

Wrestling SRI Bulletin November 2017-18

Officials,

Welcome back to the 2017-18 season of wrestling. This year brings some major changes to wrestling competition, as to where it now can occur on the mat, along with new improvements to the wrestling uniform.

I will be highlighting some of these changes in this bulletin. I will also be providing reminders about some frequently asked questions.

Remember, wrestling as a sport is continuing to evolve. As officials, we need to evolve with the sport, recognize changes and realize we work in a dynamic environment.

Near Fall and Falls

Rule 5.15.2

If the defensive wrestler is out of bounds and as long as the offensive wrestler has the supporting points, as defined on page 24 of the rule book;

ART. 2 . . . Supporting points are the parts of the body touching the wrestling area which bear the wrestler's weight, other than those parts with which the wrestler is holding the opponent.

a. When down on the mat, the usual points of support are:

1. the knees;
2. the side of the thigh;
3. the buttocks;
4. the hand(s);
5. the head.

b. When the defensive wrestler is on their back while the supporting points of either wrestler are inbounds, wrestling shall continue as long as there is a possibility of the offensive wrestler bringing the opponent back into the inbounds area. In this situation, any part of a defensive wrestler's shoulder or scapula is considered to be all the supporting points.

c. Near-fall points or a fall shall be earned only while the supporting points of either wrestler are inbounds.

The offensive wrestler shall be allowed to earn near fall or a fall. It has been clarified that the feet of the offensive wrestler are a supporting point. As with a takedown, both feet of the offensive wrestler shall remain in bounds for the pinning situation to continue.



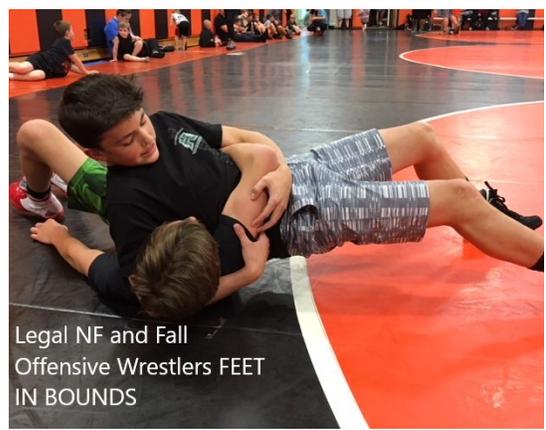
OFFENSIVE WRESTLER IN BOUNDS



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**OUT OF BOUNDS Offensive Wrestler
Has Only 1 Foot In**

BOTH earguards are LEGAL

Both the LDR and Mercado earguards are now legal. As the season progresses, anyone seeing these being used, please email me with school and weight. Last season there was a dilemma at a regional tournament over the use of the LDR earguard. I do my best to get this information out to all the officials. Part of our duties is to educate the coaches and fans so we can avoid situations like last year.



LEGAL ear guards (LDR)

<http://www.leaderheadgear.com>



LEGAL ear guards (Mercado)

<http://batstoi.com>

New Competition Uniform

ART. 1 . . . A legal uniform consists of:

a. a one-piece singlet cut no lower in the back or front than the level of the armpits and under the arms no lower than one-half the distance between the armpit and the belt line. The one-piece singlet may be worn with full-length tights with stirrups. Any other undergarment worn under the one-piece singlet which extends beyond the inseam shall be tight-fitting, a single solid color, unadorned and shall not extend below the knee. The one-piece singlet shall be school-issued.

NOTE: Female contestants wearing a one-piece singlet shall wear a suitable undergarment that covers their breasts.

b. compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling shall have a minimum 4-inch inseam that shall not extend below the knee; shorts designed for wrestling shall have an elastic waistband and a drawstring that is not exposed. Compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling shall not have exposed drawstrings, belt loops, zippers, snaps, buttons or pockets. A suitable undergarment, which completely covers the buttocks and groin area, must be worn under shorts designed for wrestling. Shorts designed for wrestling may be worn over the singlet. Compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling may be worn with a form-fitted compression shirt. Compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling shall be school-issued.

c. a form-fitted compression shirt which shall not cover or extend below the elbow and shall have a minimum 3-inch tail; the form-fitted compression shirt may be worn under a singlet or with compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling. The form-fitted compression shirt shall be school-issued. (Photo 1)

NOTE: Female contestants wearing a form-fitted compression shirt shall wear a suitable undergarment that covers their breasts.

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.

Please read and understand what the LEGAL definition of the school issued uniforms shall be. Undergarments shall meet the required NFHS rules for both male and female competitors.

LEGAL UNIFORM COMBINATIONS MALE AND FEMALE

ALL CONTESTANTS SHALL WEAR LEGAL UNDERGARMENTS

1. Singlet
2. Singlet with LEGAL Full Length Tights
3. Singlet with Compression Shorts
4. Singlet, Compression Shorts and Wrestling Shorts
5. Singlet, Full Length Tights and Wrestling Shorts
6. Singlet, Compression Shorts, Full Length Tights, and Wrestling Shorts
7. Singlet, Compression Shorts, Full Length Tights, Wrestling Shorts AND Compression Shirt **UNDER** the Singlet.

ILLEGAL UNIFORM COMBINATIONS MALE AND FEMALE

1. Compression Shirt OVER the Singlet
2. Compression Shirt NOT TUCKED INTO Wrestling Shorts or Compression Shorts

Basically, all singlet, compression short, wrestling short, full length tights with stirrups combinations are LEGAL. The compression shirt must be form fitting and be worn under the singlet. If the compression shirt is worn without the singlet, it must be tucked into the compression shorts or wrestling shorts. If the compression shirt comes untucked during wrestling, it shall be treated as earguards coming undone.

