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Subject: Two Exceptions Added to Aid in Qualifying Wrestlers for the TOC

After being contacted by a number of tournament directors, it appears some areas are still recovering from the last couple of years of Covid issues, which is negatively affecting both the number and attendance at these TOC qualifying tournaments.

With that in mind, we have added two exceptions to aid in qualifying wrestlers for the TOC. The first addresses when weights are combined at a qualifying tournament. The second provides an avenue for wrestlers to qualify under a verified hardship. Both are listed under the [Qualifying section of the TOC website](#).

Here are the 2 added exceptions :

1. When two weights are combined at a qualifying tournament, one extra qualifier is earned for the combined weight class.
 - a. Examples:
 - i. If there are only 3 wrestlers in a weight, normally no wrestler qualifies for the TOC; however, if two weights are combined to make 3 total wrestlers, the champion would qualify (0 + 1).
 - ii. 4 wrestlers in a combined weight would qualify 2 instead of just 1 (1 + 1).
 - iii. 5 or 6 wrestlers in a combined weight would qualify 3 instead of just 2 (2 + 1), etc.
2. The TOC Director may consider granting a wrestler the ability to participate in the TOC when there is a hardship verified by the wrestler's school coach, a viable team coach, or the director of a TOC qualifying tournament and when the wrestler has met all other TOC eligibility requirements – e.g., a wrestler with a winning varsity record was unable to qualify due to being under a doctor's care, a qualifying tournament was canceled, etc.

Obviously a number of TOC qualifiers have already taken place, but these exceptions will apply retroactively to all of this year's qualifying tournaments. Communicating these additions to the coaches in your area would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

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