



Team Georgia Wrestling

<http://www.teamgeorgiawrestling.com>

Team Georgia – USA Kids Wrestling Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated: Thursday, September 2, 2006

Last Update: New Fall Policies (Updated Team GA Board, Updated Regional Managers, online card sales, online registration, new weigh-in times, medal procedures)

1. What is Team Georgia?

- ✓ Team Georgia Wrestling is the official non-profit state level representative of USA Wrestling, the national governing body for amateur wrestling in the United States; and the organization that selects, trains, supports and fields the U.S.A.'s annual World and quadrennial Olympic wrestling squads.
- ✓ Team Georgia's charter is to promote the growth and continued development of the world's 'oldest and greatest sport' and its young athletes through sanctioned clubs, and an active schedule of both Fall and Spring/Summer tournaments in all styles of competitive wrestling.
- ✓ Eighty-five chartered clubs and over 4400 athlete and coach members strong in 2005, Team Georgia is enjoying its most competitive and successful year ever. Please consider joining us and becoming involved in the exciting sport of amateur wrestling. It's the 'no holds barred' best opportunity on the scene today for personal growth, enhancement of youth self confidence, and physical well-being.

2. Who runs Team Georgia?

- ✓ Team Georgia is run by an Executive Board comprised of volunteers elected by representatives of the chartered clubs for two year terms. They hold the positions indicated below which are required by the By-Laws of the Team Georgia organization. The Executive Board is as follows:

Chairperson:	Shawn Fields	
Vice Chairpersons:	Stacey Davis	Doug McDaniel
Secretary:	Anthony Flatt	
Treasurer:	Larry Holloway	
Registration Chairperson:	Larry Holloway	



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- ✓ **The Executive Board is supported by a Board of Directors. The positions below are determined on an “as needed” basis by the Executive Board, and are filled by appointment of the Executive Board. The Board of Directors is as follows:**

Cadet Director:	Shawn Fields	
Junior Director:	Stacey Davis	
Kids Director:	Anthony Flatt	
Girls Director:	Mercedes Castaneda	
Duals Director:	Blaine Hess	
Officials:	Mel Ashcraft	
Pairing Director:		
Education Director:	Larry Holloway	
Members-at-Large:	Alan Leet	Paula McGahee
Webmaster:	Thomas Connell	
Athlete Rep:	Sam Spradlin	Chad Mitchell

Regional Managers:

Northwest Georgia	Regional MGR: Jimmy Amick		
West Georgia	Regional MGR: Jaleynne Raymond		
West Metro Atlanta	Regional MGR: Allen Seagraves	Assistant RM: Butch Climmons	Assistant RM: James Spice
Northeast Georgia	Regional MGR: Becky Hill	Assistant RM: Tom Pennington	Assistant RM: Dan Hilliard
East Georgia	Regional MGR: Chris Hitt		
East Metro Atlanta	Regional MGR: Pete Statia	Assistant RM: Rufus Mosley	Assistant RM: Scott Arnold
South Metro Atlanta	Regional MGR: Jeff Carman	Assistant RM: Nick Fordham	Assistant RM: Marty Hutsell
Central Georgia	Regional MGR: Dave Mathews	Assistant RM: Jeff Narburgh	
Southeast Georgia	Regional MGR: Kelly Wilhite	Assistant RM: Larry Insalaco	
Southwest Georgia	Regional MGR: Randall Balch	Assistant RM: Jimmy Mallory	Assistant RM: Eric Runci

- ✓ **It should be noted that all of the resources for Team GA are VOLUNTEERS – WHICH MEANS THEY ARE NOT PAID FOR THEIR TIME. Most of them have kids in the program, but some (including 2 out of the 5 voting members) do not – and volunteer their time solely for the benefit of Team GA wrestling.**

3. What are their duties?

- ✓ **A brief narrative of the job duties of the board positions follows:**

Executive Board

- **Chairperson** – overall responsibility for Team GA policy, planning, operations and conduct of all Team GA activities and events. Acts as primary liaison between Team GA and USA Wrestling.
- **Vice-Chairpersons** – act as backup(s) for Chairperson, and perform all duties as assigned by chairperson.
- **Secretary** – primarily The Secretary shall record minutes of each Executive Board in general or open meetings. The Secretary shall assist the Chairperson with the corporation correspondence, and shall keep required incorporation documentation current with the Georgia Secretary of State’s office
- **Treasurer** – responsible for all accounting and disbursement of Team GA funds and includes financial reporting and payment of organizational obligations.
- **Registration Chairperson** – responsible for all membership activities, card sales (wrestler and coach) and all club charters and tournament sanctions.



