

2021 Post-Season Wrestling Tournament Checklist

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Head Official

- **Head Official** - call the Tournament Manager prior to the tournament (usually the week before the scheduled date). Some general questions to ask:
- Names of other confirmed contracted officials.
- The presence of the Head Official at weigh-ins is paramount (this alleviates a lot of potential problems later.)
 - For a Sectional - OHSAA permits two weigh-in officials. For a District – OHSAA permits three weigh-in officials).
 - Make sure you contact your weigh-in official(s) to ensure that they are aware of their assignment and prompt.
- The OHSAA mandates that a **health-care professional** (M.D. or D.O.) be present at **weigh-ins** (preferably a dermatologist
- If a M.D./D.O. cannot be present during tournament competition, the OHSAA mandates that a certified trainer(s) must be present during tournament competition.
- Confirm starting times and tournament protocol.
- Establish responsibility for **body fluid clean-up** and confirm that each mat will have **proper clean-up supplies** (officials shall not be responsible for clean-up).
- Establish time of pre-tournament coaches' meeting and make sure that you are placed on the agenda (see meeting topics below).
- **Set-up the pairing, mat assignments and rotation for your crew of officials.**



Tournament Site

- **Head Official and weigh-in officials** - Arrive at least one-half hour before weigh-ins.
- All other assigned officials - Plan on arriving at the tournament site at least one hour before the scheduled start.
- All officials - if you anticipate being late call to inform tournament management and the head official.
- **Head Official** - Request to be introduced to the health-care professional(s) assigned to the tournament.
- **Head Official** - **Review skin check protocol with the health-care professional assigned to weigh-ins.**
- **Head Official** - **Review concussive event and HNC protocol with the health-care professional(s) assigned to the tournament.**
- **Head Official** - **Review injury time, blood time, and recovery time protocol with the health-care professional(s).**
- **Head Official** - **Check legality of mats and wrestling area for safety.**
 - Have tournament management correct any unsafe or illegal mat set-ups.
 - Make sure that the coaching area is clearly marked.
- **Head Official** - Meet with all officials conduct introductions, as necessary.
 - Communicate official's pairings and assign mats.
 - Review tournament format and logistics.
 - Review assistant referee protocol.
 - Entertain questions from the officiating crew.



Health, Grooming and Safety

- Check skin, hair, nails, mouth and tooth protector, special equipment (hair covers, braces, pads, all special equipment).
- Wrestlers with **braces must wear a mouth and tooth protector** to cover uppers and/or lowers depending on the situation. The mouth and tooth protector must cover the teeth and supporting structures (e.g., gums) as well as all areas of the braces with adequate thickness and must separate the biting surfaces. It is recommended that the mouth and tooth protector be form fitted to the individual (impression of the teeth and braces). Refer to Rule 4-2-6 and the OHSAA Update Bulletin dated January 24, 2011. See Presentation “Wrestling and the Dental Mouth Guard” by Tyler Scott, DDS.
- Hair length is no longer restricted. However, a wrestler may choose to wear a hair cover or other legal hair control device. The hair cover must be of a solid material and non-abrasive. The hair cover and hair control device must be brought to weigh-ins and checked for legality by the official. Foreign objects (e.g., beads, barrettes, pins, clips, etc.) must be removed and cannot be worn under the hair cover or in the hair proper. The hair cover must be attached to the headgear.
- Wrestlers with **abrasive stubble** on the scalp must wear a legal hair cover or shave.
- Wrestlers may compete with **facial hair** if a face mask that completely covers the facial hair is worn. Otherwise, a wrestler will not be permitted to compete with facial hair.
- Remind wrestlers with jewelry (earrings, rings, wrist bands, etc.) to remove them before wrestling.



