

2015-2016 WINTER TOURNAMENT SEASON

APPLICATION PROCESS AND PAIRINGS

1. For tournament consideration, a team must apply for the tournament. Teams wishing to withdraw their application must notify the VPA Office, by fax, with the Principals signature, no later than 10:00 A.M. the day before the pairings. The Principals decision is final.

2. To apply for the VPA tournament a school must:

A. A completed application must be **filed electronically** - no phone scores accepted - as soon as your season is complete and no later than 10:00 A.M. the day prior to pairings. See dates below.

WINTER 2015-16	Gymnastics & Wrestling	Skiing & Snowboarding	Girls Ice Hockey	Boys Ice Hockey	Girls Basketball	Boys Basketball	Cheer & Dance & Ind Track, Bowling
1st date to practice	November 16, 2015	November 16, 2015	November 16, 2015	November 16, 2015	November 16, 2015	November 16, 2015	November 16, 2015
1st date to play	December 2, 2015	December 2, 2015	December 2, 2015	December 2, 2015	December 2, 2015	December 2, 2015	December 2, 2015
Last date to play	Gym-Feb 13, 2016 Wrest-Feb 13, 2016	See Guides	February 17, 2016	February 17, 2016	February 20, 2016	February 13, 2016	TBA
Applications Due	Gym-Feb 14, 2016 Wrest-Feb 14, 2016	See Guides	February 18, 2016	February 18, 2016	February 21, 2016	February 14, 2016	See Guide
Pairings Posted	Gym-Feb 15, 2016 Wrest-N/A	n/a	February 18, 2016	February 18, 2016	February 22, 2016	February 15, 2016	See Guide
Playdowns		n/a	February 20, 2016	February 20, 2016	February 23/24/2016	February 16/17/2016	
Quarterfinals		n/a	February 24, 2016	February 24, 2016	Feb 26/27/2016	February 19/20/2016	
Semi-Finals		n/a	February 27, 2016	February 27, 2016	Feb. 29-Mar.3, 2016	Feb 23/24, 2016	
State Finals	Gym - Feb. 20, 2016 Wrest-Feb 26/27, 2016	See Guides	Mar 2/3, 2016	Mar 2/3, 2016	March 4/5, 2016	Feb 26/27/2016	Dance-2/20/16; Ind Trk-1/30/16 Cheer- 2/20/16,

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Bowl – 3/5/2016

3. Teams will be seeded on a point index. **The top 16 teams per division will be eligible for the tournament.**

Only games at the varsity level with members of our Association or games with out-of-state schools that are members of their comparable state athletic association, will count in determining the point index.

Games listed and no disposition noted in the VPA office will be considered a loss. **IN PREPARING THE APPLICATION, THE ENTIRE SEASON'S VARSITY SCHEDULE MUST BE LISTED.**

The point Index can be found as follows:

New System (approved 5/2/15)

Win Over	At Home	Away	Ties at Home	Ties Away
Higher Division	5	6	2.5	3
Same Division	4	5	2	2.5
1 Division Lower	3.5	4.5	1.75	2.25
2 Division Lower	2	3	1	1.5
Loss Against	at Home	Away		
Higher Division	0.5	1		

The points will be totaled and the total divided by the number of games played to find the point index. All teams will be paired in the order of their index.

The Activities Standards Committee has approved the following procedure for breaking ties:

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- A. The team with the best record against the other team[s], ie. head to head competition
- B. The team with the best record against common opponents
- C. Strength of schedule based upon the judgment of the Committee.
- D. The team with the best won - lost percentage
- E. Coin flip

4. The first round playoffs **could be on the day** immediately following the pairings.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

1. Officials for the finals will be chosen by the VPA Associate Executive Director, and his/her designee, of the VPA. A \$5.00 premium will be paid to officials who work a State Final Game.
2. The date and times for tournament games will be assigned by the Vermont Principals' Association.
3. **Each school in tournament play will be issued up to seven complimentary admissions.** These seven names will be listed on a school letterhead, signed by the Principal, and presented at the gate.
4. At the playoffs and quarter-finals, the higher seeded team will furnish the timekeeper and scorekeeper. The site of the games through the quarter-finals will be played at the school of the higher seeded team.
5. At all semi-finals and finals in the tournament, an official of the school who is a member of the Vermont Principals' Association will be in attendance. This school official should be someone other than the coach. The Principal or designated representative of the host school shall make every effort to attend games. It is recommended there be at least one police officer at these games.
6. At the state finals, winner(s) and runner-up plaques will be awarded. Members of the two finalist teams will receive an individual medal. Teams desiring more medals than are awarded may purchase them from the VPA at \$7.50 per medal.

