

SRI Bulletin February 2017

Officials,

We have entered the last month of the season. I want to thank all of you for a job well done this year. Following are a few items that I have heard about since the last SRI bulletin. Remember, all regional officials must turn in an Officials Bio and update their picture on their Arbiter account.

Coaches Misconduct vs Coaches Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Remember, these are two separate penalties. They each have their own penalty sequence and **cannot** be combined. Coaches Misconduct can only apply during the match. Rule 5.5 on page 20 states:

ART. 1 . . . Coach misconduct occurs when a coach improperly questions the referee at the scorer's table.

ART. 2 . . . When a coach requests a conference with the referee at the scorer's table regarding a possible misapplication of a rule, and it is determined there was no misapplication or when, during a conference at the scorer's table, the coach questions the judgment of the referee, coach misconduct shall be called. The coach misconduct penalty shall always be charged to the head coach.

ART. 3 . . . Coach misconduct results in the following:

- a. First offense - warning;
- b. Second offense - deduct one team point;
- c. Third offense - deduct two team points and removal of the head coach for the remainder of the day. The penalty sequence starts anew each day. See Penalty Chart ("Table") on Page 42 of the rulebook.

I have heard coaches receiving a **misconduct** warning in between matches at duals or after a match at a tournament. Before or after a match, a coach can respectfully talk to the official and ask for a clarification or ruling. Remember, an official is not beyond reproach. An official is also an educator of the athletes, coaches, fans and each other. Knowing the rules and signals and the appropriate time and manner in which they are used is a skill we can all work on.

Coaches Unsportsmanlike Conduct is Rule 5.30.1 on page 29 of the rule book. It states:

ART. 1 . . . Coaches and Team Personnel. Unsportsmanlike conduct of coaches and other team personnel is any act which becomes abusive or interferes with the orderly progress of the match. These acts may occur prior to, during or after a match. This includes violations of the bench decorum rule (7-5-2), taunting, acts of disrespect, or those actions which incite negative reaction by others. The offender shall be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct in accordance with the Penalty Chart ("Table" above) on page 42 of the rulebook.

Rule 8.1.4 on page 40 states:

ART. 4 . . . Unsportsmanlike conduct by a wrestler prior to or after the conclusion of wrestling, coaches or other team personnel, results in the deduction of one team point for the first offense. On the second offense two team points shall be deducted. The individual will be removed from the premises for the remainder of the event provided authorized school personnel is available to supervise; if no supervision is available, the student shall be confined to the bench area. These penalties carry over in a multiple-day event. (See Penalty Chart; "Table" above)

Unsportsmanlike Conduct by a coach can occur before, during or after a match. Coaches Misconduct can only occur during a match. If a coach calls a timeout, you meet with him and he questions your judgment and you do not change your call, it is coaches Misconduct.

Rule 7.5.4 on page 52 of the Casebook states:

***7.5.4 SITUATION:**

The referee awards a three-point near-fall to Wrestler A. The coach of Wrestler B comes to the scorer's table to meet with the official about the call. (a) The coach asks if the referee awarded a two- or three-point near-fall, and the referee informs the coach a three point near-fall was awarded and the coach returns to the chair/bench without a follow-up to the question; (b) **the coach wants an explanation as to why the referee felt that there was a three point near-fall and not a two point near-fall.**

RULING: In (a), there is no misconduct since the coach asked for a clarification about how many points had been awarded, there was not a follow-up question or debate after the referee answered the question. In (b), **the coach is questioning the referee's judgment in regard to awarding a three-point near-fall versus a two-point near-fall. If the call is not reversed or no misapplication of the rule has not occurred, the coach would be charged with misconduct.**

(7-5-4)

Every year it is frustrating to hear coaches at the State Tournament say, "that has not been called all year long. Why are we doing it now?" Failure to use this proper and easy mechanic lets the coaches start to take advantage of you and your fellow officials. I recently watched a dual where one coach went to the table six times and questioned calls. Never once did that coach receive a misconduct warning. That coach knew that once the official failed to give him a warning, he could walk all over him for the rest of the dual.

Shoe Laces Taped, Oral Mouthguards, Hair Covers and Headgear

Every year I hear some story about a wrestler being penalized a point for items that we should be doing "preventive officiating" on. Match points for these ticky tacky penalties can be prevented. This time of year these penalties can be the difference between qualifying for state or placing at a tournament. Officials, during weigh-ins remind **all** wrestlers that the shoe laces have to be taped to the shoes, around the ankle, if no locking device is used. If the wrestlers have oral braces, they must have a mouthguard that also covers the teeth. If they have hair longer by rule, they need a hair cover that is attached to the headgear, not by velcro or tape.

