



## OHSAA WRESTLING BULLETIN

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### Pre-Event Protocol for Officials

- At least one-week before your scheduled officiating assignment contact the A.D. of the host school to confirm your assignment.
  - Exchange mobile phone numbers with the A.D. to ensure mutual ease of contact in case of an emergency.
  - Ask the A.D. if a locker room and shower facilities will be available to you and plan accordingly.
- Conduct daily symptom assessment before the contest. If your temperature is above 100.4 or you do not feel well, notify the host school immediately and withdraw from the assignment – this is a requirement.

### Weigh-In/Grooming Check Reminders

- The OHSAA is permitting home school weigh-ins for high school matches to promote social distancing and to minimize exposure.
  - Home school weigh-ins **do not** eliminate skin and grooming checks. Skin and grooming checks shall be conducted by the assigned official at the host school site once the home school weigh-in team(s) arrives (review: [Skin and Grooming Check Protocol for Home School Weigh-Ins](#)).
- Competitors must weigh-in wearing a legal uniform **with suitable undergarment(s)** worn underneath per NFHS Rule 4-5-7. If you are overseeing the weigh-in procedure do not permit a contestant to step on the scale without a suitable undergarment(s) worn under the uniform.
- During your assignment confirmation conversation/communication with the host school A.D., remind him/her to inform the visiting and home school head coaches that wrestlers must weigh-in wearing a legal uniform with suitable undergarment(s) worn underneath (it has come to my attention that some coaches are permitting wrestlers to weigh-in in a legal uniform only – no undergarment(s). This contradicts the rule).
- Weigh-ins and skin condition/grooming checks are two separate events. Skin condition/grooming checks may be performed by the designated, on-site appropriate health care professional or the referee immediately prior to or immediately after weigh-ins (or in the case of a home school weigh-in immediately after the home school weigh-in team(s) arrives at the host site).
  - Skin and grooming checks may be conducted in a gender-neutral manner while wrestlers are wearing a legal uniform with suitable undergarment(s) (there is no requirement to perform the skin and grooming check while wrestlers are wearing only a suitable undergarment(s)). If a suspected skin condition requires additional scrutiny (e.g., a skin condition release form indicates that a potential skin condition is situated in an area covered by the uniform, the referee can initiate a more thorough examination while the wrestler is only wearing a suitable undergarment(s).
  - If the wrestler requiring a more thorough skin condition examination is female, the examination must be conducted by an adult female (e.g., female trainer, female administrator, team mom, etc.). In this situation the referee

should consult with the adult female to apprise her of skin and grooming check protocols.

- While NFHS rules permit gender-neutral skin and grooming checks in a legal uniform, out of an abundance of caution it is recommended that skin and grooming checks be performed while the wrestlers are wearing only suitable undergarments. In this case, skin and grooming checks are gender specific and skin and grooming checks for female wrestlers shall be performed by an adult female as discussed above ([Skin and Grooming Check Protocol for Home School Weigh-Ins](#)).
- Skin and grooming checks for transgender wrestlers shall be handled pursuant to the specific accommodation protocol letter issued by the OHSAA office. The school administration/head coach of the transgender wrestler is responsible for obtaining the accommodation protocol letter from the OHSAA office.
- Skin and grooming checks for all wrestlers shall be conducted out of the public view and in a socially distanced and hygienic manner.

### **Pre-Match Talk by Officials**

In addition to our normal pre-match discussion with the teams, and in view of the present Covid-19 environment, it is imperative that we stress social distancing, mask wearing, and hygiene during the pre-match talk.

- Officials must review and become familiar with 2020-2021 Wrestling Requirements, Rules Modifications and General recommendations document (<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Wrestling/2020-21/WRRequirementsRecommendations.pdf>)
- If possible, conduct the pre-meet discussion with the teams with proper social distancing and face covering wearing in an open area such as a competition gym. While this is not ideal, an open area (as opposed to an enclosed locker-room) is a much better environment for the promotion of social distancing.
- Remind wrestlers, coaches and team personnel that face coverings are required when not competing or warming up.
- Social distancing of at least 6-feet between individuals is required when on the bench or in the bench area.
- Remind competitors of the requirement not to shake hands with the opponent and the opposing coach before or after a match.
- Remind the competitors that the official will not declare the winner by raising the winner's hand at the end of match procedure. The wrestlers should be instructed to remain at the center of the mat until the official acknowledges the winner by raising his own arm with the appropriate color of the winning wrestler (red or green) and pointing to the victor.

