

Hi, my name is Chris Treng. I am the new SYA wrestling director. The purpose of this letter is to send out a plea to the SYA community and let everyone know what kind of trouble the youth and high school wrestling programs are in. Our participation numbers are extremely low. Last year, I was a coach for the youth wrestling program and was troubled to see that out of a possible 15 weight classes on the varsity level, only 4 weights were filled. Out of 15 possible weight classes on the J.V. Level, only 1 weight class was filled. There were only 6 kids at the exhibition level (1st and 2nd year wrestlers) in our youth program. The scenario is similar at the junior high and high school level of wrestling.

Wrestling was one of the first sports in the Olympic games. It is a sport where a young athlete can compete in a one on one competition. There is no teammate out on the mat when you are wrestling, so if you let up a little you could get pinned or outscored. It is hard but that is why, in my opinion, it is the greatest sport ever. If you compete and try your hardest, win or lose the match, you are a winner despite the outcome. You did it on your own which builds character, and self-confidence. This helps young athletes prepare for the challenges of life.

I just wanted to get your attention and explain a little about wrestling and the situation we are in right now. I have talked with a lot of parents to find out why kids didn't want to sign up or why parents didn't want them to sign up. There were some genuine concerns, but there were also some misconceptions. Our youth head coach Todd Linn and I set up a question and answer session at Laubach Park on Saturday September 19th. We were there all day. Please contact me directly if you didn't have a chance to attend. I can be reached by phone at (610)797-8960 or by e-mail at wrestling@syasports.net.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Chris Treng