



**October 30, 2017**

Weighing in for an event the day of a **College Entrance Exam** is not an officiating detail. The OHSAA supports the entire education process, believes officials are part of the entire educational team and education comes first. The responsibility lies with the coach to contact the host tournament director and comply with whatever arrangements the host tournament director would like to set to weigh-in any students who have registered to take either the ACT or SAT entrance exam. This will impact only a few Saturdays during the season. This arrangement also is acceptable for any future educational endeavor the students may have pending; such as a college visit, school contest (band, choir, FFA, etc) and also interviews (academy appointment, scholarship, etc). Just make sure the proper skin check is performed.

**Wrestlers may weigh-in wearing socks.** If a wrestler chooses to wear socks he/she must continue to weigh-in under the same conditions for each scale thereafter. The wrestler may not alter anything; such as cutting hair, cutting the under garment, removing socks, urinating or drinking fluids, etc. If the socks are high up on the ankle, the officials must ask the wrestler to roll the socks down to see the lower leg for skin inspection.

**Blood Clean-up** is the responsibility of the host school, either to provide an athletic trainer assigned to this duty or notify coaches they clean the mat if their wrestler's blood is on the mat.

**Wrestling referees are not allowed to clean up blood**

**WEIGH-IN / CERTIFICATION:** As we start the season, and perform the duties in the weigh-in room, it is important to remember that wrestlers must make scratch weight each time they decline down into a new lower weight class as they travel down to their lowest allowable alpha weight class. Also, each wrestler is allowed to weigh-in at the lowest allowable weight class as set forth by their weekly alpha time-line report, and then be bumped up one weight class. They may also weigh-in one weight class above their lowest allowable weight class as set forth by their weekly alpha time-line report, then be bumped up one weight class. Wrestlers are not allowed to weigh-in more than one weight class above their daily time-line report at any time during the season. If they do, they forfeit their lowest minimum weight class allowable. Officials should not be involved with this issue, but rather send a report to Beau Rugg, Director of Officiating if there were any issues during weigh-in.

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

**The alternative uniform will be accepted in Ohio.** This is a tight fitting compression shirt with either tight or loose fitting shorts. The short should be designed for wrestling. Both the shirt and shorts have several specific requirements which are found in the NFHS rule book. All members of the team may wear any uniform they wish as long as it is a legal combination of uniform equipment. Tight with stirrups may also be added to the combination. All uniforms must be school issued.

**Sportsmanship has continued an important issue** and our referees must be aware and ready to address the issue if they are pressed with a problem while officiating. All Ohio referees must not

allow a coach, athlete or spectator to verbally abuse the officials. The job of being a scholastic referee is hard enough without the added pressure and disrespect from athletes and adults. Our wrestling referees do not interfere with coaches doing their job coaching their athletes on the mat. Our state wide team of referees are trained and instructed to treat all in a professional respectful manner, the same way they would like to be treated. The rules of the sport call for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to be assessed if, in the referee's judgment a coach, athlete or any other team personnel are in any way mistreating the official. Remember, the referees have jurisdiction once they arrive at the event site. That means YOU are in charge of the event and the subsequent matches. The referees hired by the school or league are in charge of the event, and must maintain control of the event. That may involve either an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty or if the situation warrants, flagrant misconduct. **MAKE THE CALL IF IT IS NECESSARY.**

**Prosthetic limb:** Safety for both the opponent and the wrestler with the prosthetic limb is always the important issue. So let's run through the rules and regulations with this situation.

1. The wrestler may wrestle with the prosthetic limb, but he/she must weigh-in with the limb. If the wrestler does not weigh-in with it on he/she may not wear it in competition. If the wrestler does weigh-in with the limb he/she must complete the match with the limb attached. If the wrestler is over-weight, the limb may not be removed to make weight.

2. If the limb becomes dislodged the referee may allow the wrestler the opportunity to correct the problem on the referee's time. If necessary, the wrestler has the minute and a half injury time to correct the problem, if it cannot be corrected the wrestler must default the match. The wrestler must complete the event with the limb.

3. If the limb becomes damaged and unusable during competition, or if it becomes unsafe to either wrestler such that it cannot be worn, the wrestler must default the match since he/she weighed in with it he/she must complete the match with it on his/her body.

4. If there exists any hard / abrasive areas of the limb, it must be padded (no less than 1/2 inch) to the satisfaction of the meet referee for the safety of the opponent, and the padding cannot be so thick that the opponent can not apply normal legal holds / maneuvers. That is a judgment call each referee needs to make at each individual event.



From left to right; Jim Vreeland, Dick Loewenstine; Tim Gilmore, Tony Campolo, Toby Dunlap, Ralph Farmer, Steve Long and Ray Anthony. These were the 2017 Individual State Tournament team of observers standing in front of a new banner purchased by the Coaches Association, the OWOA and the OHSAA. Plans are to continue the banner project over the next few years so the Schottenstine floor is surrounded with art work depicting Ohio wrestlers and the history of Ohio wrestling. Look for new additions to the project in the next few years.