

SRI Bulletin January 2017

All,

I hope all of you had a safe New Year. Some of this will be a little redundant, so please bear with me.

I am still getting questions about the arm trapped rule. Short and simple version. It is OK for the offensive wrestler to take the defensive wrestler back to the mat with the arm trapped. What we want to focus our attention on is **recognizing** that it is a potentially dangerous situation. Verbally caution the offensive wrestler to "keep it legal, keep it safe." Be hyper critical of what happens when the defensive wrestler hits the mat. If there is the slightest doubt in your mind that it was a little rough, then call unnecessary roughness. If it is an obvious slam, then call it that. We do not want to take away potential scoring opportunities from the offensive wrestler, but at the same time we are focusing on the safety of the defensive wrestler.

Todd Pommier (Salem) worked a novice tournament and noticed a wrestler wearing the "Mercado" style headgear. This style of earguards is **NOT** legal to wear as per NFHS or OSAA rule. Todd did a great job of educating the wrestler, parent and coach, from Dallas High School, on why this is not legal at this time. Below are examples and the websites of legal and illegal earguards. Please continue to educate your association. If anyone else sees these being used, either the LDR, legal, or Mercado, illegal, please email me.



LEGAL ear guards (LDR)

<http://www.leaderheadgear.com>



Illegal ear guards (Mercado)

<http://batstoi.com>

I have not heard too much talk about new rule 5.11.2i This rule can be found on page 22 in the rule book.

i. In f-h, when a defensive wrestler commits a technical violation, applies an illegal hold/maneuver, commits unnecessary roughness or unsportsmanlike act during an imminent or near fall situation, the offensive wrestler shall be awarded a penalty point(s) in addition to the near fall points in accordance with f-h at the next stoppage.

In the past, during a pinning situation, if the official had to "wipe" the hand of the defensive wrestler off the face or neck of the offensive wrestler because of breathing or circulation concerns, we did not penalize it. Additionally, if we told the defensive wrestler to "keep it legal" when he grabbed the headgear or uniform of the offensive wrestler, we did not penalize it.

Now each time the defensive wrestler commits a penalty, by rule, we put it in the "memory" bank and continue to let the offensive wrestler work for the fall. If there is a penalty that is a safety concern to the offensive wrestler, then we will stop the match. If a fall happens, obviously the match is over. If the defensive wrestler goes out of bounds, time runs out or the defensive wrestler bellies out, we stop the match and award the penalty points.

The proper sequence is the nearfall points earned, plus one for the match stoppage. Additionally each penalty that is in the memory bank will be awarded. Remember, these are cumulative throughout the match. So, be aware where you are in the penalty sequence based on the one, one, two, DQ process.

On page 25 of the Casebook you will find:

***5.11.2 SITUATION G:**

Wrestler A has Wrestler B in a pinning situation and the referee is holding three near-fall points when B grasps A's ear guards. The referee removes the hand, but allows action to continue to give A the opportunity to secure the fall. If (a) time expires or (b) the action is stopped due to the fact the wrestlers went out of bounds, how many points should be awarded?

RULING: Whether the period ends or an out of bounds situation occurs, the point awards would be the same. The referee shall award four points for the near-fall and one point for grasping the ear guards. The offending wrestler shall not be allowed to profit from illegal action. (6-4-6; 7-3-2)

Remember, this is **not** a continuation of wrestling situation. You can not award the penalty points while wrestling is happening. If you do, this would become a bad time situation.

There was a good question from Masa (Metro) about awarding penalty points in overtime. Many of you will remember an old rule that said " If the first points were awarded simultaneously (in sudden victory), as in a double stall, the match would proceed immediately to the 30 second ultimate tiebreaker."

In 2005-06, the NFHS added the two additional 30 second tiebreakers between sudden victory and the ultimate tiebreaker. In doing so, they struck the comment of the "first points awarded....." situation. Below is the ruling from the NFHS:

“You are correct we use to have a rule that if you called a double stall and awarded equal points you went straight to the ultimate tiebreaker. This rule was changed when the two thirty second tiebreaker were added. Base on the rule as written a double stall with equal points awarded would not send the wrestlers immediately to either 30 second periods.”

