

## 2007-08 NFHS Wrestling Rules Interpretations

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*– Robert F. Kanaby, Publisher, NFHS Publications 2007*

**SITUATION 1:** The visiting school shows up for a dual meet. The scale the home team initially provides does not have a current certification sticker (in accordance with guidelines established by the state association). The visiting coach offers to let the home school use his scale, which is certified, that he happened to bring along.

**RULING:** *Correct procedure. While Rule 2-4-1 specifies, "the scale shall be provided by the home team," the home team is actually providing a scale it borrowed (from the visiting team) for the match. To use the scale without a current certification sticker violates Rule 2-4-2. (2-4-1; 2-4-2)*

**SITUATION 2:** During a match in a tournament, the head coach from school A occupies one of the two chairs at the edge of the mat. The assistant coach occupies the other chair. A student videographer is seated next to these chairs.

**RULING:** *A maximum of two team personnel will be permitted on chairs at the edge of the mat. The videographer needs to be removed from the mat area. The referee needs to penalize school A if it has already been told of its violation of Rule 2-2-2. (2-2-2; 7-5-3)*

**SITUATION 3:** During a tournament, the tournament director decides to wrestle the championship final matches beginning with the 103-pound weight class but skipping the 130-pound weight class and the 160-pound weight class and wrestling those two weight classes after the 285-pound weight class because both of those bouts feature wrestlers who are undefeated for the season.

**RULING:** *Incorrect procedure. A random draw may be conducted to determine the order of the championship final matches only, and the draw must take place at the conclusion of weigh-ins. However, the weight classes must be wrestled in order from the first weight class drawn, without skipping certain weight classes. (1-1-2)*

**SITUATION 4:** During a regular-season quadrangular meet, two referees are wearing a short-sleeve knit shirt with alternating black-and-white 1-inch stripes, and the third official is wearing a short-sleeve gray knit shirt with black pinstripes.

**RULING:** *Illegal. All referees must be dressed alike. (3-1-1)*

**SITUATION 5:** During a championship final match, the referee calls a caution on Wrestler A in the first period. In the second period, the referee calls a caution on Wrestler B but the official scorer inadvertently puts down a second caution on Wrestler A. During the first overtime period, the referee calls a caution on Wrestler A again. The official scorer calls the referee to the table to tell the referee that this is Wrestler A's third caution. The referee corrects the bout sheet and wrestling continues with Wrestler A having two cautions and Wrestler B having one caution.

**RULING:** *Correct procedure. (6-6-5a1)*

**SITUATION 6:** Wrestler A, the offensive wrestler, is warned for stalling and the match is stopped for the warning. Before the restart, Wrestler A informs the referee that he/she wants to restart in the neutral position and wants to give Wrestler B an escape point and start in the neutral position. May Wrestler A do this in this situation?

**RULING:** *Yes. Even though they have not gone out of bounds, wrestling is resumed in this situation as if they had gone out of bounds. (5-20-6)*

**SITUATION 7:** After a match has concluded but while the wrestlers are still on the mat, the referee sees an earring in the ear of one of the wrestlers who removes his headgear. How should this be handled?

**RULING:** *The match is over and, therefore, no match points can be awarded. Both the wrestler and the head coach should be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct and a total of two team points should be deducted. (3-1-4c; 5-31-1)*

**SITUATION 8:** In the first period, Wrestler A earns a takedown. No other scoring occurs until a flurry at the end of the first period in which Wrestler B earns an escape and a takedown, then Wrestler A earns an escape. The official scorer does not see the referee award Wrestler B's escape, and because of the flurry, the official scorer believes the referee was unable to give the signal for a reversal and records a reversal instead of an escape and a takedown. The scoreboard operator (not the official scorer) sees Wrestler B's escape awarded and posts it and points for the ensuing takedown. At the end of the first period, the scoreboard has a 3-3 score posted, an escape and a takedown for each wrestler, but the official scorer has recorded 3 points (takedown and an escape) for Wrestler A and only 2 points (reversal) for Wrestler B. Because the scoreboard shows a score of 3-3, the error is not challenged by Wrestler B or his coach. The match is wrestled to conclusion with each wrestler earning an additional escape, making the official scorer's score 4-3 in favor of Wrestler A. At this point, Wrestler B and his coach, both still in the mat area, point out the recording error claiming the match should be tied 4-4, and should now go into overtime.

**RULING:** *According to 2007-08 NFHS rules change, this error can be corrected prior to the offended wrestler leaving the mat area. The match would proceed to overtime. It is good practice for a referee to clarify all points awarded at the end of a flurry, and particularly at the end of a period. It is also one of the duties of the official scorer to be in constant communication with the scoreboard operator to make sure they agree. In the event of errors by the timekeeper, official scorer or referee which require additional wrestling, Rules 6-6-4a1 and 6-6-5a1 both allow the correction of such errors prior to the offended wrestler leaving the mat area. (3-3-1; 6-6-4a1; 6-6-5a1)*

**SITUATION 9:** A wrestler advances to the championship finals of a tournament that will be held the day after the semifinals. On the day of the finals, the wrestler, who was not injured nor became ill during the tournament, fails to make weight. Does the wrestler who failed to make weight earn second place?

