



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

87th ANNUAL PIAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

MECHANICSBURG - The 2024 PIAA Individual Wrestling Championships are scheduled to be contested at the Giant Center in Hershey, PA starting Thursday, March 7th, 2024 through Saturday, March 9th, 2024. This is the 87th Annual PIAA Individual Wrestling Championships.

The Individual Wrestling Championships will have 728 student-athletes competing for a state title. The tournament will begin with Session I on Thursday, March 7th with preliminary, first round, and first round consolations. Session II/III will include quarterfinals, second round consolation, third round consolation and semifinal matches are scheduled for Friday, March 8th. Session IV/V will be fourth round consolation, fifth round consolation final, and championship matches and are scheduled for Saturday, March 9th.

GIRLS WRESTLING

History is set to be made with the inaugural PIAA Individual Girls Wrestling Championships. The PIAA Board of Directors approved girls wrestling last year. In May 2023, Pennsylvania became the 38th state to sanction girls wrestling. J. P. McCaskey from District III was the first school to sponsor a girls' wrestling team, which led to over 100 schools, in three years and two months, sponsoring girls' wrestling. With a unanimous vote by the Board on all three readings, girls wrestling became an official PIAA sport in PA.

There will be a stout representation of girls' wrestlers for the first championships with 208 student-athletes competing for a state title. There will be 16 girls wrestling in each of the 13 weight classes.

BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

The first championship was held in 1938 at Rec Hall at Penn State University. The championships were held in Happy Valley from 1938-1946. The championship site moved a few times before returning to Rec Hall. It was held at West Side Armory, Kingston, Pa from 1947-1948, McCaskey High School in District III in 1949, Washington High School in District VII in 1950, and Cambria County War Memorial Arena in Johnstown, Pa in 1951. The individual wrestling championships moved back to Rec Hall from 1952-1969. In 1970, the championships moved to the Farm Show Arena in Harrisburg. Student-athletes competed at the Farm Show Arena for one year. The championships went back to Rec Hall in 1971 then spent two consecutive years at the Farm Show complex from 1972-1973.

In 1974, this was the first year for two separate classifications. It was originally called "Class A" and "Class B." The championships were held at two sites, at Rec Hall for "Class A" and the Farm Show Arena for "Class B". This was the only time, in the history of the championships, the classifications competed at different sites. The following year, in 1975, the championships took place at Rec Hall until 1978.

The PIAA Wrestling Championships moved to Chocolatetown in 1979 and has never left. From 1979-2002, the individual wrestling championships were held at the Hersheypark Arena, additionally known as the "Old Barn." In 2003, the championships moved to the, at the time, newly built Giant Center. From then on, Giant Center has been the home to the PIAA Wrestling Championships for the past 20+ years.

Below is a list of the Individual Wrestling Championships sites:

- Rec Hall (33)
- West Side Armory (2)
- McCaskey High School (1)
- Washington High School (1)
- Cambria County War Memorial Arena (1)
- Farm Show Arena (4)
- Hersheypark Arena (24)
- Giant Center (21)

After two years of being classified as "Class A" and "Class B," AA and AAA were established in 1976. That same year, the first two teams were crowned PIAA Team Champions, after tallying the results of the individual wrestler's results. The inaugural individual team champions were Reynolds in 2A and Saucon Valley in 3A.

The 2A and 3A Individual Championships will see 520 student-athletes wrestling for a state title, with 20 boys wrestling in each of the 13 weight classes for a total of 728 student-athletes wrestling on the PIAA stage.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM CHAMPIONS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>2A</u>	<u>3A</u>
1976	Reynolds (1)	Saucon Valley
1977	Mifflinburg (1)	Council Rock
1978	Athens	Wilkes-Barre Meyers
1979	Northwestern Lehigh	Bethlehem Catholic (1)
1980	Mifflinburg (2)	Jersey Shore
1981	Lake-Lehman	Easton (1)
1982	Danville (1)	Chartiers-Houston
1983	North Schuylkill (1)	Easton (2)
1984	Danville (1) & Southern Columbia (1)	Shikellamy (1)
1985	Northern Lehigh	Shikellamy (2)
1986	Central Columbia (1)	Clearfield
1987	Central Columbia (2)	North Allegheny (1) & North Penn
1988	Benton (1)	North Allegheny (2)
1989	North Schuylkill (2)	North Allegheny (3)
1990	Line Mountain (1)	North Allegheny (4)
1991	Benton (2)	Shikellamy (3)
1992	Wilson Area (1)	Canon-McMillan (1)
1993	Reynolds (2)	Northampton (1)
1994	Line Mountain (2)	Northampton (2)
1995	North Schuylkill (3)	Northampton (3)
1996	Line Mountain (3)	Easton (3)
1997	Line Mountain (4)	Easton (4)
1998	Reynolds (3)	Northampton (4)
1999	Wyalusing (1)	Bald Eagle Area
2000	Wyalusing (2)	Northampton (5)
2001	Brandywine Heights	Easton (5)
2002	Wilson Area (2)	Easton (6)
2003	Wilson Area (3)	Northampton (6)
2004	Loyalsock	Northampton (7)
2005	Reynolds (4)	Connellsville & Council Rock South
2006	Reynolds (5)	Nazareth (1)
2007	Reynolds (6)	Central Dauphin (1)
2008	Shady Side Academy (1)	Central Dauphin (2)
2009	Shady Side Academy (2)	Central Dauphin (3)
2010	Benton (3)	Central Mountain
2011	Burrell	Canon-McMillan (2)
2012	Bethlehem Catholic (2)	Canon-McMillan (3)
2013	Bethlehem Catholic (3)	Canon-McMillan (4)
2014	Bethlehem Catholic (4)	Franklin Regional (1)
2015	Reynolds (7)	Franklin Regional (2)
2016	Brookville	Bethlehem Catholic (5)
2017	Reynolds (8)	Nazareth (2)

2018	Reynolds (9)	Nazareth (3)
2019	Southern Columbia (2)	Bethlehem Catholic (6)
2020	Notre Dame Green Pond (1)	Bethlehem Catholic (7)
2021	Notre Dame Green Pond (2)	Waynesburg
2022	Notre Dame Green Pond (3)	Nazareth (4)
2023	Faith Christian	Bethlehem Catholic (8)

TOP FIVE ALL-TIME SCORES - AA

1. Faith Christian – 151 points (2023)
2. Bethlehem Catholic – 138.5 (2014)
3. Reynolds – 136.5 (2017)
4. Wilson Area – 132 points (2002)
5. Southern Columbia – 121 points (2019)

TOP FIVE ALL-TIME SCORES - AAA

1. Franklin Regional – 152 points (2015)
2. Bethlehem Catholic – 139 points (2023)
3. Northampton – 137.5 (2000)
4. Nazareth – 135 points (2022)
5. North Allegheny – 133 points (1990)

All media is asked to familiarize yourself with the PIAA Handbook, Section II Policy and Procedures, pages 97-102: <http://tinyurl.com/5a3h7wyk>

To see the lay out of the Giant Center and where the media working area is:
http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/2019_Mat_Set_Up_Team.pdf

Link to the schedule: http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/2024_3A_WR_Schedule.pdf

Links to each bracket:

Girls: http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/2024_Girls_WR_Brax.pdf
AA Boys: http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/2024_2A_WR_Brax.pdf
AAA Boys: http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/2024_3A_WR_Brax.pdf

For a full list of any previous championship results, follow this link:
<http://www.piaa.org/news/details.aspx?ID=1121>

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Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association

Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition, and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.