So, if you have this “once every five year” situation happen, remember you will award the simultaneous penalty point and continue wrestling in the sudden victory period.

Make sure we are following the proper weigh in procedures as outlined in rule 4.5.1-9 on pages 18 and 19 in the rulebook.

Additionally, on pages 18, 19 and 20 in the casebook, are some situations that can be talked about.

Remember, if weigh ins start at 10am, all **legal** forms of dehydration activities are allowed up to 10am. Wearing plastics, using a sauna, or any other forms of dehydration used to cut extreme amounts of weight quickly are illegal. This is a simple rule to follow out of the rule book. Rules like this are important. With regionals coming up, we need to make sure we know what is legal and illegal before weigh ins. It does not look good if an is athlete not allowed to compete because the officials don’t know the rule.

I attended a few tournaments over the Christmas break. We are still having problems recognizing what are legal and illegal hairstyles for wrestlers. When doing weigh ins or skin checks, wrestlers must have their hair in its natural state. If they choose not to, they must have a hair cover that attaches to the earguards, not by velcro or tape. Rule 4.2.1 states;

“The hair, in its natural state, shall not extend below the top of an ordinary shirt collar in the back; and on the sides, the hair shall not extend below earlobe level; in the front, the hair shall not extend below the eyebrows. “

Remember, we did not make the rules. We are the administrators who are given the authority to follow the rules as they are written. It is frustrating, when a coach approaches me and asks why his own wrestler is allowed to compete with hair that the coach knows is illegal by rule.

For those of you that attended the clinic this year, one of our focuses is using proper signals and mechanics. On pages 81 and 82 of the rule book, are the 27 proper signals used during a wrestling match. Remember, with proper signals and mechanics, we are interpreting the match to the person sitting in the top row of the bleachers. This is something that all officials can work on.

I know everybody has their own “style” of officiating. In using the proper signals and mechanics, we are being consistent across the state in how we “tell the story” to the coaches and fans. If an official makes it a habit to use the proper signals, then they can focus on other areas such as recognizing control earlier.

Essentially what I am asking for here, is that **ALL** the officials in the state use the same signals from the rule book. This is something that we can all do the same. Whereas a judgement call, such as stalling, can be interpreted differently by every one of us.

Jim Phillips (Albany) and Luis Palacios (Roseburg) reported that they have seen a higher than usual amount of chokeholds being used. This is being observed in the offensive referee's position and the neutral position as well.

Rule 7.1.5 g states:

g. holds/maneuvers putting pressure on the throat and/or carotid artery;

In these situations, it is important that the official cautions the wrestler to "keep it legal", "stay off the throat", "don't choke him down." We want to make sure that the offensive wrestler is not gaining an advantage by his/her actions. Some of these holds can go bad real fast. Be in position to observe and stop these if needed as soon as possible. Drop your level on the open side. Be verbal. This helps keep an even playing field and also "shows" the defensive wrestlers coach you are looking out for the safety of his/her wrestler. Be proactive, not reactive. This is another good tool to put in your preventive officiating toolbox.

This is a good time of the year to start working/perfecting two-man mechanics. With regionals and state tournaments coming up we will be using this more than we usually do during the season. Page 13 of the rulebook Rule 3.2 talks about assistant referees.

Some things to remember. The assistant is to complement the referee. It is hard to watch a match when the assistant referee is closer to the wrestlers, than the official who is on the whistle. Stay off the wrestling area unless there is a near fall situation. Again, treat the out of bounds line like an electric fence. The only time the assistant should be in the wrestling area are NF situations, timeouts, or end of match procedures.

During NF situations, the assistant is to **stand back** and observe the wrestlers for any illegal or potentially dangerous holds. I am still hearing things from the assistant referee during NF situations such as "it's legal, all good up here, don't choke him down, keep that legal." As the lead official on the mat during NF, all I want to hear from the assistant is silence. Unless, there is an illegal hold or potentially dangerous situation the head official does not see. In that case the assistant is to say, "illegal _____." That way the head official can look up and make the decision that what he has been told is in fact legal, illegal, or potentially dangerous. He then can make the decision, based on the infraction and who it's on, to stop the match or let the offensive wrestler continue to work for a pin.