Health, Grooming and Safety

- All wrestlers must be thoroughly checked for skin conditions. When in doubt about a suspected skin condition have the designated health-care professional assigned to the tournament diagnose the condition and determine if it is contagious or not.
 - A contagious skin condition cannot be covered to allow a wrestler to compete.
 - The health-care professional's diagnoses of a contagious condition cannot be overruled.
- Make sure the **medical waiver form is the official NFHS form** (see OHSAA website wrestling page). No other forms/scripts/notes will be accepted. If a non-conforming waiver is presented, the designated health-care professional assigned to the tournament
- The specific location(s) of the suspected skin condition matches the pictogram on the physician's release form.
- Make sure that the earliest date the wrestler may return to participation is indicated.
- Make sure that the release form is current. The **note becomes stale 10 days after the date of exam** (see upper right corner of the form).
- **Non-contagious** skin condition notes (e.g., eczema, psoriasis, acne, mole(s), etc.) are valid for the season.
- Make sure that the note is the original (**No photocopies**).
- If a wrestler has not cleared the grooming check record the wrestler's weight, name, school, and infraction on an index card. At this point you have two options:
 - (1) You can **let the wrestler weigh-in** subject to the proviso that after he/she remedies the situation and checks back with you before wrestling begins. This gives you the leeway to permit the wrestler to leave the designated weigh-in area and access facilities to remedy the issue (e.g., to shave etc.)
 - (2) **Do not let the wrestler weigh-in until the grooming infraction is corrected.** If this option is followed the wrestler shall not leave the designated weigh-in area to correct the grooming infraction.



Health, Grooming and Safety

- **Head Official** - Introduce your officiating crew to the health-care professionals(s) and/or trainer(s).
- A designated on-site health-care professional who determines that a wrestler should not participate **shall not be overruled**.
- A wrestler who has been rendered unconscious or exhibits signs, symptoms and/or behaviors consistent with a concussion must **immediately** be removed from competition and **must not** be permitted to **return to competition that same day**.
- File the OHSAA Concussion Report (available on-line at <https://ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/OHSAAConcussionReport.pdf> – within 48 hours of the event, the official must forward the Concussion Report to the OHSAA (Adrea Heiberger: aheberger@ohsaa.org).



Special Equipment

- Special Equipment is any equipment not defined by rule.
- Includes: legal hair cover face mask, protective equipment (casts, braces, tape, etc.), eye protection, pads, socks.
 - Hair cover must be non-abrasive and attached to the headgear.
- Protective equipment which is hard/abrasive must be covered and properly padded (no less than ½-inch thick).
- All parts of a pad must snugly fit against the body (loose pads are prohibited).
- Thin arm and leg sleeves (basketball) are not permissible.
- Elbow and knee sleeve-pads may extend to the mid-upper arm/mid-upper thigh and to the mid-forearm/mid-calf area. They cannot be full-length sleeve-pads. Full length sleeve-pads cannot be folded over to conform with Ohio's rule.
- Tapping must allow normal movement of a joint.
- Tapping of fingers and thumb is permissible.



Weigh-Ins & Weigh-Outs

- **Weigh-ins** for Sectionals and Districts are to be conducted by weight class (OHSAA mandate).
- Once the wrestlers are in the designated weigh-in area they can not dehydrate (eliminate body fluids) or re-hydrate (drink liquids), and cannot leave until they weigh-in.
- Wrestlers must weigh-in wearing a legal uniform with suitable undergarment(s).
- Wrestlers are permitted to wear low-cut socks at weigh-in.
- Once on the scale wrestlers cannot remove any clothing to reduce weight.
- A wrestler is allowed two attempts on the first scale.
- If auxiliary scales are available at weigh-ins, a wrestler not making weight on the first scale may challenge each scale one time, in his/her designated weigh-in area.
- Weigh-outs are utilized at Sectional and District Tournaments.
- The **weigh-out procedure** allows the athletes multiple attempts on any scale(s) in the weigh-in area. Wrestlers may exercise, urinate, hydrate, etc. The scale room will remain open 30 minutes after the conclusion of the last 285 match.
- The **TM** will allow a 30-minute weigh-in period on the second day of wrestling for wrestlers who did not make weight at the weigh-out. The same rules and procedures utilized at the first day initial weigh-in are implemented.
- A wrestler may certify at the Sectional weigh-in by making scratch weight.
- Skin and grooming checks must be conducted on the second day even though weigh-outs were conducted the previous night.