By being proactive **before** wrestling starts, we have reminded the athletes and coaches what is required. Please do not go looking to penalize the wrestlers. By being proactive we can educate the athletes and coaches. Being reactive to a situation that we could have prevented leaves a bad taste with all who are involved. Also, there is a scrolling message bar on Track. Information like this can be posted to help remind the wrestlers.

Colt Sievers (Boise) said that the 145 lb wrestler from Baker is using the LDR headgear. Remember, this is LEGAL to use. The Mercado is ILLEGAL.

Below are examples of what is legal and illegal. Please be proactive and educate the wrestlers. The goal is to be properly equipped and ready to wrestle. We want to avoid any unnecessary match stoppages for something that does not affect the wrestling.



Illegal-Sanitation Reasons



Illegal- Laces Not Taped to Shoe



Legal- Laces Secured by a Locking Device on Shoe



Legal-Laces Taped to Shoe



Legal



Legal



Illegal



LEGAL ear guards (LDR)



Illegal ear guards (Mercado)

Mat Area

In previous tournaments, we have had situations requiring additional wrestling after the match has concluded. Rule 6.6.4.a.1 on page 32 of the rulebook explains this. I have defined the mat area at the OSAA Wrestling State Championships as any area inside the metal barrier fences surrounding the wrestling mats. This will only apply at the State Championship tournament in Memorial Coliseum. At regional championship qualifiers, or any other OSAA wrestling event, the mat area is defined on page 9 of the rulebook, rule 2.1.5.

ART. 5 . . . The mat area includes the wrestling mat and a space of at least 10 feet surrounding the mat, as well as the team benches and scorer's table where facilities permit. The team bench in dual meets should be at least 10 feet from the wrestling mat and 10 feet from the scorer's table. The diagrams on page 10 are a suggested configuration.

Tights

Another item that I am concerned about are full-length tights. If a wrestler chooses to wear these, they must have a stirrup attached to them. This is to prevent the tights from coming out of the wrestlers shoes.

Rule 4.1.1c on page 15 of the rulebook states:

Full-length tights with stirrups are acceptable under a one-piece uniform. Any other undergarment that extends beyond the inseam of a one-piece uniform shall be a tight-fitting, single solid color, unadorned and shall not extend below the knee.

College wrestlers are starting to wear a single leg tight or leg sleeve. This **would** be allowed at the high school level, as long as it has a stirrup attached as per rule 4.1.1c.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct- Shoulder Straps Down On the Mat

Again, in an effort to avoid any unnecessary penalty points, please educate yourself and fellow officials. Rule 5.30.2 on page 29 of the rule book states:

ART. 2 . . . Contestants. Unsportsmanlike conduct involves physical or nonphysical acts and they can occur before, during or after a match. It includes, but is not limited to, such acts as failure to comply with the direction of the referee, pushing, shoving, swearing, taunting, intimidation, baiting an opponent, throwing ear guards or any other equipment, spitting, the clearing of the nasal passage in other than the proper receptacle, repeatedly dropping to one knee to break locked hands, indicating displeasure with a call, **failure to keep shoulder straps up while on the mat** and failure to comply with the end-of-match procedure. Continuing acts of unsportsmanlike conduct or any unsportsmanlike conduct may be construed as flagrant misconduct.

This rule **ONLY** applies while the wrestler is **ON THE MAT**. Again, please educate the coaches and wrestlers. This is the time of year when, for some reason, we start reacting instead of being proactive. If a wrestler is verifying his name or win at the table and starts to take off his shoulder strap, tell him to keep it up. If the wrestler "fails" to follow your instruction and keeps it down, then penalize him. We have too many officials that are more concerned about "penalizing" than actually working to become better and make a tough judgement call.

Starting Positions

Another area of concern this time of year. In the neutral position each wrestler must have a foot on the starting line. A good habit to get into is point to the lines, say “lines” then “shake hands” and start your match. Again, correct as you go. If the wrestler “fails” to follow your instruction, then penalize him/her. This is one of the ticky tacky situations we want to eliminate.

There is also a line for the official to stand on too. I have seen a couple of false start injuries in the neutral position this season. They could have been prevented if the official were separating the wrestlers by standing between them on the neutral start. Again proactive not reactive.

