



# **Wrestling Matters**

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## **State Tournament Wildcard System For 2007**

Attached please find the NYS Public High School Athletic Association memo regarding the "at large" entries for this year's state wrestling tournament.

The NYS Wrestling Coaches Association applauds the addition of 120 wrestlers to the state wrestling tournament. Filling in the "byes" in the 16 man bracket is an improvement and is sure to improve the quality and stature of the event. The subcommittee of the NYSPHSAA wrestling committee, chaired by Jeff Culty, worked very hard to develop a system that attempts to bring some fairness to a state qualifying process that is inherently unfair. The fact remains however that despite the addition of "at large" entries, the NYS Wrestling Tournament stands out as the only tournament in the country where state qualifying tournaments are wildly unequal. Depending on where a wrestler lives, he could advance to the state tournament by winning a single bout or if he lived in another part of the state, he would have to compete in two tournaments with as many as fifty other wrestlers over two weekends and emerge as the champion to advance to the same state tournament.

The NYS Wrestling Coaches Association remains committed to a state tournament format that is based on the principle that all the state's wrestlers have at least a similar opportunity to qualify for the state tournament. The NYSWCA remains hopeful that NYSPHSAA will recognize the unfairness and reform the state tournament accordingly. In the meantime, the Coaches' Association intends to continue *the fight to make it right*.

Reminder - If you haven't joined or renewed your membership in the NYSWCA you can do so by sending a check for \$10 to the NYSWCA, 422 Howard Rd, Fulton, NY 13069.