



**November 15, 2017**

**New Near Fall:** Now that we have had our rule interpretation meetings and a few local meeting, let's discuss the new out of bounds near fall rule. It is important not to make this any more difficult than it is. The NFHS Rules Committee finally came to the decision that scoring on the edge of the mat should be the same for all scoring situations, i.e. takedowns, escapes and reversals. To that end near fall points or a fall may be scored when the pinning area of either wrestler is out-of-bounds, as long as the opponent has one or two supporting points in bounds. The supporting point(s) may be knee(s), hip, thigh, buttocks, etc. The committee was specific that the toes may not be the supporting point(s) to remain inbounds to earn near fall. This also includes heels may not be the supporting point(s). Allowing near fall scoring out-of-bounds will force continued action at the edge of the mat, and wrestlers should not relax if their scapulae are out-of-bounds.

With this new approach to near fall scoring we are presented with new unique situations. We will all encounter new situations as the wrestling season unfolds. One to mention we have already foreseen is the case where wrestler A throws wrestler B to his back with a lateral drop and lands out of bounds so much so that wrestler B is laying inside the adjacent 28 foot competition circle. We work hard to be consistent, therefore this will be handled the same as our toe down takedown. Award the two points for the takedown, stop the match immediately and return the pair of wrestlers to the center and resume wrestling.

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

**The OWOA Clinic** for the third year in a row achieved 10 % growth. The total attendance was 115, with 35 remaining to review the state rule presentation. The Dedicated Service Recipients were Dave Todt (E), John Pugh (SE), Dave Detec (NE) and Jeff Crosby (NW). Each recognized for their contributions to Ohio wrestling officiating. Along with our three SRI's giving presentations, Dan Jaksetic and Larry Saxton combined for a discussion. Russ Brode shared thoughts on Professionalism. Once again John Butch provided video clips which opened great discussion from the audience, and could have last for hours. President Nevin Taylor continues to provide clinic topics which are informative, interesting and valuable to those who choose to attend. With this trend, we can look forward to our 2018 clinic to increase attendance and touch a few new important topics. Well Done!

Jim also shared with the group the OHSAA procedure for **transgender athletes** entering the wrestling circle. The procedure takes our wrestling officials out of the decision process. Below are the necessary steps for a transgender athlete:

1. The school administrator will make application with the OHSAA for a ruling for a transgender athlete to participate.
2. Based on specifics, the OHSAA will send back in writing the method and requirements for the individual to weigh-in, uniform, other special circumstances, etc.
3. The school will notify the school they are visiting of the participation of a transgender athlete, and will bring the OHSAA letter to present to the official(s). The official will then follow the directions spelled out in the OHSAA ruling.