



## Attention Ohio Wrestling Officials December 3, 2018

**NFHS Rule 4-5-7** States “All contestants shall weigh in wearing a suitable undergarment that completely covers the buttocks and the groin area. Female contestants must also wear a suitable undergarment that covers their breasts. Contestants may wear low-cut socks that cannot be removed or added if the wrestlers do not make weight.”

This has been addressed in the rule interpretations. The rule proposal was accepted by the NFHS Rule Committee and accepted the reasonable reasons to allow socks to be worn on the scale. Cold locker room floor and covering foot fungus were the two main reasons for the acceptance. So that officials are able to see the entire exposable skin area the socks are to be low-cut socks. Ankle socks that are below the top of the wrestler’s shoes are the rule. Some wrestlers choose not to wear socks when they compete, so to ensure skin is clean the low-cut socks were acceptable to the committee.

It has come to our attention weigh-ins have been conducted where the officials intentionally allowed the wrestles to wear high socks and told the wrestlers to roll them down. That, senior officials have voiced their opinion it is a stupid rule and instructed their association not to follow it may very well be unethical conduct. Enforcing rules and proper procedures is necessary for post season selection.

When we talk about the coaches’ comments “that let us do it last week” we talk about everyone doing procedures right at the start of the season so that we don’t create problems for our brother officials down the road. One association that decides not to follow the rules and make their own interpretations is wrong, but one individual promoting the disregard of the rules is very disappointing.

The remedy is to write a proposal. Everyone has the same opportunity to submit rule proposals every year by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Promoting the intentional disregard of the rules of the sport is extremely poor and detrimental to everyone. This type of behavior undermines wrestling officiating across the state and creates problems with the coaches.

We all need to follow the rules that have been explained to the coaches and not make individual modifications. Weigh-ins will be conducted with athletes wearing low-cut socks or no socks.

Thank You,

Ray Anthony  
OHSAA SRI

Dick Loewenstine  
OHSAA SRI

Jim Vreeland  
OHSAA DOD