

Mid Season Wrestling Interpretation Clarifications

January 7, 2010

Rule 4-2-3: If a participant is suspected by the Referee or Coach of having a Communicable skin disease or any other condition that makes participation appear inadvisable, the Coach shall provide current written documentation as defined by N.F.H.S. or the State Association, from a Physician stating that the suspected disease or condition is not communicable and that the athlete's participation would not be harmful to any opponent.

This document shall be furnished at the Weigh-in for the dual meet or tournament.

This rule assumes the Referee is conducting the weigh-in. If the Referee is not conducting the weigh-in, this documentation must be provided to the Referee when he or she conducts the pre-meet inspection of contestants.

The proper procedure is for the Referee to request any skin forms from the Coach and then proceed with the inspection.

At tournaments or a dual meet, weigh-ins that are being conducted or supervised by the referee, the wrestler's Coach shall provide the skin forms for each wrestler when they present themselves at the scales for weigh-in. **Referees can no longer allow Coaches the remainder of the weigh-in period to obtain the proper documentation.**

If the wrestler's Coach can not provide the required skin form the only way the wrestler can participate is to have a designated, on-site meet Physician inspect the contestant.

Rule 8-1-3: In NY incorrect starting positions shall be corrected by the Referee by verbal communication with the wrestler.

We have been instructed to penalize or issue a caution for an incorrect starting positions only if one of the following occurs;

- a) To gain a distinct advantage over their opponent.
- b) Repeatedly.
- c) To demonstrate obvious disregard for the referee's instructions or the rules.

The NYS Rules committee decided several years ago to issue verbal corrections. No individual referee, officials' chapter or section should be deviating from that protocol.

Additionally there has been some concern regarding the sequence that is to be followed by the offensive wrestler.

Rule 5-20-5, pg. 24 NFHS Rules Book;

1. Set the knees and feet.
2. Place the palm of one hand on the opponent's naval.
3. Place the head on or above the midline of the opponent's back. (spinal column)
4. Place the palm of the other hand on or over the back of the opponent's near elbow.

This sequence that requires the hand to be on the naval first and then the head is of little consequence. Many times while placing their hand on the opponent's naval they will position their head simultaneously.

The important part of this sequence rule is that the near elbow is last and that the palm is on or over the **back** of the opponent's elbow. Referees are reminded that once both wrestlers become stationary they should say "**set**" and then blow their whistle.

Contact Lenses

Time required to recover or replace a contact lens, **may** be charged against a contestant's injury time and count as an injury time-out if the referee determines that this disrupts the flow of the match, using the same guidelines as for any other special equipment.

Rule 3-1-5: The number and duration of time-outs required to correct equipment is at the discretion of the referee. Repeated time-outs may require use of the injury clock. Use good judgment, i.e. 2 or 3 time-outs of short duration or 1 or 2 time-outs of longer duration, should represent the limit prior to starting the clock.