

Diamond Bracketing

or 8 Man Consolation Tournament / No Wrestlebacks)

The Washington Little Guy Wrestling League uses a system of bracketing based upon age and weight. WLGWL wrestlers can quickly and efficiently be put in safe and appropriate brackets based upon a few simple rules. This same system of bracketing prevents wrestlers from gaining an advantage from drastic weight cutting. This system has served our league and wrestling well.

Our goal as a league and as coaches should be to increase participation in the sport of wrestling. To benefit our wrestlers and the league should begin using Diamond Bracketing.

Advantages:

1. Everyone gets 3 matches.
2. 4 wrestlers end the day on a win.
3. Only 1 wrestler ends winless.
4. Wrestlers can have more evenly grouped matches.
5. Logistics are less complicated.

Disadvantages:

1. No wrestle backs
2. Non Traditional / Different / Used by BASKETBALL!

Advantage #1: Everyone that works during the week gets to have three matches on the weekend. This will increase mat time for all wrestlers and be equitable to all the families that drove an hour and paid to enter the tournament

Advantage #2: In a traditional bracket only the champion and third place wrestlers go home with a win. Everyone else goes home after tasting defeat. By allowing the consolation wrestlers to wrestle out the bracket youth that would normally leave a "loser" can be successful and enjoy wrestling more.

Advantage #3: Winning is fun. Kids wrestle to have fun. A full consolation bracket allows kids that are both 0-2 to wrestle each other. Wins for this level of wrestler are few and far between.

Advantage #4: Winners wrestle winners and losers wrestle losers. Each round of the tournament will have wrestlers that are more evenly matched. Every round opponents will have identical records. Round One: 4 Matches 0-0; Round 2: 2 Matches 1-0 and 2 matches 0-1. Round 3 1 Match 2-0 2 Matches 1-1 and 1 match 0-2.

Advantage #5: Every round will be the same length because they all have the same number of wrestlers. This makes it easier for parents to run to the store and keep a schedule. Mistakes are easier to fix because all the participants involved are standing there in the pairing room. Coaches won't have to keep

track of who goes in when to the pairing room, thus removing a headache that every coach has to deal with weekly.

Disadvantages #1: A wrestler can't make up for a loss and make a comeback for 3rd place. An early mistake can be costly. Wrestling doesn't use a true double elimination tournament.

Disadvantage #2: This system of bracketing isn't used at the HS level. It isn't what they will see in the future. It will have some learning curve for wrestlers and parents. It is a common system in college basketball. (uugh!)

The WLGWL has been good for youth and the sport of wrestling in Washington. It has increased participation as evidenced by the current world record holding JCM tourney at the end of the year. We can further help grow the sport and help youth benefit from the sport of wrestling with a simple system change. Diamond bracketing allows a greater level of success for the middle and lower strength wrestlers. The Champions keep coming back it is the marginal kids we need to keep.