**RULING:** *No. Rule 10-2-7 states that in order to place in a tournament, a wrestler must make weight each day of the tournament. The other finalist would be awarded a forfeit for the final match. There would be no second-place winner. The wrestler who*

*failed to make weight would lose all place points earned for his team. The wrestler who failed to make weight would retain advancement points as well as points earned for falls, forfeits, defaults, technical falls, disqualifications, decisions and major decisions for his team. (10-2-7)*

**SITUATION 10:** In a dual meet, Wrestler A, whose actual weight at the weigh-in was 129 pounds, properly reports to the scorer's table to compete in the 130-pound weight class. Wrestler B then properly reports to the scorer's table, at which time Wrestler A withdraws and thus Wrestler B is awarded a victory by disqualification in the 130-pound weight class. Wrestler A then again reports to the scorer's table as the competitor in the 135-pound weight class.

**RULING:** *Wrestler A is ineligible to compete in the 135-pound weight class even though his weigh-in weight qualifies him to compete at that class. Once a wrestler properly reports to the scorer's table and is then withdrawn, he/she is disqualified (Rule 5-8) from competition in the dual meet because "No wrestler shall represent the school in more than one weight class" (Rule 1-2-2). Wrestler A has already represented his school at the 130-pound weight class and then was disqualified by his withdrawal. (1-2-2; 5-8)*

**SITUATION 11:** Wrestler A takes a second injury time-out at the conclusion of the first period. Wrestler B is now given the choice at the start of both the second and third periods. During the second period, Wrestler B now takes a second injury time-out. Who has choice on the restart and does Wrestler B still get choice at the start of the third period?

**RULING:** *On the restart in the second period after Wrestler B has taken a second injury time-out, Wrestler A would now have choice of top, bottom or neutral position on the restart only. Also, Wrestler B would no longer have choice at the start of the third period because the second injury time-out has been used. Wrestler B could still have the option to start the third period if it was his/her choice because of the rotation determined by the pre-meet choice with the flip of the disk. COMMENT: If the second wrestler, during the course of the match, takes a second injury time-out, the choices in place for this wrestler should be disregarded. New choice(s) should be issued to the opponent based on the second injury time-out procedure. (1-2-6, 8-2-1)*

**SITUATION 12:** A match is still tied at the conclusion of the one-minute sudden victory period in overtime. The referee penalizes Wrestler A for unsportsmanlike conduct: (a) prior to the start of the first 30-second tiebreaker; (b) in between the conclusion of the first 30-second tiebreaker and the start of the second 30-second tiebreaker; or (c) after the conclusion of the second 30-second tiebreaker, but prior to the start of the ultimate tiebreaker.

**RULING:** *In (a) or (c), award the appropriate penalty points to Wrestler B and the match is over. In (b), award the appropriate penalty points to Wrestler B and continue with the second 30-second tiebreaker. (5-31-2; 6-7-1; 8-1-3; penalty chart)*

**SITUATION 13:** At the start of the second period, Wrestler A has choice and chooses the down position. Wrestler B then signals neutral position to the referee. The referee

signals a neutral position and then awards one point to Wrestler A and starts the second period with both wrestlers in the neutral position.

**RULING:** *This is a correct procedure and ruling as Wrestler A had choice in the second period and chose down. Wrestler B then has three options: 1) assume the legal starting position from the mat; 2) optional starting position; 3) signal to the referee to start the second period from the neutral position and, in turn, Wrestler A is awarded an escape point prior to the referee starting the match in a neutral position for the second period. (5-20-6)*

**SITUATION 14:** In the second, 30-second tiebreaker, a wrestler was given the wrong choice. How is this handled?

**RULING:** *This would be considered bad time with each segment of the overtime being considered just like a period in a regulation match. The bad time would need to be corrected prior to the start of the next overtime period. The second, 30-second tiebreaker would be re-wrestled after a one-minute rest. If the wrong wrestler in the first, 30-second tiebreaker was given the choice, his/her opponent would be given the choice to start the second 30-second tiebreaker. (5-1-3; 6-6-2)*

**SITUATION 15:** A takedown occurs on the edge of the mat and Wrestler A is out of bounds when that wrestler initiates the move and remains out of bounds at the conclusion of the move. Wrestler B lands close to the boundary line in the following situations: (a) with weight on both hands and feet; (b) on the knees; (c) on the side of the thigh; or (d) on the buttocks.

**RULING:** *The definition of inbounds should be reviewed in each situation since contestants are considered to be inbounds if the supporting parts of either wrestler are inside the boundary line. Since Wrestler A is clearly out of bounds in all of these situations, the decision on awarding a takedown or signaling out of bounds would be decided on where the supporting points were on Wrestler B with regards to the boundary line. In (a), the referee should make sure at least two supporting points of Wrestler B were inside the boundary line. That would mean both feet, one hand and one foot, both hands, etc., before awarding a takedown. If three of the supporting points were on the boundary line or outside of the boundary line, it is an out-of-bounds situation. In (b), for this to be a takedown, both knees of Wrestler B would have to be inside the boundary line. In (c), the thigh would need to land inside the boundary line to be a takedown. In (d), all of the buttock of Wrestler B would need to be inside the boundary line. (5-15; 5-16; 5-19)*