



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL POWERLIFTING ASSOCIATION

George Taylor, President
David Wilbanks, Vice President
Ted Patton, Secretary
Brad McCone, Business Manager

In December of 2020, the THSPA board met to plan the 2021 powerlifting season. After having to cancel many regional meets and the state meet in 2020, we wanted to ensure that we were doing everything within our control to make sure that our athletes were able to compete this season in powerlifting. Furthermore, we wanted to ensure that regional meets and the state meet would be possible while still providing a safe environment and keeping the health and safety of our student athletes at the forefront.

As we planned the season, we created guidelines for schools and meet directors to utilize in order to ensure that we were providing the safest environment for our lifters, but still allowing them to compete. At the same time, we had to make plans for a smaller state meet (in attendance) in order to ensure that we would be able to have the meet in the same location and still comply with local and state COVID-19 guidelines. As a committee we decided to not allow state qualifying totals from regional meets this year. Only accepting the first and second place lifters from the regional meets would grant us the opportunity to still have a state championship meet but also allow us to control the number of lifters and fan attendance in compliance with local and state policies.

Now we are almost into March and the regular season for powerlifting will end today. From my perspective, we have had a very successful season despite some challenges brought forth by COVID as well as cancellations forced by our recent weather events.

Our senior powerlifters were denied the opportunity to lift at the state powerlifting meet last season and many were not able to compete at their regional meets. For seniors this year, this will be their final season of powerlifting in high school and for many of them, ever again. Many opportunities have been taken away from the seniors and it is out of their control. We, the THSPA Board, do not want to continue to take opportunities from them. The THSPA board has voted to allow all seniors who achieve the state qualifying total at their regional meet an invitation to lift and compete at the 2021 State Championships!

Just like always, first and second place finishers in each weight class from the regional meets will advance to the state meet but for 2021, we will also take any SENIOR powerlifter who achieves the state qualifying total to advance to the state meet also. Coaches, please be cognizant of the state qualifying totals for each weight class.

Information regarding state qualifying totals can be found in the 2021 THSPA Rulebook in section III F.

Good luck to all lifters in the next two weeks at their regional meets!