

2011 SRI Bulletin #2 – January 19, 2012

SRI Bulletin #2 will deal with questions/issues that have been brought to my attention this year. Please review and pass this information on to your fellow officials. Email me at ricklind@teleport.com with your comments and questions.

If you have topics you would like me to address in a bulletin, let me know and I will put one together.

HEADGEAR AND TAPE

I think everyone is getting used to the new rule. I saw zero violations of this rule at the Oregon Classic last weekend.

A couple of reminders about tape on the headgear. Wrestlers should report to the mat with no tape on the headgear. This would include tape used to fasten the Velcro straps. If they have had problems in previous matches, the headgear should have been replaced. If you are in a tournament and a wrestler reports with tape on the Velcro from a previous match, use common sense and let him wrestle.

Crossing of the straps will be allowed in Oregon this year. Some states are not allowing this, but Oregon will continue to allow. There is also a device that can be purchased from Cliff Keen (imagine that) that holds the two straps together. It can be viewed at this website:

<http://www.cliffkeen.com/product/HG2S58-E58-Headgear-Two-Slot-Strap-Holder,570,6.htm>

Again, with proper pre-meet duties followed, there is no reason for this problem to occur on the mat unless a wrestler intentionally disobeys an official directive. In that case, they should be penalized for reporting to the mat not properly equipped. While we are conducting our mandatory skin/grooming check, ask the wrestlers to bring their headgear with them. Check the headgear for legality and instruct the wrestler to address any improper taping.

SHOELACES

A reminder from last year. In Oregon, shoelaces are considered secured if they are taped or contained in some Velcro device on the shoe. Double knotting is not considered secured in Oregon.

FIGURE 4 ON THE HEAD

In the last SRI Bulletin, I mentioned that a figure four on the head is to be stopped immediately. This is correct in takedown, escape, reversal or pinning situations by the offensive wrestler. It is not to be stopped in a pinning situation when applied by the defensive wrestler unless you can not get them to release the hold. In most situations, allow wrestling to continue and penalize when the pinning situation has ended.

MOUTH GUARDS

Mouth guards are to be worn by all wrestlers who have braces. Mouth guards must protect the biting surfaces and the front and back of the teeth. I was asked if a mouth guard was required if the wrestler wears a face mask. The answer is yes. They are required for all wrestlers with braces.

INJURY TIMEOUT WHEN WRESTLER NOT INJURED

I was asked if a coach could take an injury timeout to look something up in the rule book. The answer is NO. On page 44 of the rule book, it states: Taking an injury time-out for a non-injury situation is unethical. We would allow injury time to be used to correct illegal equipment. There would not be a penalty for this that I am aware of but we would not allow it to happen.

On a related subject, I was asked how long a coach has to argue a call. The official should allow the coach to explain the situation and make his case. The official then would render a decision based on rule. At that point, if the coach continues to argue, he should be given a misconduct warning (he may be getting one anyway). If he continues to argue, the coach should be given a misconduct penalty which is deduction of a team point. If the coach continues to argue, he is given a second misconduct penalty, (2 team points and removal from the premises).

WEIGH INS AND UNDERGARMENTS

Situation: Wrestler A fails to make weight. Since it is a large tournament, there are several scales available to challenge. Wrestler A immediately begins to challenge the remaining scales. After failing on the second scale, he realizes that his suitable undergarment is very large (and heavy). While in the process of challenging the scales, he changes undergarments with Wrestler B in the weigh in area. Both wrestlers undressed completely.

Ruling: Wrestler A is disqualified for a couple of reasons. Once a wrestler has started the weigh in process, they must complete the weigh in without any changing of clothes. He would also be disqualified for appearing nude in the weigh in area. Wrestler B would also be disqualified for appearing nude in the weigh in area.

Wrestlers are not allowed to be nude in the weigh in area for any reason and officials should stop this from happening if possible.

3 AND 4 WAY MEETS – EJECTIONS AND PENALTIES

Many schools are going to 3 and 4 Way meets to save travel costs and to reduce number of events in which their wrestlers participating. Several questions have come up regarding these multiple dual meet events as to the application of ejections and penalties. Since they are not considered tournaments, some have argued that they are separate dual meet matches.

The NFHS considers any event held at the same site on the same day as a single event. OSAA also applies these same criteria when determining how long a coach/wrestler must sit out when ejected from a contest.

All penalties, coaches' warnings and ejections apply to the entire event, no matter how many dual meets they are wrestling unless it is truly a dual meet tournament as defined in Rule 1, Section 3, Article 2 of the rulebook. If someone is serving a suspension due to prior ejection, it is for the entire event, not just the first dual meet.

I hope all of these help and if you have any questions, please call (503) 508-2134 or email me at rcklind@teleport.com . Thanks and good luck with the rest of the season.