



December 14, 2018

As the new season opened, the first two weekends have seen a serious number of officiating errors. They have ranged from simple to extreme. Without beating the horse let me just relay many of these that have occurred.

Wrestlers must wear **low-cut or low ankle socks** so the length of the legs can be visible to inspect for skin problems. If you use the phrase "roll 'em down" why not follow the rule and say "take 'em off". We can't pick which rules we want to follow and ignore the ones we don't like. Read rule 4-5-7.

The **injury time clock starts** when you stop for an injury. We do not wait for a trainer to finish on another mat before we start the injury time. But more importantly when you stop for a suspected concussion there is no injury time and there is not trainer. I strongly suggest everyone Google Ohio HB 143 and read it. By law you must remove the athlete from the event or practice. The law is the same for both coach and official alike. You must know the signs, symptoms and behaviors of head trauma. It is your responsibility. Read rule 8-2-1.

The **tooth and mouth protector** must cover all the braces on the teeth. This is for the safety of both the athletes, and to save blood time to delay the match. Read rule 4-2-6.

Knowing the **penalty chart and the proper sequence of penalties** is essential to everyone's success as an official. Misconduct penalties do not piggy back with unsportsmanlike conduct penalties. Basically, the misconduct penalty sequence is for an improper coaches' conference that goes to the coaching staff. If there is a third misconduct it is the head coach who ultimately pays the penalty of being removed from the event because he is responsible for his team, coaches and program. Unsportsmanlike conduct goes directly to the individual who earns it by virtue of his behavior, conduct, language, etc. A coach cannot be removed from an event because he has misconduct and an unsportsmanlike penalty. They do not go together. Read rule 5-30-1, 8-1-5 & the penalty chart pg. 43.

Be Professional * Polite * Prompt * Direct * Decisive

What is the sense of a wrestler (male or female) wearing a **hair cap** if the hair is not kept under the cap? Or, letting a young lady have her pig tails hang out under the back of the cap? Or, how about a large ball of hair under the cap at the neck level? If padding / braces cannot be so large to impair the opponent from applying normal legal holds to be able to compete fairly, pig tails and a ball of hair blocking the neck from preventing a normal tie-up or half nelson is not fair to the opponent. Ohio's procedure on replacing or fixing special equipment is as follows; first occurrence is the official's time to replace, second time is the official's time to replace and tell wrestler the next occurrence will be injury time, third occurrence the injury clock is started. Remember the second injury time is the opponent's choice of position. Read rule 4-3-1a & 4-3-1b.

All **head locks are potentially dangerous**. Safety is our most serious concern and no official should allow a student-athlete to be put in a possible injury situation. When a head lock prevents breathing or blocks either or both carotid arteries it is illegal. When a wrestler is unconscious it is a very serious sign of a possible head injury. The official cannot make the medical determination as to the reason for the unconsciousness; he must stop the match and follow the concussion protocol. This is for the safety of the wrestler and all those involved. Trainers or physicians cannot change that, the official has that responsibility to protect the athlete and remove him/her from the day's event. Read P-D rule 5-20, 7-2-1, 7-2-2. Read Illegal rule 7-1-5v. Read rule 8-2-4.

DO IT RIGHT: THE KIDS ARE IN YOUR HANDS

Let's recognize the service of one of our long time fellow officials and leaders; **Nevin Taylor**

- Long time OHSAA official – 39 years, and has officiated
- OHSAA football, basketball, baseball, softball and wrestling.
- Has officiated over 50 sectional and district tournaments in both NW & C districts.
- Has officiated 6 Ohio State wrestling tournaments.
- He is a table worker at both the Dual Team and Individual state tournaments, and has served as a table team captain and weigh-master for many years
- Six years as the Ohio Wrestling Officials' Association (OWOA) Vice President, and the past three years has served as President of the OWOA.
- 28 year Member of Central District Officials' Association (CDWOA).