

**- WESTERN MONTANA LITTLE GUY WRESTLING –  
SPRING MEETING NEWSLETTER 2011**

The board of directors for the Western Montana Little Guy Wrestling program met at St. Ignatius High School on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> for their annual Spring meeting. A bid was accepted and approved for Kalispell Wrestling Club to host the 2012 Western Montana Championship Tournament. The tournament will be held at Glacier High School in Kalispell. The Kalispell Club has agreed to share 100% of the gate with visiting clubs.

We had some lively discussions on improving Junior level competition, and pre-season competition during the public input portion of the meeting. The board then met in executive session to weigh that input and to accept motions for changes to the program by-laws. The following rules were added with the rationale listed.

**MIDDLE & JUNIOR GROUPS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PRESEASON COMPETITION RULE**

The board voted unanimously to allow the Middle and Junior groups to participate in competitions prior to the season starting date on the Monday following the state high school wrestling tournament. The Beginner and Novice groups will have to follow the rule of no completion from the start of the school year until the beginning of the Little Guy season.

**Rationale & Discussion**

The board felt that this was a fair compromise for clubs that want to compete in early competition. The board also feels strongly about protecting the younger wrestlers from the pressures of intense competition and extended seasons. The importance of participation in other activities, and avoiding “Burn Out” were also part of the discussion.

**JUNIOR GROUP WILL NOT PARTICIPATE AT THE UNIT TOURNAMENTS**

The board voted unanimously to withdraw the Junior level group from competing in the Unit Tournaments. They will be entered in the Inter-Valley Tournaments with the same seeding criteria used for the Unit Tournaments.

**Rationale & Discussion**

The consensus of the board was that there is not enough competition at the Unit Tournament to justify making the Junior Group attend. It also frees that group for participation in the Disney Dual qualifying tournament. Clubs are encouraged to host dual meet competition for Juniors during the week of the Unit tournament.

### **FRIDAY COMPETITION FOR JUNIORS AT WMC**

The board voted unanimously to move the Junior Group to Friday night for competition at the Western Montana Championship if hosts can secure a gym for that night.

### **Rationale & Discussion**

The board felt that it would be much more parent & fan-friendly to have the Junior group wrestle on Friday as the Saturday competition could be run in about six hours. Consideration would be given to the Beginner State Tournament as it has been held at that time. We would have a decision on the availability of a gym for the Juniors by the January meeting. This would allow the Beginner State organizers time to plan for another time.

### **INFORMATION FOR THE WEB-SITE**

Clubs that have not already done so, must complete the forms and get the contact information into Russ Hendrickson in Corvallis ([montanasportline.com](http://montanasportline.com)).

The board also set a date (January 31<sup>st</sup>) for clubs to submit the information to the web-site on any Invitational meets they plan to host. If this information is not competed and turned in to the web-site on or before that date, the club will not be allowed to host a competition.

### **Rationale**

This information is vital to clubs that are trying to complete their competition schedules.

### **BOARD PURPOSE**

As always, the board of directors is dedicated to protecting what has been the most affordable developmental folkstyle wrestling program in the state. Any changes to the by-laws must be in the best interest of the over-all program. The principles and philosophies that are stated in the by-laws will continue to be our focus.