

A black and white line drawing of a wrestler in a defensive stance, with arms raised and legs spread wide. The drawing is positioned behind the main title text.

# **Wrestling Meeting Folder 2015-2016**

**Steve Dalberth, New York State Rules Interpreter**

## Wrestling Rules Changes for 2015-2016

**Rule 3-1-4**, clarifies the duties of wrestling referees before a dual meet begins.

Before the dual meet begins, the referee shall:

- a. *Perform skin checks or verify skin checks have been performed by a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional;*
- b. Inspect contestants for presence of oils or greasy substances on the body or uniform, rosin, objectionable pads, improper clothing, all jewelry, long fingernails, improper grooming, health and safety measures;
- c. Clarify the rules with coaches and contestants upon request;
- d. Have the head coach verify that the team is groomed, properly equipped and ready to wrestle, including shoelaces being secured;
- e. Review with the scorers and timekeeper the signals and procedures to be used; and
- f. Meet with head coaches and captains and explain good sportsmanship throughout the contest.

**Rule 3-1-5**, will add the same inspection requirements before tournaments. The actual requirements were not changed, only written in clearer, more specific language.

The skin-check rule has always been in the NFHS Wrestling Rules Book, but the committee felt it needed to be clarified and specified that this needed to be done **each day of a multiple day event not just on day one**.

Upon arrival of the contest site (dual meet or tournament), the referee must meet with home management or the tournament director to verify that skin checks have been performed by a designated, on-site meet appropriate health care professional.

If the skin checks have not been done, it is the responsibility to the referee to conduct the skin checks as well as all other responsibilities described in Rule 3-1-4a-f or 3-1-5a-e. This protocol must be followed each day of a multiple day event.

It should be noted that even if the skin checks have been performed by the appropriate on site health care professional, the referee will still be required to perform the duties required in rule 3-1-4b-f, at all dual meets and rule 3-1-5b-e in all tournaments.

**NOTE:** Wrestlers will be inspected in the uniform in which they will compete. It is not necessary for the shoulder straps to be lowered unless there are specific concerns. The inspection of contestants shall take place outside the view of spectators.

NFHS recommends the skin check should take place by referees or a designated, on-site meet appropriate health care professional at weigh-ins whenever possible.

#### **Rule 4-1-2**

One American flag, not to exceed 2 inches by 3 inches, may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform without compromising its integrity.



#### **Rule 10-2-9a**

Regarding a situation where two wrestlers in the championship bracket simultaneously cannot continue a match and the score is tied: *If either wrestler has received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty at any time during the match the opponent will advance to the consolation bracket.* If no unsportsmanlike conduct occurred by either wrestler, the wrestler who scored the first point(s) in the match (first three periods, or first or second 30-second tiebreaker) will continue in the consolation bracket; or if no points were scored, neither wrestler will continue.

## Editorial Changes

**Rule 3-3-1b** Clarified that overtime needs to be included when circling first points scored.

**Rule 8-1-3** Clarified the rules language with regard to awarding penalty points during a match.

**Last year the rule read;** “the first call for stalling will receive a warning prior to your opponent being awarded a match point”.

**This year the rule reads;** “the first call for stalling will receive a warning prior to *the* opponent of *the* offender being awarded a match point”.

**Rule 8-2-2** Added “injured” before “contestant” for clarification.

**Last year read;** “If the contestant is injured as a result of an illegal hold/maneuver, unnecessary roughness or unsportsmanlike conduct (during the match) to the extent the contestant is unable to continue following a maximum of 2 minutes recovery time, the contestant shall be awarded the match by default. In case of an intentional attempt to injure an opponent, the offender shall be penalized for flagrant misconduct. Recovery time for injury because of an illegal hold/maneuver is not deducted from the injured wrestler’s injury-time allowance. A contestant cannot take injury time immediately following recover time.

