

To: OHSAA Wrestling School ADs and Head Coaches

From: Tyler Brooks, Director of Officiating & Sport Management

Re: January Update

Date: Friday, January 10, 2020

1 – Reminders on the Dual Team Tournament

- a) The deadline for entry / withdraw without penalty is Monday, January 13. Please double check with your AD that your team's participation status is marked accurately in myOHSAA by Monday, January 13.
- b) The regional site assignments will be released no later than Wednesday, January 22.
- c) Remember, your school has the option to "opt-up" a division if you choose. This decision has to be reported to me by January 13 also.
- d) Your team must be able to compete in seven or more weight classes in order to be eligible to participate in the tournament.

2 – Weight Assessment Deadline

This is a quick reminder that the deadline to complete body assessments is Wednesday, January 15. After 1/15, I approve assessments on a case-by-case basis. Please email me if you have an athlete that would like to be assessed after 1/15.

3 – Descending to Scratch Weight After 12/25

This is somewhat of a rare circumstance, but I wanted to cover it with the community.

The following scenario only applies to a wrestler that is descending in weight to make scratch weight for the first time at a weight class after the 12/25 2-pound growth allowance is enacted. If a wrestler weighs-in for an event between scratch weight and the two-pound weight allowance (i.e. between 126 pounds and 128 pounds), that wrestler is only eligible for one weight class in competition that day. The wrestler is only eligible to participate in the weight class that their strict weight places them into.

Once the two-pound growth allowance is given (Dec. 25th), every weight class has a new maximum weight.

Example: 126 becomes 128. NFHS Rule 4-4-2 states "A contestant shall not wrestle more than one weight class above that class for which the actual weight, at the time of weigh-in qualifies the competitor." If a 126 lb. wrestler has not yet certified at 126 and subsequently weighs in at 127.5 (after 12/25), the wrestler has qualified for the 134 weight class, but may not be bumped up to 140. If the wrestler were to compete or accept a forfeit at the 140 pound weight class, the wrestler would be an ineligible competitor because they wrestled two weight classes above his actual weigh-in weight and the weight class.

Again, this scenario only arises when a wrestler is descending to a new weight class for which they have not yet certified, after 12/25, and they weigh-in between the weight class and the weight class plus the two-pound growth allowance.

4 – Clarification on Headgear Graphics

We have had questions come up this year regarding legal vs. illegal headgear in regards to school logos, phrases, etc. being placed on the ear guards.

Please review the explanation below from Director of Wrestling Officiating Development Toby Dunlap:

The black letter of the headgear regulation is governed by NFHS Rule 4-1-4 which reads as follows:

“Wrestlers shall wear wrestling ear guards designed by the manufacturer for the sport of wrestling that are rigid and padded, which provide:

a. adequate ear protection;

b. no injury hazard to the opponent; and

c. an adjustable locking device to prevent it from coming off or turning on the wrestler’s head.”

Apart from the foregoing requirements, the rule also governs the size of the manufacturer’s logo (no larger than 2.25 inches square) and no more than one that can be placed on the ear guards. However, the NFHS has suspended this part of the rule as they did not give headgear manufacturers ample notice. Accordingly, this provision of the rule will not be enforced this year.

School logos and mascots are permitted on the ear guard(s). There is no dimension restriction on the size of school logos and mascots placed on the ear guards. The only caveat is that if a school logo or mascot is printed on a stick-on label which is affixed to the ear guard(s), the vent holes on the ear guards cannot be covered or restricted (poke holes through the label backing material). This is a safety measure to ensure that potential pressure build-up caused by a hand-tap to the ear guard is mitigated so as not to injure an ear drum.

The straps on the headgear may be crossed to permit a snugger fit.

Tape is not permitted on the headgear. However, tape may be utilized around the edges of the ear guard to secure padding to the internal portion of the ear guard for the protection of a cauliflower ear condition. For a persistent cauliflower ear condition, the tape securing the padding must be changed at appropriate intervals to ensure proper hygiene. Tape may also be used on the headgear as a temporary repair during a match if the headgear becomes inoperable as a result of wrestling. If this occurs during tournament competition, the wrestler must correct or replace the inoperable headgear before competing in the next match.

Headgear ear guards with exposed rigid plastic or metal underlying substrate material (e.g., Cliff-Keen brand) are illegal as the exposed sharp edges pose a hazard. Also, the ends of the adjusting straps on this type of headgear must be tucked-in underneath the foam padding of the ear guard.



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