Coaches Meeting (pre-tournament)

Head Official - Meet with coaches.

- Introduce your crew.
- First & foremost EMPHASIZE sportsmanship. Unsportsmanlike conduct and flagrant misconduct at this stage has potentially grave consequences – Removal from the State Tournament progression.
- Remind coaches that they are responsible for the wrestler being legally equipped and ready to wrestle.
 - Ask coaches if they need any equipment, taping, bracing, etc. not checked at weigh-ins for legality before competition begins.
 - Remind the coaches about proper shoelace securing means (tape around the ankles or laces, zipper w/flap, Velcro® flap, lace pocket w/Velcro® flap and double knotting).
 - Shoelaces that come untied during the match is a stalling violation – start the injury clock.
- Remind coaches that only two team personnel are permitted in a corner.
- Remind coaches to stay in the designated coaching area (behind the line).
- Review the proper way to address the referee if there is a question. Coaches must not address the assistant referee (Assistant referee should direct the coach to the lead official if a question needs to be addressed).
- Review bad time and correction of error situations. Make sure to emphasize that if the coach feels that an error has been made - it should immediately be brought it to the referee's attention.
- Ask coaches if they have any questions.



Coaches Conference and Misconduct

- **Coach/Referee Decorum:**

- As officials we must afford the opportunity for a coach to approach the table.
- Coach/official conference must take place at the table not at the side of a mat.
- Conference must involve the coach who is coaching the match. The conference may not include a coach who was not sitting in the coaching area.
- Do not be defensive – allow coach to state his/her case (be a good listener).
- Do not discuss matters of judgment.
- Questioning judgment is misconduct.
- May discuss rule applications/interpretations.
- Resolve the issue quickly.
- Make a change or penalize for misconduct.
- All misconduct warnings and penalties accrue against the head coach.



Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike Conduct (wrestler **during a match**¹)

- Any unsportsmanlike act that occurs during a match is penalized by awarding **1 match point** to the opponent.
 - Use the penalty chart progression
 - First offense – 1 match point awarded to opponent
 - Second offense – 1 match point awarded to opponent
 - Third offense – 2 match points awarded to opponent
 - Fourth offense – disqualification

Unsportsmanlike Conduct (wrestler, team personnel, coach **outside of a match**¹)

- Any unsportsmanlike act that occurs outside of the match window is penalized by deducting **1 team point** on the first offense and on the second offense removal from the premises for the duration of the event and the deduction of **2 team points**.
 - **Ejection of a wrestler for 2 unsportsmanlike penalties must be reported to the OHSAA as per reporting of flagrant misconduct via the MyOHSAA portal.**
 - **There is no warning for unsportsmanlike conduct.**

Flagrant Misconduct

- Disqualification of the individual, immediate removal from the premises for the entire event, deduction of three team points. All team points scored by a disqualified wrestler are negated.
- A wrestler may only be removed from the premises if authorized school personnel is present to supervise the removed wrestler. Otherwise, wrestler shall be confined outside of the wrestling area.
- Review Rule 5-12-1&2.
- Do not forget to file an ejection report with the OHSAA via your MyOHSAA portal.



Misconduct vs. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Know the difference between misconduct and unsportsmanlike conduct.

- **Misconduct** - assessed when a coach (including assistants) calls for a conference regarding the misapplication of a rule and the referee decides that no misapplication occurred or for questioning the judgment of the referee.
 - The first infraction involves a **warning**.
 - The second infraction requires the **deduction of 1 team point**.
 - The third infraction requires the **removal of the head coach** from the premises and the deduction of 2 team points.
 - The removal is for the **remainder of the day only**.
- **Unsportsmanlike conduct** - assessed against the perpetrator. **No warning**.
 - The first infraction requires the **deduction of 1 team point**.
 - The second infraction requires **removal from the premises and the deduction of two team points**.
 - The removal is for the **remainder of the event**.

Keep track of misconduct and unsportsmanlike penalties.

