BOCR Model for Determining Whether the NCAA Should Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Championship

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Introduction

The rules, regulations, and championships of collegiate wrestling are determined by the NCAA Wrestling Committee, which aims to facilitate, display, and encourage competition between the best collegiate student-athletes for all the sport's stakeholders. In collegiate wrestling, there are two types of competitions: dual meets and individual tournaments.

Dual meets are competitions held between two teams. In these contests, each team sends one wrestler at each weight to compete against an opponent at the same weight class from the other team. When a wrestler wins their match in a dual meet their team is rewarded anywhere from 3 - 6 points depending on the type of win. Ultimately, the team with the highest team score at the end of the dual meet wins.

Individual tournaments are individually focused competitions, where teams send individuals at each weight class to compete in a bracket of opponents in their designated weight class. If a wrestler wins a match in the tournament, they move on to the next round. If a wrestler loses one bout, they drop to the losers' bracket, where they can try to wrestle back for third place or lose again and be eliminated.

The NCAA wrestling regular season is composed of numerous dual meets and a few tournaments. However, the collegiate wrestling post-season has no dual meet competition, as it is only composed of conference tournaments and a national championship tournament. The absence of a national dual meet championship has long been a sore subject to numerous universities, fans, and collegiate wrestlers. The concept of creating a National Dual Meet Championship has long been contemplated by the NCAA Wrestling Committee, as it would generate significant additional revenue and foster unbiased competitions amongst the nation's best collegiate athletes for all of collegiate wrestling's stakeholders. However, recent concerns regarding athlete health and education have lessened the Committee's interest in hosting a National Dual Meet Championship.

The BOCR model identified in this report will take the perspective of the NCAA Wrestling Committee Members, who will ultimately make the decision regarding a National Dual Meet Championship and attempt to accurately prioritize the decision alternatives' impact on the various criterion and stakeholders. This model will ultimately identify whether the NCAA should host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Championship.

Alternatives

Regarding the hosting a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition, the NCAA has 2 alternatives:

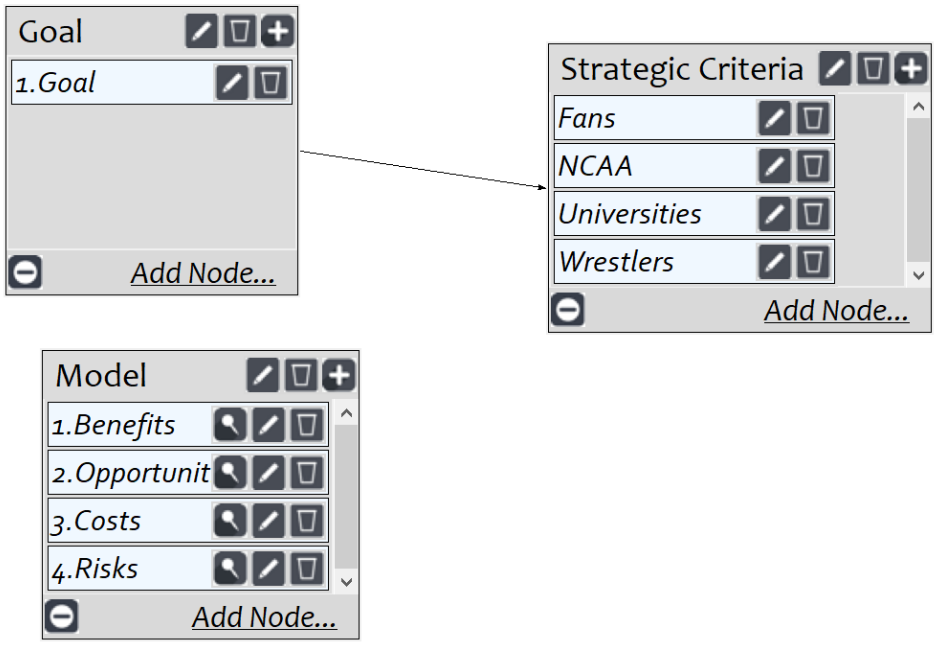
1. Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition (HOST)

2. Do Not Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition (NO HOST)

Methodology

To identify the preferred alternative for the NCAA and stakeholders, I created a goal node with four strategic criteria connected to it. The strategic Criteria for the model would be Wrestlers, Universities, Fans, and the NCAA. These four strategic criteria represent the four main stakeholders that will be impacted by the NCAA Wrestling Committee's chosen alternative. These nodes will additionally enable the proper prioritization of the Benefits, Opportunities, Costs, and Risks among the 4 main shareholder groups in the model shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1:



Upon the creation of the strategic criteria, I created the clusters and nodes for the Benefits, Opportunities, Costs, and Risks. The Analyses and organization of these nodes and clusters are explained throughout the remainder of the methodology section, and these items may be referenced in Appendix A.

