

# **Team GA Beginner and Rookie Tournament Guidelines**

## **Mission**

To provide a venue for first and second year wrestlers to wrestle against other wrestlers of the same experience level and ability. To give them an opportunity to succeed, keep them interested in wrestling, and grow the sport in the state of Georgia.

## **Objective**

Reduce the number of wrestlers leaving the sport after one year due to the initial lack of success. To allow them to build confidence by wrestling kids at the same experience level, rather than finding themselves competing against much more accomplished wrestlers week after week.

## **Qualifications**

Team GA sanctions two (2) types of beginner tournaments; it is the Tournament Directors choice, which to run.

- Rookies – This is for first year wrestlers only, first year the wrestler has held a USA card, or entered any other competitive wrestling event.
- Beginner - These are for first and second year wrestlers that have never placed at State.
- Appeals to these qualifications must be submitted to the Team GA board for consideration.

## **Tournament operations**

Tournaments will be available for all age groups U6 thru U14. It is left up to the Tournament director whether it is open to little kids only (U6, U8, U10) or little and big kids (U12, U14) Whichever they choose, it must be stated clearly on anything advertising the event.

- All wrestlers must step on the scales, at site of event, before the tournament starts.
- All weigh-ins should start a minimum of one (1) hour before the tournament start times below.
- Friday night tournaments should run from 6 pm. – 10 pm with weigh-ins starting no later 5pm. Wrestlers must be in line by 5:30 pm.
- Sunday afternoon tournaments should run from 2 pm- 6 pm with weigh-ins starting no later than 1 pm. Wrestlers must be in line by 1:30 pm.
- Tournaments should be run in 4 hours or less
- Tournaments can run no fewer than four (4) full mats, not two (2) mats split.
- Splitting mats is acceptable only as long as you follow these two guidelines
  - Must be clearly posted on all event flyers and advertisements that you will be running split mats.
  - Put the younger, smaller, wrestlers on the split mats.
- No brackets larger than a 5 man round robin.
- Wrestlers may compete in only one (1) weight class
- Grouping kids by weight will be done to maximize the number of matches. Grouping will be per USA wrestling guidelines.
- Tournament Directors are responsible for medals and or ribbons awarded, but must at very least place to 3rd.

The Tournament Director or the Team GA representative will handle any question about rules and / or eligibility on site, the decision is final.

Violating the beginner's qualifications rule is subject to a one (1) year plus ten (10) day suspension.