**This year reads;** “If the contestant is injured as a result of an illegal hold/maneuver, unnecessary roughness or unsportsmanlike conduct (during the match) to the extent the *injured* contestant is unable to continue following a maximum of 2 minutes recovery time, the *injured* contestant shall be awarded the match by default. In case of an intentional attempt to injure an opponent, the offender shall be penalized for flagrant misconduct. Recovery time for injury because of an illegal hold/maneuver is not deducted from the injured wrestler’s injury-time allowance. An *injured* contestant cannot take injury time immediately following recover time.

**Rule 8-2-6** Further clarified injury time, blood time and recovery time

**Last year read;** During a time-out for injury, no more than two team attendants and appropriate health-care professional shall be permitted on the mat with either wrestler.

**This year reads;** During a time-out for injury, *recovery time or blood time*, no more than two team attendants and appropriate health-care professional shall be permitted on the mat with either wrestler.  
***Coaching is allowed during injury time, recovery time or blood time.***

**Illustration #14** Added a highlighted circle to the illustration to better emphasize an illegal starting position.

**Illustration #15** Clarified the text description under the illustration. Also, added highlighted circles to the illustration to better emphasize an illegal starting position.

## **2015-16 NFHS Points of Emphasis**

The following five items have been identified as points of emphasis for the 2015-16 wrestling season.

### **1. COMMUNICABLE SKIN CONDITIONS AND SKIN CHECKS**

Communicable skin conditions continue to be a major concern in wrestling, in part because of recent MRSA and Herpes Gladiatorum outbreaks. If a participant has a suspected skin condition, NFHS Wrestling Rules require current, written documentation from an appropriate health-care professional stating the athlete's participation would not be harmful to an opponent. Cold sores are considered a skin lesion and are subject to the communicable skin condition rules.

The NFHS has developed a form that can be used for that documentation, and several state associations have adopted similar forms for use in their states.

Regardless of the form used, it is imperative that ALL coaches perform routine skin checks of their wrestlers and require any wrestlers with a suspect condition to seek medical attention and treatment.

It is also imperative that ALL referees perform skin checks - or verify that skin checks have been done by a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional - as part of their pre-meet duties prior to EVERY dual meet and tournament.

If there is a suspect condition, the wrestler or coach **MUST present the proper clearance form at the weigh-in** for any dual meet or tournament in order for the wrestler to be allowed to compete.

The only exception to the requirement of the proper clearance form would be if a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional is present and is able to examine the wrestler either immediately prior to or immediately after the weigh-in. The designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional has the authority to overrule the diagnosis of the appropriate health-care professional who signed the proper clearance form presented to the referee at the weigh-in.

One of the keys to preventing the spread of communicable skin conditions is for coaches and referees to fulfill their responsibilities professionally. It is, however, only one of the keys.

The other and equally important key is proper prevention. While prevention can be complicated, in most cases it only requires that a few basic steps be taken by ALL involved in the sport.

- Educate coaches, athletes and parents about communicable skin conditions and how they are spread.
- Clean wrestling mats daily with a solution of 1:100 bleach and water or an appropriate commercial cleaner.
- Maintain proper ventilation in the wrestling room to prevent the build-up of heat and humidity.

- Clean all workout gear after each practice including towels, clothing, headgear, shoes, knee pads, etc.
- Require each wrestler to shower or use a body-wipe after each practice and competition. Do not share bars of soap. Use individual soap dispensers.
- Perform daily skin checks to ensure early recognition of potential communicable skin conditions.
- Refrain from sharing razors or other personal hygiene supplies.

Covering an active infection does not meet the requirements of the NFHS wrestling communicable skin condition rule for competitions. An active infection shall not be covered in practice either.

It is a coach's professional responsibility to ensure that skin clearance forms presented by his or her wrestlers are legitimate and reflect the athletes' true conditions.

Coaches and referees all play a vital role in controlling communicable skin diseases. They must err on the side of what is best for the health of all involved in the sport when dealing with communicable skin diseases.