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Board of Directors

- **Cadet/Junior Director** – responsible for Cadet and Junior programs with specific emphasis on freestyle season and includes travel to regional/national events.
- **Kids Director** – responsible for the Kids programs (Pee Wee through Schoolboy), including all program styles (folkstyle, freestyle and Greco) and all state, regional and national events.
 - **Kids Regional Managers** – Kids Regional Managers will be extensions of the Kids Directors' position, with the objective being to have a Team USA representative at every Team GA sanctioned event.
- **Girls Director** - responsible for the Women's division of all Team GA wrestling events, and is tasked w/ the ongoing growth of girls wrestling in GA.
- **Duals Director** – responsible for the Team GA state duals program, including all individual team duals, regional competitions and state duals championships.
- **Officials** – responsible for the liaison between Team GA and the various officials' organizations around the state and the US Wrestling Officials Association (USWOA).
- **Pairing Director** – responsible for establishing and ensuring fair pairing methodologies for all local and state tournaments for all styles (folkstyle, freestyle and greco) and serving on an “as needed” basis at USA Wrestling regional/national events.
- **Education Director** – responsible for administering the Bronze Level Coaches Certification program – a requirement for coaching the Kids State tournament and all regional and national events.
- **Members at Large** – serve as advisors to Team GA and are called on in emergency events to stand in for vacant board members
- **Webmaster** – responsible for the Team GA website – design, content and maintenance.

4. How can I get in touch with Team GA board members?

- ✓ The Team GA members listed above are best reached by email. Their email address can be accessed through the “Contact Us” option on the Team GA website:
 - ✓ <http://www.teamgeorgiawrestling.com/index.htm>

5. How do I voice a concern or register a complaint regarding Team GA/USA Wrestling?

- ✓ First of all, understand that Team GA exists to promote the sport of wrestling for ALL kids in the state of GA. It is understandable that given the numbers of wrestlers, parents, coaches and officials that misunderstandings are going to occur from time to time. In order to register a complaint, Team GA asks that the complaining party do the necessary research to insure their complaint is valid, then contact one of the Team GA members listed above via email.

6. How do I get a tournament?

- ✓ There are two (2) scheduling processes each year – one takes place from August 1 – August 15 for the Folkstyle season (typically lasts from October – March each year) and the February 1 – February 15 for the freestyle season (typically lasts from April – May each year). You may request the tournament online at the Team GA website.

7. How do I run a tournament?

- ✓ This is one of the most important questions in this document. While running a tournament is absolutely one of the best ways to raise funds for your wrestling program, poorly run tournaments (not starting on time, not enough mats, concessions closing early, tournaments lasting too long) are the single biggest complaint received by the Team GA board.
- ✓ Several resources are available for helping plan your tournament – including a new DVD of proper tournament processes produced by Danny Lutz. This DVD is available free upon request (contact Danny off of the Team GA website). Team GA hopes to supplement this DVD with a set of “best practices” that



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will include a project plan, etc. – everything you need to run a tournament successfully. We hope to make these documents available as a download off of the Team GA website.

- ✓ There are two (2) cardinal requirements for a successful tournament: 1) PLENTY OF VOLUNTEERS and 2) PLENTY OF MATS (CAPACITY). Having an abundance of volunteers to run mat tables, the head table, for runners, concessions, etc., can help make things run smoothly. Plenty of mats means that you can accommodate more wrestlers – nothing can be done about the length of time it takes to run 750 wrestlers though a tournament – the only thing you can do to shorten the length of the overall tournament is provide more mat space. The basic formula is as follows:
 - Assume 3 – 6 minutes per match – depends on division
 - Assume 1 minute to get off mat and 1 minute to get on the mat
 - So, on the low end, if we assume 3 minutes per match, and 2 minutes to finish-up/start each match, that's 5 minutes “wrap time” per match.
 - Each full 8 man bracket requires 12 matches to wrestle to 3 places.
 - So – if you have say 600 wrestlers – here are the calculations you would use:
 - 600 wrestlers divided by 8 (number of full 8 man brackets) = 75 (number of different “weight classes/brackets”)
 - 75 brackets multiplied by 12 matches per bracket = 900 required matches
 - 900 matches multiplied by 5 minutes turnaround time per match = 4500 minutes
 - 4500 minutes divided by 60 minutes per hour = 75 hours (for one mat)
 - Now just start dividing by the number of mats:
 - For 4 mats, the above tournament would take 18.75 hours to run
 - For 5 mats, the above tournament would take 15 hours to run
 - For 6 mats, the above tournament would take 12.5 hours to run
 - For 7 mats, the above tournament would take 10.75 hours to run
 - For 8 mats, the above tournament would take 9.375 hours to run
 - The goal is to complete each session in 4 to 5 hours
 - A good rule of thumb is 75 wrestlers per mat (per day not per session), so 600 wrestler divided by 75 is 8 mats.
 - For each mat, you should arrange to have that number (plus 1) officials – to allow for the rotation necessary to keep the tournament running.
 - Don't hesitate to “split mats” for the younger divisions – in other words, take the standard 42'x42' mat and divide it into two wrestling “surfaces” for the smaller wrestlers. It increases the number of wrestling surfaces available, and shortens the tournament.

