New Near Fall Situation or Same Near Fall

Rule 5-11-2b … "Only the wrestler with the advantage, who has an opponent in the pinning situation, may score a near fall;"

Rule 5-11-2c … "A near fall is ended when the defensive wrestler gets out of a pinning situation. The referee must not signal the score for a near fall until the situation is ended and only one near fall shall be scored in each pinning situation, regardless of the number of times the offensive wrestler places an opponent in the near-fall position during the pinning situation;"

Rule 5-11-2c really does say a great deal with respect to both the number of near falls and how the offensive wrestler can earn them, and requires further explanation.

EXAMPLE # 1: The offensive wrestler has a cross-face cradle holding his opponent in near fall criteria for a three count, then the defensive wrestler fights off his back out of criteria, but the offensive wrestler still has the cradle locked. As the referee holds the two-points for the near fall, the offensive wrestler again brings his opponent back into criteria and restrains him for the full five second count. The period ends and the referee awards one three-point near fall. We know and understand this because the offensive wrestler did not change the pinning hold, nor did the defensive wrestler achieve a position in which he/she could defend. Accordingly, the offensive wrestler only earned one three-point near fall for one situation.

EXAMPLE # 2: The offensive wrestler traps the cross wrist at the waist, rolls into a Clemson tilt and holds the defensive wrestler in near fall criteria for two seconds. Subsequently, the defensive wrestler comes out of criteria with the wrist/arm still under control. The referee holds a two-point near fall and proceeds to let the situation continue. The offensive wrestler returns his opponent into near fall criteria, this time for a four count. Again, the defensive wrestler fights his way out of criteria for a second time. The wrist/arm is continuously controlled at the hip and for a third time the offensive wrestler returns his opponent into near fall criteria for another two second count when the horn sounds to end the period. The referee stands and awards the offensive wrestler one two-point near fall. Is this correct? YES; because the offensive wrestler did not change the pinning hold (the wrist/arm was controlled), nor did the defensive wrestler achieve a defensible position. Accordingly, the top wrestler can only earn one two-point near fall for the one whole situation.

EXAMPLE # 3: Let's use the same scenario as in example #2, but change it at the end. The offensive wrestler traps the cross wrist at the waist, rolls into a Clemson tilt and holds the defensive wrestler in near fall criteria for two seconds. Subsequently, the defensive wrestler

comes out of criteria with the wrist still under control. The referee holds a two-point near fall and proceeds to let the situation continue. The offensive wrestler returns his opponent into near fall criteria, this time for a four count. Again, the defensive wrestler fights his way out of criteria. Now the defensive wrestler fights his way back to his belly and draws his elbow (of the wrist that was being controlled) up above his chest and posts his elbow on the mat working to his base. The wrist is being held by the offensive wrestler, but is no longer locked at the hip. The referee immediately signals a two-point near fall. The offensive wrestler then pulls the wrist back to the hip and returns his opponent into near fall criteria. This time the offensive wrestler gets a five second count for the near fall and the horn sounds to end the period. The referee stands and awards the offensive wrestler another near fall for three-points. Is this correct? YES; because the defensive wrestler came back over to his base and achieved a defensible position by the act of regaining control of his own arm and elbow by posting it on the mat. In this case the offensive wrestler can earn another set of near fall points.

EXAMPLE # 4: The offensive wrestler lifts the near leg, steps through to Turk the back side leg. Now the offensive wrestler Jacob's the shoulder for the near fall turn and gets the full five second count. He then releases the shoulder, keeping the high thigh leg Turk and allows the defensive wrestler to return to his chest/ belly. After showing the referee that his hands are free, he again hooks the shoulder, turns again for another five seconds and releases it. The offensive wrestler turns for back points four different times with the same initial leg Turk. At the conclusion of this sequence at the buzzer the referee awards one three-point near fall. **Can this be correct? YES;** there are four parts to determining if a new set of near fall points can be earned.
1. The defensive wrestler must come back to his base.
2. He must be able to defend himself.
3. The offensive wrestler must demonstrate a new turn to earn a new set of near fall points, because
4. The defensive wrestler must be able to have control of his extremities.

In short, the offensive wrestler must release the initial controlling maneuver that started the first near fall sequence. If it was the cradle, it needs to be released; the defensive wrestler able to return to his/her base, and then the offensive wrestler can cross face to another cradle to earn a new near fall. In the tilt situation, the initial arm/wrist must control must be released, and then the defensive wrestler is back to his base in a defensible position, now the offensive wrestler can re-capture the arm/wrist to earn a new near fall. The defensive wrestler can be considered "defensible" if the offensive wrestler simply has in a single leg grapevine. And, finally with the leg Turk (and any leg in hip controlled technique) the same is true. The leg hold initiated the control over his opponent. After the first turn the offensive wrestler must release the leg hold and demonstrate a new turn.