DRONE RULE (TOURNAMENTS ONLY)

Prohibiting the Use of Drones During the VPA Tournament Season

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Unless granted special permission by the VPA, the use of drones (unmanned aircraft systems or UAS's), for any purpose, is not permitted at any VPA state tournament event. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, mats, and gyms, and covers a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the VPA event, including spectator stands and parking area

VPA TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

The following VPA sponsored tournament guidelines have been developed to help local site administrators in hosting a VPA tournament activity:

- * No games may be played prior to the scheduled dates.
- * Officials will be assigned and paid through the VPA office and/or assignor.
- * The host school (usually the higher seeded team) shall be responsible for the following:
 - (a) proper site preparation
 - (b) **ADMISSION PRICES: (Prices effective 1/1/2016)**
 - (1) **\$8.00 Adults, \$5.00 Students & Seniors, and Not in School-Free** for all finals and for semi-finals. **All reserved seats are \$9.00.**
 - (2) **\$6.00 adult and \$5.00 Student & Senior, and Not in School-Free** for all play ins, play downs and quarterfinals in basketball and hockey.
 - (3) host schools may charge an admissions fee for other tournament events (not listed above) provided that the other school(s) receive advance notification.
 - (c) The VPA will provide Spaulding balls for the championship games.
 - (d) Host schools shall provide a qualified adult scorer through the semi-finals.
 - (e) Host schools shall be responsible for crowd control:
 - (1) An administrator, or person designated by him/her, from the

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host school will be present to supervise the game, through the playoffs. This person should identify himself/herself to the officials.

(2) If the site of the higher seeded team is not suitable for state tournament play, in the event of no neutral site, the lower seeded team's site shall be used, as specifically stated in the sport's guide.

(f) provide adequate medical/first aid services.

(g) Please call game results to the media (updated Spring 2015):

Burlington Free Press Please have coaches report game scores via email using forms previously sent to A.D. as a guideline.

sports@burlingtonfreepress.com

1-802-479-0191

Rutland Herald

sports@rutlandherald.com

1-800-498-4296

Caledonian-Record

news@caledonian-record.com

1-802-748-8121

Eagle Times (Claremont, NH)

sports@eagletimes.com

1-603-504-3145

WSYB 1380AM Radio

1-877-241-5960

WCAX (TV)

sports@wcax.com

1-802-652-6340

WFFF (TV)

sports@mychamplainvalley.com

1-802-660-9333

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Times-Argus

sports@timesargus.com

1-802-479-0191

WSNO 1450 AM Radio

jseverance@greateasternradio.com

1-802-476-4168

VPA REGULATIONS AND BY LAWS [REGULAR AND TOURNAMENT SEASON]

EJECTION OF PLAYER[S] AND COACH[ES]

A player or coach who is ejected from a game for the following infractions which are behavioral in nature shall be suspended from playing or coaching the next two contests : [one contest for football, skiing, and gymnastics]

- a. Unsportsmanlike conduct
- b. Malicious contact, includes fighting
- c. Taunting

The player[s] or coach[es] may not participate at any other school level in the sport they were ejected from during the suspension.

All other non-behavioral ejections shall carry the penalty assessed by the rules which govern that sport. Players or coaches ejected for a second time will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Note: Any team that receives three major ejections of coaches or athletes (2 games) will be required to meet with the Activities Standards Committee before entering or continuing in the tournament.

A full explanation of these rules is found in Section I, General Rules [L] of the VPA Bylaws.

Reporting of Game Disqualifications

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The following process shall be used in reporting a game disqualification(s) by game officials:

- The official shall notify a player(s) or coach(es) that he/she has been disqualified from the contest.
- The official shall notify the commissioner/assigner that a player(s) or coach(es) was disqualified from a contest for behavioral reasons.
- The commissioner/assigner shall notify the principal or athletic director and the VPA Office within a twenty four (24) hour period as to the length of the disqualification of that player(s) or coach(es).
- In the case of out-of-state and/or sub-varsity competition a school is obligated to report as provided in reporting of game disqualifications.

VPA Member School Game Disqualification Reporting Process

The member school shall be responsible for confirming the game disqualification with the VPA within forty eight (48) hours with either a verbal or written report (either method being acceptable).

DAY OF REST FOR ATHLETES

Each student athlete must be provided one day of rest per calendar week.

RAFFLES

50/50 raffles will be allowed at any Vermont Principals' Association finals (championships) and the semi-final contests in football, ice-hockey and basketball; plus divisional qualifiers in wrestling and track/field, when these events are held at school sites.

POLICY ON ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARD AN OFFICIAL

This standard applies to all regular season and tournament play, including before and after the contest:

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a. Coach:

A coach who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other aggressive physical contact with another person (e.g. official, another coach, fan) shall be expelled immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for one year from the date of the offense.

Before reinstatement, the coach and his/her principal shall meet with the Activities Standards Committee.

b. Player:

Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other aggressive physical contact with an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for one year from the date of the offense. NOTE: Member of the squad includes player, manager, score keepers, timers, and/or statisticians.