

10 things new wrestling parents need to know

Posted by Yelm Parent on 1/13/2014, 6:55 pm

1. Learn the basic rules of the sport. I am not saying you need to pour over the rule book and understand every single technicality, but, you should know the basics of how and when points are awarded. There are charts available that show the hand gestures of the officials and what they signify.
2. Learn to read and understand a bracket. Knowing how a bracket works is crucial to this sport and you will navigate the day of a bracketed tournament easier if you have an understanding of how a bracket works.
3. Learn the difference between a round robin tournament, a dual, and a bracketed tournament. They are all completely different. Know which one you are participating in each time you show up.
4. Your kid's name will be spelled wrong and/or pronounced incorrectly. This is doubly true if the name is obscure or spelled in a non-traditional way. This is ok. Your child will not lose a match because of a misspelled name.
5. Tournaments are an all day thing. Typically one round in a round robin tournament takes about 2 hours (give or take). Since a PCJWL round robin is 3 rounds, you can plan on being there a minimum of 6 hours AFTER wrestling starts. Bracketed tournaments sometimes take hours longer than that! Try to remember that your child will have large breaks between matches. This is the way the sport works.
6. Other parents are a great resource. If you don't understand something ask a parent who has been around. Chances are they can help you.
7. Your kid is unique and special to you. In a room full of hundreds of kids, you need to get used to the idea that your kid may not be the most important kid to everyone in the room. Frankly, if you are participating in an event where there are 300 kids and you make it about one individual kid, you are probably doing it wrong.
8. Do not bother the person running the computer. This person has a job, it is huge. Every time someone interrupts this person to ask about a name spelled wrong or any other issue, the tournament comes to a stop. If there is a scoring or bracket error, bring it to the attention of your head coach, who will be able to address it with the tournament director and it will be corrected.
9. Virtually everyone you interact with in this sport is a volunteer. Coaches, table help, concession workers, and the people running the computers are unpaid and underappreciated. Many of them do not get to see their own children wrestle in order to serve you. Please remember this and be kind! If you see something lacking, stop complaining and help out.
10. Don't be a jerk. This is a good thing for life in general. As mentioned earlier, there are hundreds of people at these events. Be nice. Don't stand matside in the way of spectators. Make room in the stands when its crowded. If you spill, clean it up. Try not to step on people. Be aware that you are not the only person in the room.

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