



December 15, 2015

Congratulations to our Ohio wrestling officiating team; we had 319 officials attend the face-to-face rule interpretation meetings. This is approximately 41% of the entire group. Well Done! Next year let's shoot for 50% and greater.

The OWOA annual clinic was an outstanding effort to provide the very important and necessary material to the members who attended. Professionalism, Observer Comments, Points for Success, Video Training and the final rule interpretation presentation were some of the topics of the day. Assist. Comm. Beau Rugg addressed the group and answered all questions before he left to attend a state soccer final. The 2016 clinic will be held at the same venue on November 12th. Mark your calendar, and make a must event on your schedule.

Two observers have been added to the team for the 2015-16 season. Tim Gilmore and Rick Crislip, both retired as active officials bring the team to eleven (11) members. Rick will observe the eastern side of the state, while Tim can be seen from the Columbus area north.

The grey with black pin-stripe shirts will be considered. All associations are to turn in their vote by members to DOD Jim Vreeland so Assist. Comm. Beau Rugg can assess the wishes of our state team of officials. If it is accepted it will be phased in over a period of years. The important issue is that all officials at an event must wear the same shirt as a team at each individual event.

Several Case Manual situations have been questioned, please review the following case manual situations, and trust these explanations help simplify each of the following: **"Don't Sweat the Small Stuff"**

Case manual 4.2.3 a We have long discussed the referee's obligation to stop a match to disqualify a wrestler once a suspicious skin condition is detected. This case situation certainly addressed the referee's authority to do just that. This case situation describes the wrestler's disqualification from the event, and that he/she still retains all team points earned up to the point the skin condition was detected. We are all human and something can slip by. That is why we need to be extremely vigilant when we inspect the skin during weigh-in.

Case manual 4.5.5 g The request within 48 hours notification for teams to be granted one extra pound at weigh-ins due to a contest the night before requires notification is given to the coach, athletic director or principal. Telling a secretary by phone is not acceptable.

Case manual 8.2.1 g There has been some question with this case situation. The very last sentence brings about the confusion. The case situation discussed second injury time out during the first period which, by rule, gives choice of position to the opponent in both the second and third period. If wrestler B then takes his/her second injury time-out a) before the end of the second period, b) at the conclusion of the second period prior to the third period starting. How would these situations be handled? Ruling: a) wrestler B would get his/her choice on the re-start to conclude the second period. b) wrestler A would get choice to start the third period, because that occurred first in the sequence of wrestling, then wrestler B would get his/her choice on the first restart after the third period begins.

BE PROFESSIONAL * PROMPT * DECISIVE * DIRECT

Case manual 5.11.2 g Since the beginning year of the extra point added to the near fall have learned and applied the rule properly. First, no matter if the defensive wrestler commits a technical violation, illegal, unnecessary or unsportsmanlike act the offensive wrestler earns one extra point added to the near fall when the situation concludes. The situation can be ended by the referee, the period or match buzzer, and out of bounds stoppage or potentially dangerous stoppage. The ruling in this case situation should have a four point near fall and one point for the pulling of the ear guards.

Send Report: Officials are reminded their opportunity or necessity to send a report to the OHSAA office. All referees may send a positive or complimentary report to recognize sportsmanship, professionalism, etc. A report must be sent if the match is stopped due to the referee recognizing signs, symptoms and/or behaviors of a concussion. The referee must also send a report of an incident or disagreement such as; during weigh-ins if a coach does not exchanging proper alpha forms, discrepancies over which athlete is being wrestled in a weight class, team scoring disputes, etc. Referees should not get involved with these issues. The OHSAA will settle any issues. Referees need to do their job as a match official.

REGIONAL DUAL MEET COMPETITION will begin Wednesday evening January 27, 2016. We have approximately a 10 day window to get 192 referees assigned. Please keep that date open so a contract from the OHSAA can reach you. Almost the same is true with the second Wednesday night February 3rd. We have 3-4 days to get 48 contracts delivered for that event. We need everyone's help with these two evenings.

The Appropriate Health care Professional (AHCP) must be designated by the host school to be in attendance at the event for the specific capacity as the medical person. He should most certainly attend the weigh-in. In the event the referee does not arrive for the skin check, the only other person who may perform that task is the designated on-site AHCP. When the referee arrives he must receive confirmation from the AHCP that all are safe to participate or the 106 wrestler from Columbus High School has a contagious skin condition and if not permitted to compete. If the AHCP is called away on an emergency, in his absence he should leave a note for the referee with his inspection findings.

In the event of a simultaneous double stall call which results in both wrestlers receiving 2 points, choice of position is not offered to either contestant. If either would get choice first it would give that individual an advantage first, which would be unfair.

We teach new wrestling officials the importance of having a strong team at the scorer's table. As we always say "they can make or break the official". There are several very valuable thoughts each official should keep in mind at the start of each match or tournament. **First:** is to always greet the team at the table, introduce yourself to everyone, and have each state their name, then explain everyone's duties so all can hear. This helps new comers to the table gain respect for the others. Invite the visiting scorer to sit at the head table. Make sure all understand they are a team and they need to work in harmony. It is important to know when to buzz if there is an issue. The timer should verbally describe the points.

Second: Make sure no one interferes with the timer and scorer. They must be focused every second of every match. It is a demanding job, often boring after a while and certainly thankless. It is a necessary job that truly requires the team at the table to have a deep love of the sport. Coaches and other spectators will always want to come up behind the table and get loud and somehow involved with the job they are doing. This must not be allowed. Do not let anyone harass or interfere with your table team. They are like family; protect them.

Third: As we discuss not letting anyone or anything distracts the table's focus from their job of watching the match, it is also important to insist there are no electronic devices at the table. This includes all devices to play electronic games, text messages, and send or receive any data. Cell phones, I-pads, tablets, and laptops are but a few to mention. Any table workers who can't follow this simple request should be replaced. Certainly some cell devices are used as the timing device for blood, injury and recovery time.

Fourth: The protocol also goes for the officials as well. The NFHS has recently spelled out the duties and responsibilities of the off-mat referee. He/she is to continue to be a responsible official during the event and pay attention to the event. Playing on a cell phone shows lack of respect to the wrestlers, to fellow officials and to the sport. Tournament referees should not bring any electronic devices to the mat, unless necessary. If table workers are replaced for breaking the protocol, the same should apply to the officials. These officials may be removed from the tournament. The contestants deserve everyone's 100% attention to work as a team to get it right. Preventing mistakes is necessary and takes everyone being mindful of that end.