

December 19, 2019

To: Wrestling Coaches, ADs and Wrestling Officials

From: Lewie Curtis, IHSAA Wrestling Administrator

I hope this correspondence (sorry for the length) finds you all doing well and preparing for a brief period of rest and relaxation with family and friends! Happy holidays to you all.

There are several situations that have been brought to my attention that I will try to clarify for coaches and officials, and ultimately for the competitors themselves. I appreciate all your patience and willingness to understand that not all situations have clear and simple interpretations, and that subtle differences can cause situations that appear similar to be ruled on differently. What an official observes and what a coach sees aren't always the same, but that does not excuse behaviors that are anything but professional. For the good of our sport, let's all be sure to always conduct ourselves in a professional manner!

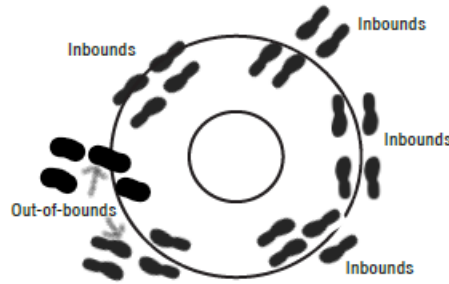
- Extended injury time for Head/Neck/Cervical column (HNC) evaluation.
 - If an on-site, designated healthcare professional requests extended time to evaluate due to an injury (from a legal situation), that time is granted, and the referee makes the appropriate signal. Total of 5:00 allowed for a one-time evaluation. I don't think this is an issue.
 - If the request to evaluate is due to an injury suffered because of an illegal move then you have recovery time, which cannot be extended! The wrestler has two minutes in that instance to determine if he can continue. If, at the end of the two minutes of recovery time, it is determined the injured wrestler cannot continue, he'd be the winner by default, due to the illegal maneuver.
- Coaches and Track Wrestling personnel - Commit your weigh-ins! Once the weigh-ins are completed and the meet is over, coaches need to enter the actual scale weight of the wrestlers. Once that is accurately entered, the coach needs to commit the weigh-in. That turns the scale green on your schedule page. If a wrestler appears 3 times on an uncommitted weigh-in report, they will no longer show up in the dropdown list of wrestlers.
- Weight management, descent plans, growth allowance - Coaches, please be sure to spend some time examining all your wrestlers' descent plans over the next 10-12 days, as the growth allowance is set to kick in on January 1. With that comes some items that need your attention.
 - To receive and use the 2-pound growth allowance a wrestler must have made scratch weight at his Minimum Weight Class (MWC), which is indicated at the top of the Weight Loss Descent Plan as well as on every Official Weigh-in Report and the Roster page of the OPC on your TrackWrestling team page.
 - The MWC might be lower than any weight class that the wrestler has weighed-in at to this point in the season. If that is the case, and the wrestler continues to weigh-in at weight classes above the MWC, you need to make sure the Eligible Weight Classes (EWC) which are located on the Weight Loss Descent Plan and the Official Weigh-in

Report matches the class in which the wrestler will weigh-in. If the wrestler weighs-in at a weight class that is above the EWC, the descent plan will recalculate immediately and will change their EWC. This is a situation that occurs frequently, so be sure to look things over!

- If a wrestler is absolutely not going to drop down to their MWC, the coach can change that weight to a higher weight class. Be reminded that the MWC cannot be changed back to a lower number once it is moved up, so be 100% sure before making the change on your Roster page. You change it by clicking on the blue number underneath the MWC column, then the system will require you to “update” the new MWC. This is the system’s way of asking you “Are you absolutely sure that you want to change the wrestler’s MWC?”
- Once a wrestler has made scratch weight at their MWC, he/she is eligible to receive the growth allowance (after January 1). In order to receive it, the coach will need to make sure the growth allowance column on the Official Weigh-in Report says “YES”. If it says “NO”, that indicates that the wrestler does not qualify for it. Remember to change that to “YES” if you want the wrestler to have the growth allowance!
- Once a wrestler declares that they will, indeed, use the growth allowance, their weight class essentially moves up two pounds. So, if “bumping up” a wrestler who has the growth allowance as a yes, that wrestler will need to know what to weigh. For example, a 138 pounder with a “YES” in the growth allowance wants to weigh-in at the 145-pound class and bump up to 152. This wrestler will need to weigh in excess of 140.0 in order to be a 145-pounder, thus being able to bump up to 152. If this wrestler weighs-in at 140.0, they are still on weight for the 138-pound class, since they have the growth allowance!
- Scenarios with a weigh-in report:
 - Wrestler A is listed as a 152-pounder in the Weight column (far left-hand side). His MWC says 152. His EWC says 152, 160. His EWW says 151.5. When he steps on the scale, his actual weight is 167.4. First, what should happen next? Second, what weight class can he compete at on that date? Third, what happens to his descent plan?
 - First, what should happen is the coach should cross out the 152 in the Weight” column and write in 170. There is no penalty for not doing that, but out of courtesy, that should happen (remember, we’re being professionals, right?).
 - Second, that wrestler is eligible to compete in the weight class that he made weight for and one above it. In this case, he can wrestle 170 or 182 on that date.
 - Third, his descent plan will immediately recalculate due to him violating his plan by weighing-in at a weight class above his EWC. Again, no penalty that night, so he can wrestle at that weight and the one above it.
 - At a January 3rd double dual meet, Team A has a weigh-in report that shows some wrestlers on the team as having a NO in their Growth Allowance column while others have a YES. Some of the NO growth allowance wrestlers “should

