



STANDARDS FOR WRESTLING OBSERVATIONS

Positioning: The official is in the proper position on the mat in keeping a clear view of both wrestlers at all times to ensure wrestler safety first and foremost. This includes position during wrestling, during re-starts, and between periods.

Anticipation of Situations: The official is constantly reading the wrestlers to anticipate the next move or situation. The official then moves in the proper position in anticipating these situations, keeping the wrestlers in clear view.

Movement on the Mat: The official is constantly moving during the match to guarantee the best possible angle and "look" at each move and situation. The official keeps working on the mat as to not get straight-lined by the wrestlers.

Match Procedures: The official administers each match in accordance with NFHS procedures. The match is conducted efficiently and professionally, with the official keeping control at all times during the bout.

Signals & Mechanics: The official gives clear and authoritative signals in a smooth, relaxed style that projects confidence and does not draw undue attention to the official. The official shall coordinate the voice and signals to give a professional appearance. All signals and mechanics used are those prescribed in the *NFHS Wrestling Rules* book.

Judgment / Correctness of Calls: The official simply demonstrates good judgment and gets situations right on the mat.

Consistency of Calls: The official is consistent during a match (move to move, period to period, match to match) when having similar or like situations.

Decisiveness: The official demonstrates a high level of confidence in their movements, calls and non-calls. The official is not timid or weak, and projects confidence, decisiveness and credibility during the match.

NFHS Playing Rules Application: The official demonstrates proper understanding the NFHS playing rules by consistently applying the rules, and subsequent penalties when applicable. The official does not confuse NFHS rules with other wrestling rules codes (NCAA, for example) when working a scholastic contest.

Stalling: The official demonstrates an understanding of the stalling rule, and its subsequent penalties. The official shows good judgment in knowing when to issue the warnings, and subsequent penalties, and it relates to stalling. The official demonstrates the courage to call stalling when the match situation warrants.

Situation Management: The official maintains professional control during the match, while not being overly aggressive or overbearing. He/she effectively communicates as necessary with contest personnel, and handles difficult situations appropriately (bench situations, misconduct, unsportsmanlike conduct, ejections, etc) in light of the match situation.

Focus / Reaction Under Pressure / Poise: The official has consistent concentration on the crucial elements throughout the entire match. This includes being prepared for every match, and gives attention to developing situations. The official demonstrates an awareness of all that is going on within a match and maintains positive body language during the contest, showing confidence and poise when the pressure of the match situation increases.

Hustle: The official displays movement with a purpose during a match to get into *proper position* to cover plays. The distance to be covered by the official will often dictate the speed or method the official uses to get into position.

Demeanor: The official displays a conscientious and earnest desire to carry out on-mat duties. He/she exhibits posture that reflects interest in the match. It is taken for granted that during certain times in the match (blood time, injury time, between periods, between matches, etc.) an official's posture can be more relaxed, but not to the extent that a disinterest in the match is exhibited.

Appearance/Fitness: The proper display of uniform as defined in the *MHSAA Officials Guidebook* is used during the match, including the proper placement of the MHSAA registration patch. The uniform itself is clean and pressed. The official demonstrates a fit and athletic appearance within the uniform.

Mobility: The official possesses the physical ability to move into proper position on mat to cover all possible situations for which they have responsibility.

Fraternization: The official avoids excessive, casual and/or unnecessary conversation with coaches, student-athletes or other match personnel during a contest. At no time is the official to converse with or address spectators during the match.