**Batavia Wrestling Club
Tournaments 101**

**Before the Tournament…**

* All tournaments are optional.
* All Pinners will automatically be registered for our tournament on Jan 21st, 2018
* You MUST sign up for a tournament three weeks in advance!
* Tournament sign-up is available online at www.teamsnap.com.
	+ Log in to Team Snap.
	+ Click the “Availability” tab.
	+ Change the small “show all” drop down menu to “games only”
	+ In the top right corner, you can choose “Games Only.” This will show all tournaments.
	+ Click the box for ***a green checkmark for the tournaments your child will attend***.
	+ Make a ***red X for the tournaments your child won’t attend***.
	+ If you’re undecided, you can choose the ?
	+ Make sure change tab back to “show all” so you can view the practice schedule on the calendar page
	+ Designations can be changed as needed until 2 weeks prior to the tournament. If you need to change your choice within the 2-week window, e-mail or call Michelle Wells (general tournaments) or Andy Huck (Rookie Tournaments). Contact information is at the bottom of the Team Snap roster page.
* If you sign up for a tournament, do not show up, and do not let us know ahead of time that you will not be at the tournament, you will be charged a $20 tournament fee.
* The night before a tournament, make sure you have the following in your wrestling bag:
	+ Wrestling shoes
	+ Headgear
	+ Athletic tape for shoelaces
	+ Fingernail clippers
	+ Weigh-in cards (provided from IKWF – we will hand these out at practice when they arrive).
	+ Pen
		- *Note: We have these last four items in a Ziploc bag that stays in the wrestling bag for the season!*
* Wrestlers should wear their singlets and ideally their Batavia Wrestling Club t-shirts and shorts to tournaments.
* Please be sure all of your child’s belongings have his name on them! Clothing and headgear is very easy to misplace in the chaos of the gym bleachers, especially when the boys all have identical gear!

**Arriving at the Tournament…**

* Maps and directions can be accessed in Team Snap by clicking on the event in the Availability tab. This area will also include details about the tournament, including the timeframe for weigh-ins.
* Weigh-ins are typically 6:30 a.m. – 8 a.m. Closing times for weigh-ins are extremely strict. If you are late, your child will not be allowed to wrestle, so please err on the side of caution and plan to arrive in plenty of time to weigh in.
* Weight does not have to be “declared”; your child will be bracketed according to what he weighs that morning.
* When you arrive at the school, you may have to check in at a registration table or you may proceed directly to weigh-ins. Staff there will assist you. Please note that we pay all tournament fees in advance, so you should not be asked to pay that morning. However, parents and siblings will be charged at the admissions table. Admissions typically run $3-$5. Wrestlers are admitted free.
* When you check in, you may be asked for one of your child’s weigh-in cards. Please fill out his season record of wins and losses on the card before turning it in. This will help with bracketing. Every child starts the season 0-0 despite having wrestled previous seasons. If this is your son’s first year, we encourage you to write “FIRST YEAR” or “ROOKIE” on the card. This sometimes helps make bracketing more fair, but not always.
* During weigh-ins, your child will wear only his singlet (no shoes). Tournament workers will do a “skin check” for any rashes and check that fingernails are clipped. He will be weighed and his weight will be written on his arm.
	+ Note: ***If your child has any type of skin condition, he will not be permitted to wrestle without a skin check form signed by a doctor designating the condition as non-contagious.*** A copy of this form can be downloaded from Team Snap. These rules are stringent to protect all of our kids!
* After weigh-ins, your child will have plenty of time to warm up on the mats. A team warm-up will happen usually around 8:30 a.m. Wrestlers are encouraged to use this time to warm up their muscles!
* We try to save an area in the bleachers big enough to accommodate all of our Pinners fans! If you arrive early, please try to use whatever you have to save some space. Bleachers can get extremely crowded, so don’t wait until the last minute to find a seat!

**How the Tournaments Run…**

* Announcers will “clear the mats” and soon call the first division (usually Bantams) to the “bullpen.” Some schools have two gyms, and will wrestle the older divisions in a separate gym, so it’s possible that Novice and/or Senior wrestlers will be called first as well.
* Divisions are: Tots (6&under), Bantam (7-8, or 8&under with no Tot division), Intermediate (aka “Midget” 9-10), Novice (11-12), and Senior (13-14). Ages are based on Dec. 31, 2013, so whatever age your son will be on that day will determine his division for the entire season.
* Tots and Bantams are usually placed in 4-man brackets and will wrestle twice. Some tournaments run these “round robin,” which means your child will wrestle three times. Please make sure you don’t leave early and miss that third match! You will know for sure if you are done when your child receives his medal. All wrestlers 8&under should receive a medal regardless of their wins/losses for the day, unless they were in an 8-man bracket.
* Other divisions usually use 8-man brackets, although some may run a 4-man round robin. In an 8-man bracket, your child may wrestle either two or three times. If he loses his first two matches, he is done for the day. Only the top 4 or 5 wrestlers in the bracket take home medals.
* Wrestling typically begins at 9 a.m., with wrestlers often being called to the “bullpen” before 9 a.m.
* The “bullpen” is a holding area at the school where wrestlers are assembled in their brackets. Parents are not allowed in this area, but rest assured that our coaches will be on hand in the bullpen to help kids find their brackets and get them excited about their matches.
* Brackets typically wrestle in order by weight, with the lightest kids wrestling first. You will need to watch the door where wrestlers emerge to see where your child is going to wrestle, as there are often many matches happening simultaneously!
* Our coaches will be on the mats all day, keeping an eye out for Pinners getting ready to wrestle. Referees are not allowed to start a match until each child has a coach, so don’t panic if no one is with your child at matside. When it’s his turn to wrestle, one of our coaches will respond.
* Parents are not allowed on the mats at all and are discouraged from being “matside,” as these areas can get extremely congested!
* After his match, your son may immediately come back into the bleachers with you. He will have plenty of time to recover, have a snack, and rehydrate before again being called to the bullpen. All divisions will wrestle their first round before the first division is called back to the bullpen for round 2.
* All tournaments offer concessions, but you are permitted to bring your own food and drinks as well.
* Tournaments can last all day, but you are welcome to leave when your child is finished for the day. Bantams usually finish by noon, Intermediate usually finish by two, and Novice/Senior may finish early if there are two gyms, or later (3 p.m.) if there is only one gym. If you are not sure if your son is done for the day, please check with a coach – especially if your son is in a round robin bracket! Sometimes the bracketing is confusing, and we would hate for your son to miss a match!
* Finally, please keep in mind that we are guests at the tournaments we attend and our wrestlers are representatives of our team. They are expected to display proper behavior both on and off the mat. These schools are public locations and as such, we ask that you do not allow your children to roam the halls unsupervised! Also, it is easy for our children to get side-tracked and possibly miss getting called to the bullpen if they are not in the gym. Please keep track of their comings and goings!

***Good luck and have fun – it’s going to be a great season!***