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IHSA State Wrestling Championships Brings Excitement and Impact to Champaign-Urbana

Champaign, IL – High school wrestlers across the state will head to the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Wrestling Individual State Championships, February 19–21, 2026, at the State Farm Center. 672 wrestlers from 250 high schools will compete this weekend at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, with hopes to make it under the spotlight for the championship match.

“Since 1967, the IHSA State Wrestling Finals have brought significant economic impact to our community while creating tremendous energy for our local businesses,” said Jayne DeLuce, President and CEO of Experience Champaign-Urbana. “Each February, welcoming athletes, coaches, officials, and thousands of fans to the State Farm Center has become a cherished winter tradition. For wrestlers across Illinois, competing here is truly a rite of passage.”

The matches, featuring fourteen weight classes across three divisions, kick off at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, and run through Saturday evening. “Wrestlers compete multiple times over the weekend, generating longer overnight stays for wrestlers and their families. This also drives meaningful traffic to our restaurants, shops, and attractions, supporting our hospitality workforce,” explains Mark Brown, Director of Event Services & Film for ECU.

With an estimated total attendance of nearly 36,000 and multiple room nights in local accommodations, ECU estimates a \$5.5 million economic impact to the area. “Continuing to host this event in our community is essential to our visitor economy,” explains DeLuce. “Hosting IHSA tournaments supports jobs and enhances the lives of our residents while also giving our community an opportunity to shine by providing our guests with a memorable, brilliant experience.”

Tickets to the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament range from \$12–15 per session or \$60–70 for an all-session ticket. Various weight classes from 1A, 2A, and 3A schools begin at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Tickets are available through the Illinois Ticket Office at statefarmcenter.com or by calling 1-866-ILLINI-1.

Experience Champaign-Urbana will be located in the West Grand Entrance, providing a warm welcome to guests with community information on activities and places to eat.

For more information on IHSA Wrestling, visit www.ihsa.org.

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