

OFFICIALS POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Neutral out-of-bounds. Clearly make one of three signals: Action, Back-out or Push-out. Set the tone early. This is a Stay on the Mat rule. (Let's not forget we do have a Push-out rule as part of the required calls.)
2. Focus on proper starts, both in the neutral position and on the mat: covering the elbow, head on mid-line, rear leg extending past the plane (illustrations 7,8, page 79). Caution wrestlers who have incorrect or illegal starting positions.
3. Neutral Danger Zone. Make a strong verbal and visual count anytime from the neutral position a wrestler exposes their shoulders to the mat beyond reaction time at an angle less than 90 degrees (refer to page 41).
4. Near Falls 45 degrees! Not 60 or 90 degrees. Counting back points when not at 45 degrees is not acceptable.
5. Kickbacks in single leg situations and kickbacks in the rear standing position are illegal. Be diligent in preventing these situations with strong verbal cues whenever possible.
6. Forceful direct blows to any portion of the face, forceful club ties are penalized as unnecessary roughness – a technical violation. Remember the penalty sequence for Unsportsmanlike Conduct during the match, Technical Violations, and Stalling Technical Violations listed on page 55, are separate.
7. Remember the Stalling sequence is Warning, P1, P1, P2, DQ

8. Hands to Face: Is categorized as an Illegal hold. Officials we have done a good job calling these situations this year, utilizing Potentially Dangerous, and penalizing only for repeated use of Hands to the Face, or for forceful strikes to the face. Be aware of Hands of to the Face situations by the defensive wrestler in Single-leg situations.
9. Reaction Time, remember with the exception of hand touch TD's in the Rear Standing position, and Locked-Hands on the mat, all other situations require reaction time. Better to be certain than to be quick with calls.
10. With the exception of a Draping Head Scissors as shown on page 83, illustration #24 the Head Scissors even with the arm included is illegal. Per rule 5.6.1 pages 50 and 51.
11. Be preventative. Let's keep all wrestlers safe. Continue to be in position with strong verbal cues on possible illegal hold situations, particularly on hammerlocks, twisting knee locks, kickbacks and in leg-pass situations.
12. Review Drop Down Situations on page 53 – 5.12, 5.13, 5.14 and 5.15. Be certain to inform table workers that if you have imminent scoring after a drop down count has reached 5, to stop riding time and demonstrate to them the proper signal. Signal #31, page 95.
13. Head and 2nd officials – communicate and always work together as a team. 2nd officials, understand your responsibilities, positioning, timing, riding time, scoring

situations, recognizing and alerting the head official on illegal holds. LET'S GET THE CALL RIGHT!

14. Understand the video review process. On coach's challenges have the coach clearly state what he wants reviewed. On extremely difficult calls or in situations where you and the 2nd official cannot agree, take an official's video review together.
15. As the action heats up, composure and confidence is key. Don't speed up visual near-fall or drop down counts. Don't get quick!
16. Review signals on page 95. Keep signals sharp. Avoid open hands on starts, bring hands to the chest on stalemates, and use the proper signal when a wrestler defers choice.
17. Make certain to use the proper signal and procedures for the Concussion Evaluation rule.
18. Aggressively throwing the headgear in anger or excitement is Unsportsmanlike Conduct; one team point penalty (page 47).
19. Officials, if you issue a Control Mat, Questioning Judgment, Unsportsmanlike, Flagrant Misconduct, or confirm your call on video review, you must fill out the form at the mat side table thoroughly! The tournament committee will keep track of violations/video review, notify coaches and make announcements.
20. Flagrant Misconduct calls must be reviewed.

Additional Key Points:

21. Officials enter the arena together as a team and leave the arena as a team, LEAVE CELL PHONES in the locker room.
22. If a wrestler at the start of the match shakes your hand, be certain to shake the hand of his opponent before starting the bout.
23. 2nd Officials: Know your responsibilities as listed on Center Mat. Do not use a hand countdown at the end of periods or make signals other than indicating locked hands or an illegal hold. Remember: 1st on – last off, move to the 12 o'clock position on the mat.