- It is recommended keep a sheet at the head table or with the Head Official for this purpose. The officiating crew should be instructed to fill this sheet out when penalizing a coach.
- Inform the head official when a coach has been warned or penalized.
- Head Official - as a courtesy inform the head coach if one of the assistant coaches was warned or penalized for misconduct.

¹Rule 5-17-2: "A match begins when the proper wrestler reports to the scorer's table in dual matches and tournaments until the conclusion of wrestling. The conclusion of wrestling occurs when the time expires at the end of the third period, when the overtime ends, or when a fall technical fall, disqualification or default occurs".



Assistant Officials

- **Head Official** - review assistant official's duties, responsibilities and mechanics with the officiating crew.
- The assistant referee should:
 - Be the first on and last off the mat.
 - Be as active and assist with the match with the same latitude of mobility as the referee.
 - Do not stand at the edge of the mat with your arms folded.
 - Do not gaze into the stands. Be engaged with the match.
 - Mirror the referee (180° opposite). Change levels and look underneath in tie-up and head lock situations.
 - Bring infractions to the referee's immediate attention.
 - Be discrete when communicating your opinion regarding stalling.
 - Cover the front side (when action rotates towards you) and wait for the referee to catch up to the action before rotating 180°.
 - Cover the top side in near fall situations. The assistant has no business looking for the fall.
 - Be immediately available to give your opinion on a situation when asked by the referee.
 - Never be afraid to **voice an opinion when you disagree with a call** or ruling.
 - Support the referee when a close but correct call is made (shaking your head in approval does a lot to dissuade a coach from potentially objecting to the call).
 - **Never communicate with a coach in judgment situations.** Direct the coach to address the referee.
 - Oversee the injury time/recovery time clock. Call out elapsed time to coach.
 - Stay with the wrestlers in the center of the mat when the referee is at the table.
 - Be in position to watch the clock with wrestlers in your field of vision during the last 10 seconds of every period.
 - Police the designated coaches' area.
 - Whenever the "off" official observes unsportsmanlike conduct that is not observed by the mat official, he/she should communicate with the mat official ASAP so that the mat official can correct the problem.

Bad Time

When there's bad time – It's a bad time.

■ **Head Official** - Review correction of errors with the officiating crew.

■ **Bad time**

- Wrestlers placed in the **wrong position** following stoppage of the match;
- **Wrong choice given to a wrestler at the start of the 3rd period, the second 30 sec. tie breaker or the ultimate tie breaker.**
- **Choice of position not given to the opponent of a wrestler taking a second injury time-out or not offering choice of position after a 2-point stalling penalty.**
- **Wrestling continues after the match should have been stopped.**
 - Warning or penalizing the top wrestler for stalling.
- If the wrong wrestler is given choice at the start of the 2nd period or at the start of the 1st 30-second tiebreaker no re-wrestling is necessary. The opponent is given choice at the start of the 3rd period or the start of the 2nd 30-second tiebreaker.

■ **Bad time** must be corrected before the start of the subsequent period.

- All points, penalties and injury time cancelled during the bad time period, **except flagrant misconduct, penalties for illegal holds, unsportsmanlike conduct, unnecessary roughness, blood time.**

BAD TIME - POINT & PENALTY MANAGEMENT

Negated

Match Points Earned

Penalties (e.g., technical violations, etc.)

Injury Time

Not Negated

Flagrant Misconduct

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unnecessary Roughness

Illegal Holds & Blood Time



Correction of Errors (Tournament)

- **Correction of errors** by the timekeeper, scorer or referee
 - **Match Score** (additional wrestling necessary) – must be corrected before the offended wrestler leaves the mat area and before the start of the next match on that mat (**do not let the next match start**).
 - **Match Score** (no additional wrestling necessary) – can be corrected if the offended wrestler or his/her coach remain in the mat area after the match has concluded and before the start of the next match on that mat (**do not let the next match start**).
 - **Match Score** - Errors in the computation of match score (e.g., addition errors) must be corrected prior to the next match in which either wrestler competes. If the error necessitates additional wrestling it must be corrected prior to the offended wrestler leaving the mat area and before the start of the next match on that mat (**do not let the next match start**).
 - **Team Score** – Errors involving the recording or computation of team scores must be corrected within 30-minutes of the official posting of the team scores.
- **All officials should review the Rules Book and Case Book regarding bad time and correction of errors. It is imperative that officials know how to efficiently address situations that require correction of an error.**



Blood, Injury & Recovery Time

Know the difference between blood time, recovery time and injury time (For these situations, no more than two attendants and health-care professionals shall be on the mat with either wrestler. Coaching is permissible).

