

# The Role of the Assistant Referee

---

Presented by:

Jon Hammond

Indiana High School Athletic Association Rules Interpreter



# Assistant Referees



**Duties and Responsibilities**

# Arrival and Weigh-in

---

Whether the contest uses a designated-assistant referee for all matches or uses a rotating format where each referee works as an assistant one match and referees with an assistant in another, both (or all) should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to weigh-ins.

Review of duties during weigh-in should be discussed within the aforementioned 30 minute time frame:

If one official is designated as an assistant referee only, then the referee should assign the assistant to either the “appearance and health” check, or the scale.

The complexity of a tournament may make pre-meet duties harder but the officials should arrange for these to be divided up among themselves. They need to follow the same criteria and be complementary in their decisions.

# Reminders at Weigh-Ins for Assistant Referee

---

**First:** Wrestler has minimum and maximum weight to adhere to.

**Second:** Grooming standard has to be met or wear rule appropriate cover, which should be with wrestler for official's approval. Also, nails must be short.

**Third:** Communicable skin conditions must be questioned and appropriate safeguards adhered to. This is the reason for a suitable undergarment at weigh-in as it expedites the weigh-in process.

## Pre-Meet Duties

---

If time is not an issue, then both the assistant referee and the referee should visit each team dressing room as a team.

Otherwise, the duties should be split between the referee and the assistant referee.

During the captains and coaches meeting, the coin toss, and the meeting with the bench personnel, the assistant should be present.

## Role During Time-Outs

---

- The assistant will be on the edge of the circle to observe the wrestlers and the actions of both teams, while the referee is at the scorer's table.
- When there is a disagreement between the assistant and the referee, the contestants should be within the ten foot circle and the officials should meet near the mat edge, away from anyone else.

# Positioning During Starts

---

- Neutral: Assistant should be 180 degrees and near the out of bounds line. Should maintain status facing opposite referee.
- Referee's position: Assistant should take up position behind (normally) wrestlers to observe trail leg of advantage wrestler (straddling of opponent). Position should place assistant between 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock of referee and can be tighter to 10 foot circle than in the Neutral starting position. Also, assistant can be moving to observe proper placements.
- Optional start: Same as Referee's position, but look for hand placement on back as well as straddling by the offensive wrestler.

## Positioning During Starts (Continued)

---

- ❑ Important that assistant note time on clock, since any time run off clock after a false start is bad time.
- ❑ Indicate incorrect starting position immediately by stepping directly towards referee and indicating with raised hand signal #14.
- ❑ Indicate false start by getting referee's attention immediately as this is bad time. Notify referee of infraction and on whom and of time on clock for resetting purposes.
- ❑ In both above situations, the referee needs to be aware of the assistant and recognize the assistant's actions, confer and then penalize accordingly.



# Positioning While Clock is Running

---

- While the assistant has the same mobility as the referee, there are restrictions as to where the assistant should or shouldn't be during certain situations:
  - Assistant in near fall situations should not be looking for a fall, but instead should be watching for illegalities on the top by either wrestler, as well as checking the match clock for expiration of time.
  - Assistant as well as referee should never "catch" an out of bounds wrestler. They should be watching for out of bounds criteria for awarding of points or an out of bounds call.

# Positioning While Clock is Running (Continued)

---

- Mobility and communication in complement with the referee includes passing by and unobtrusively speaking to the referee. For example stating, “red” or “green” to indicate who the assistant feels is stalling.
- The locked hands signal #16 is the only indicator (besides #14) that is to be displayed by the assistant:
  - \*Assistant must be absolute in this signal, knowing that you saw what you saw and the referee did not. Try to be casual but professional in communicating this signal to the referee.
  - When done properly the locked hands signal should be picked up by the referee and he then should indicate the infraction with the signal. If stoppage is not required then points should be awarded for the T.V, defensive score and the match should continue smoothly. If stoppage is required then the assistant has the time from where to restart in his mind.

# Positioning While Clock is Running (Continued)

---

- Note time on clock in all situations where match should be stopped and quickly, but hopefully unobtrusively, notify referee.
- Assistant should be constantly moving, allowing the referee to align where he wants to be and the assistant moving out of the referee's way.
- Assistant should stay in the flow of the match, making sure the clock starts and stops at the proper times and be in position to help at the conclusion of the period and on edge of mat calls.
- Assistant, when in disagreement with the referee, should take up position near the referee and unobtrusively, state that opinion. The referee will not stop the match unless necessary and then when no significant action is taking place.

# Observing Headlocks

---

- In the front headlock, the assistant should be in position to observe underneath:
  - Watch for lifting and pressure on the carotid artery .
- In a pinning situation, the assistant should be watching from above for legality of the headlock as well as keeping the referee aware of the time remaining.
- Should an illegal action take place, verbally notify the referee so he can take appropriate action.

# Other Duties

---

- ❑ Observe that proper score is placed on the scoreboard in addition to making sure the clock starts and stops on the whistle.
- ❑ Coaches are not allowed to address the assistant referee and vice versa.
- ❑ Be an asset to the referee during line calls, stalling, illegal holds, technical violations and potentially dangerous holds.
- ❑ On out of bounds situations close on the action to help the referee. In a flurry the assistant may notice out of bounds call that the referee's view was blocked from.

## End of Match

---

- Be first on and last off to observe inappropriate action while the wrestlers are leaving the mat. Watch the corners and the benches as well.
- Remain in the ten foot circle with the two contestants while the referee is at the scorer's table.
- Be an integral part of the officiating by blending in.

## End of Match (Continued)

---

- ❑ Aid the referee on calls and when there is disagreement, quietly bring it to the referee's attention and no one else's.
- ❑ Blend in and keep a low-profile

---

**Thank You and**

**Good Luck!**

