

#sanctionPA

SANCTIONPA WEBINAR
BUILDING A GIRLS PROGRAM
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Webinar Q and A Overview

- What is SanctionPA
- PIAA and National Girls Wrestling Landscape
- Why add girls wrestling
- PIAA Sanctioning and Team Formation Requirements
- Q and A

What is SanctionPA?

- A grassroots effort to work towards getting high school girls wrestling approved as a sanctioned sport in Pennsylvania
- The SanctionPA campaign includes advocacy efforts, education resources, promotional materials and collaboration with schools.

Who Makes Up #SanctionPA

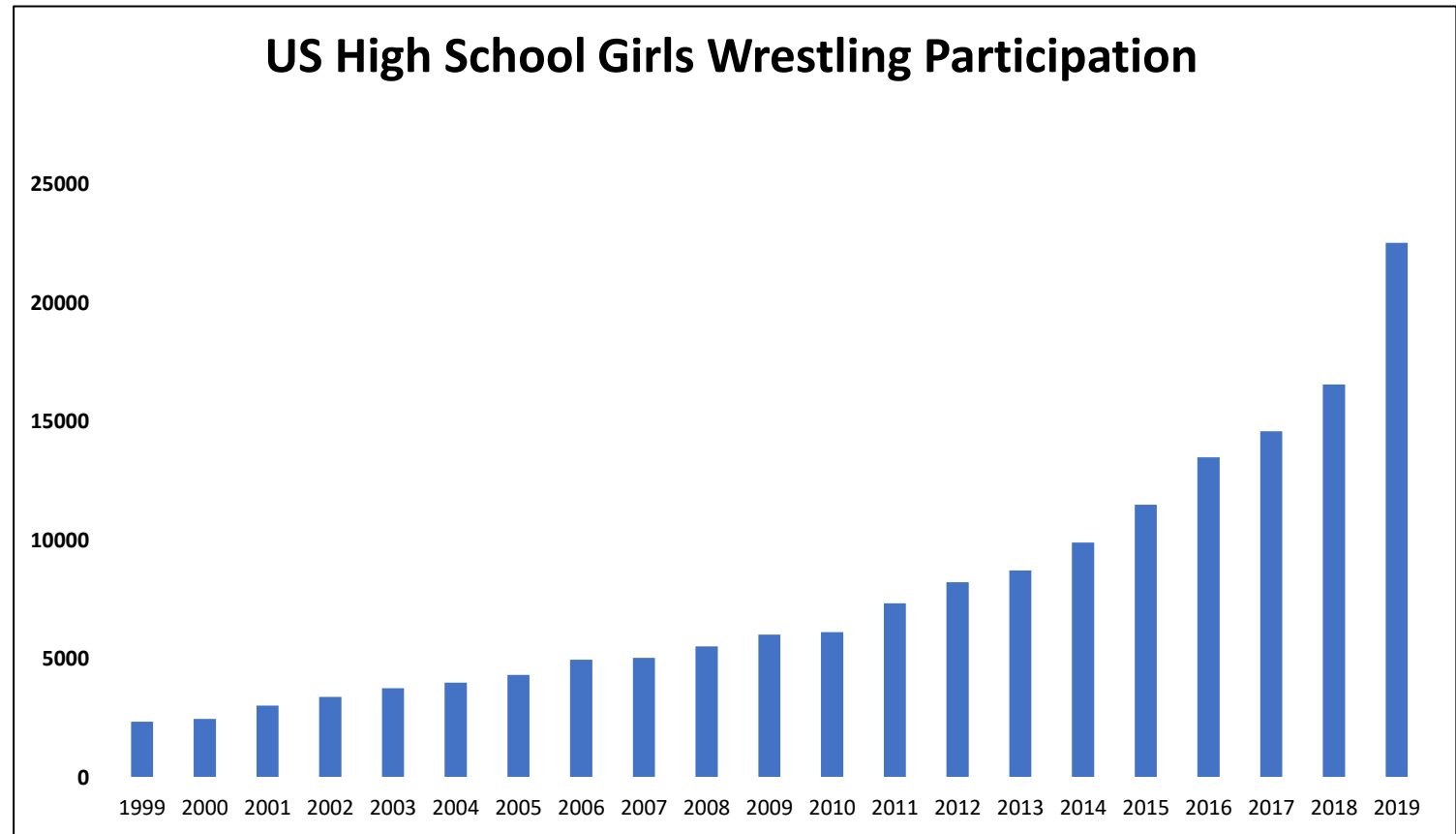
- Pennsylvania USA Wrestling
- Wrestle Like a Girl
- National Wrestling Coaches Association
- National High School Coaches Association
- Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association
- PA Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame
- Active Female Wrestles
- Public Relations and Media Professionals
- Parents
- Coaches
- High School Athletic Directors and Principals

Goals of #SanctionPA

- Work with the PIAA Wrestling Steering committee and state office on sanctioning efforts and the creation of a PIAA State Championship
- Educate wrestling coaches and school administrators on girls wrestling
- Work with individual schools to form official high school girls wrestling teams
- Provide resources to schools and coaches to develop girls teams
- Help coordinate competition opportunities for girls until sanctioning is achieved