Blood Time:

- Blood time – 5-minute total (cumulative throughout the match).
- Always takes precedence over injury time and recovery time.
- If a wrestler uses up all 5 minutes of allotted blood time the match is defaulted to the opponent.
- Can go from injury time to blood time back to injury time and vice-versa.

Injury Time:

- Injury time - 1½ minutes (cumulative throughout the match) or maximum of 2 injury timeouts.
- Opponent has choice of position upon taking the second injury time out.
- If the injured wrestler cannot continue within 1½ minutes or takes a third injury time-out, he/she is disqualified from the match (defaults).

HNC Time:

- HNC time – total of 5 minutes (minus elapsed IT).
- Can only be requested by the site assigned appropriate health-care professional.
- Elapsed IT used to the point where the appropriate health-care professional requests HNC counts as the 1st IT.
- Upon the expiration of the 5-minute HNC extended injury time, the wrestler must immediately return to competition or default the match depending on the results of the HNC evaluation.
- Once the wrestler is cleared to continue, any remaining injury time is available for a subsequent non-HNC second injury time.
- If a wrestler returns to competition and a second HNC event occurs in the same match, the match is terminated by default. If the second HNC event occurs in a subsequent match, the wrestler may continue the match if cleared by the appropriate health-care provider.

Recovery Time:

- Recovery time – 2 minutes (per occurrence).
- Time used to recover from an illegal hold/unnecessary roughness/unsportsmanlike act (includes injury arising from false start of an opponent).
- Does not accumulate from occurrence to occurrence.
- If the aggrieved wrestler cannot continue after 2 minutes, the opponent defaults the match.
- Intentionally attempting to injure an opponent is flagrant misconduct.
- Injury time cannot be taken immediately following recovery time.
- Injured wrestler/coach may default the match prior to the expiration of recovery time.



Technical Violations

- **Technical Violations include:**
 - Going out of the wrestling area or forcing an opponent out of the wrestling area to avoid being scored upon is fleeing.
 - There is no fleeing if a near fall or takedown by the opponent is earned.
 - Grasping clothing, headgear, edge of the mat.
 - Interlocking or overlapping hands, fingers and arms around the body or both legs by the wrestler in the advantage position. If defensive wrestler's weight is supported entirely on the feet, there is no technical violation.
 - Leaving the wrestling area without first receiving permission from the referee.
 - Reporting to the scorer's table and/or mat improperly equipped or not ready to wrestle.
 - In addition to the penalty point awarded to the opponent, the wrestler is placed on injury time until the issue is corrected.
 - A shoe coming off (or pulled off) as a result of wrestling is considered "not properly secured" (regardless if the shoe was initially considered properly secured).
 - In addition to the penalty point awarded to the opponent, the wrestler is placed on injury time until the issue is corrected.
 - Reporting to the table with shoes not properly laced (eyelets not laced to the top) or properly secured is a technical violation.



THANK YOU

- **OFFICIALS - REVIEW YOUR RULE BOOK, CASE BOOK and Green Book BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT EVENT.**
- Recruitment: Make it your mission to encourage student athletes to become an official. One of the best tools we have is word of mouth.
 - If you are an educator at the Jr. and/or high school level, encourage your students to become an official.
 - Build relationships with wrestling coaches (scholastic and college) and ask them to invite you into the wrestling room to extol the virtues of officiating.
 - As you conclude your pre-meet talk encourage wrestlers to consider becoming an official – you have a captive audience.
 - Set a positive example when on the mat, be professional but have fun when the situation beckons – it's all about perception!
 - After an event, be open to entertain a wrestler's question – use it as a teaching moment, you just may stimulate interest in our profession.