FLEEING

Mike Hocker, Central Oregon, made a good observation regarding fleeing while the defensive wrestler is in near fall criteria.

Case Book

7.3.1 SITUATION B:

Wrestler A has a pinning situation at the edge of the mat and the referee has reached the count of three for a near fall. At that time, Wrestler B bridges and intentionally goes out of the wrestling area. What points would be earned by A?

RULING: When a wrestler goes out of the wrestling area or forces his/her opponent out of the wrestling area as a means of avoiding wrestling, it is a technical violation except in a pinning situation where near-fall points have been earned. Wrestler A would receive only two points for the near fall as there is no technical violation in this situation.

As of right now, when the defensive wrestler is in near fall criteria, out of bounds, and near fall HAS been earned, the defensive wrestler shall NOT be penalized for intentionally placing a body part on the gym floor to stop wrestling since he/she is handicapped by the gym floor. Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director, said that would have to be a rule change for next year.

Remember though, it **IS** a technical violation if the wrestler is grabbing the mat to flee the situation.

Rule Book 5.27.1

ART. 1 . . . There are five types of technical violations. Each is penalized without warning as outlined in Rule 7-3:

- a. Intentionally going out of the wrestling area or forcing an opponent out of the wrestling area.
- b. Grasping of clothing, mat or ear guards.
- c. Interlocking or overlapping the hands, fingers or arms.
- d. Leaving the wrestling area without referee's permission
- e. Reporting to the scorer's table not properly equipped, ready to wrestle or any equipment that is detected as being illegal after the match has started.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct Coaches

As always, sportsmanlike conduct regarding the coaches and athletes are points of emphasis. We have gotten to a point where the coaches are crossing the line. If we are giving a coach a warning such as, “enough”, “we’re done”, “coach”, “sit down”, “quiet”, then that coach has probably said something that has made us draw a line. We need to follow the NFHS rule and penalize the coach when his unsportsmanlike behavior is visually and/or verbally displayed.

5.30.1

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

7.5.2

ART. 2 . . . Coaches and other team personnel are restricted to the bench/chairs while the clock is running and during normal out of bounds and resumption of wrestling. During this time the coach may walk behind the team bench to encourage wrestlers, or, when necessary for the team bench to be located in the bleachers, to walk in front of the team area parallel to the bleachers. The coach may approach the scorer's table to request the match be stopped to discuss the misapplication of a rule. The coach may move towards the mat only during a charged time-out or at the end of the match. (See Rule 2-2)

ART. 3 . . . 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 could 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).

There is a fine line between arrogance and confidence. If the coach does something to warrant a penalty, then penalize him/her. We do not need to be going out and “looking” to penalize. Just because we wear the shirt, does not mean we are always right.

Remember, there is a difference between misconduct and unsportsmanlike conduct. The signals are also different. Please know the difference between the two.

SIGNALS

Please ensure that as an official, you are to use **ONLY** the 27 approved NFHS wrestling signals. Using the proper signals not only “tells the story” to the person at the top of the bleachers, but is also professional in appearance. A common theme I hear from the coaches is “consistency of the officials”. I feel this is one thing we **ALL** can do. I personally feel that if an official can not use the proper signal, then how can I trust him/her to make a tough judgment call in a critical situation.

Rules

In the past, we have had associations interpreting how or what rules they, as an association, interpret or decided to enforce. Again the coaches want “consistency” from the officials across the state. To me, the biggest rule violation “interpretation” is the coach calling a timeout and questioning the official's call. Two things can happen, you change your call or the coach gets a misconduct warning. Plain and simple. I know officials “feel” that if they don't penalize the coaches, they will get votes at regionals. It is time we change the culture and start acting as a professional group of officials across the state.

Remember, all we really do is interpret what happens on the mat to the score table. We do this to the best of our ability according to what the NFHS rules and interpretations are. We may not all agree with a rule or why. As professionals, we owe it to the student athletes, coaches and fans, to be consistent and fair in our calls.

Central Hub

Posted on the Central Hub under the “VIDEO” header, is a video from Derek Lark, regarding common wrestling situations. It is very informative. Part of his video talks about the bow and arrow. This is an illegal hold in high school wrestling and shall be penalized immediately.

Also, there is a video of an armbar situation that is being taught in the eastern Oregon area. This is a legal move, as long as the defensive wrestlers arm is not being driven forward. Yes, this move looks “uncomfortable.” Part of the learning process as an official, is to put moves like this on your fellow officials during meetings to “feel” the pressures associated with them.

OCEP Clinics

There was plenty of information distributed this year on when and where the OCEP clinic will now take place. Again, as of right now, there will be only one OCEP during the year. The 2017 clinic was held in Medford. The 2018 clinic will be held in LaGrande or Pendleton and the 2019 clinic will be held in Portland at Clackamas Community College. My goal is to have the clinic as close to wrestling season as possible, either late October or early November. As an official, you shall be OCEP certified to officiate a regional or state tournament. Please be responsible and check your OCEP status on the Central Hub and make plans accordingly.

Testing

Please remember, that the test will be closing December 3rd. If an official fails to take the test before this date, they will NOT be eligible to officiate for the 2017-18 season. There will be no exceptions. The test has been open since September 19th. Available now, after you take the test, you can go in and review your answers. If you failed to achieve a test score that earns you a tournament, varsity or sub varsity badge, you can retake the test up to three times.

Questions

Last year, I appreciated the questions and scenarios that were emailed to me. Please continue to use this format. This gives me information that I can use for the next SRI bulletin. Please remember that the rule book is your friend. Knowing the rule and the intent gives you credibility. Coaches don't appreciate "just because" as an answer.

Have a great season,

Scott Hall

OSAA Wrestling SRI

