



OHSAA WRESTLING BULLETIN

2022-2023 Bulletin No. 2

January 19, 2023

As we approach mid-season, please continue to review the 2022-2023 Rule and Case Books. A solid understanding of the rules and their application will enhance your confidence level as you apply our craft on the mat.

The following are a couple of issues that I have observed or have been brought to my attention during the first half of the season.

Order of Competition in Dual Meets and Multi-Dual Meet Events

Rule 1-2-2 states: "Competition in dual meets shall be conducted by random draw of weight classes. In multi-dual events, the sequence determined by the draw will be followed by that day's subsequent meet competition; the subsequent dual meet shall begin one weight class beyond the starting weight class of the previous round. The following procedure shall be used for all random draws:

- a. The random draw shall take place immediately preceding weigh-ins.
- b. The referee or other authorized person shall supervise the random draw.
- c. Subsequent matches will follow in sequential order.

If there is a multi-dual event (e.g., a triangular, quadrangular, or multi-round dual meet), the initial round shall commence at the weight class selected in the random draw (e.g., 120). In the subsequent round, the meet shall start at the succeeding weight class (i.e., 126). As subsequent rounds are contested, the opening weight classes will increase correspondingly (i.e., 132, 138, etc.).

The rules are misappropriated if the random draw is disregarded and all rounds in a multi-dual meet event begin at the same weight class.

The authorized person to oversee the random draw may be a school administrator from the host school. If the official will not be present to supervise the random draw, the official should apprise the host school athletic administrator of the need for an authorized person to supervise the random draw.

Do not overlook **Rule 4-5-3** which states in-part: "...Dual meet weigh-in shall proceed through the weight classes beginning with the random draw selected weight class...". In other words, if the 120-pound weight class was the initial weight class selected in the random draw, weigh-ins begin at 120, proceed up through 285, and wrap around to finish at 113.

Additionally, **Rule 1-3-4** permits a random draw of weight classes for championship finals matches for an individually bracketed tournament. The random draw shall take place immediately preceding weigh-ins.

Official and Assistant Scorers

Rule 3-3-1 and **Rule 3-3-2** outline the duties of the official and assistant scorers, respectively. Traditionally, the host team scorer is designated the official scorer and the visiting team scorer is designated the assistant scorer. By rule, the official scorer shall be seated at the scorer's table. While there is no explicit requirement, by rule, for the assistant scorer to be situated at the scorer's table, implicit in the definition of the duties for the assistant scorer is the necessity for the assistant scorer to be in the vicinity of the official scorer. Keeping a good accounting of match scores and the

running team score following each match requires teamwork, good communication, and the ability to “check and balance” the other’s recording and compilation of points. This ensures accurate record keeping, which is imperative to the integrity of the event.

In your pre-meet discussion with the scorer’s table, ensure that the visiting team scorer is seated at the scorer’s table (at times the visiting team scorer elects to keep score from the team bench). Emphasize that the official scorer, assistant scorer, timekeeper, and referee are a team, and that communication is essential for an accurate accounting of each match, as well as the running and final team scores.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Note that an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty administered to a contestant during a match is managed differently than an unsportsmanlike penalty imposed prior to or after the conclusion of a match. The definition of a match is set forth in **Rule 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”. **Rule 8-1-3** governs unsportsmanlike conduct during a match which states in-part: Penalties and warnings are cumulative throughout the match. Each infraction has its specific penalty. The penalty for an illegal hold/maneuver, technical violation (except false start or incorrect starting position), unnecessary roughness and wrestler’s unsportsmanlike conduct in the match is awarding the opponent of the offender one match point on the first and second offenses, and two match points on the on the third offense. A fourth offense shall result in disqualification...”.

In short, an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty imposed on a contestant during a match is progressively penalized in accordance with the penalty chart as a match point(s), while an unsportsmanlike penalty imposed prior to or after the conclusion of a match is penalized as a team point(s) (see Case Book, 8-1-3 Situation A on page 54).

- Administering a 4th penalty during a match for unsportsmanlike conduct or a combination of penalties including unsportsmanlike conduct during a match result in a disqualification from the match and does not result in a deduction of team points, earned team points or an ejection from the contest and removal from the premises. A wrestler disqualified from a match due to penalty chart progression is still eligible to compete in a multiple school event or tournament competition.
- Continuing acts of unsportsmanlike conduct or unnecessary roughness during a match may be construed by the referee as flagrant misconduct.
- The administration of two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties to a contestant (outside of a match), other team personnel or a coach result in the deduction of one team point on the first offense and 2 team points and removal from the premises for the remainder of the event, day/dual meet, or tournament on the second offense, and must be reported to the OHSAA via your MyOHSAA portal.

Shoulder Stabilizing Braces

Due to previous injury, wrestlers may wear a shoulder brace (example pictured below) that extends from under the singlet.



As set forth under **Rule 4-3-1** a brace is considered special equipment and must permit the full movement of the joint. In addition, it must not be abrasive. If the exposed part of the shoulder brace is made of an abrasive material, or if the exposed portion of the brace contains holes and/or straps, a form fitted short sleeved t-shirt is required to be worn over the brace and under the singlet. In this way, an opponent will be protected against potentially abrasive materials and against fingers potentially being caught under the straps and/or holes in the exposed portions of the brace.

Neutral Starting Position

The neutral starting position is covered by **Rule 5-19-4** requiring both contestants to be stationary (no rolling starts) with one foot on the line, and the other foot on the line or on the line extended or behind the lead foot on the line with no part of the body touching the mat in front of the lead foot. Too often officials start or resume a match in the neutral position allowing a wrestler to place a hand or fingers on the mat ahead of the lead foot (akin to a football stance). This is an improper stance in the neutral starting position. No part of a contestant's hand should be touching the mat beyond the lead foot which is on the starting line. This issue, as well as potential neutral position false starts (and possible knee injuries) can be mitigated by preventative officiating during the pre-meet discussion by briefly reminding the wrestlers of proper starting positions, and during the match by practicing proper neutral position starting mechanics (i.e., the official placing a lead foot on the 3-foot starting line with an arm and shoulder extended between the wrestlers, then chopping the arm while simultaneously blowing the whistle and stepping backwards to start/restart the match).

More on Suitable Undergarments

As mentioned in the previous bulletin, officials do not want to be labeled as the "sports bra police". However, if the official suspects that a female contestant is wearing an undergarment other than a sports bra, the NFHS and OHSAA prefers that the official approach the head coach to advise of the suspicion. Do not pose the question directly to the female athlete as this may cause embarrassment and/or irritate parents, as this type of inquiry may be perceived as an inappropriate personal question. Rely on the head coach to handle the matter, whether it occurs in the locker room or at mat side.

Thank you and continue your good work.

Toby Dunlap
Director of Officiating Development – Wrestling
OHSAA