

A few issues have come up early in the season that I would like to address:

1. Referee giving a second "Set" command prior to the start of wrestling.

Some local associations have interpreted this as not required because it is not a rule in the Rule Book. It is found in the Rule Book on page 55 as a comment on 09-10 major changes. This is a change to officiating mechanics that **will** be used by the official. On page 55 of the Rule book and on page 4 of the Case Book and Manual, it states "Starting this season, once the top wrestler has become set, the referee will (emphasis added) give a verbal command "set" before blowing the whistle.":

Officials do not have the option of using this mechanic or not. If we are consistent statewide with this, wrestlers will become used to the command and false starts will disappear. This mechanic will be required at the State Tournament. It will not be fair to those wrestlers to not have this mechanic used all year long and then run into it in a state tournament match.

Failure to use this "set" does not constitute bad time since it is a mechanic. Same thing as forgetting to use a reversal or takedown signal.

Please make sure this is discussed with your officials and this command is used for all matches.

2. "Tapping Out" by a wrestler to get out of a pinning situation.

This is becoming more prevalent within our sport. There has never been a place for this in our sport. Wrestlers now think they can use this technique as a means to get themselves a new start.

While we should not be in a position of determining if a wrestler is indeed hurt, we should also not allow a wrestler to use "Tapping Out" as a way to get a new start. If you believe a wrestler is hurt, you should stop the match and award the proper points.

I am proposing in a "Tapping Out" situation, the referee will ask the wrestler if he wants to quit. If the wrestler says yes, then the match is terminated as an injury default. Once he does this, the match will not be restarted no matter what the coach says. If the wrestler says no, then the official will then make a determination as to whether to stop the match or not for injury. A lot of officials will call a fall in this situation. A fall that is not there should not be called. Either the match is stopped for injury or we allow the wrestler to terminate the match.

3. Beards and Facemasks

Oregon is being allowed to experiment with a new beard/facemask procedure. Essentially, the only wrestlers who will be allowed to have a beard are those approved by OSAA. The approved facemask is a cold weather hoodie type mask used by football players under their helmet. It covers the entire head with an opening for the eyes, nose and mouth. It is to be worn under the headgear. Brad will be sending out a list of approved wrestlers shortly and those approved will have an OSAA approved form for the wrestler to carry to weighins.

Hopefully, this will clear up some early season issues. Please email or call me if you have other issues that need clarification.

Rick Wallace, SRI 503-508-2134