



WASHINGTON INTERSCHOLASTIC
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

MAT CLASSIC BRACKETING AND SEEDING

During the week leading up to Mat Classic requests are often received from people interested in knowing how the bracketing and seeding are done. This is a brief explanation of the process.

On Seeding Sunday prior to the tournament the results from each regional site are electronically sent to the WIAA office. It is imperative that the lists of placers, spelling of names, and year in school are accurate since the bracketing software directly enters those names onto the initial Mat Classic brackets during the process.

Three bracket patterns are used. Three are necessary in order to ensure that the same regional match-ups do not occur in every weight class. They are also necessary so that three options are available in order to meet seeding requirements. **Remember..... to be seeded a wrestler must be a regional champion in the current year AND a past Mat Classic state placer.** The number of seeds in any one weight class can range from 0 to 4. Seeded wrestlers must be separated by half or quarter brackets.

The three bracket patterns are shown in the table at the right. The second row lists the weight classes (boys' first, girls' second) for which that bracket pattern will initially be used. The letters represent the regions, and the numbers represent the placers from that region. For example, A-1 is the champion from a region and A-4 is the fourth place finisher in that same region.

A random draw is conducted for each classification. The draw determines which letter will represent which region. For example, the 3A random draw for Mat Classic 2016 resulted in Region 1 placed on B lines, Region 2 on C lines, Region 3 on D lines and Region 4 on A lines. The top line on the bracket for 3A boys 106 lbs. would thus be the Region 4 champion. The Region 4 runner-up would be placed on line 13. The top line at 113 lbs. would be the Region 1 champion. Notice that regional champions are all separated by quarter bracket.

Bracket Line	Pattern I	Pattern II	Pattern III
	106/100 126/115 145/130 170/145 220/190	113/105 132/120 152/135 182/155 285/235	120/110 138/125 160/140 195/170
1	A-1	B-1	C-1
2	B-4	C-4	A-4
3	C-2	D-2	B-2
4	D-3	A-3	D-3
5	C-3	D-3	B-3
6	D-2	A-2	D-2
7	A-4	B-4	C-4
8	B-1	C-1	A-1
9	C-1	D-1	B-1
10	D-4	A-4	D-4
11	A-3	B-3	C-3
12	B-2	C-2	A-2
13	A-2	B-2	C-2
14	B-3	C-3	A-3
15	C-4	D-4	B-4
16	D-1	A-1	D-1

The next step is to determine where seeded wrestlers are located. If there are two seeded wrestlers, they need to be separated into different half brackets (lines 1-8 and lines 9-16). If there are three seeded wrestlers, the top seed goes into one half bracket and the other two into the opposite half bracket. Seeds #2 and #3 are further separated into different quarter brackets. If there are four seeds, #1 and #4 go into one half bracket, seeds #2 and #3 into the opposite half bracket. **It is important to remember that unlike a traditional bracket, the #1 seed on a Mat Classic bracket does not necessarily appear on line 1. For example, at 106 lbs in the 3A example above, if the Region 1 champion is the #1 seed and the Region 2 and 3 champions the #2 and #3 seeds, the bracket would work in terms of separation. The #1 seed would be on line 8 (B-1), the #2/3 seeds on lines 9 and 16 (C-1 and D-1).**

If the originally assigned bracket does not appropriately split the seeded wrestlers, the other two patterns are considered. If only one other option works it will be used (re-bracketing). If both of the other patterns work a coin toss will determine which will be used.

In some cases the designated lines will be changed slightly due to an imbalance of qualifiers from different regions. In most cases each of the four regions advance four wrestlers to Mat Classic. In some instances, however, one region may send five and another 3 due to an imbalance in the number of schools in the regions.

So in conclusion, let's follow an example through the process. For 3A 152 lbs. the initial assigned pattern has B-1 on line 1 of the bracket. The random draw (shared above) indicates that the Region 1 champion will go on line 1, the Region 1 runner-up on line 13, the Region 1 consolation champ on line 11, and the 4th placer on line 7. Now let's say that the Region 1 and Region 2 champions (B-1 and C-1 on lines 1 and 8) are the only two seeded wrestlers. They are in the same half bracket so the weight needs to be re-bracketed. Bracket patterns I and II will both work, so a coin toss will determine which will be used.

Once all weight classes are bracketed and checked by multiple people, they will then be placed on the website and sent to the people responsible for the Mat Classic program.

In some cases re-bracketing may occur during the week. This happens when errors are discovered in the results from regional sites, a seeded wrestler is withdrawn (due to injury or eligibility), or other issues. In rare cases re-bracketing will be necessary when a seeded wrestler does not make weight on Friday morning. If a non-seeded wrestler is replaced by an alternate, it may simple require a roll-up of placers for that region rather than a full re-bracketing.

Although some rare errors occur, the process is amazingly accurate and quick when considering that it depends on the accuracy of information from 23 regions, the identification of all returning state placers, and the bracketing of 1280 wrestlers in six classifications.