8. What is the standard time frame for tournaments?

- ✓ As you can imagine, the length of time to run a tournament is a factor of both 1) the number of wrestlers entered in the tournament and 2) the number of mats available. For the purposes of Team GA competition, the following times should be considered standard:
 - ✓ Folkstyle Regular Season
 - i. Morning Weigh-in: 7:00 am – 7:30 am (you MUST be in line by 7:30 am in order to weigh-in) for the following groups:
 - 1. Pee Wee
 - 2. Bantam
 - 3. Midget
 - ii. Wrestling will commence as soon as possible. With online registration, this should occur ideally by 8:15 am.
 - iii. Afternoon Weigh-in: 11:30 pm – 12:00 pm (you MUST be in line by 12:00 pm in order to weigh-in) for the following groups:
 - 1. Novice
 - 2. Schoolboy
 - iv. Wrestling will commence as soon as possible. With online registration, this should occur ideally by 12:30 pm
 - ✓ Folkstyle Pre-season



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- i. Morning Weigh-in: 7:00 am – 7:30 am (you must be in line by 7:30 am to weigh-in) for ALL age groups:
 - ii. Wrestling will commence as soon as possible. With online registration, this should occur ideally by 8:15 am.
- ✓ Freestyle Regular Season
- i. Morning Weigh-in: 7:00 am – 7:30 am (you must be in line by 7:30 am to weigh-in) for ALL age groups:
 - ii. Wrestling will commence as soon as possible. With online registration, this should occur ideally by 8:15 am.

9. Who gets the money for card sales?

- ✓ For each \$34.75 charged for a wrestler's card, Team GA keeps \$10.25, \$4.75 goes for the online processing fee and the remainder is sent to the national USA Wrestling organization.
- ✓ For each \$44.75 charged for a coaches' card, Team GA keeps \$20.25, \$4.75 goes for the online processing fee, and the remainder is sent to the national USA Wrestling organization.

10. Who gets the money for admission to a wrestling tournament?

- ✓ The organization holding the tournament gets all the fees collected for admissions, however, standard fees must be charged at all tournaments.
 - ✓ For standard USA tournaments, the fees are:
 - i. Family - \$5.00
 - ii. Adult - \$3.00
 - iii. Child - \$2.00
 - ✓ For the qualifiers and state tournaments, the fees are:
 - i. Family - \$10.00
 - ii. Adult - \$5.00
 - iii. Child - \$3.00
 - ✓ Fees ARE NOT charged to the following groups:
 - i. Any person holding a current USA coaches card
 - ii. Any person holding a current GHSA coaches card
 - iii. Any person holding a current GHSA officials card

11. Who gets the money for running a tournament?

- ✓ For Folkstyle and Freestyle tournaments, for each \$15.00 charged for the entry fee for a tournament, \$10.00 goes to the club sponsoring the tournament, \$2.76 per entry goes to Team GA, and \$2.24 per entry goes to the software company handling online registration.
- ✓ For the qualifiers, for each \$20 charged for the entry fee, \$11.00 goes to the club sponsoring the tournament, \$6.76 goes to Team GA, and \$2.24 goes to the software company handling online registration. Team GA uses the money from these fees to purchase the qualifier medals.
- ✓ For the state tournament, for each \$25 charged for the entry fee, \$15.00 goes to the club sponsoring the tournament and \$10.00 goes to Team GA. Team GA uses the money from these fees to purchase the state medals and tournament posters.

12. Who supplies the referees?

- ✓ For folkstyle events, *the club sponsoring the tournament is responsible for scheduling and paying for officials.* For freestyle/Greco roman events, Team GA will schedule and pay for the officials.

13. Who supplies the medals?

- ✓ The club sponsoring the tournament is responsible for buying medals. Team GA encourages each club to make these medals unique to their club/school, so that wrestlers winning them will enjoy them and return year after year in order to receive them.



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14. What does Team GA do with the money it raises?

