

January 22, 2007

Dear Athletic Directors, Wrestling Coaches and Officials:

*(Athletic Directors, there are 3 enclosures with your letter that you should be distribute to, and review with, **ALL** of your wrestling coaches)*

This is the final letter you will receive this season regarding rule interpretations. I appreciate everyone's cooperation as we have worked through the new weight management rules. It has been difficult at times, but I'm sure next year will be easier for all of us.

### **Sportsmanship**

**The Athletic Association expects good sportsmanship from everyone involved in interscholastic athletics (coaches, wrestlers, officials and spectators).** As the intensity of competition increases it seems that good sportsmanship becomes less important to some people. **Athletic Directors** - be sure you continue to hold your spectators accountable for their actions and your coaches accountable for their actions and actions of their wrestlers. **Coaches** - expect, and accept, nothing less than good sportsmanship from yourself, your assistants and your wrestlers. **Officials** -you also must accept nothing less than good sportsmanship. If a wrestler, or coach, has crossed the line regarding their conduct, they should be penalized according to the rules.

### **Important Dates for 2006-07**

Class 1A & 2A Sectional Tournaments: Saturday, February 10, 2007  
Class 1A & 2A Regional Dual Meets: Tuesday, February 13, 2007  
Class 1A, 2A & 3A District Tournaments: Saturday, February 17, 2007  
State Wrestling Tournament: Wednesday - Saturday, February 21-24, 2007  
State Dual Team Wrestling Tournament: Saturday, March 3, 2007

### **Important Dates for Officials**

Sportsmanship ratings due: Saturday, March 17, 2007 - **NO EXCEPTIONS!**  
Re-registration materials sent to you: March 2007  
Deadline to register without penalty: June 1, 2007 - **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

### **Wrestlers' Descent Plans and Eligible Weight Classes**

**Athletic directors and coaches, be sure you continue to carefully monitor each of your wrestler's descent plans and eligible weight classes for each week.** If a wrestler weighs in above the two weight classes their descent plan allows them to be at it could affect where they are allowed to compete at sectional and district tournaments. A recalculation of their descent plan at this point of the season may prohibit them from competing at their

desired weight class at sectional and district competition.

Remember, **A WRESTLER'S DESCENT PLAN IS AUTOMATICALLY, AND IMMEDIATELY, RECALCULATED IF THEIR ACTUAL SCALE WEIGHT IS ABOVE ONE OF THE TWO WEIGHT CLASSES THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ACCORDING TO THEIR DESCENT PLAN.** *As an example: If a wrestler is eligible for the 130# and 135# weight classes and he weighs in above the 135# weight class his descent plan will be immediately recalculated from that day forward and he will need to follow his new descent plan to return to either the 135# or 130# weight class.* Be sure to review each wrestler's descent plan so you are certain which two classes they can weigh-in at without having their descent plan recalculated. A recalculation of their descent plan may prohibit them from competing at their desired weight class at sectional and district competition.

### **Growth Allowance**

**Once a wrestler certifies by making scratch weight at the minimum weight class he intends to compete, he receives the growth allowance for any weight class for which he weighs in.** *For example, if a wrestler makes scratch weight and certifies at 130 pounds, he receives the growth allowance at 130# and 135# without effecting his descent plan. He also receives the growth allowance for weight classes above the 135-pound weight class, but weighing in above the 135-pound weight class would change his descent plan.*

Also, once a wrestler receives the growth allowance he must use it. **A wrestler who has certified by making scratch weight at 130# must weigh in excess of 132# to weigh-in for the 135-pound weight class.**

### **Dual Meet Weigh-ins**

Coaches, **be sure to place your wrestlers on the proper line of dual meet weigh-in sheets.** If a wrestler is not on the correct line, it will restrict where he can wrestle. For example, if a wrestler who receives the growth allowance at the 130-pound weight class weighs less than 132-pounds and is placed on the 135-pound line the only option he has is to wrestle at the 135-pound weight class. He forfeited the opportunity to wrestle at the 130-pound weight class, even though he made weight for that weight class, because of being on the 135-pound line. Remember, a wrestler can compete one weight class above the weight class he actually weighed in for, but cannot compete at a weight class below where he is placed on the weigh-in sheet, regardless of his weight.

