



November 21, 2016

At our annual clinic, SRI Dick Loewenstine concluded the day with several reminders of unique situations. One that brought a great deal of discussion and questions was related to **Rule 5-11-4b on page 23 in the NFHS rule book**, which states “once the technical fall has been earned, the offensive wrestler cannot lose the match except by flagrant misconduct.” This is followed in the case manual by two **case situations 5-11-4c and 5-11-4d**. Both of which explain the referee holding near fall points when the offensive wrestler commits a flagrant act. The holding of near fall is to allow the offensive wrestler the chance to earn the fall. The awarding of the near fall would end the match with a technical fall.

After some explanation and discussion during a follow up conversation at the NFHS office, it was realized the problem lies in the fact that the rule implies the wrestler loses the match, which then infers the opponent would be the winner of the match due to the flagrant misconduct, when in fact, the case manual of both examples explain the basic concept of awarding the points in the sequence which they occurred. An editorial change will be sent to NFHS next march to correct the error.

Following the sequence of the events in the match is utilized in other situations, i.e. when awarding a toe down takedown with the wrestlers lying out of bounds. We should award the takedown first then blow the situation out of bounds. This is the proper sequence of the events; because the takedown occurred first then they were out of bounds.

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The same is true with this unique situation. The near fall points the referee is holding have not yet gone in the air because he/she is allowing the offensive wrestler to work for the fall. The flagrant act ends the situation and the match. The near fall occurred first and should get awarded, which now there is a winner and a loser. The loser drops down to the consolation bracket. The offensive wrestler is disqualified and ejected for the flagrant act and is removed from the event losing all points earned. Due to the ejection the next line on the bracket would now become a forfeit.

If this situation would occur in the consolation bracket, the loser by technical fall is eliminated from the tournament; the flagrant wrestler is ejected and removed from the event, which once again the next line on the consolation bracket becomes a forfeit because there is no wrestler to compete.

We have a number of these very unique situations in wrestling. There is a rule that covers the situation, and we look for consistency. The consistent part of this situation is the fact that we must award the points as they occurred in the correct order and sequence which the happened.

Always remember two things ...

Anything can happen in wrestling ...

We work with kids ...