

Wrestling SRI Bulletin
November 2016

Commissioners and officials,

Congratulations on registering for the 2016-17 OSAA wrestling season. Whether you are a long time veteran official or a first time rookie, let me be the first to thank you for your commitment to the sport of wrestling in Oregon.

As we all know, over the past few years, we have had a decrease in officials across the state. I am sure that we are all going to have a busy season. Commissioners, please work with your neighboring associations if you need help in covering an event. Veterans, remember that at one time you were that new official on the mat. Help mentor our younger referees so that we can continue to have some of the best officials in the United States. Young and newer officials, please be open to critique from your veterans. The knowledge they possess is one of the most valuable resources you have for your use.

Reminders for all:

If you dress for success, you will succeed. Look good, you feel good. The rule book explains what is required of an officials uniform. If the coach can see you problems following that rule, do you think he trusts you to make the right calls?

Pre meet duties. Have a routine. On the wrestling central hub at the bottom of the right hand column is a list of pre meet duties. Use this time before a dual or tournament to set your expectations for the meet. Don't make a promise you can't keep. "I am going to be tough on stalling" will always get you in trouble. Take time to answer questions from the wrestlers and coaches. Part of our job is to help educate everybody involved in the sport. If you don't know an answer to a question, please find it in the rule book or get the right answer. Don't make something up.

Skin checks are mandatory, by rule, before every dual meet or tournament. The best time to do these are at weigh-ins. If you are unable to attend weigh-ins, make sure they are done before wrestling starts. Besides you, the official, the only other person to do skin checks is a meet designated doctor or physician.

Coaches Misconduct is always a topic of concern. "Has not been called all year, only time it happens is at State" are common phrases I hear from coaches. The case book has a great scenario on page 52, highlighted in grey.

Shoe laces are to either be properly secured by taping them or secured by a locking device, velcro strap, on the wrestling shoe. Page 15 in the rule book is where to find this rule clarification.

A few items of interest that have prompted pre-season questions:

The ONLY uniform that is allowed by rule, is described on page 15 of the rule book. Please make sure that this is followed at all OSAA wrestling events.

The defensive wrestler, arm trapped, in the standing position has created good conversations. Remember, we do NOT automatically stop the wrestling for potentially dangerous when the arm is trapped. Lots of good scoring opportunities can come from this situation. Please be vocal in identifying this situation by saying “keep it legal, keep it safe, easy, etc.” Please read Potentially Dangerous Holds/Maneuvers on page 26 of the rule book. This could be helpful in dealing with this situation. If the defensive wrestler is returned to the mat and meets your criteria to call a slam or unnecessary roughness, then stop the match, make your call, award the penalty point and start recovery time if the defensive wrestler is injured. Obviously, if both arms are trapped and the defensive wrestler is unable to defend himself, then be proactive and stop the match for potentially dangerous for the safety of the wrestler.

Earlier this month a “different” style of headgear was being encouraged to be used by some coaches. The National Federation originally said the headgear was not legal for high school use. Further investigation by the Federation determined that this headgear IS legal to use at high school events. Please go to leaderheadgear.com to educate yourself and your association on this product. If anyone sees this product being used, please email me with the school name so I can get the information out to the commissioners.

As always if you have any rules questions, email me at sahall1884@gmail.com. If you have a question, have exhausted all your resources, rulebook, commissioner, veteran officials, and need an immediate answer, text or call me at 541-914-2986. Remember, most weekends I am on the mat and very rarely check my phone.

Thanks and have a great season!!

Scott Hall
Wrestling SRI