Head officials, when you ask the assistant for help, phrase the question in a yes or no answer. "Did you have two there? Did he have control?" NOT, "what do you think?" We do not want to have a huge discussion over a simple yes or no answer.

Again, people are there to watch the athletes wrestle, not the officials waste time having a drawn out discussion that can be answered with a simple yes or no.

Assistant referees, when asked a question by the lead official, say "Yes or No" to the question. An answer that is not good is, "whatever you have" or "I don't know." This shows that you are either not paying attention to the match or don't really care. The lead official is asking you for his/her help. Again, complement the lead official by being an asset. Not a distraction.

Commissioners, veteran officials and association trainers. These are some of the things we have talked about at clinics during the previous years. Please take the time at the next meeting to go over two man mechanics before regionals and state tournaments. Thanks.

I did a little study during duals at the Oregon Classic this past weekend. I would like to see the following starting procedure become standard by everyone. This, I feel, will help diminish cautions for improper starting positions by the offensive wrestler.

After the defensive wrestler gets set on the bottom, say "set." Then instruct the offensive wrestler to "COVER LEGAL." Once the offensive wrestler has covered legally, say "set", pause and blow your whistle.

For study purposes I did not say "cover legal" during a dual and had seven improper offensive starting positions. With that same team, earlier in the day, I did say "cover legal" and had one improper offensive starting position. Most of these were either hand not on the navel or head not on the center line. Trust me, if the wrestlers can get an advantage they will take it every chance you give them. This is something to put in your preventive officiating tool box.

Also, I noticed a large amount of false starts being created by officials by saying a "HARD" set. The wrestlers are coiled springs ready to go on the whistle. If you say "set" loud or hard, I guarantee they will jump. Think hard count by the QB to get offsides called. If you create that false start, do you think it is fair to penalize the wrestler for your mistake? The wrestlers, coaches, or fans DO NOT need to hear you say set. You can mouth the word and then blow your whistle. Saying "set" is used to create a pause by the offensive wrestler and eliminate rolling starts before you blow your whistle.

Have seen a few situations regarding locking hands. I still see officials diving down during a takedown to look for locked hands. Why? If you have NOT called or signaled a takedown, then that means control is not met. So then the offensive wrestler can still have his hands locked. Once control is met on the mat, you have signaled and verbalized the takedown, then there is reaction time for the hands to be unlocked.

Rule 7.3.3 on page 37 of the rulebook says;

ART. 3 . . . Interlocking or overlapping the hands, fingers or arms around the opponent's body (with or without arms included) or both legs by a wrestler in the advantage position, unless the opponent has all the weight supported entirely by the feet or has lifted the opponent off the mat or the opponent has met near-fall criteria, is a technical violation and the penalty point(s) shall be awarded in addition to points earned. (When bringing your opponent to the mat, hands overlapping or interlocking beyond reaction time is a technical violation.) (Photos 103 through 106)

Remember, if the the only part of the defensive wrestler touching the mat is his/her foot or feet, the offensive wrestler can lock hands around the body or legs. Once a hand or more of the defensive wrestler touch the mat, while being controlled, the offensive wrestler has reaction time to unlock his/her hands.

At the Oregon Classic, I called two locked hands in 12 duals. Yes, I probably missed a few too. Point is, quit diving down to look for and create something to call. People pay their money to watch the wrestlers, not watch the referee be a distraction. Perception is reality.

I heard about a situation where a coach was called for unsportsmanlike conduct while fixing his wrestlers headgear. He was told he could not coach during that time. Nowhere in the rule book does it say that a coach can not instruct or coach his wrestler during an officials timeout, blood timeout, injury timeout or anytime during the match.

The coach knew that was not a rule and had a few choice words for the official. That led to him getting another unsportsmanlike conduct call and being removed from the premises. Again, not knowing the rule and making up your own rule has consequences. Knowing simple rules out of the rule book gives you credibility.

