

USAW-NJ Kid's States Seeding Criteria - 2026

Primary Seeding, Boys and Girls:

- All 9 (and only 9) of the 9 Boys Qualifier Winners are seedable (1st through 9th seeds) using prior year State results.
- Top 3 place winners in each of the 6 Girls Qualifiers are seedable using prior year State results. All other wrestlers, whether they placed in a Qualifier or not, may wrestle in the State Championships but NOT be seeded.

Boys Specific Seeding:

The 9 top seeds (Boys qualifier winners only) will be seeded using the following criteria in full 27-wrestler brackets:

- Seeded 1 through 9 according to prior year's USAW-NJ State tournament place as follows:
 1. Place
 2. Division
 3. Weight
- After the qualifier winners with criteria have been seeded, the qualifier winners without criteria will be placed randomly – via blind draw - in seeded positions to complete the 1 through 9 seeding.
- All brackets with less than 27 wrestlers may be adjusted by the seeding committee.
- Heavyweight has a maximum weight differential as follows:
 - Bantams-10 lbs.; Midgets-15 lbs.; Juniors-20 lbs.; Intermediates-25 lbs.

Girls Specific Seeding:

All seedable wrestlers will be seedable using the following criteria:

- Seeded according to prior year's USAW-NJ State tournament place as follows:
 - i Place
 - ii Division
 - iii Weight
- After the top-3 placers with criteria have been seeded, the qualifier winners without criteria will be placed randomly – via blind draw - in seeded positions to complete the 1 through 4 seeding.
- All brackets with less than 27 wrestlers may be adjusted by the seeding committee.
- Heavyweight has a maximum weight differential as follows:
 - Bantams-10 lbs.; Midgets-15 lbs.; Juniors-20 lbs.; Intermediates-25 lbs.

Secondary Seeding for full 27-wrestler brackets:

1. 2nd and 3rd place qualifier placers will be seeded per a pre-determined placement formula in the bracket.
2. Wrestlers who placed 2nd and 3rd place from the same qualifier will always be on the opposite bracket from their qualifier winner (1st), and a 2nd and 3rd place from the same qualifier shall not meet before the semi-finals.
3. In the preliminary round, where a 2 wrestles a 3, adjustments may be made for the following situations, **if possible**:
 - If the 2 and the 3 are from the same team

or

- If the 2 and the 3 are returning prior year State Champions

Then the following may happen: □

The 2's will never move.

- The 3's will move/swap places with the other 3 spot within the bracket quadrant. This is the only possible move.
- **This move must improve the situation** and will not be made if the new move positions 2 teammates against each other, or if the new move positions 2 returning State Champions against each other.

Reseeding a bracket

- If a seed (qualifier winner) without prior year criteria does not make weight or does not weigh in, the 2 seed moves into the 1 spot, and the 3 moves into the 2 spot.
- If a seeded wrestler (qualifier winner) with prior year criteria does not make weight or does not weigh in, the seeding committee may decide to reseed the bracket.

USAW-NJ Kid's Qualifier Seeding Criteria

Qualifiers and Seeding Details

USA Wrestling-New Jersey runs 9 boys qualifying tournaments for the purpose of qualifying the top 3 placers from each qualifier (wrestlers that qualify) with the intention of having a 27-wrestler bracket at the NJ State Championships. There are 6 girls qualifying tournaments for the purpose of qualifying the top 3 placers from each qualifier. ALL the participants in a girls qualifier may wrestle in the state tournament regardless of where they placed but they will NOT be seeded.

1. All weight classes will be seeded according to prior year place finish first, then division, then weight at the USAW-NJ State tournament. Next, after the state tournament placements are seeded, prior year qualifier results, are used according to prior year place finish first, then division then weight at the USAW-NJ qualifier.
2. After the USAW criteria, local criteria may be used for the balance of bracket seeding, at the tournament director's discretion.
3. Only wrestlers who placed 1 through 9 in the prior year's USAW-NJ State tournament, or 1 through 3 at a prior year USAW-NJ qualifier, have criteria.
4. The remaining wrestlers will be seeded by blind draw
5. Heavyweight has a maximum weight differential as follows:
 - Bantams-10 lbs □ Midgets-15 lbs.
 - Juniors-20 lbs
 - Intermediates-25 lbs
6. When a wrestler does not advance:
 - 3rd place assumes the second place
 - 4th place can assume the third place and qualify
 - Non-advancing wrestlers should notify the advancement table when receiving their award, the tournament director and if possible, notify the other wrestlers in the weight class.
 - This must be done that day, at that tournament with the knowledge of the tournament director, or the advancement personnel and the advancement fee must be paid. No changes may be made after the conclusion of the qualifier.