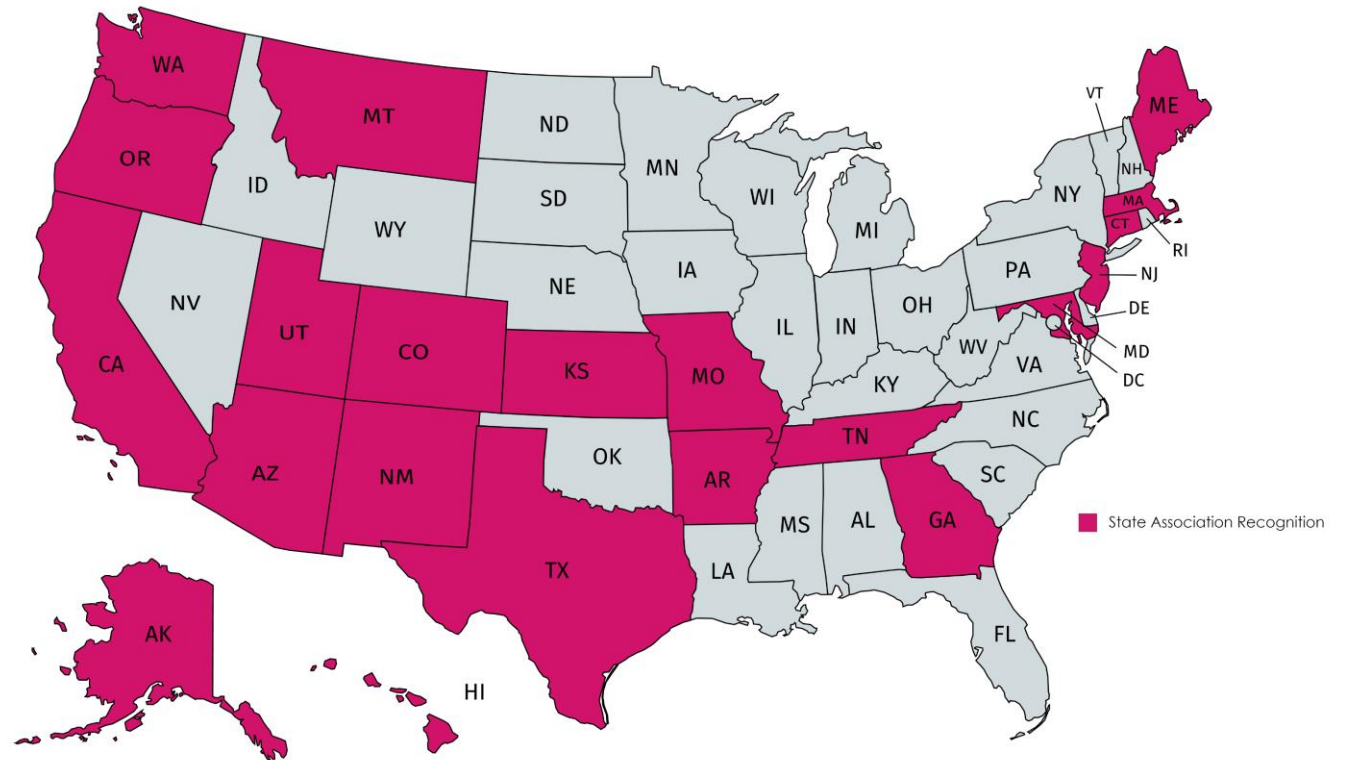
PIAA and National Girls Wrestling Landscape

- Girls wrestling is the fast growing sport in the country
- 2020 National Girls Number project to be 27,000



