

Current Wrestling Rules Regarding Communicable Diseases

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (NFHS)



2007-08 NFHS Rule 4.2.3: *“If a participant is suspected by the referee or coach of having a communicable skin disease or any other condition that makes participation appear inadvisable, the coach shall provide current written documentation, as defined by the NFHS or the state associations, from a physician stating that the suspected disease or condition is not communicable and that the athlete's participation would not be harmful to any opponent...”*

Rationale: This rule change would help clarify the current rule in that the current written documentation from a physician needs to be on an approved form from either the NFHS or a state association.

2006-07 NFHS CASE MANUAL:

4.2.3 Situation A: In the middle of a multi-team event, it is determined that the 125-pound wrestler from Team A has an active case of ringworm. How should a referee handle this and how would this affect the scoring of this wrestler?

Ruling: As soon as it is detected that the wrestler has a communicable skin disease, the wrestler would be disqualified from any further competition in the multi-school event. This is not a flagrant disqualification; therefore, all points the individual had earned up to the time of disqualification would remain with the team.

4.2.3 Situation B: During the pre-meet conference the coach presents a letter to the referee that there is evidence of a communicable disease with a wrestler but there will be no problem as long as it is properly covered. Does this statement make it permissible for the individual to wrestle?

Ruling: Covering a communicable condition shall not be considered acceptable and does not make a wrestler eligible to participate. If an individual has a skin disease that is in the communicable stage, regardless of any statement from a physician, the wrestler shall not compete.

4.2.3 Situation C: During the weigh-in for a tournament, the referee suspects an

individual of having a communicable skin disease. The coach of the individual indicates to the referee that their team doctor has checked it, but they do not have written documentation. Would it be permissible for this individual to wrestle if written documentation was obtained prior to competition?

Ruling: The rule states that the documentation must be furnished either at the weigh-in or prior to competition in either a dual meet or tournament. If the coach can obtain this documentation prior to competition, the individual would be eligible to compete.

4.2.3 Situation D: The coach from Team A presents a note for the 145-pound wrestler, dated January 2, concerning ringworm on the upper arm. The note indicates the ringworm will not be in a contagious state on January 3 and it is permissible for the individual to wrestle, but the lesion should be covered. This is presented to the coach on January 4 at the dual meet. The referee is in agreement with the note and the coach of Wrestler B has no concerns at the time of the weigh-in. After the match has started, the coach of B goes to the scorer's table and requests a conference with the referee indicating the lesion could be contagious to his wrestler and the coach would like to have the match defaulted. Upon re-examining the ringworm, the referee agrees and awards the match to B. Following the conclusion of the 285-pound match, the referee, in the locker room, is discussing the situation with the coach of A, the referee, after carefully analyzing the situation, thinks a mistake was made in defaulting the match. It is well within the 30 minute limitation. Can this correction be made at this time?

Ruling: This was a judgment decision by the referee at the time the match took place and, once the next match has been started, this is no longer a correctable error. Even though the referee should not have defaulted the match and was wrong in doing so, this is not correctable once the next weight class is started.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCAA)



2008 NCAA Rule 3.9: Medical Examinations

3.9.1 Qualified Examiners. A physician or a certified athletic trainer shall examine all contestants for communicable skin diseases before all tournaments and meets. (See Appendix D, Skin Infections.) It is recommended that this examination be made at the time of weigh-in. Medical professionals of both genders may participate in the medical examinations.

3.9.2 Dress for Examinations. Male student-athletes shall wear shorts and female student-athletes shall wear shorts and a sports bra during examinations.

3.9.3 Medical Checks—Tournaments. At the time of medical/skin checks, all competitors are required to report to the designated area. Medical/skin checks will start at the lowest weight class. All competitors in that weight class need to be examined before moving on to the next weight class. The medical/skin checks will proceed through all weight classes in the weight class order. When all wrestlers for a weight class have been examined and the next class is called, that weight class is closed. The medical/skin check is completed once all heavyweight wrestlers have been examined. The games committee may consider extenuating circumstances. (See Rule 4.16.3.) Medical checks shall be conducted each day of competition and shall take place at the site of competition.

3.9.4 Presence of Communicable Skin Disease. The presence of a communicable skin disease (or any other condition that, in the opinion of the examining physician or certified athletic trainer, makes the participation of that individual inadvisable) shall be full and sufficient reason for disqualification.

3.9.5 Written Documentation. If a student-athlete has been diagnosed as having such a condition, and is currently being treated by a physician (ideally a dermatologist) who has determined that it is safe for that individual to compete without jeopardizing the health of the opponent, the student-athlete may compete. However, that contestant's coach or athletic trainer shall provide current written documentation from the treating physician to the medical professional at the examination, describing: (1) the diagnosed skin disease or condition; (2) the prescribed treatment and the time necessary for it to take effect; and (3) that the skin disease or condition would not be communicable or harmful to the opponent at the time of competition. Such documentation shall be furnished at the medical examination.

3.9.6 Final Determination. Final determination of the participant's ability to compete shall be made by the host site's physician or certified athletic trainer who conducts the medical examination after review of any such documentation and the completion of the exam. (For physicians' and certified athletic trainers' guidelines regarding the dispensation of skin infections, see Appendix D.)

International Styles of Wrestling FILA/USA Wrestling



2007 FILA Rules (w/USA Modifications), Article 57. *“Before the competitors weigh in, the doctors shall examine the athletes and evaluate their state of health. If a competitor*

is considered to be in poor health or in a condition that is dangerous to himself or to his opponent, he shall be excluded from participating in the competition.”

USA Modification: *“Athletes must be prepared and must submit to a skin disease screening prior to weigh-in. A doctor s note on said doctor s official letterhead may be required stating that a current skin condition is not contagious. The chief medical officer for the event has full authority without appeal in determining the eligibility of an athlete to compete.”*