



OHSAA WRESTLING BULLETIN

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Pre-Event Protocol for Officials

- As a courtesy, 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 any local school system pandemic protocol policies are in-place.
- 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 – do the right thing.

Pandemic Protocols

- To date, there are no Ohio Department of Health (ODH)/OHSAA pandemic protocols in-place. However, county, municipality, and/or local school system pandemic protocols may be enacted.
 - Before your officiating assignment it is prudent to check with the foregoing authorities to ensure that you are familiar with any pandemic protocol(s)/mandate(s) in effect.
- Wrestlers are permitted to shake hands before and after a match.
- The referee may raise the hand of the victor at the conclusion of a match.
- Officials may wear masks, long sleeves, and/or gloves if desired.
- Officials may wear a gaiter when actively officiating. Gaiter wearing by an official does not interfere with wrestling.
- Wash hands frequently during tournament competition and/or use hand sanitizer often.
- While ODH pandemic mandates have been rescinded, facial coverings may still be worn by wrestlers during competition.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 are no longer required to wear facial coverings when not wrestling.

Weigh-In/Grooming Checks

- 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) under the uniform.

- Socks of any length may be worn on the scale (once on the scale socks cannot be removed or slipped-on in order to make weight).
- 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.
- In the prior two-years we permitted skin and grooming checks to be conducted in one of two ways: 1) conducting the checks in a gender-neutral manner with the contestants in full legal uniform with suitable undergarment(s), or 2) requiring gender specific checks with the contestants only wearing a suitable undergarment(s). After conferring with the NFHS office, and for consistency and streamlining purposes, **all skin and grooming checks will now be handled using the gender-neutral protocol** with wrestlers wearing a legal uniform and suitable undergarment(s).
 - If a suspected skin condition requires additional scrutiny (e.g., the NFHS Medical Release Form* indicates that a potential skin condition is situated in an area covered by the uniform, or if the referee suspects that a potential skin condition exists under 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 appropriate health care professional, female trainer, female administrator/teacher/coach, team mom, etc.). In this situation, the referee should consult with the adult female to apprise her of skin and grooming check protocols.
 - Skin and grooming checks for all wrestlers must be conducted out of the public view.

*The only acceptable skin condition release form is the NFHS/OHSAA Medical Release Form (with pictogram) which is available on the OHSAA website wrestling page.

Stay safe and be healthy and have a great season.

Toby Dunlap
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