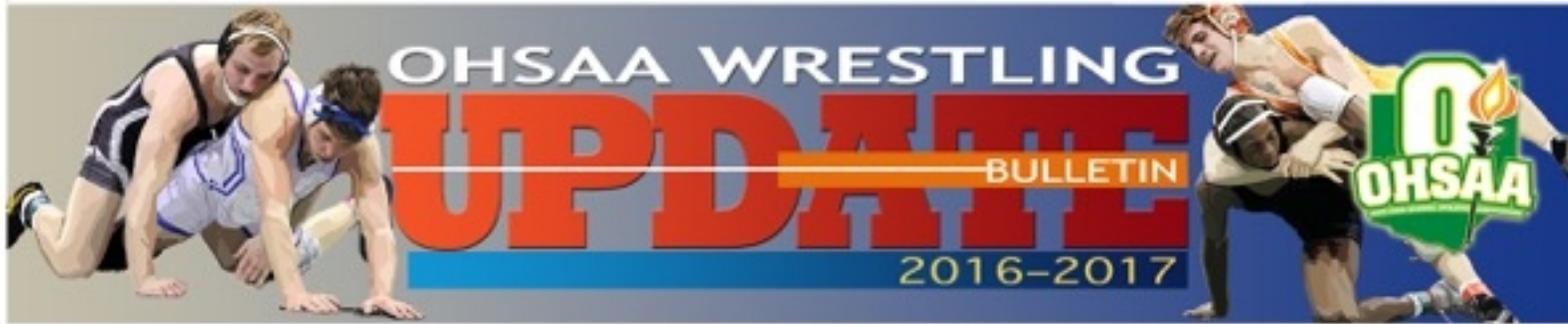


January 2, 2016



The opening weeks of wrestling are behind us and a great deal has been learned. Ray, Dick and Jim, Ohio state wrestling rule interpreters, have discussed several important topics since the end of September and realized the NFHS may have defined the rule, but it is still up to each state association to interpret and enforce the rules of the sport. Safety is always the main concern. Our student-athletes deserve a safe fair opportunity to compete.

As always, we look at situations from the two very important perspectives; what meets the intent of the rule, and applying common sense. **Satisfying the intent of the rule is the ultimate key involved.** Along with the interpretations of the rules, each should try to understand the “why” behind the rule being explained.

Earlier the blood-borne pathogen topic arose with a uniform soaked in blood, and the procedure to clean and/or change a uniform. Also discussed were the similar topics of both vomit and feces on the mat or opponent.

It is important to understand that one interpretation covers all these situations. Since blood time is a five-minute clock, and reporting to the mat by team or individual is also a five-minute clock. The common sense approach is to give the wrestler a five-minute time limit to go to the locker room with the AHCP so he can be cleaned of any blood on his/her back, buttocks and neck, etc., change to a safe uniform then return to the mat area to resume competition if the mat is completed being cleaned and disinfected. Remember the clean-up of

the mat, bodies and uniforms is all part of the referee’s time. This one procedure applies to other body fluids such as vomit and/or diarrhea.

Be Professional * Polite * Prompt * Direct * Decisive

Below are two case manual situations which should be reviewed. They may not happen frequently, but all should be prepared to make the right call if they do.

Case manual 3-1-9 “The coach of **Team B** requests a conference with the referee to discuss an out of bounds situation. The coach states that a replay of the situation is available on the videotape. **RULING:** The referee shall not use TV monitoring replay or any other video equipment in making any decision relative to the match. **The coach shall be issued a coach misconduct warning / penalty as this is not a reviewable situation.”**

Case Manual 4-1-5 “**Wrestler A** reports to the scorer’s table with his uniform straps taped together in the back so the uniform would fit better. **RULING:** **Wrestler A** is penalized one match point for the technical violation and must take an injury time out to make his uniform legal, since he reported with an illegal uniform. The head coach is not charged with unsportsmanlike conduct.”