- ✓ Team GA is a NON-PROFIT organization – our goal is to end up with enough cash to start the next Folkstyle season and sustain operations until card sales and tournament revenue begins.
- ✓ Team GA spends its money by supplementing clubs/wrestlers in the following areas:
 - ✓ State events (state tournament medals and posters)
 - ✓ Regional events
 - i. Southeast Regionals (Freestyle) – Kids, Cadet and Juniors
 - ✓ National events
 - i. Kids Folkstyle and Freestyle Nationals
 - ii. Schoolboy Duals
 - iii. Cadet Duals and Cadet Nationals
 - iv. Junior Duals and Junior Nationals
 - ✓ High School State Championship Banquet

15. How can I start a chartered club?

- ✓ To start a club, contact Larry Holloway, Treasurer, via email through the Team GA website. He will send you a charter packet which includes all the information you need to get a club started.

16. Where are the clubs located?

- ✓ To find out where clubs are located, go to the Team GA website (www.teamgeorgiawrestling.com).

17. Who is the contact person for each club?

- ✓ See the answer to #16.

18. Why do high school students not get to compete in Team GA folkstyle regular season or postseason (state tournament) events?

- ✓ For the purposes of clarification, the following seasons are defined for Team GA folkstyle wrestling:
 - i. Folkstyle Preseason – all tournaments taking place between September up to the Harrison tournament.
 - ii. Folkstyle Regular Season – all tournaments from the Harrison tournament up to the Qualifiers.
 - iii. Folkstyle Postseason – the Qualifiers and the State Tournaments
- ✓ Team GA's focus is to provide a wrestling venue for GA kids where one doesn't currently exist. Toward that end, the focus for Team GA is to provide competition for kids that currently don't have access to high school wrestling programs (governed by the GHSA). It is not the intention of Team GA to exclude any particular group, but Team GA also does not want a state champion from the high school divisions (5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, A) – who age wise may be eligible – also competing for a Kids State Championship.
- ✓ Team GA does allow (and encourages) high school wrestlers to attend designated “preseason” events to allow them to prepare for the upcoming high school season. This is timed to occur before most high school programs begin, and before it could cause the high school wrestlers any eligibility requirements issues – as governed by the GHSA.
 - i. Keep in mind that one of the primary purposes of Team GA USA Kids wrestling is to prepare kids for high school wrestling – not compete for athletes against it.
- ✓ Specifically, kids in the 9th grade who are age wise still eligible for USA Kids competition are prohibited from participating in any regular season or postseason Team GA Kids events.
- ✓ The above guidelines in no way affect participation in the freestyle season (typically April – July). All ages – according to standard USA guidelines – may participate at that time (there is no competing GHSA freestyle wrestling season).



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19. Are wrestlers in the “afternoon” weigh-in sessions (Novice and Schoolboy during Folkstyle season) allowed to weigh-in during the morning weigh-ins?

- ✓ Yes. If a wrestler for an afternoon session shows up at the morning weigh-in (from 7:00 am – 7:30 am) and wants to weigh-in for the afternoon session, he/she will be allowed to do so.
 - i. Tournament directors should make arrangements to have afternoon class registration forms available during morning weigh-in times.
 - ii. Tournament directors should ensure these afternoon forms are held until the afternoon bracketing session.

20. What is the policy on required attire during weigh-ins?

- ✓ A wrestler **MUST** weigh-in in either a 1) singlet or 2) shirt/shorts at ALL Team GA tournament weigh-ins. This policy IS A MANDATORY POLICY and is NOT UP FOR INTERPRETATION BY THE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS. THERE IS NO WEIGHT ALLOWANCE FOR EITHER 1) THE SINGLET OR 2) THE SHIRT AND SHORTS.
 - i. The reason behind this policy is as follows:
 - 1. This is an official USA Wrestling Policy, and is enforced at all regional/national events.
 - 2. It prevents small children from being uncomfortable being forced to strip down to make weight for a tournament.
 - 3. It allows mothers to accompany their small children to weigh-ins, which they are certainly allowed to do.
 - ii. The singlet must be a competition singlet, and may not be modified in any way to lessen weight (elastic out of legs, singlet too small, etc.).
 - iii. Straps must be up during weigh-in.
 - iv. It is permissible for a wrestler to wrestle in a t-shirt, shorts and tennis shoes if they do not own normal wrestling attire.