I have heard some concerns about starting in the referee’s position as well. Rule 5.19.2 states:

ART. 2 . . . Defensive Starting Position. The defensive wrestler’s starting position requires the wrestler to be at the center of the circle stationary on hands and knees so both knees are on the mat behind and parallel to the rear starting line. The heels of both hands shall be on the mat in front of the forward starting line. The elbows shall not touch the mat. This position must also allow the offensive wrestler to be able to assume a legal starting position on either side.

As well, the casebook situation for Rule 5.19.2 reads:

5.19.2 SITUATION A:

When the defensive wrestler assumes a starting position, is it necessary to assume a position that will also allow the offensive wrestler to assume a legal starting position?

RULING: The defensive wrestler must assume a position that is stationary, on hands and knees, so that both knees are on the mat behind and parallel to the rear starting line, and the heels of both hands are on the mat in front of the forward starting line. The elbows shall not touch the mat. This position must also allow the offensive wrestler to assume a legal starting position.

COMMENT: This would mean that the defensive wrestler cannot flatten out on the mat in such a way that the offensive wrestler could not apply a hand to the defensive wrestler’s navel. Also, the defensive wrestler’s feet cannot be extended on both sides in such a manner to prohibit the offensive wrestler from assuming a legal starting position on either the left or the right side of the opponent.

This is another situation to be proactive. By telling the defensive wrestler “set” and instructing the offensive wrestler to “cover legal” we are trying to reduce the amount of cautions for improper starting positions.

Illegal Headlocks

There have been some questions about illegal headlocks. Rule 7.1.5d states:

d. any headlock in which the arms or hands are locked around the opponent’s head without encircling an arm (elbow or above) or leg (except in the guillotine after near-fall criteria has been met or ¾ Nelson);

Remember, if the offensive wrestler has an arm around the defensive wrestlers head and locks on his own leg, this is **LEGAL**. If the offensive wrestler locks around the defensive wrestlers head and then grabs his own uniform, then this would be a technical violation. The rule states a headlock is the arms (plural) or hands. Not an arm and leg or an arm and the body locked around the opponent’s head.

Skin Lesion Forms

Remember the only form that an athlete can have for a skin condition is the one found on the OSAA website. <http://www.osaa.org/docs/wre/skinlesionform.pdf> . Please remember that a healthcare professional is not guaranteed to be provided at regional championship qualifiers.

Brad Garrett and myself do our best to remind each tournament host to provide one, but this does not always happen. Rule 4.2.3 states:

ART. 3 . . . If a participant is suspected by the referee or coach of having a communicable skin disease or any other condition that makes participation appear inadvisable, the coach shall provide current written documentation as defined by the NFHS or the state associations, from an appropriate health-care professional stating that the suspected disease or condition is not communicable and that the athlete's participation would not be harmful to any opponent. This document shall be furnished at the weigh-in for the dual meet or tournament. The only exception would be if a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional is present and is able to examine the wrestler either immediately prior to or immediately after the weigh-in. Covering a communicable condition shall not be considered acceptable and does not make the wrestler eligible to participate. (See NFHS Communicable Disease Procedures in Appendix D.)

ART. 4 . . . If a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional is present, he/she may overrule the diagnosis of the appropriate health-care professional signing the medical release form for a wrestler to participate or not participate with a particular skin condition.

ART. 5 . . . A contestant may have documentation from an appropriate health-care professional only indicating a specific condition such as a birthmark or other non-communicable skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema, and that documentation is valid for the duration of the season. It is valid with the understanding that a chronic condition could become secondarily infected and may require re-evaluation.

Commissioners, it is advisable that if you are hosting a regional tournament, please try and be proactive and contact the AD of the host school. Try to arrange a designated on site meet appropriate health care provider to be present during skin checks both days.

It is not fair to an athlete, who has worked hard all year, for an official to make a decision on a skin condition that may or may not be contagious. If we can be proactive and arrange for a designated on site meet appropriate health care provider, it allows the health care provider to make a decision based on their professional knowledge.

BIO's and Pictures for Regional Assigned Officials

Again, please update your Bio's, found on the wrestling central hub page, on Arbiter. Also, go to "my account" and upload a picture to your Arbiter account.

Both of these will be used by the commissioner selection committee and the coaches selection committee. All regional assigned officials need to do this.

Also, please understand that the coaches do not want to hear you "tell" them how good of an official you are. "Show" them that you are presentable, knowledgeable, hustle, consistent, fair and professional. If you make a mistake, which we all do, correct it. That will gain you more respect with a coach than being stubborn and sticking with your call when you are wrong.

If you have any questions, call, text, or email me. Remember, regional weekends I am working also. If it is important, keep calling and texting. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Thank you all for a great season!!

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