



October 15, 2016

## **Collegiate mechanics and procedures are not accepted as standard practice for Ohio high school and junior high school levels**

Our mechanics manual is written to provide every Ohio scholastic wrestling referees consistent explanations of the why's and how's to approach proper procedures and mechanics while officiating. Our scholastic referees work with young men and women who range from 13 to 18 years of age. The collegiate referee deals with young men between 19 to 24 years of age. There is a tremendous difference within these two groups of young athletes. The high school and junior high wrestlers have a substantial difference in their physical, mental, and psychological growth. Bone growth and muscular development are two very important developmental issues that play a very pivotal role in how the scholastic wrestling official evaluates every wrestling match. Our scholastic athletes do not have their senses and reaction time as sharp as the college athletes. Many of the average scholastic athletes still are slow to react to weight and pressure.

For a variety of safety reasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association through their State Rule Interpreters and the Director of Officiating Development have strict mechanics and accepted procedures that all Ohio wrestling referees must follow.

### **Consistency involves every aspect of the sport Ohio scholastic wrestling referees are a team All need to be part of the same team**

**Be Professional \* Polite \* Prompt \* Direct \* Decisive**

**Two rule changes** are added to the 2016-17 rule book. A body lock from the rear in which an arm(s) are locked needs to be considered P-D. The athlete cannot protect himself/herself if he/she is lifted and returned to the mat. Actually, Ohio referees have already been viewing this as P-D from the rear body lock position.

The other is a clarification of near fall scoring when an illegal, technical violation, unsportsmanlike or unnecessary act occurs. NFHS Rule (5-11-2i) now read "when the match is stopped" the offensive wrestler shall receive the near fall points plus the extra point for the near fall and all penalty point(s). This is how we were told to interpret this rule more than eight years ago, although the rule book had language that stated "...cannot be corrected and requires the referee to stop the match..." In short, it does not matter how or when the match his stopped, the offensive wrestler will receive all the near fall points plus the extra near fall point along with the penalty point(s) that are assessed as well.