

Referee Coordinator's Instructions

Review the Referees' Handouts. Know the material you plan to brief to the referees - it is difficult to emphasize the important points of something you have not read yourself.

Conduct Initial Referee Briefing. For all referees on hand at the beginning of the meet, this should be accomplished by gathering them together, handing out the Referee Instruction/Special NVWF Rules sheet, ***and verbally emphasizing the important points to remember.*** **DO NOT skip this last part** - it is critical to a well-run meet. Some points to emphasize are:

a. Safety First: (1) be especially alert for potentially dangerous situations and do not hesitate to stop a match in such a situation; (2) position yourself to protect your wrestlers from the nearest obstacle (table, floor, other wrestlers, etc.) and stop the match when it is too close - do not allow the match to continue just because you are afraid a coach will be mad because his wrestler lost an advantageous position.

b. Be in Charge: (1) keep all unauthorized persons outside the ropes (the natural breaks in a match are the best time to enforce this - simply do not resume wrestling until the rule is complied with); (2) don't be influenced by the sidelines (your only discussions should be with the scoring table and the wrestlers' coaches - spectators are to raise their complaints through their coaches); (3) be reasonable but firm - If it is clear that you were wrong, then by all means change the call, but REMEMBER: it is normally bad practice to change a call because it invites further questioning of your calls and ability as a referee, and tends to increase the demands by coaches to change future calls. Beside, in the case of judgment calls, what you thought you saw at the time of the call is more likely to be correct than what you think you might have seen when reflecting on it later.

c. Refer Problems to a Higher Authority: Do not allow long and involved discussions (i.e. arguments) with coaches. If the problem cannot be resolved quickly, refer it to the Tournament Director or, if present, the NVWF Commissioner is considered the Chief Referee.

d. Control the Match: (1) before conducting any matches, get with the volunteers manning the scoring table and go over how you will signal. Insure they understand they should stop you at breaks in the match if there is any question about the score - do this each time the volunteers change; (2) use clear signals - both hand and verbal; (2) if extra ankle bands are available, use them on your wrists and signal points with the appropriately colored hand; (3) keep track of the score and if you think it is incorrect, straighten it out before continuing - when there are a number of points scored in quick succession, it is easy for the scorers to get behind; (4) make sure that control has been clearly established (or lost) before awarding points - it is much easier to score one reversal than it is 3 (or 5 or 7), and the point difference is the same. This can be especially helpful with the smaller kids who may flip-flop positions several time in 15 to 20 seconds. If one reversal is followed immediately by another, it is easy to argue that control was never really established.

Conduct Follow-on Briefings. The above instruction should also be given to any Johnny-come-lately before they begin their refereeing duties.

Be Available for Assistance/Review Referee Performance. You should not referee matches yourself. Instead, you should select a location from which you can observe the activities of the referees and inform them that this is where you can normally be found should questions arise. When you must leave for a short time, advise the announcer's table where you will be. Also make sure the referees know to make use of the announcer to locate you or call you to a table where you are needed.