Referees are the last line of defense in keeping wrestlers with communicable skin diseases off the mat. The safety of all who step on a competition mat is at stake. Coaches must realize that referees would not be placed in a position to make difficult participation decisions if coaches would perform skin checks on all of their wrestlers each day.

NFHS Wrestling Rule 3-1-4a states that "Before a dual meet begins, the referee shall perform skin checks or verify that skin checks have been performed by a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional." NFHS Wrestling Rule 3-1-5a states that "Before an individual, combination or team advancement tournament begins each day, the referee shall perform skin checks or verify that skin checks have been performed by a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional." The skin checks should take place by referees or a designated, on-site meet, appropriate health-care professional at weigh-ins whenever possible.

In reference to multiple-day competitions, communicable disease "skin checks" shall take place at weigh-ins each day. Checking skin on the first day only is not an acceptable practice regarding the communicable disease detection procedure.

NFHS Wrestling Rules 4-2-2, 3, 4, 5 are very specific concerning a contestant who is suspected of having a communicable skin disease. It is the responsibility of the contestant, parents, coach and referee to identify a possible communicable skin disease and then have an appropriate health-care professional evaluate the condition if possible. Similarly, it is everybody's responsibility (coaches, referees, appropriate health-care professionals and tournament administrators) to ensure that all wrestlers are competing in an infection-free environment.

For more detailed information, refer to the "Skin Conditions and Infections" chapter in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook. Also, please refer to the following two NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) documents: "General Guidelines for Sports Hygiene, Skin Infections and Communicable Diseases" and "Sports Related Skin Infections Position Statement and Guidelines." Both of these NFHS SMAC documents can be found on the Sports Medicine page on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

## **2. BITING**

If, in the opinion of the referee, a wrestler bites his opponent, it will be deemed intentional biting and will be called flagrant misconduct (Rule 5-12- 2c). Referees do not have to see the bite in order to call biting. Furthermore, any claim of biting must be brought to the attention of the referee immediately. One should not assume intentional biting has occurred if only one set of teeth marks is present on the skin.

If the referee did not see the alleged bite, he/she should look for the presence of marks from both the upper and lower teeth. Incidental contact with an opponent's open mouth can result in what appears to be a bite; however, the presence of both upper and lower teeth marks is more likely to be the result of an intentional bite than from incidental contact with the teeth.

Referees should pay close attention to a cross-face applied to the area of the mouth, especially when the mouth is open. If teeth marks are present after the cross-face is applied to the mouth, the referee should only call biting if he/ she believes the wrestler actually bit down on his/her opponent.

## **3. SLAMS**

Slams are extremely dangerous and every attempt must be made to prevent slams by reminding wrestlers of their responsibility to safely return opponents to the mat. It is the responsibility of wrestlers, coaches and referees to avoid slams.

A slam is defined as lifting and returning the opponent to the mat with unnecessary force. A slam may be called on wrestlers in the neutral, top or bottom position.

Wrestlers can be called for a slam from the offensive or defensive position, regardless of whether they have control of the opponent, when and if they are responsible for the unsafe return of the opponent to the mat.

Referees must call slams without delay. Coaches bear the responsibility of teaching their wrestlers the proper techniques for lifting and returning their opponents to the mat safely. Wrestlers must never intentionally bring an opponent to the mat with unnecessary force. If the referee believes the slam was an intentional act intended to cause physical harm to the opponent, it would be considered flagrant misconduct and the wrestler committing the slam shall be disqualified from the match.

**Note:** When a wrestler lifts their opponent off the mat, that wrestler is responsible for their opponent's safe return to the mat.



## **Stalling During The Ultimate Tiebreaker**

### **4. THIS IS NOT LISTED UNDER RULE CHANGES BUT REPRESENTS THE PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW POINT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE AND WILL DRAMATICALLY CHANGE THE WAY REFEREES DETERMINE STALLING DURING THE ULTIMATE TIE BREAKER.**

The National Rules Committee had a lengthy discussion on the subject of the stalling in the ultimate tiebreaker.

