

October 21, 2016

To: IHSAA Wrestling Officials

From: Lewie Curtis, Director of Officials and Wrestling Sport Administrator

Re.: Pre-season information

The 2016-17 wrestling season is right around the corner. The online rules meeting and online exam open up on Monday, Oct. 24. Please view the rules meeting and take some time to study your rules book and case book. The 2015-16 books will be used for this year except for newly registered officials, and new books will be mailed next year (2017-18) for all wrestling officials (I may have inadvertently told some clinic attendees the wrong information in Clarion).

Rules changes to make note of for the exam and this season include the following (these appear in the online rules meeting):

- Rule 5-11-2i - When a defensive wrestler commits a technical violation, applies an illegal hold/maneuver, commits unnecessary roughness or an unsportsmanlike act during an imminent or near fall situation, the offensive wrestler shall be awarded near fall points in addition to the penalty point(s).
  - Example 1: Wrestler A has Wrestler B in a near fall situation with the referee holding three points (5 second count) and Wrestler B gouges the eyes of Wrestler A, allowing him to be able to get to his belly.
    - In this case, the referee would award a 4-point near fall and 1-point for an illegal maneuver (eye gouge). 4-point near fall is awarded because Wrestler A earned a 3-point, then gets one for the illegal maneuver during the near fall. An additional penalty is also given after the near fall situation ends.
    - The referee can stop the match to award the points or can signal the points and allow wrestling to continue, just communicate it effectively with the bench and the spectators and coaches.
  - Example 2: Wrestler A has Wrestler B in a near fall situation with the referee holding three points (5 second count) and Wrestler B pulls the headgear of Wrestler A. The referee swipes the hand away and announces "That is a penalty", allowing wrestling to continue. Once again, Wrestler B pulls on the headgear of Wrestler A and again the referee swipes the hand away and announces "That is a penalty." Time runs out on the period.
    - In this case, the referee would award a 4-point near fall and 1-point for a technical violation (grabbing headgear) and 1-point for a second technical violation (grabbing headgear).
  - Example 3: Wrestler A has Wrestler B in an imminent near fall situation, but prior to meeting criteria, Wrestler B pulls on the singlet of Wrestler A and gets out of the near fall situation.



Concerning wrestler conduct:

- Coaches must coach their athletes to use positive sportsmanship, including not using profanity.
- Officials should penalize for profanity, which could include ejection if of a severe enough nature.
- Coaches – they're being told to do their job and make sure their athletes understand the expectation.
- Officials – don't "over-officiate", but don't ignore this. It can be unsportsmanlike, but does not automatically mean an ejection! Use preventive officiating!

This policy change came from the Wrestling Advisory Committee:

- The third place wrestler from the sectional tournament will be allowed to enter the district tournament at weigh-ins. (Possible reasons include injury, illness, skin condition, etc.)
  - A wrestler missing weight is NOT a reason to allow a third place wrestler to enter the 1A/2A district tournament. That wrestler's position becomes a forfeit.
  - This is being communicated to all A.D.s and Head Coaches.

Let's have a great wrestling season! I look forward to working with all of you. Thanks for choosing to officiate the great sport of wrestling in Iowa.

## Lewie Curtis

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