21. Is a wrestler allowed to wrestle multiple weight classes at weekend tournaments?

- ✓ As a matter of USA Wrestling National Insurance guidelines, wrestler may NOT wrestle multiple age groups, but may wrestle up to two (2) weight classes – the one they qualify for by weight and the next one up.
- ✓ If a wrestler elects to wrestle multiple weight classes, the following stipulations will apply:
 - i. A wrestler may only wrestle weight classes HIGHER than those he/she is normally qualified to wrestle, and should do so only if that wrestler can be competitive at the higher weight class.
 - ii. A wrestler will forfeit the normal 15 minute rest period when wrestling multiple weight classes.
 - 1. If a wrestler is physically called to be on two (2) mats at the same time while wrestling multiple weight classes, the COACH of said wrestler will be allowed to go to the table of the “2nd” match and request that the bout sheet for that match be moved to the bottom of the current bout sheets on that table. The wrestler then must be prepared to wrestle the 2nd match as soon as that bout sheet comes to the top on the 2nd table – regardless of rest time.
 - 2. If wrestler is already wrestling or staged on one mat, and is called for a second match, the bout sheet for the second match shall be put at the bottom of the matches currently on that mat but not more than 5 matches away. The wrestler must then be prepared to wrestle the second match when it comes to the top on that mat.
 - iii. For the purposes of post season competitions (qualifiers and state), wrestlers are allowed to wrestle one (1) weight class higher than their qualified weight. The wrestler must make the same weight at State as they qualified for at the qualifier.



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22. What is the Team GA policy regarding headgear and the taping of shoe laces?

- ✓ Team GA highly recommends the use of headgear at all times – both in tournaments and during practice sessions, but will not make the use of headgear a requirement during the current competition year.
 - i. It should be noted that this position regarding headgear is not because of the desire of Team GA not to mandate the use of headgear, but due to the fact that not all wrestlers can afford headgear, and Team GA does not want to exclude those wrestlers from participating in sanctioned events.
- ✓ Team GA will mandate taped laces at all “official” state events (qualifier and state tournament, but will leave the requirement up to the tournament director at weekend events.

23. Code of Conduct

- ✓ One of the goals of Team GA is to produce an environment for the kids that teaches and reinforces sportsmanship at all levels – wrestlers, coaches, parents and officials. It is necessary, therefore, to set expectations related to conduct of these groups, and consequences for behavior deemed inappropriate by Team GA standards.
 - i. Wrestlers – wrestlers are expected to conduct themselves as true sportsmen/sportswomen at all times. Instances of bad behavior witnessed by an official, tournament director or Team GA representative is subject to disciplinary action.
 - ii. Coaches – coaches are expected to lead by example and set the standard for behavior for their wrestlers and parents. Instances of bad behavior witnessed by an official, tournament director or Team GA representative will be subject to disciplinary action.
 - iii. Parents – parents are expected to set examples for their children as well. While they may not be directly involved in the match(es), their inappropriate behavior – when witnessed by an official, tournament director, or Team GA official is subject to disciplinary action.
- ✓ **Disciplinary Actions**
 - i. Disciplinary action – whether administered to a wrestler, coach or parent, will follow four (4) basic steps:
 1. Warning
 2. Two tournament suspension
 3. One year suspension
 4. Lifetime ban
 - ii. All ejections and disciplinary actions will be reviewed by the Team GA board.
 - iii. Affected tournaments will be the same “style” tournament – in other words, if you’re suspended for folkstyle season, you must serve your suspension during folkstyle season. As an example, a person suspended at the state tournament would be suspended for the first two (2) tournaments of the following folkstyle season.

24. Qualifiers

- ✓ In addition to the other procedures specified elsewhere in this document, the following stipulations shall apply to the state qualifiers:
 - i. All Qualifiers shall use a random draw to place wrestlers in the brackets (random draw will be determined by the online registration system).
 - ii. Top four (4) shall get medals
 1. Though only the top three (3) finishers will go to the state tournament, medals will go to the top 4 wrestlers – this will prevent the difficulty of having to provide a medal to the wrestler determined to be the “wild card” wrestler.
 - iii. Mandatory fifteen 15 minute wait between matches
 - iv. Time periods will be as follows:
 1. Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget: 1-1-1 championship bracket, 1-1-1 consolation bracket
 2. Novice and Schoolboy: 2-1-1 championship bracket, 1-1-1 consolation bracket
 - v. Overtime periods will be 1 minute for the 1st overtime, and 30 seconds for the 2nd overtime.



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1. The wrestler scoring the first point in the match shall have choice in the 2nd overtime.
2. If no points have been scored, a coin toss shall determine choice in the 2nd overtime.

