



# **WRESTLING UPDATE**

**MAY 2008**

## **Wrestling Committee Votes To Further Consider State Regionals**

*Coaches And Athletic Councils Still Not Fully Aware Of Regional Concept*

*Additional Information On Potential Costs Needs To Be Developed*

Last month the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee voted overwhelmingly to continue their consideration of the State Regional Tournament concept. With a vote of ten in favor, one opposed and one absent, the committee voted to continue to explore the concept. This is the third favorable committee vote regarding state regionals.

The wrestling committee expressed a concern that there were many coaches who were still not fully aware of the concept which required more time be taken to make the proposal known to coaches and Section Athletic Councils. In addition, members of the committee raised again two issues which have yet to be resolved: the status of State Federation entries in the state regional tournament format and the financial aspects of concept.

The New York State Wrestling Championships combines the state's public school (NYSPHSAA) championship with the state's private schools (CHSAA) and New York City schools (PSAL) in order for the one event to also serve as the State Federation Championships. It is structured as a two-tournaments-in-one event. Historically, under this arrangement, the CHSAA and PSAL each got one entry to the state championships. In the most recent version of the state regional tournament concept, the PSAL and CHSAA made up a "federation region" with two entries from the federation regional advancing to the state finals event. Members of the wrestling committee and others argue that if state regional format is adopted as part of the "state championship series" like it is in some other sports then the PSAL and CHSAA should square off against public school competition at the regional level. New versions of the regional groupings are being developed for the committee's review.

While supporters of the state regional format are confident about the financial aspects of the concept, the committee noted that there are not uniform practices across the sections regarding the expenses of championship competition and requested that more information about the projected costs be developed for their next meeting.

The wrestling committee is scheduled to meet again in October. It will be the final opportunity to approve and recommend the state regional format in time for the 2009-10 State Tournament.