

What to expect at a Washington Little Guy Tournament

Each tournament will be slightly different because of the degree of autonomy given to clubs by the league. Each club runs their tournaments a little different, but they generally follow a similar format. Tournaments will have between 300 – 600 participants and at least that many parents and family members. The locations will be full and loud. The year-end Jason Crawford Memorial Tournament in Spokane will have over 3000 participants.

At the tournaments each club, ours included, is expected to provide workers to man a scorer's table. You will be expected to participate and help with this task so that some parents don't have to spend the whole day, every week working a table.

They will quarter mats for the wrestling area for the younger groups 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and Half mats for 11-12 and 13-14 year old divisions.

Headgear, Singlets, and wrestling shoes are mandatory for all wrestlers. If wearing braces on their teeth you must have some form of protection on them (top and bottom), all long hair (male or female) must be secured with a hair tie, braided or covered with a hair cover., fingernails must be short and trimmed.

REGISTRATION & WEIGH-INS

Wrestler weigh-ins begin at 7:00 and end promptly at 9:00 AM. Plan to arrive sometime during that two-hour period. The later you arrive the longer the lines. The gym also fills up as wrestlers arrive. Our club will have an area that we will try and reserve, but we have to have bodies to fill the seats. Upon arrival you will find the registration table. They will check-in your wrestler and take your entrance fee. Sometimes a wrestler's name doesn't appear on the list. When this happens please contact the coaches immediately. After check-in the wrestler's age will be written on their hand and/or shoulder and they will be sent to the weigh-ins. At weigh-ins the fingernails/hair/skin check occurs and the athlete is weighed and marked on the opposite shoulder of the age verification. These workers will keep the registration form and you are free to eat and find the club.

We will do a team warm up at some point between 8:30 and 9:30 am when mat space is available.

BRACKETING

Bracketing takes place during the hour after weigh-in. Bracketing is when wrestlers are placed in appropriate age and weight groups for competition. Our league mandates that wrestlers cannot compete outside of a 5 pound range or outside their age division without prior authorization. They will contact a parent/coach to obtain this authorization.

Wrestling will start at approximately 10:00 AM each Saturday.

PAIRING

When bracketing has been completed the first age group will be called to the pairing room. This is usually the 5/6 year olds. The announcer will point out where the pairing room is, but if you miss it don't worry. Just follow the stampede of little bodies. Most of the tournaments allow a parent in the pairing room with the 5/6 year olds. With the older age groups parents are not normally allowed to accompany them because it becomes too crowded if there are a lot of parents. In the pairing room the wrestlers names will be called out and they will be "paired" with their opponent for the round.

STAGING

The two wrestlers that have been paired will take a bout sheet with their names on it to the staging area. This is normally a section in the bleachers. The wrestlers are moved one pair at a time from the staging area to the announcer's table and are then taken to a mat.

MATCHES

Each mat will have a number. Most tournaments will use 10-16 mats. The announcer will announce each wrestler's name, their club, and the number of the mat where they will be wrestling. The wrestlers will then be taken to that mat. The bout sheet is given to the scorekeeper at the table. Typically a match will already be going on the mat and wrestlers will wait at matside for their turn. Two people (coaches) are allowed mat-side per contestant. Matches should not start without a coach present. We will need some parents to volunteer to help coach in the corners. Our coaches will try to be on the lookout for our club's wrestlers. If they are not present when the match starts, you can ask them to wait and call a coach they should wait or maybe start the next match until one arrives.

One or both of the wrestlers will be asked to put on a colored ankle bands. The wrestlers will shake hands and the referee will begin the match. When points are earned, the referee will hold up a hand indicating the points. The hand that he uses will have a wristband corresponding in color to the color of the ankle band of the wrestler that earned points. At the scorer's table, score is kept on the bout sheet. There will also be a timekeeper. A score is displayed on the front of the table, but it may not always be up-to-date. The score that really matters is the one on the bout sheet.

The 5-12 year old wrestlers compete in three 60 second rounds (three 90 second rounds for the 13-14 year olds wrestlers). The match will end at either the end of three rounds or when one of the wrestlers is pinned or wins by Technical-Fall (more than 15-points). When the match is over the wrestlers will return to the center of the mat to shake hands and the referee will raise the hand of the winner. Each wrestler needs to shake hands with the coach of their opponent. The winner of the match signs the bout sheet and makes sure that his name is circled correctly. If there is a tie the wrestler who scored the first points in the match will be declared the winner.

NUMBER OF ROUNDS

Pairing will generally take place sequentially by age and weight. While one age group is on the mats wrestling, the next group will be headed to the pairing room. This helps to keep things moving with minimal down time. Washington Little Guy uses a standard double elimination 8 man bracket format

when possible. Sometimes due to the number of participants your wrestler will be in a round robin bracket. You will generally be guaranteed 2 matches.

POSTING BRACKETS

After the wrestling begins; the brackets for each age group are usually posted on a wall somewhere near the gym. It is important to check the bracket sheets to ensure that the information about the wrestler is correct. Things to look for include; the age and weight bracket, spelling of the name and the club. After the first round, the bracket sheets need to be checked to ensure that the winners and losers of each match have been recorded correctly. If an error is found, please NOTIFY A COACH so steps can be taken to correct it. It's best to catch the errors as soon as possible.

ELIMINATION FROM THE TOURNAMENT AND PLACING

Wrestlers are eliminated after two losses unless they are in a round robin bracket. If you are unsure of whether or not your wrestler is done for the day, please check with a coach before leaving. Most tournament will give medals out at the table during the placing matches. Some will have an awards presentation with medals for the top three placers after all the wrestling has been completed. After the consolation round wrestlers that have either no losses or one loss will be called. The final round will determine first (gold), second (silver) and third (bronze) and fourth place.

OTHER INFORMATION

A typical tournament will be finished between 2:30 to 5 PM.

You will want to bring food and drink for the day. Most schools will have concession stands open.

The last tournament at the convention center you will need to pack food in your wrestlers bags they will not let coolers or visible outside food in.

You will be required to wear head gear and compete in a club issued singlet or fight shorts and compression shirt. You may not wear a team washington, team usa, favorite college or reno worlds etc. singlets.