will grow to be good, healthy adults.

ARTICLE III

PRINCIPLE OPERATION

- 3.1 The principle site of operation of the league shall be in the State of New Jersey in and about the home residence of the executive director or the home of the league president should an executive director not be engaged by the league.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 The membership of the CJYWL shall consist of not less than four (4) nor more than twenty-six (26) sponsor associations (S/A) participating in a sixth (6th) grade and under division.
- 4.2 Each sponsor association (S/A) shall name a sponsor association representative (SAR) for each team that they have in the league and he/she shall have a vote on all league matters.
- 4.3 The current membership of the league members and their team colors are listed in Appendix "A" annexed hereto.
- 4.4 Acceptance of admittance for the present participating teams shall be upon two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, at the Spring meeting. Those teams who are presently enrolled in the league, and who are not approved, will have the right of appeal within two (2) weeks of notice.
- 4.5 New teams shall be approved by the SAR's for the upcoming season before the November meeting. New S/A's are subject to a one (1) year probationary period. Thereafter, they shall continue as outlined in Article 4.4, provided they remain in good standing by meeting all obligations by the Executive Board, as a whole, including payment of annual dues.
- 4.6 The amount to be assessed for annual dues shall be set by the Board at the September meeting and shall be uniform among all members. Dues and a Team Bond shall be paid to the Treasurer on or prior to the date established by the Executive Board.

- 4.7 A team's membership in the league shall be revoked in the event that they fielded a Varsity team for a given season and chose not to participate in the end-of-season Varsity tournament for that season.
- 4.8 Each SAR shall provide to the league President and Executive Director of the CJYWL a roster, consisting of the names, address, birth date, and grade of the wrestlers who will participating in the CJYWL, prior to wrestling their first meet of the season and no later than December 10th. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the forfeiture of a team's bond. Updates may be made to team rosters during the course of the season.
- 4.9 Teams that forfeited their Team Bond during the previous season shall have their status reviewed in the spring by the Executive Board. The board will decide the team's status within the league for the next season. Upon completion of the review and in accordance with Article 4.4, the team shall be declared as either a member in good standing, a probationary member, or non-member. Teams that are dismissed from the league due to the forfeiture of their bond will have the right of appeal within two (2) weeks of notice.
- 4.10 The privileges of each S/A and SAR are limited to those as provided for, in order, by state and federal law, the CJYWL By Laws, and Robert's Rules of Order.
- 4.11 Each SAR shall have one vote, when called upon to do so.
- 4.12 Should a member team have more than one representative claiming power to vote, priority of voting shall be granted to, in order:
- A. The Executive Officer of the S/A
 - B. The Head Coach of the S/A
 - C. Any other Officer of the S/A
 - D. The representative designated by a majority vote of the other league members present.
- 4.13 Each member S/A is responsible for providing general liability insurance for their team(s). A certificate of insurance documenting liability coverage shall be filed by each member S/A with the league secretary.

ARTICLE V

GOVERNMENT

The government of the CJYWL shall be under the direction and control of its Executive Board and its Officers.

- 5.1 The Officers shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. At the league's spring meeting, the President shall accept nominations from the floor for all terms expiring in the current year. The SAR's, by a show of hands shall elect those nominees, provided there is one candidate for each position. Where there is more than one candidate for a position, the vote shall be by ballot. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes will be declared the winner.
- 5.2 The Officers shall be elected by ballot and their term of service shall be two years unless reelected to their current position. The President and Vice President cannot be from the same S/A.
- 5.3 The two year officer terms for the President and Vice-President will expire in the odd-numbered years and the two year terms for the Secretary and Treasurer will expire in the even-numbered years.
- 5.4 Duties and powers of the Officers shall be as follows:

A. **President**

1. The President shall call meetings [and conduct them] in accordance with the By Laws and parliamentary procedure as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order, and conduct them subject to the terms and conditions of Article V Section 5.6 of these By Laws.
2. The President shall be empowered to sign checks, contracts, and other obligations on behalf of the CJYWL.
3. In all cases where quick action is needed to stop, alter, change or otherwise modify a condition, which cannot be allowed to continue, Summary Authority is applied. This power, given to the President, can only be over ridden by a majority vote of the full

Executive Board, with the President unable to cast a vote.