### **Weigh-ins for Sectional Tournaments and Regional Dual Team Meets**

The sectional tournaments and regional dual team meets are separate competitions meaning wrestlers do NOT have to weigh-in at the same weight class on those two dates. A wrestler can weigh-in at either of his two eligible weight classes without effecting his descent plan and it does NOT have to be the same weight class for sectionals and regional dual team. *For example, if a wrestler's MWC is 140# he could weigh-in at 140# for sectionals, then weigh-in*

at 145# for regional dual team (and wrestle at either 145# or 152#) and not effect his 140# weight class for district competition. Likewise, this wrestler could weigh-in at 145# for sectionals and at 140# for regional dual team without effecting his 145# weight class for district competition. **The key is he CANNOT weigh-in above his two eligible weight classes for regional dual team or his descent plan will change and he will be INELIGIBLE FOR DISTRICT COMPETITION!!**

### **Communicable Skin Conditions**

Athletic directors, coaches, wrestlers and officials all play a crucial role in preventing communicable skin conditions from occurring. As we all know, it could be devastating for a wrestler to contract a communicable skin condition at this time of year. That does not mean anyone becomes more lax in keeping wrestlers with a communicable condition out of participation, but it does mean **everyone needs to continue to be diligent with skin checks and keeping wrestlers and mats clean.**

Athletic directors and coaches, **be sure any disinfectant cleaners used to clean the mats are effective against viruses, fungi, and bacteria.** Be diligent about cleaning practice and competition mats regularly to protect the wrestlers. Here are a few other ways to reduce the risk of wrestlers contracting a communicable skin condition: 1) Require wrestlers to shower immediately after every practice and competition, 2) be sure all workout clothes are washed after every practice and competition, 3) disinfect wrestling mats and weight room equipment on a regular basis, 4) use liquid soap in showers, rather than having athletes share bars of soap, 5) don't allow wrestlers to share towels or other personal hygiene products, 6) encourage wrestlers to coaches about any new skin conditions and have those conditions evaluated by a medical professional before returning to any kind of participation.

Officials, **continue to do thorough skin checks before meets** for the protection of all wrestlers. For any condition that is suspect require a Wrestling Skin Condition Report form before allowing the wrestler to compete.

### **Bleeding and Blood Time**

Athletic directors and coaches, **too many coaches are cleaning blood from their athletes and the mat without using protective gloves.** I know that putting the gloves on is inconvenient, but it is for everyone's protection. Every school is responsible for training their personnel in universal precautions, including the use of gloves. Yet, **almost every meet I go to I see at least one coach cleaning blood, or putting cotton in a wrestler's nose, without using gloves.** I've even seen them wipe their hands on their pants afterwards! Let's take care of this now before someone decides to make it an issue!

Officials, **blood time starts when you notice bleeding and notify the scorer's table. It ends when the bleeding has been controlled.** Time used to clean blood from the athlete

or the mat is NOT counted as blood time. The Athletic Association does **NOT** want officials to clean blood from an athlete or the mat. It is your responsibility to be at the scorer's table to monitor the appropriate clock and notify the coach at the one-minute and 30-second mark as to the amount of time remaining.

Remember, **bleeding time always takes precedence over injury or recovery time**. Please refer to pages 55-56 of the NFHS Case Book, situations A, E & F, for clarification.

**\*\*\*OFFICIALS - PLEASE READ - VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\***

1. **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING WRESTLING SPORTSMANSHIP RATINGS ON-LINE IS SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2007!!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
2. **In March all registered officials will receive their re-registration form. Registration is due May 1 with a grace period until June 1. THE DEADLINE FOR RE-REGISTERING AS AN OFFICIAL, WITHOUT PENALTY, IS JUNE 1! A penalty will assessed to each re-registration submitted after June 1 - NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
3. The 2006-07 IHSAA Guide for Registered Officials in All Sports states on page 11 that the **emblem showing your classification as an official should be worn on the left shirt sleeve and the American Flag, if worn, should be worn over the heart**, more specifically on the left shirt front. This is a change from previous years. They made the change because we feel the American Flag should be worn over the heart whenever possible. We do not expect officials to ruin a shirt by changing the location of the emblem and Flag. When you buy a new shirt we ask that you put the wrestling emblem on the left sleeve and the American Flag on the left shirt front. I hope this helps clarify this issue for you.

If you have any questions as the tournaments approach don't hesitate to contact me. I'm here to work with you. Good luck to all of you in the tournaments and I look forward to seeing many of you at Wells Fargo Arena.

Sincerely,

Alan Beste  
Assistant Executive Director  
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*enclosures:*

*Coach-Athlete Contact Rule*

*Use of School Equipment and Transportation  
Gift Law Issues*

## COACH-ATHLETE CONTACT (“Camps & Clinics Rule”)

**(36.15(6))** *Summer camps and clinics and coaching contacts out of season.*

(a) School personnel, whether employed or volunteers of a member or associate-member school shall not coach that school's student athletes during the school year in the sport for which the school personnel are currently under contract or are volunteers, outside the period from the official first day of practice through the finals of tournament play, nor shall volunteer or compensated coaching personnel require students to participate in any activities outside the season of that coach's sport as a condition of participation in the coach's sport during the season.

