ENTRIES: The 27th Annual Team Wrestling Championships will be conducted for senior high schools in AA & AAA classes. Entries and seeding will be determined by the District III Power Rating System. All team competitions wrestled up to and including Jan 30, 2016 will be used to calculate power ratings. Team competitions wrestled to determine League Championships and not counted in the school’s maximum number of regular season contests (22) will not be included to determine the school’s final power rating. Pairings and brackets will be released on Sunday January 31, 2016 by 4:00 PM on the District III Website. Power rating formula and brackets are available online at piaadistrict3.org/.

QUALIFYING SCHOOLS must satisfy the following conditions to be eligible to participate: (a) must have filed formal notification with the PIAA, District III and its affiliated league, indicating sponsorship of wrestling, (b) be placed in affiliated league’s formal scheduling procedure and complete the schedule entered on the NWCA for the current season, (c) all dual matches scheduled by the league MUST be completed prior to entry deadline. (d) MINIMUM of eight (8) dual matches must be wrestled by entry deadline.

REPORTING RESULTS FOR POWER RATING: Every District III school regardless of the result must report dual match results to the District III Power Rating site. Information for reporting results will be distributed through the athletic director of each school.

PARTICIPATION NOT MANDATORY: Competing in the District III Team Championship Tournament is voluntary. A school that chooses not to participate may indicate their intention to withdraw from competition by having their athletic director or principal send notice in writing to the District III Wrestling Chair (Randy Umberger) by email r6pts4apin@yahoo.com no later than Friday January 22, 2016.

WITHDRAWAL BY DEADLINE (SELECTION & SEEDING): A school that withdraws from competition by the deadline will forfeit their rank to the school(s) below them. The number of teams designated to qualify for the championships will be unchanged. (AAA 16, AA 8)

WITHDRAWAL AFTER DEADLINE of JANUARY 22, 2016 (SELECTION & SEEDING): A team that withdraws from the championships after the deadline shall maintain their ranking and their bracketed opponent shall receive a forfeit win. Ex: The number 6th ranked team withdraws from the tournament; in AAA the 11th ranked team and in AA the 3rd ranked team shall receive forfeits in the first round. There will be no substitutions or movement of teams after the deadline to withdraw. If the withdrawing team’s final ranking does not qualify them for the championships the number of qualifying teams in each classification remains unchanged.

AAA WRESTLE BACKS: The losers of the AAA quarterfinal matches will qualify for 1st round wrestle backs on 2-4-16. Winners of the 1st round wrestle back will qualify for 2nd round wrestle back on 2-4-16 against the semifinal losers.

AA TRUE 2ND WRESTLEBACK: A wrestle back between the semi-finals losers will be contested on Saturday at 10:30 am (same time as AA Finals). The winner of that final wrestle back will have an opportunity to wrestle the loser of the finals match for 2nd place immediately following the AAA Awards Ceremony (approximate 4:00 PM) if they were not opponents in the semi-final championship round.

PRELIMINARY/QUARTERFINAL/SEMIFINAL/WRSTLE BACK MATCHES: AAA Preliminaries will be held on Tuesday 2-2-16 at the #1, #2, #3, & #4 seeded teams on two mats. Quarterfinals will follow on one mat. AAA semifinals, 1st round wrestle backs and 2nd round wrestle backs will be held on Thursday 2-4-16 on 4 mats (all 8 teams at one site) at Spring Grove Area High School. AA quarterfinals will be held on Wednesday 2-3-16 at the #1 and #2 seeded teams on two mats. The semifinals will follow on one mat.
FINAL MATCHES: AA- Final Wrestle Back, Finals, True 2nd : AAA- Finals and Final Wrestle Back will be held on Saturday, Feb 6, 2016 at the Spartan Center on the Milton Hershey School Campus. See attached AA and AAA Team Brackets for times.

ALTERNATE SITE: Should the higher seeded team be unable to host a home match the designated host school may choose an alternate site with approval of the District III Wrestling Chair.

HOST SCHOOL should use their own game personnel as is customary for all home matches. District III will provide tickets to sell at the gate. Tickets and a packet of information will be mailed to host schools in care of the athletic director. The following personnel and equipment should be provided: security, announcer, ticket seller(s), ticket taker(s), official timer(s), trainer/medical personnel officials’ locker room, team locker rooms, certified weigh-in scale, and warm-up area.