The ultimate tie breaker presents a different format when it comes to stalling.

The referee should take into account that the offensive wrestler does not have to score to win, and can win by controlling the defensive wrestlers for 30 seconds.

If the defensive wrestler scores, the match is concluded. This could be by an escape, reversal or through a penalty point(s). If the offensive wrestler scores, the match is also concluded. If neither wrestler scores, the offensive wrestler will be awarded one point and declared the winner.

To ensure that the offensive wrestler does not take advantage of the 30 seconds by just grabbing onto a body part(s) and holding on, a stalemate should be called immediately after determining that the offensive wrestler has grabbed onto a body part(s) solely in an effort to prevent the defensive wrestler from scoring. It is imperative in these situations that a stalemate be called as soon as the referee determines the offensive wrestler is using a hold or maneuver solely in an effort to prevent the defensive wrestler from scoring.

Rules Committee seemed to be implying that the obligation to attempt to secure a fall goes away during the ultimate tiebreaker but the offensive wrestler is still obligated to wrestle.

If the offensive wrestler immediately grasps an ankle and is simply hanging on, this is not considered controlled wrestling.

Other examples would include but not be limited to; dropping to both ankles (watch for locked hands here), jumping in to a side headlock and just hanging on, lifting the defensive wrestler off the mat with no attempt to bring them back down. Holding a single leg in the air from a standing position with no attempt to improve. In a rear standing position the offensive wrestler must make an attempt to return their opponent to the mat.

Following the quick stalemate wrestling will resume from the offensive starting position on the mat; if the offensive wrestler uses a similar tactic again, stalling should be called and penalized accordingly.

The committee stated that holding on to a body part or parts did not constitute controlled wrestling and following a quick stalemate if the offensive wrestler continues this tactic, stalling will be called.



## **5. THE BODY SCISSORS**

The Body Scissors has been a part of wrestling for decades. Although the maneuver is a legal hold in wrestling, referees should be very vigilant of it when applied. If the offensive wrestler is utilizing the body scissors to improve his/her position or to secure a fall, the maneuver is being properly executed. However, if the body scissors is applied solely to inflict pain, the referee must be prepared to break the hold immediately and penalize the offender for an illegal action, according to Rule 7-1-5u.

# **NYSPHSAA Wrestling Program Booklet 2015-2016**

## **Headgear taping rule:**

**p. 3** Effective January 2012: NYS Championship Committee granted a waiver to the Headgear taping rule. Straps and chinstraps may be taped to allow for better fit of the headgear: however, no taping is allowed on the ear section of the headgear.

## **Singlet Strap Rule:**

**p. 3** Effective September 2014: NYSWC clarified the singlet shoulder strap rule.

In dual meets a penalty will be called if the strap is down while any part of the wrestler is on the mat. If the wrestler is completely off the mat on the hardwood floor, the strap can be dropped without penalty. As it is common in both individual and dual meet tournaments to have mats together and coaches chairs on the mats, NYSWC feels that wrestlers should not be penalized for taking straps down while in their corners either dressing before their match or undressing after their match. In tournaments a penalty will be called if the strap is down while any part of the wrestler is in the mat circle. If the wrestler is completely out of the circle, the strap can be dropped without penalty.

## **SKIN DISEASE**

**p. 3** NFHS Rule 4-2-3: If a participant is suspected of having a communicable skin disease, the coach shall provide current written documentation

- NYSPHSAA requires the **original** copy of the signed side of the two-sided form entitled: *NYSPHSAA PHYSICIAN RELEASE FOR WRESTLER TO PARTICIPATE WITH SKIN LESION(S) (NYSPHSAA Form Dated 2015)*. This form must be signed only by a M.D., Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner for the wrestler to be eligible to participate. This may require a second trip to the doctor for final clearance if the doctor felt that the original issue was contagious and needed treatment.
- Photocopies are not acceptable. In situations where a section requires that all skin forms are to be filed with the Sectional Chairman or their designee, the Chairman/designee should receive a copy of the form. The original is to stay with the coach at all times.