(b) A summer team or individual camp or clinic held at a member or associate-member school facility shall not conflict with sports in season. Summertime coaching activities shall not conflict with sports in season.

(d) Penalty. A school whose volunteer or compensated coaching personnel violate this rule is ineligible to participate in a governing organization-sponsored event in that sport for one year with the violator(s) coaching.

***Wrestling Interpretation:*** The Coach-Athlete Contact Rule applies to wrestling coaches no matter what style of wrestling they may be coaching. No matter what style of wrestling is being coached, 9-12 wrestling coaches may not coach their 9-12 athletes during the school year, except from the first official day of practice until the State Dual Team Tournament is completed. This includes transporting 9-12 wrestlers to camps and clinics. Coaches bringing wrestlers from several schools together, outside the season but during the school, and coaching each other's wrestlers in the same facility is **NOT PERMISSIBLE**.

During the summer, wrestling coaches must abide by section (b) of the Coach-Athlete Contact rule above, regardless of what style of wrestling is being coached in a camp or clinic.

# USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT & TRANSPORTATION

School uniforms and equipment may not be used in non-school competition involving junior high or high school students. School transportation may be leased or rented from the school for use in non-school competition involving junior high or high school students as per the guidelines listed below:

Iowa Code 285.10 (9) and (10) permits a school to lease busses for the purpose of transporting students in such situations. When school transportation is used for camps, clinics or non-school games, The local board shall charge and collect an amount sufficient to reimburse all costs of furnishing the bus and driver. In addition, if a school district leases a bus for this purpose, section 43.10(10)5 of the School Rules of Iowa must be complied with. This reads as follows:

43.10(5) School buses may be used by an organization of, or sponsoring activities for, senior citizens, children, handicapped, and other persons and groups, and for transportation of persons other than pupils to activities in which the pupils from the school are participants of or are attending the activity for which the school is a sponsor under the follow conditions:

- a. The "school bus" signs shall be covered and the flashing warning lamps and stop arm are made inoperable when the bus is being used in a non-school sponsored activity.
- b. Transportation outside the state of Iowa shall not be provided without approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission.
- c. For adult groups, no more than two persons shall occupy a thirty-nine inch seat. Standees shall not be permitted.
- d. A chaperone shall accompany each bus to assist the passengers in the boarding and disembarking from the bus and to aid them in case of injury or illness.
- e. The driver of the bus shall be approved by the local board of education and must possess a chauffeur's license and a school bus driver's permit.
- f. The driver of the bus shall observe the maximum speed limits for school buses at all times.

The Department of Education states, "Certainly we would agree that a district increases its liability exposure when it leases its buses for the purpose of transporting students to summer camps or for nonschool competition, but the law quite clearly gives them the authority to do so. We would certainly agree that the district should contact their insurance company before entering into any type of agreement to lease a bus."

# GIFT LAW ISSUES: What Coaches and A.D.s need to Know

**The Scenario:** A clothing company contacts an activities director and coaching staff with a deal for their school. To get the AD and coaches to recommend the company to the superintendent and school board members, the company wants to give clothing to the AD and coaches.

**The Reality:** Iowa's gift law (Iowa Code chapter 68B) prohibits the above conduct.

The law applies to all public employees, which includes administrators, teachers, and coaches at school districts. The gift law prohibits a public employee or that person's immediate family member from accepting or receiving, directly or indirectly, any gift or series of gifts from a "restricted donor."

A restricted donor is defined in the law as a person or company who is or is seeking to be a party to a sale, purchase, lease or other type of contract with the employer of the public employee. Thus, in the above scenario the clothing company and all of its representatives are restricted donors. They want a contract with the school district. They want to sell goods to the district.

There are some exceptions to the prohibitions in the gift law. The ones that would most commonly occur regarding school employees are as follows:

- Non-monetary items with a value of three dollars or less that are received from any one donor during one calendar day.
- Informational material relevant to a public employee's official functions, such as books, pamphlets, reports, documents, periodicals, or other information that is recorded in a written, audio, or visual format.
- Anything available or distributed free of charge to members of the general public without regard to the official status of the recipient.

The consequences for violating the gift law are severe. A person who knowingly and intentionally violates the gift law may be punished in **ALL** of the following three ways:

Both donor and recipient are guilty of a serious misdemeanor. Serious misdemeanors are punishable by up to one year incarceration and a fine between \$250 and \$1500, plus 30% surcharge and court costs.

The gift law specifically gives the public employer permission to fire the employee who takes a gift in violation of this law.

Finally, violation of the gift law is a violation of the Board of Educational Examiner's Code of Ethics. Therefore, the public employee who is also licensed by the BoEE could lose his or her

license.

Carol Greta  
Iowa Department of Education