have the growth allowance” claims Team A’s coach. First, why would the “should be” YES actually be a NO? Second, what can be done about it? Third, what happens once the weigh-in report is signed by the coaches?

- First, the NO appears because that wrestler has not made scratch weight at his/her Minimum Weight Class (MWC) found on the descent plan. It doesn’t matter if that wrestler has “been weighing-in at this class all season” or not, if the MWC says a lower weight class than what the wrestler has been weighing-in for, then there will be no Growth Allowance. To change that, the coach needs to change the MWC, but once that is done there is no changing it back to a lower weight class.
 - Second, at that moment, if the coach wants the wrestler to be able to use the growth allowance, he would have to inform the other coaches that he is changing the NO to a YES and that he will make the change on TrackWrestling later that night or in the morning.
 - Third, once the report is signed by the coaches, it becomes an official document and the referee will make rulings based on that report! Get it right before you get to that point.
- Rule 1-4-4 states that “No contestant shall wrestle in two consecutive matches with less than a 45-minute rest between them.” This applies to junior varsity events as well as varsity events. Junior high has a 30-minute rest between two consecutive matches. Do not bend these rules!
 - Officials – Eric LeSher shared an email that he has sent to schools where he will be working. Consider trying to help in the recruiting process by using Eric’s strategy (below).
 - As you may know, I am a wrestling referee and sometime during the upcoming season, I will be officiating at your high school or at a meet in which your team is participating.
 - As you are painfully aware, there is a shortage of wrestling referees. One of the best sources for new referees is soon to be graduated wrestlers who may want to stay in the sport some way after they graduate from high school. Often, they are not sure how to get started officiating. If you have a soon to be graduating wrestler, who even in the slightest way **MAY** be interested in becoming a referee, I would be **more than happy** to discuss officiating with them either before, during a break, or after the meet that both of us will be at this season. Or if they would like to contact me outside of a meet environment, please pass on to them my contact information below.
 - It is a great way for a college student or recent graduate beginning their working career to make a **pretty decent sum of money** doing something they like to do – be actively involved in wrestling.



11. (5-15-1) Contestants are considered to be inbounds if the supporting points of either wrestler are inside or on the boundary lines.

Just a quick review of two supporting points being inbounds or out-of-bounds to determine your edge of the mat calls. Stepping on and over the line is considered out, so the two OOB examples are correct because only a total of one supporting point remains inbounds.

- Dual meet score ends up being tied 39-39. Use the NFHS criteria, which can be found on TrackWrestling under the “Tiebreaker” heading. This will give you an indicator of which team would win the criteria point. Use your rule book as well and be sure to include both head coaches as the determination is being made! Once the decision is made, there is a 30-minute period for any errors to be corrected (Rule 6-6-4b-1). Tournament scoring errors for teams has that same time limit.
- The month of January is fast approaching. We have many dual meets and tournaments with some hotly contested battles to take place. Let’s all remember that working hard to do your best job is at the forefront for wrestlers, coaches, and officials. Please respect each other’s jobs and responsibilities, first for the safety of the athletes and next for the sanctity of the sport. Always show respect and display sportsmanship. It’s OK to have professional discussions as a part of gaining clarity on a rule or call. It is not OK to disregard the need for clarity by being rude and disrespectful, from all three groups! Show everyone watching that we can and will work together to make things as fair as possible.

Once again, have a happy holiday with the people most important to you. Take care of yourself and let’s have a great second half of the wrestling season.

Lewie Curtis, IHSAA

Director of Officials

Wrestling Administrator