Social Benefits

SB Criteria: Nodes Competition Quality, Dual Ranking Accuracy, Publicity, and Satisfaction are included in this cluster. These nodes were selected to capture the short-term social gains that could be achieved via each alternative. In consideration of both alternatives, HOST would be more beneficial for each social node. HOST would

especially be greater in terms of Competition Quality, as it would provide Wrestlers, Fans, Universities, and the NCAA with an additional competition amongst nation's best athletes.

Economic Benefits

BE Criteria: This cluster was designed to capture and prioritize the short-term financial benefits of each alternative. Therefore, the BE Criteria cluster includes nodes: Budget, Cash Flow, and Stability. These nodes will help reveal and quantify each alternative's differing economic results. The current NCAA Wrestling postseason competition structure (NO HOST) is very stable, as it generates significant cash flow that enables the sport's budget. However, HOST would most likely generate additional cash flow, which could improve the budget and stability.

Social Opportunities

OS Criteria: Nodes Reputation, Fanbase, and Scholarship Fund are included in this cluster to capture the potential long-term social gains of each alternative. NO HOST would generate a greater opportunity for collegiate wrestling's Reputation, as the NCAA could simply claim that they are not increasing the number of competitions because of they are concerned for wrestler's health. This reasoning would generate public relations opportunities that HOST could not. However, HOST would present greater opportunities for Fanbase and Scholarship Funds. An additional national wrestling championship has long been requested by the current fanbase, so it would like present opportunities for fan retention. Additionally, the new national competition format may attract new followers of collegiate wrestling, which would also improve the Fanbase. The improvements to the fanbase would also increase fans' likelihood to donate to scholarship funds.

Economic Opportunities

OE Criteria: This cluster was created to show the economic opportunities that could be achieved by the two alternatives. This cluster includes nodes Cash Flow, Employment, Exposure, and Growth. To varying extents, HOST would present greater opportunities for each of nodes in comparison to NO HOST, as its additional event would likely improve earnings, create job opportunities, increase advertising opportunities, and generate new avenues for growth.

Social Costs

CS Criteria: Nodes Rivalry and Scheduling are included in this cluster to capture the alternatives' immediate negative impacts on each program. HOST would be more costly in terms of Scheduling and Rivalry, as schools may decrease their quantity of regular season competitions against key rivals to avoid poor seeding for the new championship.

Athletes: This cluster considers each alternative's impact on Wrestler's immediate well-being by including nodes GPA and Injury. In consideration of node GPA, HOST would be more costly, as it would require the nation's best dual teams to allocate more time away from their studies. HOST would also be slightly more costly for node Injury because it would require athletes to attend an additional competition, where they could incur mental or physical injury.

Economic Costs

CE Criteria: This cluster records the expenses that would occur via the implementation of either alternative. Therefore, nodes Lodging, Media Coverage, Travel, Uniforms/Equipment, and Venue Expenses are in this cluster. Lodging, Travel, and Uniforms/Equipment represent the costs that universities would incur in preparation for post season competition. Venue Expenses considers the expenses that the NCAA would incur to host National Competitions. Media Coverage considers the cost incurred from covering the teams' training, travel, and competition for Fans.

HOST is much more costly than its alternative. Hosting an additional NCAA National Championship would increase venue costs for the NCAA, as they would have to rent another venue to facilitate competition. It would also increase the Lodging, Uniform/Equipment, and Travel expense for each participating university, as they prepare for the competition. Furthermore, HOST would also generate higher Media Coverage costs, as teams and streaming services would have to cover an additional championship.

Social Risks

RS Criteria: Nodes Chronic Injury, GPA, and Graduation Rate are included in this cluster to capture and analyze the risks to student athletes per each alternative. HOST would be riskier in terms of Chronic Injury and GPA. HOST would increase the risk of Chronic Injury, as athletes would wrestle in an additional competition, which would put them at a slightly higher risk of incurring Chronic Injury than NO HOST. In consideration of node GPA, HOST would be more costly, as it would require the nation's best wrestlers to allocate more time away from their studies. However, NOHOST would have

a higher associated risk per node Graduation Rate, as the new national championship would serve as additional incentivization for athletes to maintain academic eligibility.

