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Find A Way

A New York State Wrestling Coaches Association Essay

“Find a way,” how many times have you heard a coach confront a seemingly impossible challenge with those words? There are no better words to describe the determination of the NYSWCA as it confronts the fundamental unfairness of the NYSPHSAA’s State Wrestling Tournament and seeks meaningful reform.

At times it seems as if those who are in a position to approve change operate with a different mantra – “just say no”. Actually, it’s more like that Capital One credit card commercial “the many different ways to say no”.

There is the “no, it will shorten the sport’s regular season” and the “no, it will have an adverse financial impact on school districts”. Upon examination and debate, the first “no” is not true and the second “no” is such a gross overstatement as to not be true.

The latest is “no, what if a team sport like basketball wanted a multiple-entry state tournament”. The easy answer is to say basketball is different, it has so many divisions and so many schools have the opportunity to compete for a state championship, it’s already fair enough. The better answer is: like wrestling in California, basketball in California enjoys a multiple entry format that is more fair than New York’s single-entry basketball tournament and every sport and athlete deserves a state championship format that is as fair and competitive as possible.

The point is the NYSPHSAA’s policies and sectional structure adversely affects athletes in many sports. Since sectional geography creates an unfair system, multiple-entry with proportional representation is the best remedy available.

This is neither a new idea nor a new battle. What is new is that the NYSWCA, having been told no, has chosen not to go away for another 30 years leaving hundreds of athletes literally out in the cold. Instead, the Coaches Association is trying to find a way to make it right - now. The NYSWCA has appealed the New York State Legislature and Assemblyman Joe Morelle has introduced legislation which will hopefully lead to long overdue reform.

For additional information and what you can do to help, visit:
<http://www.sectioniiiwrestling.com/NYSWCA>