25. Freestyle & Greco National Qualifiers

- ✓ The purpose of this section is to explain the requirements to participate on behalf of Team Georgia on one of the national freestyle teams:
 - i. For the purpose of this document, the national events in question are defined as the following:
 1. Schoolboy Freestyle & Greco Duals
 2. Cadet Freestyle & Greco Duals
 3. Junior Freestyle & Greco Duals
 4. Cadet Freestyle & Greco Nationals
 5. Junior Freestyle & Greco National
 - ii. For the above listed events, and to wrestle in the State Qualifier for the Cadet/Junior events, wrestlers must meet the following requirements:
 1. Wrestler **MUST** wrestle in a **MINIMUM** of three (3) Team GA freestyle/greco tournaments **PRIOR** to the date of the Qualifier.
 - a. Exceptions may be granted in hardship cases (medical, etc.), by sending an appeal for waiver of this requirement directly to a Team GA board member. Waiver will be voted on by the board, with their decision having final jurisdiction.
 2. Wrestler **MUST** declare at the Qualifier that – if he/she qualifies – they are willing to participate on the national team.
 3. Wrestler **MUST** meet all the subsequent practice requirements set forth by the Team GA national coaches. Failure to meet said requirement(s) could result in suspension from the team, with an alternate being selected.
 4. Wrestler and wrestler's parents **MUST** agree to fulfill the financial obligations required of the national team including airfare, food, uniform package, etc. These requirements will be distributed to the wrestlers at the Qualifier.
 5. Wrestlers **MUST** meet all the discipline requirements set forth by the Team GA national coaches. These wrestlers will be representing GA at the most prestigious wrestling tournament(s) in the country, and good behavior is required both to set examples and to facilitate smooth practices and trips. Failure to follow behavior guidelines could result in suspension from the national team.

26. Communicable Skin Diseases

- ✓ Due to the obvious close contact nature of wrestling, it has become necessary to implement a proactive policy to try and minimize both exposure to and transfer of communicable skin diseases.
- ✓ Team GA Policy on Communicable Skin Diseases
 - i. Similar to the rules that apply both in high school in GA and at national USA tournaments, the following policy will apply to cases of communicable skin during USA events in GA.
 1. If, during a standard weigh-in skin check, or at anytime during a wrestling tournament, an instance of a suspected communicable skin disease is brought to the attention of the attending official, tournament director or Team GA official, the wrestler in question will be required to perform the following:
 - a. Produce a note from a doctor that specifies that the area in question is not contagious. Specifically, the note from the doctor **MUST** contain the words “**NOT CONTAGIOUS**”.
 - b. At the request of the official, tournament director or Team GA official, a wrestler may be required to cover the area in question.
 - c. Team GA reserves the right – along w/ the attending official and tournament director – to make the final call regarding the instance of a suspected communicable skin disease and participation in USA Wrestling events in GA.



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27.Chain of Command at USA Tournaments

- ✓ Since USA is sanctioning all tournaments, and USA insures all tournaments, the ultimate authority at any tournament is the senior level Team GA representative onsite at that tournament. If there is no Team GA representative onsite, the final authority at the tournament shall be the designated tournament director.
 - i. Officials – unlike GHSA events, USA operates under GHSA guidelines with “USA Modifications”. Toward this end, it is imperative that the officials (regardless of their association) understand that they may be overruled in their punitive actions by a Team GA official or a tournament director if, in the opinion of the Team GA official and/or tournament director, the official has made an error in judgment regarding discipline and is overstepping his or her bounds in requesting disciplinary action(s). Should the official fail to abide by the decision of the Team GA official and/or tournament director, that official is subject to being banned from officiating at future Team GA – USA events. Should that official pull or threaten to pull the officiating team from the event, that officials’ association is subject to being banned from officiating future Team GA – USA events.
 - ii. NHSA/GHSA Rules with USA Modifications – as stated earlier, all USA tournaments operate under NHSA/GHSA rules including (but not limited to) the following exceptions:
 1. No headgear requirement
 2. No taped laces requirement
 3. No hair length requirement
 4. Forfeited rest time for wrestling multiple weight classes
 5. Weigh-in regulations for weekend, qualifier and state tournaments
 6. Any other modification mentioned elsewhere in the 1) FAQ or 2) Bylaws that conflicts with NHSA/GHSA regulations.

