

## **Greetings Fellow Wrestling Officials!**

It's hard to believe, but it is already that time of the season to prepare for post season action! Seems like just a few days ago that the season started.

We're including in this letter a copy of Rule 3-2 concerning the use of the Assistant Referee along with some ideas that others have shared with us. The Assistant will be used at all levels of both state tournaments, (Ron has increased the number of officials at the individual tournament from 20 to 24, so Assistants will be used in every round) so it is imperative that whether you are working these tournaments this year or in the future that you are well experienced working with an Assistant, as well as being an Assistant.

I would encourage using an Assistant Referee whenever you can, especially during the medal rounds of the District tournaments.

Stalling is an issue we all can improve on. Coaches want it called, but not on their wrestler. There are some referees who reportedly are not calling stalling because of coach confrontations, or various other reasons. As officials we would not want to make an incorrect call that could decide a match, but if stalling occurs and we don't call it, then that is exactly what is happening.

Post season competition is no different than the regular season and referees need to try and be consistent. Understand emotions run a little hotter so be more patient and understanding of this. If you have a table conference be respectful, listen, use good posture, make strong eye contact, make a decision, enforce the penalty chart and move on.

### **Assistant Official Duties per NFHS Rule 3-2**

**Art. 2** ...The assistant referee will be granted the same mobility as the referee and will complement and assist the referee in making calls. The referee will be in complete control of the match. Following are procedures to follow with the use of an assistant referee:

#### ***Put your whistle inside your shirt or in your pocket.***

a. Constant verbal communication between the referee and the assistant is necessary throughout the match concerning stalling, line calls, illegal holds/maneuvers, and time remaining in the period;

***Make sure all logistics work, clock starts and stops on whistle, points get posted to the correct wrestler, and keep clock in view at end of period so you can advise the referee if needed. Be aware of injury/blood/recovery time and inform the referee of time remaining.***

b. The two referees should be facing each other while each is maintaining a view between the wrestlers. Both referees must move to positions on the mat where the best view of wrestling and verbal

communications can be achieved;

***Starting from the neutral position you should position yourself opposite the referee. Starting from the referee's position, you should position yourself so you can cover one side and the back of the wrestlers. If an illegal position is assumed, you should call it to the attention of the referee. If there is a false start the referee must call it.***

c. In a near fall situation, the assistant referee should not be down on the mat, but in a position to observe the action, the clock, and inform the referee when time expires; The assistant should keep the referee informed if he observes illegal/technical hold/maneuvers, or if there are any safety risks involved. Keep the referee apprised of the time remaining.

d. If the assistant referee observes interlocking hands or grasping of clothing, the proper signal should be given immediately and the assistant referee should inform the referee of the infraction;

e. The assistant referee must develop a feel for the match to properly assist the referee. When the assistant referee disagrees with the referee, the assistant will bring it to the referee's attention immediately. It is not required to stop the match, unless the referee thinks it is necessary. The referee will avoid interrupting the match when significant action is in progress;

***The referee is in complete control of the match, he makes the call based on his judgment, he cannot hesitate to get an indication or signal from his assistant.***

f. When necessary the referee and the assistant shall meet briefly on the edge of the mat away from the wrestlers and coaches, away from the scorer's table to discuss the point of disagreement;

g. The assistant may support, disagree, or have no opinion relative to a decision. The referee shall prevail in the event of a disagreement;

h. When a decision is reached, the referee will inform the scorer's table of any change in match scoring, timing, etc.;

i. The referee, assistant referee, and two contestants are the only individuals permitted on the wrestling mat. Coaches are not permitted to address the assistant referee and the assistant referee is not permitted to address the coaches, this is the referee's responsibility;

***If the referee is called to the scorer's table for a conference, the assistant will remain in the center of the mat with the two wrestlers.***

j. During any headlock, the assistant should be in position to observe any action from underneath and verbally inform the referee of any change from legal to illegal;

k. During the end-of-match procedure, the assistant referee shall be on the edge of the circle to observe both wrestlers and coaches as they leave the wrestling area.

***The assistant referee is the first on the mat and the last off-keep an eye on the wrestlers.***

The NHSOA would like to thank you for taking your time to read through our quarterly newsletter. Listed below are the wrestling committee members if you have any questions please contact someone from your district. If you are a beginning official and want advice on how to get matches or have questions, the wrestling committee members will be a great resource for you.

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