

January 22, 2018

TO: Athletic Directors and Media
FROM: Tim O'Malley, Executive Director
SUBJECT: 2017-2018 WPIAL Basketball Tournament Pairings Meeting

The pairing meeting for the 2017-2018 WPIAL boys and girls basketball tournament will be held on **Tuesday, February 13, 2018**, at the **DOUBLETREE HOTEL – GREENTREE at 7:00 PM**. Please make sure your school is represented if you have earned one of the qualifying positions in your section. Entry into the tournament is determined as follows:

The top four (4) teams in each section will enter the WPIAL Basketball Tournament scheduled to begin on February 16, 2018. All playoff entries will be determined by section record only and will be determined by the best section won – loss record. Teams that tie for first place will not have the tie broken and **ALL** tied teams will be declared section champions, will receive a section winner's plaque, and will be entered into the WPIAL tournament. If four or more teams tie for first place, only those teams will qualify for post season play.

In the event of a multiple tie (two or more teams) for a playoff position, head-to-head competition will be the first determinant. If head-to-head does not break the tie, the following tie-breaking system will be used. If three or more teams are tied for third place and the tie breaking system identifies one team as the third place team, the remaining teams will then be tied for fourth place and the process begins all over with head-to-head competition being the first determinant for establishing the fourth place team. If a tie cannot be broken all tied teams will enter the playoffs.

TIE-BREAKER SYSTEM

- a) Section won-loss records of the tied teams will be compiled.
- b) The team(s) with the best numerical head-to-head section record among the tied teams will enter post-season play.
- c) If the tie cannot be broken, all tied teams will enter post-season play.

EXAMPLES

- a) Team A is clearly first, Team B is clearly second, and Team C is clearly third. Teams D, E, and F have identical section won-loss records and are tied for fourth. In this situation Team D is 3-1 against E and F. Team E is 2-2, and Team F is 1-3. Team D is entered as the fourth place team.
- b) Team A is first, Team B is second. Teams C, D, and E are tied for third place with identical section records. Team C is 3-1, Team D is 2-2, and Team E is 1-3. Team C is now third and Teams D and E are tied for fourth. To break this tie we go back to head-to-head. If these two teams split they both go into the playoffs as the fourth place team.
- c) Keep in mind that **ONLY** the top four teams qualify for the playoffs, unless ties for a playoff spot cannot be broken. If Team A finishes first, and Teams B, C, and D tie for second, Teams A, B, C, and D are the only qualifiers and the second place tie does not need to be broken.

***Teams should be aware that “pigtail games” and/or first round games could be played as early as February 15th.**

Each team that enters the tournament must attend the pairings meeting on **February 13, 2018**, and must bring with them copies of their last two games played. **Once the pairings are announced at this meeting, all schools not currently involved in an online exchange program, must physically exchange a copy of the last two games that were played.** Succeeding round games should follow the same protocol.

A reminder that varsity team rosters for boys and girls basketball are due to the WPIAL office by Friday, February 2, 2018. Complete specification instructions are on the home page of the WPIAL website: www.wpial.org.