4. Vacancies, after the general elections, are to be filled by presidential appointment, subject to ratification of the Executive Board.
5. The President shall serve as Hearing Officer for complaints, protests, or appeals.

B. Vice President

1. The Vice President shall have the same authority as empowered to the President, only in the absence of the President.
2. The Vice President shall act as parliamentarian on all questions regarding By Law interpretation and Robert's Rules of Order.

C. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall keep and have full charge of the Minutes and the General Roll Call. He shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings and current record of the total membership of the CJYWL.
2. The Secretary shall read the proceedings of the previous meeting together with all communications, reports, petitions, bills, etc. to the S/A members present at each regular meeting or at a special meeting. He will also perform all other duties incidental to the office as directed by the President or Executive Board.

D. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall receive and have custody of all money, bonds, funds, and securities of the CJYWL and shall keep accounts thereof. He shall be authorized to sign checks and shall pay all authorized expenses of the CJYWL.
2. The Treasurer shall render a financial statement at each regular meeting and shall present a copy to the Secretary. He will also perform all other duties incidental to the office as directed by the President and Executive Board.

- 5.5 Any Officer failing to fulfill their obligations as outlined by state and federal law and these by laws may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the full S/A membership.
- 5.6 The presiding officer or Executive Board designate shall report intentions and all decisions of the Executive Board to the membership at its next regular scheduled meeting.
- 5.7 The Executive Board may enter into a written agreement with a duly qualified Executive Director for the purpose of managing the day-to-day operations of the CJYWL. The Executive Board shall only enter into such an agreement if approved by the majority of league members present and voting at the league's spring meeting. Such agreement shall not exceed one year in duration, must define the Executive Director's scope of responsibilities, and authorize the Executive Board to provide compensation for services rendered.

ARTICLE VI

ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

- 6.1 Participants must be enrolled in the 6th grade or below with a maximum age limit of 12 years old before January 1st of the current season.
- 6.2 In order to participate in the CJYWL, the name, full address (Street & Town), birth date, and grade must appear on the official team roster submitted to the league by prior to each team wrestling their first match of the season and no later than December 10th.
 - A. Requests for additions must be submitted to the league President, in writing. Additions must be approved by the President prior to the participant competing in a league match.
 - B. **A Team that fails to submit a team roster prior to wrestling their first match of the season or by December 10th will forfeit the team bond and may risk being excluded from participating in league tournaments.**
- 6.3 Participants can only represent and wrestle on one CJYWL team.

- 6.4 Participants must be a student of the public school district in the town or a town sending district which is defined in the charter in Appendix A, which they are wrestling. Private school students must wrestle for the town in which they reside. Those wrestlers who do not have a wrestling program in their town or school can only wrestle exhibition matches and cannot wrestle in the year end league tournament.

ARTICLE VII

WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1 The weight classes, in pounds, shall be as follows:

Varsity - 50, 53, 57, 60, 63, 67, 70, 73, 77, 80, 85, 90, 95, 102, 112, 125, HWT
JV - 45, 50, 53, 57, 60, 63, 67, 70, 73, 77, 80, 85, 90, 95, 102, 112, 125, HWT

- 7.2 Weight certification:

- A. Certified weight shall be defined as the lowest weight class in which a wrestler shall be eligible to compete in during the balance of the season, including league tournaments. **CERTIFIED WEIGHT WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT THE TIME OF A WRESTLER'S FIRST WEIGH-IN FOR A CJYWL MATCH**, with the weight class corresponding to his actual weight less 0.2 lbs. for his/her singlet being recorded as his certified weight.
- B. Certified weight is based on the original weight classes specified in Article 7.1. When certifying, the 0.2 lb. weight allowance shall be given for the wrestler's singlet (Article 7.4), but no further allowances of any kind including those associated with growth (Article 7.8) and back-to-back multi-day matches (Article 7.9) are permitted.
- C. At the time of certification, it is the coach's responsibility to be sure that a wrestler weighs-in at the lowest weight class at which he may wish to compete in during the season.
- D. Weight certification shall be documented on official league forms and shall be submitted to the designated certification officer. Each team shall submit a completed initial weight certification form by January 1st of the current season. A team failing to submit their completed initial

weight certification form by January 1st will forfeit their team bond. Weight certification for wrestlers that weight certify after their team's first dual meet shall be recorded on individual weight certification addendum cards and submitted to the designated certification officer within five business days of certification.

- 7.3 The minimum weight shall be 40 pounds stripped at the time of weigh-ins.
- 7.4 All wrestlers shall weigh-in wearing a singlet and a 0.2-lb weight allowance shall be given for the singlet.
- 7.5 The minimum weight for a Heavyweight contestant is 125 pounds and a bout/no bout determination shall be made at the time of weigh-in. In pairing Heavyweight wrestlers, if the heavier wrestler weighs more than 15% of the lighter wrestler, there is no bout.
- 7.6 No wrestler may wrestle more than two (2) weight classes above that class for which his/her actual weight, at the time of weigh-in, qualifies the competitor.
- 7.7 For the purpose of tournament eligibility, a wrestler may weigh-in at a lower weight class and then wrestle at higher weight class. Such cases must be noted in both teams' scorebook.
- 7.8 There will be a one-pound increase in all weight classes as of January 1st and an additional one-pound increase February 1st.
- 7.9 A one-pound weight allowance shall be given to both teams if either team has participated in an official CJYWL match the previous day. This only applies if both teams have been notified the previous day, before the match. Violation of this notification will void the one-pound allowance.

ARTICLE VIII

CONDUCT OF DUAL MATCHES

- 8.1 Scheduling of official dual meets will be issued by the league in November.
- 8.2 Each team is responsible for scheduling the date, location, and time of meets with other that they have been paired to wrestle. Dual meet wrestling events may be scheduled as single dual meets, tri-meets, or quad meets.

- 8.3 Home team is responsible for contacting visiting team(s) to establish time and place in accordance with official schedule.
- 8.4 Home team responsibilities remain the same, regardless of location of match.
- 8.5 Home team is responsible for scheduling and paying referees. For tri-meets and quad meets, the portion of referee fees to cover competition with teams other than their own may be split among the other teams at the discretion of the home team provided the home team communicates this with the other teams at least three (3) days in advance of the wrestling event. The home team assumes payment of all other expenses associated in hosting a home meet.

ARTICLE IX

MATCH RULES

- 9.1 “Wrestling Rule Book” published by the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS), shall govern the rules of play.
- 9.2 The following rules are a modification to Article 9.1:
 - A. Length of periods shall be 1-1½-1½.
 - B. Injury time and blood time shall not be kept, however NFHS rules pertaining to restarting a bout after injury timeout shall be followed.
 - C. Shoelaces need not be taped.
 - D. Bouts ending in a tie score during regulation time will wrestle in overtime to determine a winner. Overtime will be 1-minute sudden death period from neutral position followed by a 30-second rideout period, if necessary; first points scored in regulation time gets choice of top or bottom starting position during the rideout period. If no points were scored by either wrestler during regulation time, the referee shall flip the disk to determine which wrestler has choice of top or bottom at the start of the rideout period.