Forms are available after October 22 at [www.nysphsaa.org](http://www.nysphsaa.org) under the following tabs: Sports..Winter..Wrestling..Left Side Menu: Skin Form Infectious Disease

**In tournament situations, skin checks are to be performed on each day of wrestling competition.**

**Rule 4-2-5**, A contestant may have documentation from an appropriate health care professional only that indicates a specific condition such as a birthmark or other non-communicable skin condition such a psoriasis and eczema, and that documentation is valid for the duration of the season. It is valid with the understanding that chronic condition could become secondarily infected and may require re-evaluation.

In New York State for chronic condition the same form must be used.

NYSPHSAA PHYSICIAN RELEASE FOR WRESTLER TO PARTICIPATE WITH SKIN LESION(S) (NYSPHSAA Form Dated 2015).

**Note to Coaches:**

It is your responsibility to make sure that the skin form is properly filled out with the diagnosis that the skin condition is non-communicable as well as the location indicated on the body forms. It is necessary for the form to state where the chronic skin condition is located,

For out of state teams competing in New York the referees will accept the documentation that is specific to their own state.

**WEIGHT CLASSES** (continued)

**p. 6** No wrestler may wrestle in a weight class that they are in excess of. The weight class may vary from day to day (due to additional pound allowances), but once the weight class for the day is established, no wrestler may wrestle at the weight class if they are in excess of it. Example: Wrestlers in excess of 285 lbs. are not eligible for exhibition bouts with other wrestlers in excess of 285. However: If due to an additional pound the weight class for the day was  $285+1=286$  and the wrestler in question weighed 285.5 that day, they would not be in excess of 286 and could wrestle that day.

**p. 13 Varsity Events following JV events (and vice-versa):** Varsity and JV events are to be treated as separate entities with respect to allowing additional pounds. Example: If a wrestler participates in a JV tournament on a Friday, then a Varsity Tournament or dual meet on Saturday, there should be no extra pound allowed for Saturday's Varsity event. Tournament directors need to clearly identify if the tournament is a JV or Varsity event prior to the event. Just because there may be some individual Varsity wrestler's entered in a JV event, it should not be labeled as A Varsity event so as to take advantage of getting an extra pound the next day, or for inflating W-L Varsity records for post-season. If it is a JV event, it should be labeled as such.

**p. 16**

Situation 3: Dual – Snow Day – Tournament

Thursday: Regularly scheduled Dual Meet: +0 for the dual meet.

Friday: Snow Day (No school)

Saturday: Tournament: All teams get +2 allowance.

## Flashback: 2014-15 Rules Changes

In addition to previous language, the committee agreed that bad time is wrestled with the wrestlers in the wrong position or the wrong wrestler being given choice of position" at the start of the second 30-second tiebreaker" and "at the start of the ultimate tiebreaker."

The previous definition did not include situations where the wrong wrestler was given choice of position at the start of the second 30-second tiebreaker or the start of the ultimate tiebreaker.

Bad time is also wrestled with the wrestlers in the wrong position or the wrong wrestler being given choice of position at the start of the third period, after opponent has taken his/her second injury time-out or on the next restart after opponent receives a two-point stalling penalty.

For example, in a dual meet, (a) Wrestler A was supposed to start the second 30-second tiebreaker in the top position, but the opponent was given the top position instead and it was brought to the attention of the referee 20 seconds into the second 30-second tiebreaker; or (b) Wrestler A was supposed to start the ultimate tiebreaker in the top position, but the opponent was given the top position instead and it was brought to the attention of the referee 20 seconds into the ultimate tiebreaker. In both (a) and (b), bad time would be applied as Wrestler A was not put in the proper position to start either the second 30-second tiebreaker or the ultimate tiebreaker. All points earned during bad time are canceled. Following corrections made and a rest of one minute, the second 30-second tiebreaker or the ultimate tiebreaker will be re-wrestled.