PIAA and National Girls Wrestling Landscape

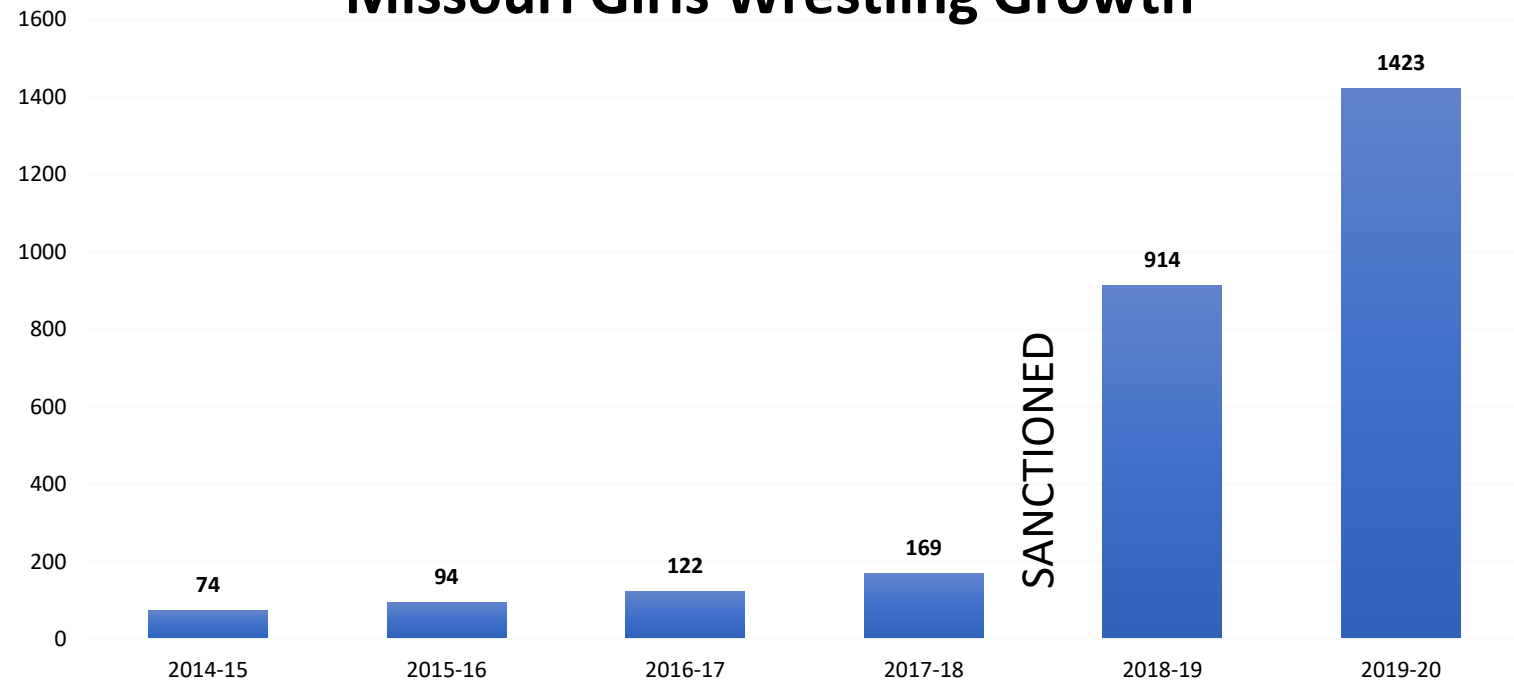
- 22 states have sanctioned girls wrestling



PIAA and National Girls Wrestling Landscape

- What has happened to other states that have sanctioned:
 - Once recognized by state association, participation numbers show significant growth in a short period of time
 - ALL states that have sanctioned saw participation numbers increase after sanctioning

Missouri Girls Wrestling Growth



PIAA and National Girls Wrestling Landscape

Pennsylvania

- 229 High School girls
- 139 High School teams
- 289 Junior High Girls
- Over 370 elementary girls participated in PJW qualifiers
- 100% Growth in the past 5 years
- Over 75 College programs, including 5 in Pennsylvania

Why Add Girls Wrestling

- Allows girls to wrestle girls
- Addresses the issue of boys from Diocese schools wrestling girls
- Increases winter sport options
- Diversify athletic department
- Closes the gap between Elem/JH and College/Senior Level
- Helps our PA girls take advantage of post-secondary opportunities
- Increases sustainability of boys wrestling programs
- Self Improvement
- Highly cost-effective

What is required for Girls Wrestling to be sanctioned in PA

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) current rules require a minimum of 100 schools to have officially recognized girls wrestling programs before considering a proposal to add girls wrestling

What is Considered a Girls Team

- School-affiliated
- School board approved
- Has a designated coach
- **NO MINIMUM NUMBER OF GIRLS
NEEDED TO MAKE UP A TEAM**

Q and A: How much will it cost to add a team?

- **Schools can use the same practice space, same mats, same coaches, and even attend some of the same events**
- You already have a mat and practice space, so there is no additional cost in these areas just because a girls team is created
- While a school can create a new coaching staff, the staff can also be the same as the boys team, thereby eliminating any additional coaching stipend expenditures
- Singlets for the girls – If you already have had girls wrestling for your boys team, this won't even be an additional cost to what the school is currently paying because you are already outfitting them
- Travel for competition and events – there are ways to minimize additional travel costs specifically for the girls team (e.g., follow boys schedule), therefore significantly limiting any additional cost for travel

Q and A:

How can I be sure I will have girls come out?

What if we haven't had any girls show interest?

- Girls prefer to wrestle other girls. When given the opportunity they come out for the sport
- States that have added girls wrestling have seen a 400% growth in participation
- Provides an opportunity for girls of all sizes to try wrestling
- Research has dictated that for many girls who try wrestling, it is the first sport they participate in
- **RECRUITING IDEAS**

Q and A

- **Can our male coaching staff coach the girls team?**
 - Yes! The vast majority of HS female wrestlers are coached by male coaches
 - Best practices for coaching girls
- **How do weigh-ins work?**
- **What do girls need to wear to wrestle?**
- **I have a very talented girl that wrestles varsity. I do not want to lose her to the girls team by creating a girls team.**
 - Can keep her on boys team
- **Who will we wrestle?**
 - Other girls teams, boys teams, enter PIAA events, enter NFHS events
 - Creating competition schedule
- **Will a booster club sponsored team count as an official team to the PIAA?**
 - Non-school affiliated clubs do NOT count towards the PIAA threshold