- 9.3 Weigh-ins will only be done only when all competing teams are present. The only exception to this rule is in the event of double dual meets and tri-meets where the second visiting team opts to arrive later after competition has commenced between the home team and first visiting team. In this case, the second visiting team shall weigh-in upon arrival with one coach present from from each team that they will be competing against to certify the weigh-ins. The second visiting team shall accept the weigh-in certification from coaches present at the initial weigh-ins so that wrestlers on the other team(s) do not have to weigh-in again.
- 9.4 Each S/A is required to provide a safe environment for league matches, which should include, but not limited to a regulation wrestling mat, safety mats as needed, mat taping, a safety zone of at least 5 feet surrounding the mat, adequate seating for wrestlers and spectators, a visible scoreboard, and engagement of qualified officials.
- 9.5 All wrestlers must wear the team color uniform.
- 9.6 Any wrestler disqualified from a match due to flagrant misconduct shall be required to sit out their team's next match and both the plaintiff and defendant coaches are required to report the offense to the league's Executive Director, or to the league president, in the event that no Executive Director is engaged by the league.

ARTICLE X

LEAGUE MEETINGS

- 10.1 Each member team is **required** to have at least one representative at every league meeting.
- 10.2 League meetings are held in September, November, and in the spring within 45 days of the league's last event of the season. Additional meetings may be called by the President. The date, time, and location for each subsequent meeting will be set at the previous meeting or by mail. Tournament seeding meetings will be scheduled as necessary.

ARTICLE XI

LEAGUE POLICIES

11.1. Team Bond

Each team will post a team bond prior to the start of each season. The assessment for this team bond shall be \$100. This bond shall be carried-over from season to season providing that the team satisfactorily fulfilled their obligations to the league during the previous season. Situations where a team's bond may be forfeited include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to have a team representative in attendance at one or more league meetings including the team's in-flight tournament seeding meeting.
- Failure to abide by rules governing on-time submission of team rosters and weight certifications.
- Failure by a team to wrestle all of their league-mandated matches with the exception of situations caused by inclement weather or "act of God."
- Any act of team misconduct judged to be inappropriate by the league's Executive Board.

A team has the right to appeal decisions with respect to forfeiture of their team bond for the previous season at the September league meeting for the new season.

Teams who forfeited their bond during the previous season and retain their affiliation with the league for the subsequent season will be required to post a new bond. Teams terminating their membership in the league will be refunded their team bond provided that it was not forfeited during the previous season.

11.2. **Team Withdrawals**

Any team choosing to withdrawal from the league for the upcoming season shall make their intentions known to the league President and Executive Director by September 15th. Teams withdrawing from the league who later decide to reaffiliate will be handled as a new team in accordance with Article 4.5.

11.3. **Flight Divisions**

- A. There shall be two (2) flight divisions in the CJYWL, a Varsity division and a Junior Varsity (JV) division. At the September league meeting, participating teams shall indicate their intention for the upcoming season to field a Varsity-only team, a JV-only team, or both Varsity and JV teams. By an agreed upon date set at September's league meeting and prior to the date of November's league meeting, each team shall confirm their intention which shall be considered binding.
- B. A Sponsor Association's decision as to whether or not to field a JV team for a given season should be based on how many of the 17 weight classes it expects to fill. The expectation of the League is that each JV team will have at least 10 wrestlers filling 17 weight classes.
- C. After 2 consecutive seasons as a JV-only team, the league shall vote as to whether or not a JV-only team must advance to varsity team status.
- D. Provided that there are 21 or fewer Varsity teams competing against one another in a given season, each Varsity team shall wrestle all other Varsity teams in the league. Should the number of Varsity teams exceed 21, a re-evaluation of this Article shall be made by participating teams prior to the start of the season and decisions reached shall supersede provisions outlined in these Bylaws for this single season.
- E. Each JV team shall wrestle an agreed upon number of JV teams in the league. The pairings of team dual meets for JV competition shall be randomly selected and shall be considered as the league-designated JV matches used for seeding in the end-of-season JV league tournament. JV teams are welcome to schedule and compete against teams that they have not been paired-up with, however, team and individual wins and losses arising from these matches are not reported to the league and may not be applied toward win/loss records within the league.

- F. During a given season, a JV wrestler may wrestle in one or more Varsity matches, however, his/her eligibility to wrestle in the JV program will be relinquished once he/she achieves their third (3rd) on-the-mat win exclusive of forfeit wins.

