

July 24, 2009

Dear NWOA Member:

The Rules Committee met in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 13-16, 2009. I will discuss later in this letter the New Rules that will be in force for the next two seasons; the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 seasons. The rules book will only be published every two years. The videotape for this year's clinic was shot June 9-11, in Kent, Ohio, and is in the editing phase as this newsletter is being written. Both the book and the DVD should be ready by mid-August. The online viewing and registration for all referees and coaches will occur over a six-week window starting in early September and ending on October 19, 2009. Information will be announced on the NWOA, NWCA and NCAA websites. Please make sure all college referees are informed about the registration process. The NWCA site will host the registration process at NCWAonline.com. Note that again, there will be no teleconference for certification this year. Plans for the in-person clinics have been solidified. An in-person clinic will be held at or near Boston College, Saturday morning, September 26, 2009. The second in-person clinic will be held at Northwestern University, Sunday, September 27, 2009. Details of the exact campus location and time will be made available on our website and the NCAA and NWCA websites. Bob Bubb and I will make the presentation at each clinic. They will be at least 3-4 hours long and probably start at about 9:30 am local time. Remember, in order to referee any college wrestling in the 2009-2010 season, you must go online and view the rules tape during the 1-month window in September-October, and starting this season, you must take the online test and score at least 80% correct. Further, each college referee shall attend an in-person clinic once every three years. Those that attended the Pittsburgh clinic last year do not have to attend another clinic until the clinics to be held in the fall of 2011. Also, as was done last year, the DVD has separated the rules part from the weight management part and the segment on skin diseases. All referees should view at least the rules part and the skin disease part.

The major changes to the rules for the next two seasons are listed below:

1. **Rules 1.6 Determining Wrestling Order.** *Note:* For example, if the 165-pound weight class (an even numbered weight class) is selected by mutual consent or random draw, the sequence of weight classes would be 165, 174, through 157. The team whose captain chose the even weight classes would have their choice to start the second period at 165 pounds. (See Rule 3.10.1)
2. **Rule 2.1.2 Defensive Starting Position.** The referee shall say, "Set," and instruct the opponent to assume the offensive position. **Rule 2.1.3 Offensive Starting Position.** (Delete current 5; 6 becomes new 5) Then the referee shall ~~pause momentarily~~ say, "Set," before starting the wrestling.
3. **Rule 3.11.1 First Round of Overtime.**
Add to end of second paragraph: If a wrestler in the neutral position is awarded a takedown while meeting a near fall criterion, wrestling shall continue until a fall or near fall points are awarded. Any near fall points are added to the winner's match score. Add to third paragraph: However, if due to a second injury timeout the offensive wrestler rides the opponent the entire sudden victory period, that wrestler shall be declared the winner. Add between two sentences of last paragraph: However, if due to a second injury timeout the offensive wrestler accrues at least one-minute of riding time in the tie breaker periods, that contestant shall be awarded one point.

4. **Rule 5.8.12 Rear-Knee Kick.** It is illegal for an offensive wrestler in the rear standing position to use both feet to kick behind the knees in an attempt to bring the opponent to the mat. [New illustration added.]
5. **Rule 7.1.1 Certification Registration.** A referee who wishes to be assigned to NCAA regular-season or postseason wrestling competition must be certified registered not later than October 19 each year. The following requirements shall be fulfilled for a referee to officiate NCAA intercollegiate competition.
 1. A referee shall attend an in-person fall clinic once every three years.
 2. A referee shall complete the online test and receive a minimum score of 80 percent.
 3. A referee shall view the wrestling rules presentation (video) and register annually.
6. **Rule 8.3.2 Procedures for Two Certifications.** Proposal submitted to the NCAA Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Committee requesting elimination of Section II assessment.
7. **Rule 9.1.1 Weighing-In.** All contestants shall weigh-in wearing a minimum of a suitable undergarment, such as briefs, boxers, shorts or competition singlet.
8. **Rule 9.1.3 Tournaments.** Music may not be played, bands may not perform, and artificial noisemakers may not be used during wrestling action.
9. There may be changes associated with Rules 7.2 and 7.1.7 regarding unconsciousness. I will post on our website any changes that are instituted.

In developing the new rules, a number of proposed changes were submitted by coaches, referees, and friends of wrestling. In considering changing the rules, the tabulated results from the Questionnaire were listed along with each suggested rules change. Therefore, it is important for each of you to fill out the questionnaire every year (it will be posted on the NWCA website in January.) As usual, the suggestions from our NWOA business meeting in St. Louis were brought forward for consideration as were suggestions made to me during the past season. The committee thoroughly and carefully considered all suggestions. I think the changes made for next season were good and minimal. In addition, some new WIs have been written.

The 2009 Division I Championship was held at the Scottrade Center, St. Louis, MO, March 19-21, 2009. It was very successful with great crowds. The finals were shown on ESPN in prime time and in real-time. Also, the quarterfinals and semifinals were shown in real time on ESPN U. The 2009 Division II Championships were held at the University of Houston, Houston, TX, March 13-14, and 2009, and the Division III Championships were held at the US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, IA, March 7-8. All tournaments were well attended and successful. The Division I Championships in 2010 will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, March 18-20, 2010, at the Quest Center. The 2011 DI Championships will be held at the Wachovia Center, March 17-19, 2011, in Philadelphia. Other 2010 qualifier tournaments are listed on the NWOA website. All referees should regularly visit our website at <http://www.nwoaofficials.org/> for updates to rules, interpretations, and general announcements on refereeing and the NWOA.

Please find enclosed the minutes of the NWOA business meeting held March 20, 2009 at the site of the Division I Championships in St. Louis.

For those of you eligible to buy an updated version of the NWOA ring, it can be ordered from Pat Fitzgerald, our Vice President, by calling him at 405-273-0172, or

by email at fitztown@aol.com. If you have refereed any combination of five (5) NCAA Division I, II, or III Championships, or one (1) Division I finals match, you are eligible. Check it out on our website.

Please support the NWOA, the official voice for the college referee, and a source of support for all officials, by promptly paying your dues (\$10) to Lynn Dyche. The annual dues cover July to July and, therefore, should now be paid. Also, you can subscribe to Amateur Wrestling News and pay your dues for a total of \$35.

Have a great summer and do not hesitate to call or email me if you need further information or clarification about the rules, or any wrestling call/rule, good refereeing practice or anything regarding the clinics.

Yours in Wrestling,
Pat McCormick, President