

How does Team Georgia Determine State Brackets?

The day after the qualifiers, Team GA and their “guests” meet at a centralized location to put together the brackets for the state tournament.

The brackets are pre-numbered with both a letter (A-E or an X) and a number (1-4), such as “A1” to denote the 1) qualifier and 2) placement at the qualifier. A second number, appearing to the right of the qualifier designation, denotes the relative “seed” of that position. A copy of the bracket is shown below

The normal 16 man bracket is numbered as follows:

Top Half:

A1 – 1st seed – 1st place qualifier from “A” qualifier
X4 – 16th seed - wildcard
B2 – 9th seed - 2nd place finisher from “B” qualifier
C2 – 8th seed - 2nd place finisher from “C” qualifier
E1 – 5th seed - 1st place finisher from “E” qualifier
B3 – 12th seed - 3rd place finisher from “B” qualifier
C3 – 13th seed - 3rd place finisher from “C” qualifier
D1 – 4th seed – 1st place qualifier from “D” qualifier

Bottom Half:

C1 – 3rd seed – 1st place qualifier from “C” qualifier
D3 – 14th seed □ 3rd place qualifier from “D” qualifier
E2 – 11th seed □ 2nd place qualifier from “E” qualifier
A2 – 6th seed □ 2nd place qualifier from “A” qualifier
D2 – 7th seed – 2nd place qualifier from “D” qualifier
A3 – 10th seed □ 3rd place qualifier from “A” qualifier
E3 – 15th seed □ 3rd place qualifier from “E” qualifier
B1 – 2nd seed – 1st place qualifier from “B” qualifier

You should note the following about the bracket:

*1st place qualifiers always wrestle 3rd place qualifiers w/ the exception of the top seed, who gets the wild card (X4).

*2nd place qualifiers always wrestle other 2nd place qualifiers, w/ the exception of D2, who wrestles A3

*There are three (3) 1st place finishers on the top half of the bracket (1st, 4th and 5th)

*There are two (2) 1st place finishers on the bottom half of the bracket (2nd and 3rd)

“Seeds” are determined in the following manner:

1. Head to Head competition, current year
2. USA Wrestling Folkstyle Nationals, All American Status, Cedar Falls IA on March 30, 2007
3. USA Wrestling Folkstyle Nationals, All American Status, Cedar Falls IA on March 30, 2006
4. Folkstyle State Champion from 2007 – same age group
5. Folkstyle State Champion from 2007– younger age group
6. Folkstyle State Placer from 2007– same age group
7. Folkstyle State Placer from 2007– younger age group
8. Prior State Champion or Placer (any prior year)
9. A coin toss

What that means is that if one wrestler has beaten another wrestler (head to head competition), they will get a higher seed. If they’ve wrestled multiple times, you look at the higher number of wins and seed accordingly.

If there is no “head to head” competition, the wrestler who has won or placed at national competitions will be given the higher seed.

If there are no national champs or placers, state champs for the past year are given the higher seed.

If there are no state champs, state placers for the past year are given the higher seed.

If there are no state placers for the previous year, prior state champs (for any past year) given the higher seed.

If there are no state champs (for any past year), prior state placers (for any past year) are given the higher seed.

If none of these categories apply, and nobody at the bracketing meeting knows any of the wrestlers, a simple coin toss is used. (very common).

Once that the top five wrestlers are selected (only the wrestlers winning a qualifier are considered), the qualifiers are then assigned a number:

“A” goes to the 1st seed AND the qualifier that wrestler attended

“B” goes to the 2nd seed AND the qualifier that wrestler attended

“C” goes to the 3rd seed AND the qualifier that wrestler attended

“D” goes to the 4th seed AND the qualifier that wrestler attended

“E” goes to the 5th seed AND the qualifier that wrestler attended

This attempted “seeding” of the top 5 wrestlers is done to avoid the problems like the GHSA state tournaments have where the “perceived” top wrestlers may meet long before the semi-finals or final rounds. An concerted attempt is made to separate the top two (2) wrestlers to the opposite side of the bracket, and a best effort attempt is made to determine the 3rd, 4th and 5th place wrestlers as well.

Fathers who have sons in a particular bracket may not participate in the “seeding” of that bracket other than to answer questions re: head to head competition, prior national/state honors, etc.

Once the letters are assigned to a particular qualifier, the bracket is then populated with wrestlers per the system noted above.

The "wild card" or "X4" wrestler is determined by placing the 4th place wrestler from the qualifier w/ the largest bracket for that particular age group/weight class in the "X4" spot on the bracket.

In an attempt to allow more wrestlers to wrestle in the state tournament, if a bracket from a particular qualifier wasn't filled, the 4th place wrestlers from the other qualifiers were used to populate the bracket in the spots designated for the missing qualifier.

				DIVISION	WEIGHT
A1	1				
X4	16				
B2	9	A			
C2	8				
E1	5		E		
B3	12				
C3	13	B			
D1	4				
C1	3				CHAMPION
D3	14				
E2	11	C			RUNNER UP
A2	6				
D2	7				
A3	10				
E3	15	D			
B1	2				