Economic Risks

RE Criteria: This cluster considers the risks associated with the execution of either alternative, and it includes the nodes Cashflow, Donations, Growth, and Sponsorship. Pertaining Donations and Sponsorship. In this network, NO HOST would be the riskier alternative. Limited quantity of National competitions would hinder collegiate wrestling's exposure, which could be unattractive to sponsors and harm the sport's ability to attract donors. NO HOST is also risker in terms of Growth because its limited number of national championships limit its avenues for Growth in comparison to HOST. However, HOST would have a higher associated risk per node Cashflow, as the new national championship may not be profitable.

Table 1: BOCR Clusters & Nodes

Benefits	**Opportunities**
Social	Social
SB Criteria	OS Criteria
Competition Quality	Fanbase
Dual Ranking Accuracy	Reputation
Publicity	Scholarship Fund
Satisfaction	
Economic	Economic
BE Criteria	CS Criteria
Budget	Cash Flow
Cash Flow	Employment
Stability	Exposure
	Growth
Costs	**Risks**
Social	Social
CS Criteria	RS Criteria
Rivalry	Chronic Injury
Scheduling	GPA
Athletes	Graduation Rates
GPA	
Injury	
Economic	Economic

CE Criteria	RE Criteria
Lodging	Cashflow
Media Coverage	Donations
Travel	Growth
Uniforms/Equipment	Sponsorship
Venue Expenses	

Data & Analysis

After creating the initial design of the model, arranging each network for the BOCR, and connecting the related nodes and clusters, I utilized the Judgement tab to make pairwise comparison between nodes, (Appendix A shows all images of the model's network). Within each of the model's networks, I attempted to objectively compare each node based on my knowledge and known statistics regarding each alternative.

BOCR Synthesized Priorities

The BOCR Synthesized priorities of the model are shown in Appendix B. The synthetization of these priorities revealed that HOST would be much more opportunistic and beneficial for collegiate wrestling (Appendix B). However, the addition of a new national championship would be much more costly and slightly riskier than keeping the current structure (Appendix B). The impacts of such prioritizations heavily influence the model outcome, but their effectiveness is highly contingent upon the prioritizations of the Ratings Model.

Ratings Model

I developed a set of ratings for the ratings system and the overall significance of the Benefits, Opportunities, Costs, and Risks of the decision model (Table 2). The strategic criteria for the model were Fans, NCAA, Universities, and Wrestlers. Amongst the strategic criteria, Wrestlers have the most impact, as it would be most affected by the chosen alternative. The ratings were given on a Lo – Hi scale and prioritized concerning the overall goal for each of the strategic criteria; the results are shown in Table 2. The BOCR priorities from Table 2 will have a significant impact on the overall results of the model as its identifies the weights of each network and the criteria within them. Per the values of the Ratings Model, Opportunities will have the greatest impact on determining whether to host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition.

Table 2: Overall Ratings Model

Alternatives	Priorities	Totals	Fans (0.0862)	NCAA (0.1780)	Universities (0.2739)	Wrestlers (0.4620)
1.Benefits	0.1866	0.3467	Med	Med	Med	Med
2.Opportunities	0.5079	0.9437	Med	Hi	Hi	Hi
3.Costs	0.1349	0.2507	Lo	Med	Lo	Med
4.Risks	0.1705	0.3168	Lo	Hi	Med	Lo

Full Model

Upon the creation and connection of the networks, subnetworks, nodes, and clusters and completion of the ratings model, the whole model can be synthesized to determine whether the NCAA should host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition. The utilization of Multiplicative formulas for synthetization will reveal the optimal short-term alternative, and the implementation of Additive Negative formulas for synthetization will provide results for the best overall alternative. Upon observation of Tables 3 & 4 Hosting a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition is the preferred short-term alternative (69%) and overall alternative (76%). Since Opportunities and Benefits are of the highest priority, it is reasonable that HOST is the best alternative, as it had the highest prioritization regarding these criteria. It is important to acknowledge that HOST had the highest Costs and Risks. However, the prioritization of the overall model did not permit its Costs and Risks to offset its major Benefits and Opportunities.

