

## Important notice about the Georgia Kids Folkstyle State Qualifiers

A proposal was written up and submitted to the Team GA Executive Board of Directors from a club coach in Northwest GA. This proposal, in combination with a request from both The Team Florida Board and USA National Headquarters, has prompted hundreds of hours of discussion.

This year, GA is altering the way wrestlers will qualify for the Kids State Tournament. As originally planned, we will have 6 qualifiers on 2-27-10 and the top 4 kids in each qualifier will fill a 24 man bracket for state. A few years ago we had 76 weight classes, last year that was increased to 102 weight classes and then the weight classes were further refined this year down to 88 weight classes based on statistical data.

This year there are 2 major changes to the way the brackets will be seeded. The 6 first places winners will be seeded. Of the 6 first place qualifier winners the 1<sup>st</sup> seed, 4<sup>th</sup> seed & 5<sup>th</sup> seeds will be on the top half of the bracket and the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed, 3<sup>rd</sup> seed & 6<sup>th</sup> will be on the bottom half. The 6 qualifier winners will be seeded 1-6 at the State-seeding meeting held on Sunday the day after the qualifiers. A cross section of coaches across the state will use results from the past year and prior years State placement and National placement to determine the order of the 6 qualifier winners. Everyone else in the bracket will be placed in the bracket by blind draw using Trackwrestling.

USA wrestling and Team Florida are hosting an event: USA Wrestling Middle & Elementary Folkstyle National Championships on 2-27-10 in Lake Buena Vista Florida at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Disney World. We have had many events that have been on the same day as the GA state qualifier and have not had a way to handle wrestlers not competing in our qualifier and being able to have fair and impartial State Brackets. With some help from USA Wrestling and a few coaches that worked on this proposal, we think we have a way to be fair and flexible to everyone.

Any wrestler wishing to participate in the National Tournament in Florida will be exempt from participating in the GA qualifiers on the same date only if they meet all of the following criteria.

1. Register, compete and place in the top 4 at the GA Grind National tournament held in Suwanee, GA on Sunday 2-14-10. They must compete in the same weight class at the GA Kids State Tournament. If the same weight class does not exist at the GA Kids State Tournament, then the wrestler must specify on the waiver form, the nearest higher or lower weight class.
2. **Complete a waiver form and turn it in to the Team GA table before leaving the GA Grind on 2-14-10. At this point you must specify the age division/weight class that you will compete at in the GA Kids State Tournament.**
3. Register & compete in USA Wrestling Middle & Elementary Folkstyle National Championships on 2-27-10 in Lake Buena Vista Florida
4. Send an email confirming your participation in the Florida tournament on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to ensure placement into the State brackets that will be generated at the seeding meeting on Sunday 2-28-10.

You must complete all four steps listed above or your wrestler will not be entered into the state tournament bracket. There are no waivers or exceptions.

All wrestlers competing in the Florida event, that also placed at the GA Grind, and completed the waiver form at the GA Grind and complied with all of the criteria above, will be randomly seeded into the bracket with the 6 seeded qualifier winners and the remainder of the up to 18 other

wrestlers that placed 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> at a qualifier. There is an opportunity for more than 24 kids to be in a state bracket. This would include up to 24 kids from the qualifiers plus any additional kids in that weight class that qualified by meeting the criteria listed above. Everyone that places in a qualifier (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>) will be in the State Bracket. The random placement into the bracket will be handled by Trackwrestling with an attempt to separate clubs to the best of the programs ability, but is not guaranteed.

If you have any questions, please send an email to [teamgaboard@teamgeorgiawrestling.com](mailto:teamgaboard@teamgeorgiawrestling.com)

Thank you,

Team GA Board  
Anthony Flatt  
Dan Hilliard  
Sean Moistner  
Larry Holloway  
Melody Domanico  
Danny Lutz  
Dave Mathews