



November 1, 2018

The OHSAA has approved special accommodations to student athletes who require special consideration to compete. The 2017-18 season saw three accommodation letters issued from either Dr. Debra Moore or Beau Rugg. One concerned a blind individual and the two others were for transgender wrestlers. When the special accommodation is granted, the coach / AD will be responsible to present the necessary letter to the officials as soon as possible so the team of officials are well informed to be prepared to officiate appropriately and to prevent any embarrassment. Examples of a special accommodation might include, but not limited to the following; blind or deaf student athletes may allow the coach to leave the coaching area to communicate with his athlete, medical devices or monitors, amputees and transgender athletes. Officials are to follow the specific directions spelled out in the accommodation letter. Sportsmanship, Professionalism and Cooperation play a huge role in providing all our student athletes a positive experience.

We all need to be consistent every time we officiate

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.

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 minimum allowable weight class (LMW). Extra pounds may not be used to make a wrestler's LMW. Also, each wrestler is allowed to weigh-in at the lowest allowable weight class as set forth by their daily 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

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 cannot apply normal legal holds / maneuvers. That is a judgment call each referee needs to make at each individual event.

Illegal maneuvers; The Nelson-Cradle was recognized by the rules committee this past April, and thanks to the members of the new Dayton association for bringing to our attention. A combination of a half nelson on the near side coupled with a far side cradle either under or over the far side arm pit. When the hands are locked or on the head as with a full nelson it is illegal. Illustrations available in rule book, preseason guide and OHSAA web page.

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 officials are not allowed to clean up blood.**

DO IT RIGHT ... TO GET IT GET IT RIGHT

The back bow has been explained by the rules committee as illegal by application. **Example:** a leg turk with a cross face driving the opponent into near fall is legal, but if the offensive wrestler pulls the back foot to the head or grabs the back foot and turns it so the sole of the shoe is turned facing the head it is illegal. **IT IS ILLEGAL BY APPLICATION.** Just holding the foot flat on the mat, where the defensive wrestler placed it to bridge, does not make it an illegal back bow. All officials need to watch this situation carefully to get it right.

Sportsmanship has continued to be 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 WHEN IT IS NECESSARY

On behalf of the Ohio wrestling community, we wish Dr. Dan Ross much success finding his next great adventure. Your resounding message "Children First" will continue to echo. Thanks for all your work, for all almost 50 years to put children first.

Jim Vreeland, DOD-Wrestling
Ray Anthony, SRI
Dick Loewenstine, SRI