



November 27, 2013

We have just received the reply from the NFHS with answers to a number of our questions. This bulletin is designed to address a number of these responses.

An Important Topic of Concern is our young ladies and the appropriate uniform for competition. We strongly recommend our young lady wrestlers along with a sport bra wear an approved t-shirt under their wrestling uniform. The uniforms they wear are a men's uniform, which are usually cut low across the neck line as well as in the arm pit. In an effort to prevent a very embarrassing moment for the young lady, her opponent and the referee wearing a tight fitting sleeve or sleeveless t-shirt protects everyone. This situation will be reviewed for the 2014-15 season.

DUAL MEET EVENTS: The topic of handling the captains and the choice of the even / odd matches has been covered in an earlier notice, but there are a few other important details left to address with respect to the dual meet events.

If the dual event is a multi-event, such as a tri, super-quad or dual meet tournament, the home and visiting teams are not clearly defined. As the referees always do he/she would designate who wears the red ankle band and who wears the green ankle band based on the color of their uniforms. This, he/she does to make the awarding of points easy in his/her mind. Based on who is designated the visiting team by virtue of wearing the red ankle band, that team captain would be asked to call the color disc for the flip to determine the even / odd matches prior to the start of competition to see who reports first at each weight class.

Example: At the start of the third round of a dual meet tournament, the next referee calls for the captains to the center, and based on the color of their uniforms selects a team to wear the red band and the team to wear the green band. The team wearing the purple and yellow uniform he designates as red (visiting team), and the team with the blue and white uniforms is green (home team). After designating the color bands he then proceeds to ask the captain of the visiting team to call the color disc for choice of second period position. This procedure is completely consistent with all dual meet events.

The second review item is the reporting to the table. This has been a confused issue but common sense is valuable. **Rule 5-8 on Page 21 in the NFHS rule book states "Disqualification ... or properly reports to the scorer's table in a dual meet and then withdraws."**

Example: **Wrestler A** is to report first to the table as the next competitor, as he walks to the table **wrestler B** is already standing at the corner of the table waiting. **Wrestler A** then gives his name or points to it and with that he is checked in as then next competitor. **Wrestler B** may even give his name and stand at the table waiting. In this example, **wrestler B** could be called back to his bench and the coach may send a different wrestler to report. If, in the same example **wrestler B** would give his name to check in and go inside the circle, then he would be the athlete deemed for competition and could not be pulled without penalty.

Example: If **wrestler A** is to report first, and **wrestler B** goes out inside the 28' competition circle, then **wrestler B** is deemed to have reported because he has been put on the field of competition as the next competitor. This situation works for both athletes. If either would go on to the mat, whether in or out of order, they are the next competitor.

Example: Lastly, if a wrestler has legally reported and then the coach pulls him from competition, the wrestler is disqualified and no wrestler can be replaced in that weight class. Also, that wrestler who has been pulled cannot be used in the next weight class because he has been disqualified from competition in that dual meet.

Although a little gamesmanship is acceptable, baiting the opposing team is not permitted. There is a line that cannot be crossed.

With respect to the use of electronic devices:

- A. If the wrestler does not return to the center when called by the referee, the wrestler will be called for a delay of match... stalling, based on the penalty chart...
- B. If the coach holds the wrestler at the corner to continue to view the device, the coach is called for unsportsmanlike conduct ... one team point.
- C. The coach may take the device to the table to conference about the score, if he starts to show and question a sequence; it is misconduct on the coach. If he continues to try to get the referee to view it, it is unsportsmanlike conduct ... one team point.
- D. We recommend coaches do not take an electronic device to the table for any reason.

DEFAULT: Any competitor or his/her coach may default a match prior to the conclusion of wrestling for a variety of reasons. The most common is a medical default. This may occur during a match in which the competitor is injured and cannot continue. The competitor may default if he/she is accidentally injured during the normal course of wrestling, or if the competitor's opponent causes the injury due to an illegal hold/maneuver, unnecessary roughness or an unsportsmanlike act. If the injury is caused by the opponent due to an illegal hold/maneuver, unnecessary roughness or an unsportsmanlike act during a match, the injured wrestler is awarded one point for the penalty and the two-minute recovery clock is started. If the injured wrestler intends to default in this case he/she or the coach must inform the referee prior to the expiration of the two-minute recovery clock. The referee should not volunteer this information to the coach, as it may be a form of coaching or assisting one of the competitors, but if asked the referee can explain the rule, and then it is up to the coach to communicate the decision prior to the expiration of the two-minute recovery clock.

Also, in the medical default category there is the case where a wrestler defaults prior to the match starting. This may happen because of a previous injury (e.g., last week or in the last match). In this situation the coach may choose to rest and save his wrestler for one last chance to qualify to the next event. In this case, the coach must notify the tournament director of the wrestler's medical problem and his intention to default. The defaulting wrestler or his coach must appear at the announced mat to declare the default so it can be officially entered on the bout sheet.

A wrestler may default for a NON-medical reason. There has been some confusion on the correct procedure for a wrestler to purposefully default a match in the tournament and continue to wrestle. An example may be a wrestler not yet returned from taking the ACT test.

The following procedure is for a NON INJURY default: The coach and wrestler must check in at the table. The coach then informs the referee that his wrestler is defaulting. It is now complete, no one has to go to the mat and both wrestlers may continue to wrestle in the tournament.

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