Table 3: Overall Synthesized Priorities for Alternatives [Multiplicative (Short-Term)]

Overall Synthesized Priorities for Alternatives [Multiplicative (Short-Term)]			
Name	Ideals	Normals	Raw
1. Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	1	69%	1.081539
2. Do Not Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	0.442678	31%	0.478773

Table 4: Overall Synthesized Priorities for Alternatives [Additive (Long Term)]

Overall Synthesized Priorities for Alternatives [Additive (Negative)]			
Name	Ideals	Normals	Raw
1. Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	1	76%	0.401909
2. Do Not Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	0.316987	24%	0.1274

Conclusion

The Goal of my model was to analyze whether the NCAA should host a national wrestling dual meet competition. In the model creation, I considered the interest of collegiate wrestling's stakeholders (Fans, NCAA, Universities, and Wrestlers) by making them nodes in the Strategic Criteria cluster. I also analyzed the Social and Economic aspects of the Benefits, Opportunities, Costs, and Risks of the two alternatives via a series of nodes and clusters (Appendix A). The synthesized results of the model reveal that Hosting a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition is the preferred short-term and overall alternative. In consideration of HOST's dominance in the two most important criteria: Benefits and Opportunities, it is not surprising that its high costs and associated risks did not offset it as the best alternative for collegiate wrestling's stakeholders (Appendix B).

Reflection

The model results were as I had anticipated. As a former collegiate wrestler and current fan, I understand the issue from the perspectives of two stakeholder groups: Fans and Wrestlers. This unique viewpoint enabled me to accurately address the pairwise comparisons within to better inform the model. However, my biases developed from my involvement in the two stakeholder groups are innately present in my analyses and negatively impact the model's overall objectivity. For the sake of collegiate wrestling and all of its stakeholders, I hope that the decision maker, the NCAA Wrestling committee, choses the preferred alternative to Host a National Dual Meet Championship.

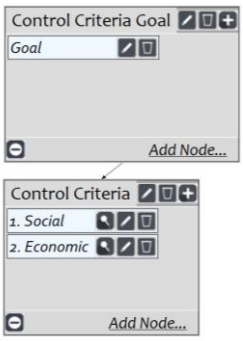
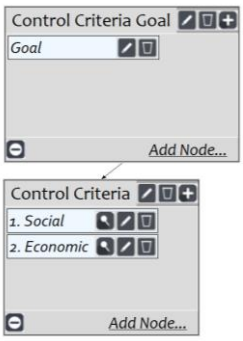
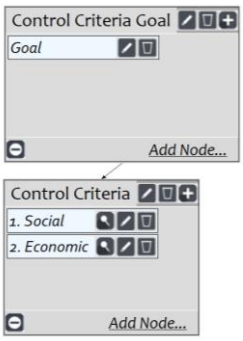
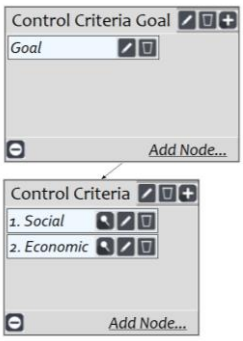
Sensitivity Analysis

Upon the synthetization of the model and observation of its results, one could also conduct a sensitivity analysis to determine the potential implications of altercating the model's various prioritizations. The sensitivity analyses for the model's Benefits, Opportunities, Costs, and Risks are shown in Appendix C. Changing the prioritization of the Benefits and Opportunities will not change the best decision for the model. If I were to change the priority of Costs to about 30%, NO HOST would replace HOST as the best alternative (Appendix C). If I also were to change the priority of Risks to approximately 70% NO HOST would be the best alternative for the model (Appendix C).

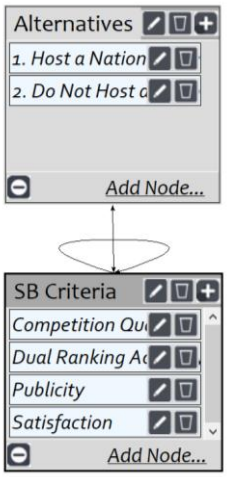
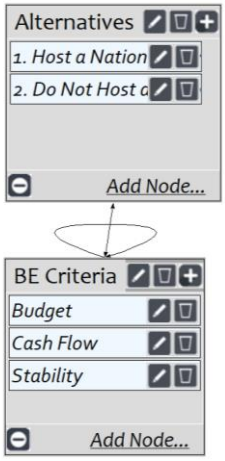
If Costs and Risks became significantly more important, the results would certainly change.