11.4. **Exhibition Matches**

Every effort shall be made to wrestle exhibition matches when agreed upon in advance.

11.5. **Scheduling and Incomplete Matches**

All schedules must be finalized by December 1st and each team, whether Varsity or JV, shall complete wrestling its dual meet season prior to the seeding meeting for their flight division's varsity tournament. Should conflicts arise due to the rescheduling of meets, the league president and Executive Director must be notified and an executive decision will be made as to whether to award a team win by forfeit or to declare the match as non-complete. All teams shall wrestle a minimum of one dual meet during the month of December.

11.6. **League Tournaments**

- A. There shall be three (3) end-of-season league tournaments – a Varsity tournament, a JV tournament, and a Novice tournament. The JV tournament and the Novice tournament are to be wrestled on the same day at the same location. The JV and Novice tournaments will be conducted at least one week in advance of the Varsity tournament.
- B. Wrestlers participating in the Novice tournament shall have no Varsity or JV experience.
- C. The "Madison system", based on weight at weigh-ins, shall be used in pairing Novice wrestlers into brackets. Bracket positions shall be assigned at random, and where possible, separated from teammates for their first match.
- D. All wrestlebacks for the Varsity and JV tournaments shall be 1-1-1.
- E. Both the Varsity JV tournaments shall be conducted as a double-elimination tournaments with full wrestlebacks. The Varsity Tournament will feature place finishes to 8th place. The JV tournament

will feature place finishes to 4th place. Heavyweights in both tournaments will be grouped into multiple weight classes of similar weights with place finishes to 4th place.

- F. The Varsity and JV tournaments shall feature team scoring and the Novice tournament shall not feature team scoring. The team scoring for each weight class in the Varsity tournament shall be as follows: 1st place – 10 points, 2nd place – 7 points, 3rd place – 4 points, 4th place – 2 points, 5th place – 1 point. Team scoring for each weight class in the JV tournament shall be as follows: 1st place – 10 points, 2nd place – 7 points, 3rd place – 4 points, 4th place – 2 points. No team points shall be awarded in heavyweight weight classes where there are fewer than four contestants.
- G. Every wrestler will be visually checked for marks on their bodies. Any mark ruled suspicious will disqualify a wrestler from the tournament, unless accompanied by a medical doctor's note, that is no older than 5 days from the weigh-in date, stating they are no longer contagious and are/or have been treated by this doctor.

11.7. **Varsity Tournament Eligibility and Seeding Criteria**

- A. With the exception of Heavyweight wrestlers who may have wrestled fewer matches given the bout/no bout criteria outlined in Article 7.5. and other than for the exceptions outlined below in Articles 11.7.C. and 11.7.D., a wrestler must have wrestled a minimum of ½ of his team's league-mandated Varsity matches in order to wrestle in the league's Varsity tournament.
- B. Other than for the exception outlined below in Articles 11.7.C. and 11.7.D., a Varsity wrestler must weigh-in at his certified weight for at least ½ of his team's league-mandated Varsity matches in order to compete in that weight class in the league's Varsity tournaments.
- C. A major illness or injury shall be deemed as a special exception to a wrestler's eligibility to participate in the Varsity tournament. Should a case for a special exception be raised, the eligibility requirements as stated in Articles 11.7.A. and 11.7.B. may be overridden when two-thirds of the SARs in attendance at the seeding meeting approve.
- D. A Sponsor Association (S/A) fielding a JV-only team may petition the league for one or more of their JV wrestlers to participate in the Varsity

tournament. A two-thirds approval vote of the SARs in attendance at the seeding meeting for the Varsity tournament shall be required to permit their entry.