OFFICIAL SCORING: Each participating school must provide a scorekeeper. The higher seeded team shall be the home team and their book shall be considered to be the official book.

WEIGH-INS: The PIAA match officials will conduct weigh-ins for all tournament matches one hour prior to the scheduled start time. A weigh-in form (NWCA) must be completed and given to the official before weigh-in begins. Each team must also present a properly signed P.I.A.A. eligibility sheet at the time of weigh-in.

CHEERLEADERS: Varsity cheerleaders in uniform and their coach(s) will be admitted free of charge. Cheerleaders may cheer at all dual meets but MAY NOT infringe upon the viewing rights of paying spectators. The game manager will designate an area where cheerleaders may perform.

BANNERS & NOISE MAKERS: Banners, signs, sirens, whistles, band instruments and artificial noisemakers are prohibited. Fixed signs that display good sportsmanship are allowed with approval from meet management.

MEDALS: Twenty-five (25) medals will be presented to each of the championship and runner-up teams in each class. A team championship trophy will also be presented to the champion of each class. Rosters for medal presentation must be given to the announcer prior to the finals. Twenty-five names only (please).

PROGRAMS & TEAM INFORMATION: Programs will not be available until the semi-final and final rounds. The District III Committee will assume the responsibility for program sales @ both sites. Schools that qualify must forward their team information and team photo electronically to David A. Smith Printing (Linda Reed) to email account D3@dasprint.com. In January David A. Smith Printing will email registration instructions to all District III schools through the District III High School and Athletic Directors Server.

VIDEOTAPING will not be permitted from the floor except by the participating teams from an area near the team bench (game manager must approve). Videotaping that interferes with spectator viewing will not be permitted by teams or fans.

ADMISSION POLICY: Thirty (30) wrestlers, coaches, managers and trainers, will be admitted without tickets. Each participating school may submit a list of (5) complimentary admissions (on form provided) for
Each round. Complimentary admissions are to be used by administrators and those persons they deem appropriate. Inter League Passes should (will) not be honored. Only District III Passes will be accepted for complimentary admission.

TICKETS: District III will provide all tickets to be sold for admission. Ticket prices are as follows

- All Rounds: $4.00 (students) $6.00 (adults)

OFFICIALS: The District III Wrestling Chairman and his designee will assign all officials. Each match will be officiated by a head and an assistant referee. The two will alternate responsibilities with each succeeding bout.

TIES: Rule 9, Section 2, Article 2 of the National Federation Wrestling Rule Book will be applied to determine the team winner if both teams have identical scores.

INTERDISTRICT TEAM TOURNAMENT: P.I.A.A. State Team Tournament Qualifiers by class: AAA (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th places), AA (1st & 2nd places). Dates of the PIAA Team Championships are Feb. 8,11,12,13, 2016

ALTERATE ADVANCEMENT PIAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: If a qualifying team withdraws or is forced to withdraw from competition their replacement shall be determined as follows: AAA (5th place) 2nd round wrestle back loser with highest power rating entering the District III Championships; AA (3rd place) which will be the winner of the final wrestle back or the loser of the finals if a true 2nd match is contested. The alternate will replace the lowest place finisher and all other place finishers shall advance to the next highest place finish.

PRE-MATCH AGENDA (for matches on 2-2-16 and 2-3-16)
5:00 PM random draw and weigh in all teams (2 scales shoulder to shoulder)
5:15 PM referees visit teams
5:35-5:43 PM lower seeded team warms up on the mat
5:43-5:51 PM higher seeded team warms up on the mat
5:51-5:00 PM coin toss followed by the National Anthem and introduction of the participants
6:00 PM start of match on two mats
7:00 PM or Quarterfinals (AAA) and Semi-final (AA) (one mat).

PRE MATCH AGENDA (AAA Matches on 2-4-16)
4:00 PM random draw and weigh in (4 scales shoulder to shoulder)
4:15 PM referees visit teams
4:35-4:43 PM lower seeded team warms up on mat
4:43-4:51 PM higher seeded team warms up on mat
4:51-4:00 PM coin toss followed by National Anthem
5:00 PM Semifinal matches & 1st round wrestle back (4mats)
6:30 PM or 2nd round wrestle back (2 mats)

or 15 minutes following the conclusion of the last match in the previous round.