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# NATIONAL WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION

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May 24, 2005

Mr. Brad Hostetter  
Liaisons to the Playing/Practice Seasons Subcommittee  
NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet  
PO Box 6222  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222

Dear Mr. Hostetter:

On behalf of the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Board of Directors, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide further rationale, per your request, to support our request for additional “competition dates” in wrestling. This is also in response to the NCAA Proposal No. 2004-40 being considered by the NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet.

As a matter of background, our initial letter to you dated February 28, 2005 indicated our concern over the wide disparity of “allowable competition dates” for each NCAA sponsored sport. In follow up correspondence with you, you suggested that current “competition date limits” were originally established by a special subcommittee several years ago after receiving input from coaches associations and conference commissioners. Unfortunately, this must have happened prior to my arrival to the NWCA in 1999 and after an exhaustive review of our records, I am unable to find any correspondence from our office to the NCAA regarding this initiative (we have moved our office several times so it is quite possible that we simply lost the information).

That said, we wanted to speak on behalf of our members by saying that the current “competition date limit” of sixteen appears to prohibit our larger and stronger conferences from establishing “national schedules” to better prepare for post season competition. For example, in the Big Ten, we have 11 wrestling teams. Eight of the sixteen competition dates are absorbed through their conference “dual meet” scheduling obligations. Being that our NCAA Championship is “individual” in nature (as opposed to “dual meet” format), it requires coaches to schedule at least four multi-day tournaments which absorbs six competition dates (two multi-day tournaments are allowed to count as one competition date each). This restricts these teams from scheduling more than two dual meets with national caliber opponents from outside of their conferences.

Currently, many coaches will schedule multiple dual meets on the same day to “reserve” some competition dates for opponents outside of their conferences. This alternative results in a logistical nightmare for wrestlers, coaches, and fans being that they must travel to multiple locations on the same day.

P.O. Box 254 • Manheim, PA 17545

[www.nwcaonline.com](http://www.nwcaonline.com)

Phone 717-653-8009 • Fax 717-653-8270

To cite two other examples, the PAC 10 has ten wrestling schools and Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association has fourteen wrestling programs. Again, once they fulfill their dual meet obligations within their conferences and schedule a few tournaments to prepare for the post season NCAA Championships, they have also exhausted their sixteen competition dates. While many teams in these mid level conferences are not trying to necessarily schedule "national" opponents outside of their conferences, newly established Division I intercollegiate wrestling programs like Utah Valley State, Liberty University, Northern Colorado, South Dakota State, and North Dakota State do rely on them for scheduling. These opponents are not members of a recognized conference and due to current post season championship moratoriums placed on schools migrating into a new NCAA division, these schools can not otherwise schedule opponents.

It is for these reasons that we oppose any new legislation that would further reduce the number of competition dates in our sport and, in fact, would like to respectfully request more competition dates.

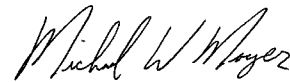
Please know that in principle, we agree with the notion that playing/practice seasons should be carefully monitored in order to maintain proper balance between academics and athletics. We do believe that five additional dates could be added without adversely impacting the delicate academic-athletic balance.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet personally with the committee so we could discuss these matters in more detail. Thanks for your consideration of this request and also for the opportunity to voice our opinion.

Sincerely,



Ron Beaschler  
President



Mike Moyer  
Executive Director