### NEW SIGNALS

Two new signals for referees (Numbers 26 and 27) were added.

To indicate unnecessary roughness, the referee extends the fist straight out with the elbow not bent and the hand in a fist. Which arm is used depends on which wrestler is being penalized (PlayPics A and B).

If a match ends in a default, technical fall or disqualification, the referee crosses the arms in front of the chest, as seen in PlayPic C.



A



B



C

## **Awarding Near-Fall Points**

The ultimate reward in wrestling is for a wrestler to pin the opponent. Just short of pinning the opponent is earning near-fall points. Other than pinning the opponent nothing changes the complexion of the match more drastically than having near-fall points awarded. Therefore, it is extremely important that the referee accurately determine when near-fall points have been earned. Awarding near-fall points when they have not been earned or not awarding near-fall points when they have been earned both provide an unfair and undeserved advantage to one wrestler or the other.

The first requirement for earning near-fall points is to place the opponent, while controlling him/her, into near-fall criteria, which occurs when any part of both shoulders or both scapulae of the defensive wrestler are held within four inches of the mat or less, or when one shoulder or scapula of the defensive wrestler is touching the mat and the other shoulder or scapula is held at an angle of 45 degrees or less with the mat; or when the defensive wrestler is held in a high bridge or on both elbows.

How much is 4 inches? For most people 4 inches is approximately the width of their fist. How much is 45 degrees? It is halfway between horizontal and vertical or between being flat on the mat and the shoulders being vertical or 90 degrees.

Too often referees are seen counting when the shoulder or scapula is held at an angle of 60 degrees or greater with the mat. Counting near-fall points should not start until the shoulder or scapula is held at an angle of 45 degrees or less and counting should not continue if the shoulder and scapula are not continuously held at 45 degrees or less. As soon as the angle becomes greater than 45 degrees, counting shall cease. If the angle is then decreased to 45 degrees or less, counting near-fall points will start over.

Too many times matches are won and lost because of incorrectly awarded near-fall points. It is the responsibility of the referee to anticipate the possibility of near-fall points and to move quickly to be in position to see the full situation in its entirety. Often the window during which an opponent is held in near-fall criteria is very short and limited. Therefore, it is imperative that the referee start counting as soon as the criteria is met and stop counting as soon as the criteria is no longer met. Starting the near-fall count too early or starting it too late are equally wrong and deprive one wrestler or the other. Likewise continuing to count once the shoulder / scapula are out of criteria is equally wrong.

There are several mechanics for the referee to keep in mind when actually counting near fall points. First, the count should be visual. When, possible, the referee should move his/her arm at an angle starting near the mat and moving vertically. If the referee counts parallel to the mat it can be hard for the coaches, scorekeepers and fans to see that a count is actually taking place. The length of time it takes the referee to move his/her arm that distance should be exactly one second. The most common error referees commit is to get caught up in the emotion and count too fast, sometimes completing five counts in about 3 to 3.5 seconds instead of 5 seconds. With practice and also having someone observe you and time your count, it is not hard to develop the pace of one arm swing per second.

Second, the count should be verbal.

The count for a fall is silent; however, the count for near-fall points is verbal - at least part of the near-fall count should be verbal. The referee, as he/she starts his/her upward arm movement, should count "1,001," with the "1" coming as the arm finishes the upward movement. The "1,000" is a silent count with the "1" being verbalized.

As long as criteria is met continuously the count continues:

1,001, 1,002, 1,003, etc. By counting "1, 2," etc. out loud, everyone knows exactly where the referee is in the count. Until you verbalize the number that particular count, it is not complete. That is important when a wrestler moves in and out of criteria. Even though the referee may show two visual counts, it may have been a 1 count followed by another 1 count because the wrestler was not held continuously in criteria. So even though the referee's arm moved twice, the verbal count would be "1, 1," because criteria was not maintained continuously. It is also important to keep in mind that no matter how many times the referee moves his/her arm, until the referee verbalizes "2" or "5," it is not a 2-point or 3-point near-fall. It is also imperative that, when a wrestler does come out of criteria, the count stops immediately! The referee may be most of the way through the second count, but if criteria is not maintained for the complete 2 seconds, the count should be stopped and no near-fall should be awarded.