I have seen and heard of some concerns regarding nearfall situations. Please, ANTICIPATE the NF situation happening. If it is a cradle, be in position to start your count when the defensive wrestlers pinning area is 45 degrees or less. Do not watch the defensive wrestler get taken over, run around to get in position and then start your NF count. You just took at least a second to get in position and that second could be the difference between a two or three point NF.

If a wrestler is getting turned in a half, anticipate the way the half is being driven and be in position. Once the defensive wrestlers shoulders get to 90 degrees, start dropping down to the mat. By doing so, the coach sees that you are getting in position to be ready to reward his/her wrestler with a NF count once 45 degrees is met.

Coaches appreciate an official who works to be in position and reward their wrestlers efforts. By anticipating, hustling and positioning yourself in **all** situations, you will find that the coaches appreciate your efforts.

Have had some discussions and heard some concerns over protocols for meetings. Please use your meeting time to work on training. With our numbers of officials dwindling, now more than ever, is when we should be doing as much training as possible. I know a few associations that took the December SRI bulletin and made a whole meeting out of it for training purposes. Utilize members of your association, make them feel important and give them a topic to present at your next meeting.

Yes, the rule book can become old and redundant, but like I said last month, there is always something you can learn from it. Take the case book and open it up to a random page and read a scenario. Some are pretty straightforward while others give better clarity to a rule.

Regionals are around the corner, less than a month away. Again familiarize your association where the officials Bio form is on the Central Hub. I will send out an email to all the commissioners when it is open. Any early submissions will be deleted.

IMPORTANT

This year, once the 30 officials are selected for the state tournament, a coaches representative for each classification will "draft" three officials for that classification. So, that means getting a number one ranking at regionals only guarantees you in the state tournament, including a bio and photo. No longer does a number one lock you into that classification at that regional. There have been a lot of rumors about this process. Call me and I will explain it if it is that important to you.

It **IS** very important and **will be** a criteria for the commissioners committee and coaches selection that you fill out the BIO. Also, it **will be** a criteria that you go to your arbiter account and upload a photo of yourself. The BIO and PHOTO **will be** used by the commissioners and coaches for the selection process.

The only people that need to do this are the regional assigned officials. Failure to do this will result you being taken out of the process, even if you were ranked number one. The coaches are the ones that asked for the photos, as they do not know all the officials by name. I feel that is a fair request, as I can think of about five officials that this would affect.

Again, **do not** submit BIO's at this time. **Do** though, upload a photo to your arbiter account.

Two people were deleted from the number two and three list last year for failing to fill out a bio.

Also, two people were deleted from the list last year for playing politics at regionals. If I or any of the commissioners hear of officials politicking for votes at a regional, then I don't want you at the state tournament. Instead of telling everybody how good you are, SHOW us how good of an official you are by anticipating, hustling, knowing the rules, using proper signals and mechanics, positioning yourself in situations, and being presentable and professional.

This year evaluators will again be used at the state tournament. This is a committee of four commissioners that rotates every year. Last years evaluations showed that we were lacking in using the proper signals and mechanics. That is why we made it a point of emphasis at this years clinics. They also were helpful to the officials in giving them feedback on what they need to improve on.

The evaluators will again be ranking the top 15 officials. This list, made known only to me and the evaluators, will be used to reward the top 8 officials with out of state assignments next year in Nevada, Idaho and Washington.

We used this process last year and I felt that it was very beneficial for all those involved. We represented the state of Oregon at these tournaments very well and have been asked to send officials back next year. Thank you Tommy Kennedy, Chris Bettineski, Mike Hocker, Brad Covington, Luis Palacios, Keith Grunberg, Tanner Hilyer and Jeremy Carlson. All of you did an outstanding job.

Also, congratulations to Tanner Hilyer for being invited to work the senior nationals tournament in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Tanner's hard work and dedication to improve make him an asset to the wrestling community.

Again, I appreciate all of you that have worked to get better over the years. As you can see, there is always room for improvement, no matter who your are. As a reward for improving come opportunities to attend tournaments of of state and work with other officials. Also, most of you have seen that Oregon is adding more college programs. This is another reason for officials to continue to improve. The more colleges that add wrestling, means we are going to need more college officials.

If you have any questions email me at sahall1884@gmail.com or call/text me at 541-914-2986.

Thanks,

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