

2007-08 Late Season Clarifications

1a) Does a Board-Approved coach have to be in the chair during a tournament or can a fellow wrestler (in uniform or not) and/or a parent (not necessarily that wrestler's parent)?

Answer: The rules book states that a maximum of two team personnel (coaches and/or non-participating contestants) will be permitted on chairs at the edge of the mat. As long as that person in the chair has been designated by the Head coach, it is okay, so it can be another coach, wrestler or parent. Keep in mind, The Head coach is responsible for whoever is setting in the chair and they are subject to all OHSAA / NFHS rules.

1b) Does a wrestler have to have someone in the chair and where is that stated? Some teams have only two coaches and are in tournaments that run 3 or more mats.

Answer: Use common sense in this situation. There is nothing in the rule book that states someone has to be in the chair, however, we do want someone in the chair to take responsibility for the wrestler should he/she get injured or require an opinion from the chair. We would advise officials, not to start the match before someone representing that team or wrestler, is in the chair. The official can take an "officials time out" to provide time for someone to take the chair representing the school. Keep in mind, the Head coach is responsible for whoever is setting in the chair and they are subject to all OHSAA / NFHS rules.

1c) Can a wrestler refuse to start a match if he doesn't have a coach and would that then count toward the "5-minutes to appear" rule?

Answer: No. A wrestler can't refuse to wrestle if he doesn't have a coach, but as stated in the last question, we want our officials to provide time to allow someone to take the chair representing the school for that wrestler. The Head coach is responsible for whoever is setting in the chair and they are subject to all OHSAA / NFHS rules. In addition, the 5 minute rule would not apply to this, because the wrestler is on the mat and ready to wrestle.

2a) An increasing number of wrestlers want to wear Under-Armor type t-shirts under their singlet. The rule allows the official to permit this if a sufficient reason exists. Can a wrestler state that it is against his religious beliefs and if yes, would that then mean that he should also be wearing tights?

Answer: The rule allows the official to permit a wrestler to wear a tight fitting short sleeve shirt under the uniform provided there is sufficient reason...i.e. because of an acne condition or non-contagious skin problem, or a heavy wrestler for modesty reasons, etc. I would also allow it if requested by a female wrestler for modesty reasons, too. However, the OHSAA / NFHS does not provide an exception for religious reasons, therefore, a request for exception based on this reason would not be granted.

2b) There is a wrestler that has a doctor's note stating he needs to wear a long sleeve Under-Arm shirt. I had not seen this wrestler until one of the later rounds of a pool tournament and when I questioned the long sleeve they said he had wrestled all the earlier rounds and that he does have a doctor's note. I allowed him to wrestle with it but informed the coach that he would need an OHSAA waiver similar to prosthesis. Please advise on how this should be handled.

Answer: As stated in the previous question, the rule allows the official to permit a wrestler to wear a tight fitting short sleeve shirt under the uniform provided there is sufficient reason...i.e. because of an acne condition or non-contagious skin problem, or a heavy wrestler for modesty reasons, etc. I would also allow it if requested by a female wrestler for modesty reasons, too. As far as a doctors note regarding the request, it would still be up to the official to determine whether or not there is sufficient reason to wear the shirt under the uniform....the reason we are stating this in this way is that we do not want a doctors note allowing a wrestler to wear an under garment to cover a contagious condition thus trying to make it legal. Covering a contagious condition does not make it legal and would not permit the wrestler to wrestle. In addition, since this is considered special equipment, the official will have the final say. In addition, the current rule would not allow a long sleeve shirt, because it would be a disadvantage for the other wrestler, unless written permission has been granted by the OHSAA.

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