

# **2013 Southwest Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program**

## **Program Philosophy**

The Southwest Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program was established to promote kids wrestling without prohibitive costs to the wrestlers and their families. It is our hope that through participation and enjoyment of this program the kids will gain in physical stature and improve their self-images. We hope to create an atmosphere in the various programs that will make wrestling an enjoyable experience for the kids so that they will continue to wrestle in high school.

Sportsmanship between the wrestlers, coaches, parents, and fans is a top priority.

## **Benefits Of The Little Guy Folkstyle Wrestling Program**

### **1. Costs**

No mat fee unless fees are used to pay officials or to rent equipment.

Established and enforced uniform admission prices.

No sanction or charter fees.

### **2. Reciprocation To The Program**

Ribbons or medals for area tournaments as a tournament expense.

Medals for top 4 placers at Divisionals and S.W.M.C.

Provide an organized dual meet and tournament program.

All money derived from the program will go back into Little Guy Wrestling.

### **3. Benefits To High School Programs**

This program will teach all of the basic skills for *Folkstyle* wrestling.

### **4. Other Benefits**

Controls the number of wrestlers to about 300 for each tournament, a number that can be run off in six to eight hours.

Establishes a dual meet and tournament season.

## **General Objectives Of The Program**

*The following are some general objectives of the Southwest Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program. It is our hope that all organizers and coaches of little guy wrestling programs will keep these in mind as they administer their individual programs.*

1. Teaching kids to be responsible for their own actions.
2. Providing an opportunity for achievement.
3. Providing an opportunity for every kid to compete with others their own age, weight, and in most cases at the same ability.
4. Help kids to realize that recognition can be achieved through hard work.
5. A short season (six weeks) to maintain a high interest level and avoid "burn out".
6. Weight loss will be discouraged.

## **PREFACE**

*The following is a proposal that will include what we feel are the best rules to govern the little guy program. It can be amended, deleted, or revised so long as changes are for the improvement of wrestling.*

## **I. LITTLE GUY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. A representative from each club in the current Southwest Montana Little Guy Wrestling Program would comprise a board of directors for the Little Guy Program. Each club is responsible for selecting their representative at the beginning of each year. Some of their functions are as follows:
  - a) To determine the tournament sites and select all awards for these tournaments.
  - b) Power to change by-laws
  - c) By-laws will be annually reviewed by this board.
  - d) Board members have the power to assess fines of not less than \$100.00 for violations of the by-laws. Non payment can result in suspension from hosting a tournament until payment is collected. The offending club may also lose their right to enter wrestlers into a tournament until payment is collected.
  - e) If a club is fined for not turning in their rosters to the tournament host club by the required time (Friday at noon), the affected host team will receive the payment.

## **II. DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENTS** *(may change depending on number of wrestlers)*

Pee Wee, Beginner, Novice and Middle wrestlers must wrestle in one Little Guy tournament to be able to participate in Divisionals.

Wrestlers that place at Divisionals are expected to wrestle at the SWMC.

Northern- Belgrade, Gallatin Gateway, Livingston, Sun River Valley, Three Forks, Townsend and Whitehall

Southern- Ennis, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Helena, Jefferson (Boulder), Sheridan and Twin Bridges

Divisional splits will be reviewed annually depending on number of wrestlers.

Divisional host teams must provide the option of allowing other clubs participating in their tourney to attend the seeding meeting.

## **III. RULES**

1. Rules for all duals and tournaments will be the present High School Federation Wrestling Rules.
2. *Penalties for locked hands will go as follows: First 3 tournaments – one warning then a penalty point for each additional infraction. Division and SWMC – no warning with a penalty point for each infraction. Wrestler never disqualified.*
3. *Penalties for full nelson and illegal head and arms - no warning with a penalty point for each infraction. Wrestler never disqualified.*

## **IV. AGE AND WEIGHT GROUPS**

All age groups will be determined by wrestler's age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

1.Boys:

Group 1 "**Pee Wee**": 6 and Under -38#, 40#, 42#, 44#, 46#, 48#, 50#, 52#, 55#, 60#, 65#, Unlimited(66#-79#), Super Unlimited(80#-96#)(97#-116#)(117#-140#)

\*\*4 years old is the minimum age to wrestle, however, whether or not they can actually participate will be at the discretion of each club.