28.Online Card Sales

- ✓ Beginning w/ the 2005-2006 competition year, Team GA will be converting to the USAW National Online Card purchasing system. This system has numerous advantages including
 - i. The card can be printed at time of USA Card registration and if lost can be reprinted at no cost.
 - ii. The card number will remain the same year to year
 - iii. Errors created due to incomplete information or poor handwriting will be eliminated
 - iv. Up-to-date membership rosters are readily available
 - v. Losses created by returned checks will be eliminated
 - vi. Recordkeeping requirements are significantly reduced
 - vii. Reconciliation and tracking of lost unused cards at the end of the year is eliminated
 - viii. The burden of entering all the athletes by one individual is eliminated
 - ix. The ability to run accurate reports will be enhanced due to real time and accurate data
- ✓ To encourage the use of the system, Team Georgia has reduced the price of the cards to \$30.00 (from \$35.00) for athletes and \$40.00 (from \$45.00) for coaches. There will be a \$4.75 processing charge payable when purchasing the card.
- ✓ The www.themat.com system requires that athletes/coaches/team leaders enter the data in the computer and immediately pay using a Master Card, Visa Card credit or debit card. The applications can be entered one at a time. USA HQ is working on a modification to allow clubs to enter the data as a club roster but it is not in place yet.
- ✓ Those who do not have computer access should arrange to have the on-line registration done by a club member/officer or go to the public library to register.
- ✓ Use the following procedures to register for a USA Card:
 - i. Sign on to the internet and go to www.themat.com
 - ii. Click on “Become a Member”
 - iii. Click on “Join as New Athlete or Coach”
 - iv. Select Georgia
 - v. Complete the data as prompted



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- vi. Print a copy of your transaction and a copy of the card for your records and use.
- vii. Be sure to record your user name and id. It will be necessary for renewal next year and for accessing the account in case you have to print a replacement card.
- ✓ **On-Line Renewal for Existing Members**
 - i. Athletes and Coaches renewing their membership should follow these procedures. Note: Data was entered into the system by one individual who may or may not have made mistakes. In addition, some writing was not readable and best guess was made on information. If you cannot find your membership, return to home page and register as a new member. Moving forward you will be able to use the renewal tab to renew membership.
 1. Sign on to the internet and go to www.themat.com
 2. Click on “Become a Member”
 3. Click on “Renew Athlete or Coaches Membership”
 4. If you do not have a User Name and ID establishes go to the top of the page and click on “Click Here” and follow prompts to get User Name and ID. It will be necessary to renew your membership and print replacement cards.
 5. Enter User Name and ID as prompted and click on “Log In”
 6. Follow prompts and review information. Correct any erroneous information and follow prompts as required.
 7. Print a copy of your transaction and a copy of the card for your records. If the coach requires a copy of the card, two copies of the card may be printed at no additional cost.

29.Competition Floor Requirements

- ✓ In order to be on the floor at any Team GA/USA function, you must display for easy viewing (preferably in a lanyard worn around the neck) a current year coaching membership card and Photo ID.
- ✓ In order to be on the floor for either the postseason qualifier or Kids State Tournament(s), you must display (preferably in a lanyard worn around the neck) a current year coaching card, a USA Bronze Coaches Card and a Photo ID.
- ✓ Anyone not meeting either of the above requirements are subject to removal from the floor and/or corner by an official or a Team GA member. If you’re on the floor again you will be asked to leave the tournament – refusal to comply will be handled via the above mentioned Code of Conduct policy.

30.Coaching Requirements

- ✓ In order to be on the mat at any Team GA/USA function, a coach must display (preferably in a lanyard worn around the neck) a current year coaching membership card and Photo ID.
- ✓ In order to be on the mat for either the postseason qualifier or Kids State Tournament(s), a coach must display (preferably in a lanyard worn around the neck) a current year coaching card, a USA Bronze Coaches Card and Photo ID
- ✓ Coaches not meeting either of the above requirements are subject to removal from the mat and/or corner by an official or a Team GA member. If you’re on the mat again you will be asked to leave the tournament - – refusal to comply will be handled via the above mentioned Code of Conduct policy.

31.Online registration

- ✓ Over the past several years, Team GA has received a great deal of complaint re: the length of tournaments, and the time it takes – once weigh-ins is complete – to start wrestling. Toward that end, Team GA has worked with a software vendor to develop a system that will eventually provided an automated way to register for the tournament, draw brackets and first round bout sheets, automatically number matches and divide the matches evenly between available wrestling surfaces, and track match-by-match results. Other advantages of the online registration system include:
- ✓ Parent / Coach Registration
 - i. Wrestler registration using the wrestler USA card.