### **Facial Covering Wearing by Wrestlers**

- Facial Coverings may be worn by wrestlers during competition.
- Gaiter/bandana-type face coverings are not permitted during competition as they present a potential danger to the wearer and a disadvantage to the opponent.
- Facial Coverings will be treated as "special equipment" per NFHS Rule 4-3-1.
- If a Facial Covering becomes dislodged due to wrestling, treat it in the same manner as a dislodged headgear. Repeated match stoppages due to facial covering dislodgement can trigger the injury clock.

- To mitigate facial covering displacement, it is recommended that wrestlers wear a protective face mask designed for wrestling over the facial covering.
- Wrestlers and officials are required to wear facial coverings when not wrestling or actively officiating on the mat.
- Officials may wear a facial covering including a gaiter when actively officiating. Gaiter wearing by an official does not interfere with wrestling.

### **HNC Situation**

What happens if wrestlers **A** and **B** suffer a potential HNC injury simultaneously and only one on-site appropriate health care professional is available?

Only the on-site appropriate health care professional can request extended injury time for an HNC evaluation. In this situation wrestler **A** is attended to first. During the evaluation, the on-site appropriate health care professional requests extended injury time for an HNC evaluation and the official informs the scorer's table that extended injury time has been granted to wrestler **A**. In addition, the official informs the score keeper that Wrestler **A** is charged with a first injury time-out and to record the elapsed injury time up until the HNC extension was granted (wrestler **A** is afforded the remainder of 5-minutes minus the elapsed injury time for the HNC evaluation).

During the HNC evaluation of wrestler **A**, no injury time-out is assessed to wrestler **B** (wrestler **B** is not charged any injury time during the HNC evaluation of wrestler **A** as only one injury time at a time can be assessed). Once the HNC evaluation is completed on wrestler **A**, and assuming wrestler **B** is still injured, the on-site appropriate health care professional can then attend to wrestler **B** to determine the extent of the injury. The official will charge wrestler **B** with an injury time-out and the injury clock started. If the on-site appropriate health care professional subsequently requests extended injury time for the HNC evaluation of wrestler **B**, the official will inform the scorer's table that extended injury time has been granted to wrestler **B** (wrestler **B** is afforded the remainder of 5-minutes minus the elapsed injury time for the HNC evaluation).

If during the HNC evaluation of wrestler **A**, the on-site appropriate health care professional determines that wrestler **A** cannot continue, wrestler **B** becomes the winner by medical default over wrestler **A**.

**Note:** The above scenario is determined by the sequence of events. Given that the on-site appropriate health care professional attended to wrestler **A** first, wrestler **B** is afforded the opportunity for a subsequent HNC extended injury time evaluation without penalty while waiting to be evaluated.

### **Case Book Errors**

7.3.1 Situation C (page 46) – This ruling is outdated and is superseded by amended Rule 7-3-1 which now states: "There can be no technical violation of fleeing the mat if near-fall or takedown points have been earned". Thank you, Jim Vreeland and Rich Carpenter.

7.6.2 Situation D (page 51-52) – The rule numbering is consistent with the application of stalling penalties. However, the situation refers to a second injury time-out. Please disregard this situation and ruling. Thank you, Rich Carpenter.

Situation 3 and Situation 9 enumerated in the NFHS Wrestling Rules Interpretations 2020-21 dated October 20, 2020 contradict each other. After checking with the NFHS office for clarification, Situation 9 is the correct interpretation. Disregard Situation 3. Thank you, Jeff Sitrer.

### **Thinking Outside of the Box**

Dan Sayers of the Mad River Wrestling Officials Association in the Southwest District came up with a great suggestion that can aid host facilities in conducting a more efficient tournament. One of the requirements for host facilities is to disinfect ankle bands between uses (2020-2021 Wrestling Requirements, Rules Modifications and General Recommendations). This necessitates a table worker disinfecting and drying the ankle band set before its next use. In lieu of ankle bands, Dan's suggestion is to wrap the wrestler's ankle with red/green self-adhering compression wrap. The wrestler can wear the colored wrap until he/she is assigned a different color. The wrap is easy to apply and remove and eliminates the need for disinfection as it is disposable after use/multi-uses. Dan field tested the concept at a recent tournament and gave it rave reviews.



The product is available from Andover Healthcare, Inc. under the brand Andover PowerFlex™ Cohesive Bandage. You may want to convey this to head coaches or tournament managers you know as a viable alternative to ankle bands. Thanks Dan!

Do not hesitate to contact SRIs Ray Anthony, Dick Loewenstine, Jim Vreeland or me with your questions.

Thank you for all you do! Stay Safe and be Healthy.

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