Group 2 "**Beginners**": 8 and Under - 45#, 50#, 53#, 56#, 59#, 62#, 65#, 70#, 75#, 82#, 90#, Unlimited(91#-108#), Super Unlimited(109#-130#)(131#-156#)

Group 3 "**Novice**": 10 and Under - 55#, 60#, 63#, 66#, 69#, 72#, 75#, 80#, 85#, 90#, 95#, 100#, 110#, Unlimited(111#-132#), Super Unlimited(133#-158#)(159#-190#)

Group 4 "**Middle**": 12 and Under - 65#, 70#, 75#, 80#, 85#, 90#, 95#, 100#, 115#, 130#, Unlimited(131#-156#), Super Unlimited(157#-187#)(188#-224#)(225#-269#)

## 2. Girls:

Group 1 "**Pee Wee**": 6 and Under - 40#, 48#, 57#, 68#, Unlimited(69#-82#), Super Unlimited(83#-98#) \*\*4 years old is the minimum age to wrestle, however, whether or not they can actually participate will be at the discretion of each club.

Group 2 "**Beginners**": 8 and Under - 45#, 54#, 64#, 76#, 91#, Unlimited(92#-109#), Super Unlimited(110#-130#)

Group 3 "**Novice**": 10 and Under - 55#, 66#, 79#, 94#, 112#, Unlimited(113#-134#), Super Unlimited(135#-160#)

Group 4 "**Middle**": 12 and Under - 65#, 78#, 93#, 111#, 133#, Unlimited(134#-159#), Super Unlimited(160#-190#)

**\*No wrestler will wrestle another wrestler 20% above their body weight. New weight classes will be added when this situation occurs. Uncontested super heavyweight will still receive awards.**

## **V. Length of Little Guy Wrestling Matches**

1. Pee Wee, Beginners, Novice, and Middle groups will wrestle 1 minute periods.
2. Tiebreaker Criteria:
  - a. One minute sudden death starting from the neutral position. (first wrestler to score wins).
  - b. If a winner is not determined by criteria in (a) the wrestler who scored first in the match will be given the choice of top, bottom or defer during the 30 second ultimate tiebreaker. If there is no score in the match the disc is flipped to determine who has the choice. The wrestler who scores the first point(s) during the ultimate tiebreaker will be declared the winner. If no scoring occurs during the ultimate tiebreaker, the offensive wrestler will be declared the winner.

## **VI. Dual Meet**

1. Duals can be arranged between any clubs in any valley by mutual arrangement of the coaches.

## **VII. Weigh Ins**

1. Each club is responsible for their own weigh-in the week of the first tournament. The “honor” system will be used, however, as weights will be witnessed the following week a club’s “honor” will come into questions if serious deviations occur.
2. Mandatory weigh-in the week of the second tournament. The weigh-in must be witnessed by a representative from another club participating in the Southwest Montana Little Guy Program. A MOA or AD may be used only if Board approval is granted.
3. Mandatory weigh-in the week of the Divisional tournament will be conducted at home by Thursday night by a representative from another club participating in the Southwest Montana Little Guy Program. A MOA or AD may be used only if Board approval is granted.
4. Each club is responsible to bring a weigh-in sheet signed by the qualified official to the Divisional seeding meeting or tournament.
5. Each club is responsible for coordinating a meeting time for a member of another club to be present during weigh-ins.
6. MHSA weigh-in procedures must be followed. No wrestler will be allowed to leave the weigh-in area for the purpose of weight loss once weigh-ins have begun.
7. Club’s are assigned teams that they must coordinate with for the weigh-ins. Belgrade and Gallatin Gateway. Jefferson (Boulder) and Whitehall. Sheridan and Ennis. Twin Bridges and Dillon. Townsend and Helena. Townsend is also responsible for Three Forks. Helena is also responsible for Deer Lodge and Sun River Valley. Belgrade is also responsible for Livingston.

## **VII. Season**

1. The Little Guy practice and wrestling season begins the Monday following the State AA,A,BC High School Tournament.
  - a) Any club can dual any other club.
  - b) The Divisional Tournaments will be held on the fourth Saturday following the first date for practices and the S.W.M.C. will be held the following Saturday.
  - c) Board members have the power to assess fines of not less than \$100.00 for violations of the season rules.