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- ii. **Wrestler Tournament registration**
 - iii. **On-Line Payment**
 - iv. **My Wrestler Home Page**
 - v. **Tournament Director Registration**
 - vi. **Tournament Director Tools**
 - vii. **Registered Wrestler Weigh-in make or scratch sheets**
 - 1. **Listed Alphabetically by Name**
 - 2. **Listed by Weight**
 - 3. **Listed by Class**
 - viii. **Automated Pairing**
 - ix. **Auto-generated Pre-Tournament Downloadable Bracket sheets**
 - x. **Auto-generated, downloadable First Round Bouts Sheets**
 - xi. **On-Line Tournament results entry**
 - xii. **Auto-generated Post Tournament completed Bracket sheets**
 - xiii. **Auto-generated wrestler stats and rankings by class & weight**
- ✓ **How do I register if I do not have a USA card?**
- i. **You will not be able to register for a tournament if you don't have a USA card. There is a link in the system that will allow you – while you're registering for a tournament – to go the online card sales website and purchase a card, then return to the tournament registration page.**
 - ii. **If you use a fraudulent USA Card number you will be subject to disciplinary action, and possible criminal consequences.**
- ✓ **How do I get my money back if I decide not to go to the tournament?**
- i. **Since the costs of 1) paying the online vendor for the transaction and 2) compensating the tournament director for his time and 3) ensuring that there is enough mat capacity (set up) to allow for all registered entries, there will be no refund if you decide not to go to the tournament.**
- ✓ **Are you saying that we not only have to purchase "USA Cards online now we will also have to online register for a local Saturday tournament?**
- i. **That is correct. Both these features are being implemented to provide additional convenience for the wrestlers, coaches and parents. These policies will allow you to avoid standing in long lines to buy USA cards, allow you to reprint your USA card each time you lose it, and will help ensure that you are able to wrestle in a reasonable amount of time.**
- ✓ **If this is the case which day of the week do you have to online register?**
- i. **All online registrations must occur by 12:00 PM ON THURSDAY preceding the Saturday tournament.**
- ✓ **What is going to be the procedure for weighing in?**
- i. **When you show up for weigh-ins, you will show your USA Card and then proceed to the weigh-in area. The tournament director will have the pre-drawn brackets ready. You will state your age group and weight class, the tournament director will pull that bracket, and you will weigh. Once you make the weight, the tournament director will designate your successful weigh-in by using a highlighter to denote your successful weigh-in.**
- ✓ **What if you online register, put your weight class down and then don't make the weight?**
- i. **The purpose of the online registration system is to speed up the time it takes between the end of weigh-ins and the beginning of wrestling. If you don't make the weight you online register for, you would force Team GA to redraw the brackets and rewrite the bout sheets for your age/weight, which would cause a delay in being able to begin wrestling. For that purpose, if you don't make the weight you online register for, you will not be allowed to wrestle.**
- ✓ **How will you pay your for pre registration?**



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- i. Payment will be taken by PayPal account. You can set up an account the first time you register.**

- ✓ **Some of these kids do not know their schedules until Friday night if they can attend a tournament on a given Saturday due to work schedules and school functions and/or homework projects.**
 - i. In order to allow tournament directors to properly plan for the number of wrestlers they will have on a given Saturday, and thus provide an adequate number of wrestling surfaces and tournament volunteers, it is necessary to require online registration. That will require wrestlers, coaches and parents to preplan their Saturday activities.**

- ✓ **Some people in lower income areas do not have credit cards nor are they able to obtain them – what should they do?**
 - i. In those cases, these individuals should arrange to make payments to someone in their club that does have access to a credit card.**

- ✓ **Now that tournament registration is online is it possible to get a multiple wrestler discount if we register them all at the same time?**
 - i. No – currently the system provided by USA Wrestling doesn't have that feature. It is something that is being considered for a future version.**

- ✓ **Why can't I just show up and register at the tournament? Isn't that easier?**
 - i. The biggest complaint that Team GA receives year after year is the length of the tournaments. This length is typically due to the fact that the tournament directors cannot plan for the number of wrestlers that are going to show up at their tournament, and end up w/ too few wrestling surfaces and volunteers to get a tournament/session finished in a reasonable amount of time. So, while it may be easier for an individual to register onsite at a tournament, it ultimately is less convenient for the vast majority of wrestlers, coaches and parents who want to be out of a tournament in a set amount of time.**

- ✓ **Do I have to re-enter all my wrestlers' information each time we register for a tournament?**
 - i. No – you only have to enter your wrestler's information the first time you register for a tournament.**

- ✓ **Do I have to pay by credit card or can I just pay cash at the tournament?**
 - i. You must pay by credit card. You will not be able to pay or register onsite at the tournament.**

- ✓ **How will the wrestlers know who they will be wrestling?**
 - i. Once wrestlers arrive at the tournament and proceed to weigh-ins, they will be able to see the bracket that came from the online registration system.**

- ✓ **How do I know how everyone else did at the tournament?**
 - i. Part of the requirement of the tournament directors will be to enter the results of the tournament as soon as the tournament is over. Team GA will not pay them for their tournament until this is complete. These results will be available off of the Team GA website.**

- ✓ **How does the tournament director know how many wrestlers to plan for?**
 - i. After registration closes at noon on the Thursday preceding the tournament, the tournament director will know how many wrestlers will be at his tournament – by age group and weight class. This information will be sent to him by 5:00 pm on the Thursday preceding his tournament.**