- E. Participation in the Varsity tournament is limited to only one wrestler per team per weight class with the exception of Heavyweights where two wrestlers may be entered. In cases where a team enters two Heavyweight wrestlers, one of the contestants shall be designated at the seeding meeting as the team point scorer.
- F. All wrestlers shall be seeded in the Varsity tournament. Wrestlers from JV-only teams that have accepted for participation in the tournament shall be given the lowest seed possible unless a seed challenge is called for and ratified per Article 11.7.G.
- G. The following criteria, based on results from league-mandated matches, shall be applied in seeding wrestlers for the Varsity tournament:
 - (1) Most wins based on each wrestler's in-season record
 - (2) Head to Head
 - (3) Common Opponents
 - (4) Returning place finishers from previous year (top 3 placefinishers in each weight class)
 - (5) Number of matches wrestled in the weight class being seeded during the dual meet season
 - (6) Drawing (pull from the hat)

Once a wrestler is seeded via criteria, this process shall be repeated among those wrestlers not yet seeded until all wrestlers have been seeded.

Seed challenges for any wrestler may be made by any coach during the seeding meeting for the Varsity tournament regardless of criteria by which the wrestler was seeded, thus providing "good" wrestlers who had only completed the minimum number of matches from being seeded too low. A two-thirds approval vote of the SARs in attendance shall be required to ratify changes.

11.8. **JV Tournament Eligibility and Seeding Criteria**

- A. The JV tournament is open to all JV wrestlers in the league who meet eligibility requirements, regardless of whether or not the Sponsor Association (S/A) had a JV team that participated in the current season's JV flight.
- B. With the exception of Heavyweight contestants, teams participating in the JV tournament may only enter one contestant per weight class. In cases where a team enters multiple Heavyweight wrestlers, one of the contestants shall be designated at the seeding meeting as the team point scorer.
- C. Wrestlers who have wrestled in league Varsity matches during the current season are ineligible to participate in the JV tournament if they have achieved 3 or more on-the-mat wins (actual match/exclusive of Forfeit wins). There are no exceptions to this rule.
- D. Wrestlers from teams that participated in the current season's JV Flight who have a win-loss record for their JV matches are eligible for seeding. The seeding for all others will be drawn at random and positioned at the bottom of the seed pool.
- E. The following criteria, based on results from league-mandated matches, shall be applied in seeding wrestlers for the JV tournament:
 - (1) Most wins based on each wrestler's in-season record
 - (2) Head to Head
 - (3) Common Opponents
 - (4) Drawing (pull from the hat)

Once a wrestler is seeded via criteria, the seeding process is repeated among those wrestlers not seeded until all wrestlers have been seeded. There are no challenges for any seed.

APPENDIX A

LEAGUE MEMBERS

<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Charter</u>	<u>Team Colors</u>
Bridgewater	Bridgewater-Raritan	Red, White & Black
Cranford	Cranford	Blue & Gold
East Brunswick	East Brunswick, Spotswood, Helmetta & Milltown	Green & White
Edison	Edison	To Be Determined
Flemington	Hunterdon Central Reg. HS Sending District	Black & Red
Hill Valley	New Providence, Summit, Chatham Boro, Chatham Twp.	To Be Determined
Hillsborough	Hillsborough	Maroon & Gold
Hopewell Valley	Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough & Pennington	To Be Determined
Kenilworth	Kenilworth, Springfield & Winfield Park	Blue & Yellow
Madison	Madison, Harding Twp.	To Be Determined
Middlesex	Middlesex, Dunellen, North Plainfield	Black & Blue
Ridge	Basking Ridge	Green & White
Roselle Park	Roselle Park	Red & White
Scotch Plains-Fanwood	Scotch Plains & Fanwood	Blue & White

LEAGUE MEMBERS (continued)

<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Charter</u>	<u>Team Colors</u>
South Plainfield	South Plainfield	Green & White
Union	Union, Elizabeth, Irvington & Hillside	Maroon & White
Watchung Hills	Warren, Watchung, Stirling, Green Brook, Long Hill & Gillette	Brown, Gold & White
Westfield	Westfield	Blue & Red
Woodbridge	Woodbridge, Colonia, Iselin, Avenel, Port Reading, Keasby, Sewaren, Hopelawn & Fords	Blue & White