



## 2026 NCAA DIVISION III WRESTLING REGIONAL SEEDING PROCEDURES

The NCAA Division III Wrestling Committee has comprised the following procedure for use in seeding each regional tournament. The below system provides coaches with the tools and timeframe to research and vote for the best possible seeds at each weight class in their respective region. This process is also used to seeding wrestlers that the national seeding committee uses, which will provide for a consistent and efficient application throughout the championships.

### Entries:

1. All entries for seeding are due by **2 p.m. Eastern time on Monday, Feb. 23**. By 5 p.m. Eastern time, all head wrestling coaches will be provided record sheets as well as links to the wrestling comparison and voting websites from the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA).
2. Additional adjustments or replacements to lineups are permitted, starting after the 10 a.m. Eastern time, Wednesday, Feb. 25 ranking deadline; however, those individuals will not be seeded. Those changes must be communicated through the host regional tournament director. **The deadline for all unseeded adjustments or replacements to lineups is immediately prior to each regional's respective seeding meeting.**

### Regional Seeding:

1. All coaches **MUST** seed each weight class, regardless of if that coach has a wrestler in each weight class. Coaches will seed 8 wrestlers per regional. After the top 8 seeds wrestlers will be randomly drawn into the bracket.
2. Rankings will be completed electronically and must be done by **10 a.m. Eastern time, Wednesday, Feb. 25**. Instructions on how to access and complete the pre-seed selection process will be sent to each head coach by the NWCA. This list will be automatically tabulated and emailed to each head coach. Coaches and regional hosts will receive the seeding results by 2 p.m. Eastern time on Wednesday, Feb. 25.
3. Seeding protocol per NCAA Wrestling Rule 3.23.2 Seeding: Consideration for determining seeded wrestlers is given to: (a) head-to-head competition, (b) common opponents, (c) a contestant's in-season results on an individual record form, not winning percentage) – evaluation, and (d) NCAA Championship All-Americans from any previous year(s).
4. All voting will be monitored, and results will be made public. The NCAA national committee, NCAA site representative, tournament director or NCAA championships staff will review, based on the applicable administrative policies, an incident that constitutes failure to adhere to policies and procedures or misconduct. **Any situation that is deemed unethical will be reviewed by the committee and is subject to reprimand and/or fine.**
5. The NWCA assigns a point value that correlates to the wrestlers rank and calculates a total. (The highest and lowest rankings are thrown out for this calculation.) The program will then automatically calculate the seeds. These seeds will then be used by the coaches in the regional seeding meeting to determine final seeds.

6. The regional site representative, with the support of the host tournament director, will serve as moderator to run the seeding meeting. This moderator's main duty is to facilitate the meeting in an orderly fashion and to make sure the rules that the NCAA committee has established for the seeding are followed.
7. The seeding meeting will start with the 125-pound weight class and end with the heavyweight class. Only ONE coach per institution can talk and vote in the seeding meeting and it must be the same coach throughout the entire meeting. There will be discussion on seeds that are within 10 points of each other. Each coach has two minutes to state their case for their respected wrestler followed by 30 seconds for a rebuttal for that wrestler. Only the lower seeded wrestlers within 10 points can challenge, and there must be compelling reasons (see seeding criteria) to make a seeding change for a vote to be taken. If a vote is taken and results in a tie, the higher preseeded wrestler will remain in his ranking spot. A coin flip will be used to determine the higher seeded wrestler if the preseed points are tied and the coaches vote is tied.
8. Any voting at the seeding meetings will be done by hand count.