## **Review Duties of Official Scorers, Timekeepers**

The scorer's table has always been important to the flow and accuracy of the match. Official scorers have a responsibility to recognize scoring errors as they occur.

NFHS Wrestling Rules 6-6-4 and 6-6-5 address scoring errors in a dual meet and a tournament.

Wrestling referees have always been required to include instructions to the scorer's table as part of their pre-meet duties. Referees must stress the importance of the official scorer and timekeeper communication - insuring the proper score is being displayed at all times. The displayed score is the only way coaches can detect errors in scoring. During the pre-meet process, referees must develop a system to confirm the match score being displayed is correct. That system must not interrupt the flow of the match. Also, it must not require the referee to go to the scorer's table between periods. Confirming with the table should be as simple as the referee looking at the table and with the official scorer and timekeeper responding using a slight head nod, flashing the green side of a flip disc or pointing a finger in the referee's direction.

The assistant referee, when used, should be aware the proper score is being displayed. Between periods, when the referee is with the wrestlers in the center of the mat, the assistant should confirm the score with the scorer's table.

Referees have to schedule time at the scorer's table in the pre-meet session, not only to discuss the 'error correction' process, but also to review the table's standard responsibilities.

### **OFFICIAL SCORER**

Here are some key points in dealing with official scorers:

- Recording points and circling the first point(s) scored when signaled by the referee in the regulation match, including overtime.
- Recording wrestler's choice and position at the start of a period and overtime.
- Constantly confirming the score with timekeepers and scoreboard operators and immediately advising them of disagreements.
- Recording the match's time-of- completion and present the scorebook to the referee at the end of a dual meet. • Keeping a running team score in a dual meet.

### **TIMEKEEPER**

Here are some key points in dealing with timers:

- Keep the overall time of the match.
- Recovery time.
- Blood time.
- Accumulation of time-outs for injury.



- Recording the above listed time; or confirm with the official scorer those times are recorded in the scorebook.
- Assisting, when requested by the referee, in determining whether a situation occurred before or after the end of a period.
- Notify the referee of any situation when the match is stopped, or disagreement by the referee, official scorer and timekeeper, or when requested by a coach to discuss a possible error.
- When a visual clock is not available, calling the minutes to referee, contestants and spectators and displaying with visual cards the number of seconds remaining in the last minute of the period, at 15-second intervals.
- Ensuring clocks, buzzers and stopwatches are operable.

A good scorer's table starts with referees performing detailed pre-match duties. The table crew can make a match flow easily, the referee look professional and ensure the proper wrestler wins.

### **Front Headlocks:**

Referees must be alert during the front head lock position. Continuously check to make sure breathing and circulation is not being impeded. This often requires lowering your level to see what is going on underneath. All legal headlocks are considered to be potentially dangerous. It may be necessary to stop the match. Don't let wrestling continue for long periods of time in the front headlock position. Once the person underneath controls the opponents elbow allow a brief period of time for a drag out, dump etc. If no change occurs referees are instructed to call a stalemate.

### **Coaches and Officials Conference:**

When a coach believes the referee has misapplied a rule or disagrees with the judgement the coach may approach the scorer's table.

- Only ONE coach may approach the table, not the whole coaching staff.
- The coach must wait for a time out or for the referee to stop the match when there is no significant action.
- The referee will instruct both wrestlers to remain in the 10 foot circle.
- During this conference the referee should be in a position to address the coach's concern and still be able to maintain a view of both wrestlers in the 10 foot circle.
- The opposing coach must remain in the team bench area unless or until the referee signals the coach to approach.

## **Modified Wrestling**

There may be additional Modified regulations after the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meets on October 22.

I will notify your Chapter Interpreter when they become available.