Appendix A

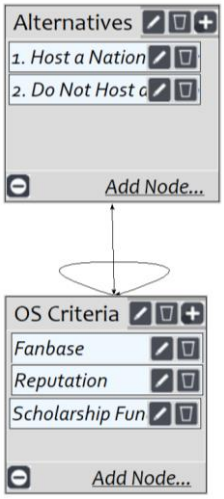
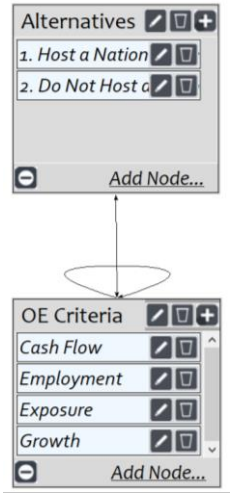
BOCR Structure

Benefits	Opportunities	Costs	Risks
			

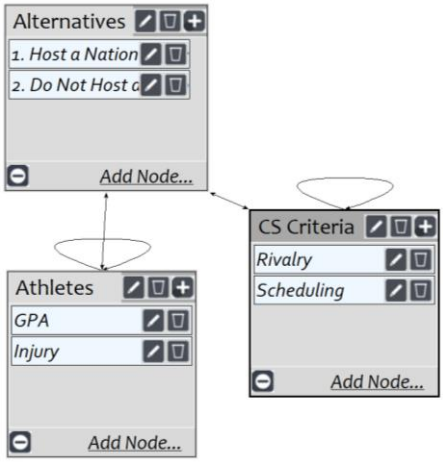
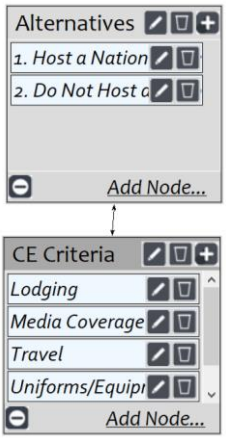
Benefits

Benefits Social	Benefits Economical
	

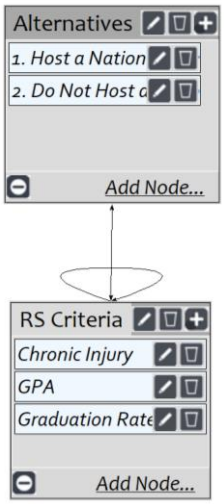
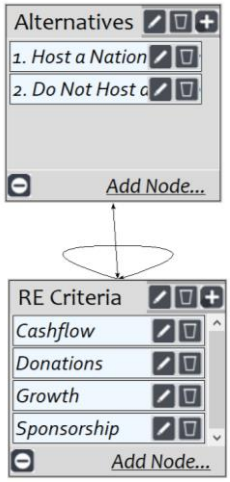
Opportunities

Opportunities Social	Opportunities Economic
	

Costs

Costs Social	Costs Economic
	

Risks

Risks Social	Risks Economic
	

Appendix B

BOCR Synthesized Priorities

Benefits

Overall Synthesized Priorities for Benefits			
Name	Ideals	Normals	Raw
1. Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	1	77%	1
2. Do Not Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	0.301414	23%	0.301414

Opportunities

Overall Synthesized Priorities for Opportunities			
Name	Ideals	Normals	Raw
1. Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	1	65%	1
2. Do Not Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	0.530516	35%	0.530516

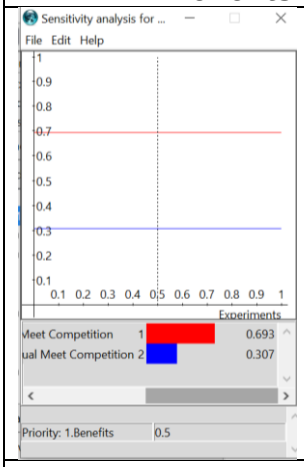
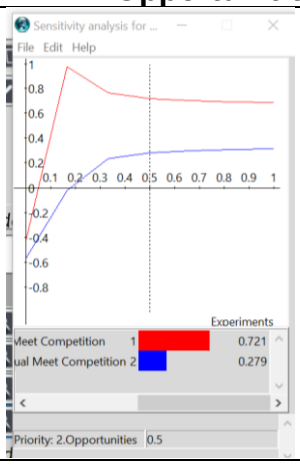
Costs

Overall Synthesized Priorities for Costs			
Name	Ideals	Normals	Raw
1. Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	1	72%	1
2. Do Not Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	0.391512	28%	0.391512

Risks

Overall Synthesized Priorities for Risks			
Name	Ideals	Normals	Raw
1. Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	1	52%	0.924609
2. Do Not Host a National Wrestling Dual Meet Competition	0.92263	48%	0.853071

Appendix C

Benefits Sensitivity	Opportunities Sensitivity
	
Costs Sensitivity	**Risks Sensitivity**