## **IX. Tournaments**

1. Site- the sites will be chosen by the board members.

- a) Sign-Ins for all tournaments will be from 8:30-9:30 AM with wrestling beginning at 10:00 AM.
- b) All tournaments are double elimination.
- c) Byes will be drawn in at random.
- d) Round-Robin format will be used at all tournaments where there is only **two**, three or four wrestlers in the bracket. Tie-breaker criteria will be determined by pins first then points. Coaches can set up exhibitions for those wrestlers that have less than two matches in a tournament.
- e) Computers cannot be used as the primary bracketing method.
- f) When a bracket tournament is used, the following criteria will be used for seeding:
1. Placement in a tournament during the current year (head to head).
  2. Prior year's placing at SWMC and/or the divisional tournament.
2. Responsibilities of tournament hosts:
- a) The host club is responsible for paying for the cost of officials not donated, ribbons, medals, mat rent, and equipment.
- b) The host club is responsible for providing an on-site EMT or First Responder.
4. Team Scoring – for SWMC only.
- a) *Determination of team categories will be based on total number of qualifiers in the pee wee, beginner, novice and middle groups or weight classes. Both boys and girls divisions will be used for team scoring. The 3 teams with the most qualifiers will compete as a “large team” with a maximum of 25 wrestlers selected for scoring. The best 20 will determine the team score. The next 5 teams based on number of qualifiers will compete as a “medium team” with a maximum of 20 wrestlers selected for scoring. The best 15 will determine the team score. The 6 teams with the lowest number of qualifiers will compete as a “small team” with a maximum of 15 wrestlers selected for scoring. The best 10 will determine the team score. No weight classes without representation by at least two clubs in a 4 man bracket can be used in designating the team. Rosters must be turned into the tournament manager prior to the beginning of the tournament. A qualifier is a wrestler entered into a score-able bracket.*
- b) Placement points: 1st = 7 points, 2nd = 5 points, 3rd = 4 points, 4th = 2 points.
- c) All tournaments results will be emailed using the “Official\_Entry-Results\_Form” the Monday following the tournaments to all participating teams. Divisional tournament

results must be sent to the tournament manager for the SWMC on the Monday following the tournament. Clubs may be fined \$100.00 for failure to follow this By-Law.

## 5. Team Rosters

a) Team rosters will be emailed using the “Official\_Entry-Results\_Form” by Friday noon to the tournament host. Rosters will include: age group, weight class and actual weights of the participants. Clubs may be fined \$100.00 for failure to follow this By-Law.

b) Participants will be ranked using the 123 method. 1 is best or most experienced. 2 is average or less experienced. 3 is new or inexperienced.

**X. Admission Prices (Maximum):** Adults-\$3, Students-\$2; 5 and under free.

## **XI. Officials**

1. Qualified officials are:

a) MOA's

b) High School Wrestlers

c) Coaches

d) People interested in promoting Little Guy Wrestling and are familiar with the Folkstyle Wrestling Rules.

e) Each tourney will have a head official that does not officiate but overlooks all other tourney officials.

2. During the competition, referees will not start a match until there is a coach present at the mat for each wrestler.

3. All tournaments will have an appointed head official, who has the responsibility of the following.

a) To officiate by monitoring all officials.

b) Make final decisions on all disagreements.

c) Conduct a pre-tournament session for all officials.

## **XII. Awards**

1. Ribbons or medals will be given for the first four places and may be given to each participant in each tournament.
2. Medals will be given to the first four places at the SWMC and Divisional Tourney.
3. Team trophies for the SWMC will be awarded as decided by the host club. Minimum of large team, medium team and small team champion trophies.
4. It is optional to the hosting tourney club whether or not to have sportsmanship awards.
5. Award presentations will be held at the Divisional and SWMC tournaments. A representative from each club will be responsible for collecting awards after each of the first three regular tournaments - these awards are to be handed out during practice. Or they may be handed out at the scoring tables/head table at the conclusion of each match during the finals round.

## **XIII. Crowd Control**

1. Two coaches are allowed, per wrestler, in the opposite corner of the mat as the opponent's coaches.
2. Each coach must wear identification to be in the coaching area.
3. Upon violation of the above rules, the official will stop the match until these rules are complied with.
4. All clubs are responsible for sportsmanship among coaches, wrestlers, parents, and fans. They should take an active part in crowd control.
5. A tournament marshal shall be appointed by the host school to administer the above rules.

## **XIV. Sportsmanship**

The success of our Little Guy Wrestling Program is totally dependent on the adults that work in the program to teach sportsmanship and keep the program in perspective. Let us remember that we are trying to spark an interest in wrestling in these young athletes and teach them to compete in a healthy manner. We cannot allow our egos as coaches, parents, and fans to get in the way of that goal.

## **XV. Uniforms**

1. Singlets are required and will be enforced. Anyone without a singlet will not wrestle.
2. Hair-nets or hair covers must be worn if hair length does not meet MHSA standards.

## **XVI. Outside Vendors**

1. In the event of concessions (i.e. t-shirts, pictures, etc.) each vendor is required to pay 10% back to the host club.