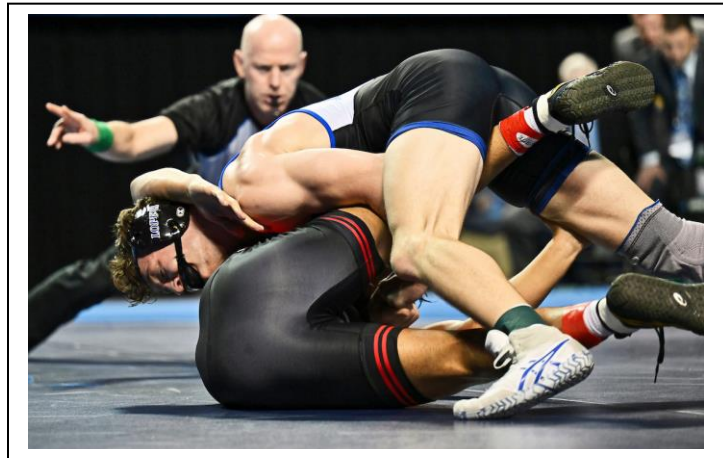




Secretary-Rules Editor Article #2
NCAA Wrestling Case Book Updates
Updated October 4, 2023

Technical Falls

Question: During a match, Wrestler A, the top wrestler, is winning by a score of 11-0 and turns their opponent onto their back using a side headlock. The referee counts four near-fall points but does not award them as Wrestler B is still in near fall criterion. Wrestler A, attempting to secure a fall, adjusts their position but the headlock becomes illegal, and the referee stops the match. How should points be awarded and does Wrestler A win the match by technical fall?



Ruling: A technical fall cannot be earned until the points are awarded by the referee. In this situation, Wrestler A would be awarded four points for near-fall and Wrestler B would be awarded one point due to the illegal hold and the match score would be Wrestler A – 15, Wrestler B – 1. Although the near fall situation occurred prior to the illegal hold, the awarding of the near fall points and the penalty point are awarded simultaneously and consequently, Wrestler A does not win the match by technical fall.

(Rule 2.3.6)

Extra Matches / Weigh-In Times

NOTE: This is an updated interpretation to A.R. 3-8 in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Case Book

Question: May extra matches be wrestled before a dual meet or tournament?

Ruling: Yes, but the extra matches shall not delay the start of the event. In addition, all dual meets and tournaments shall start no later than two hours after weigh-in.

(Rules 3.1.5c, 9.3.1 and 9.4.2)

Mat-Side Video Review

Question: Wrestlers A and B are scrambling in the neutral position and the lead official awards three points to Wrestler A for a takedown right before the wrestlers go out of bounds. The second official, uncertain about the takedown awarded, goes to the lead official to confer but at the same time, the coach of Wrestler B throws a challenge brick to contest the takedown. After the officials confer, they decide to conduct a referee's video review and after looking at the sequence, the takedown awarded to Wrestler A is confirmed. What happens to the video review challenge initiated by the coach of Wrestler B?



Ruling: The coach of Wrestler B would retain their video review challenge but only at events that do not utilize an independent reviewer (* See below for interpretation for events that utilize independent reviewer(s)).

By rule, referee video reviews occur before any coach-requested review (Rules 3.13.8b and 3.13.9f). Since all reviews now involve the entire wrestling sequence (defined in Rule 3.13.4a), the coach of Wrestler B would not be allowed, per Rule 3.13.9i, to challenge a previously made ruling without being penalized for a control of mat violation. Consequently, the coach of Wrestler B would retain their video review challenge without penalty. However, in this situation, if the referee(s) confer or initiate a referee video review but do not change the call on the mat, the coach must then exercise their video review challenge.

Referee(s) are reminded that if they need to discuss or conference with one another, they should do so immediately after wrestling action has stopped and ensure that any referee video reviews are initiated in a timely manner and of their own volition without outside influence.

Coaches are reminded that if they wish to initiate a video review challenge, they must do so by immediately throwing the foam brick into the competition circle, indicating their intent to challenge a call on the mat (Rule 3.13.9d). Since the mat-side video review process operates under the assumption that the ruling on the mat is correct (Rule 3.13.4b), any hesitation or delay in throwing the challenge brick will result in the referee(s) determining that the challenge was not made in a timely manner and the loss of the video review challenge. Coaches are also cautioned against making overt attempts to induce a referee video review.

***For events that utilize independent reviewer(s):** At events that utilize an independent reviewer, the challenge process would remain the same. However, the coach of Wrestler B would retain their video review challenge only if the call on the mat is overturned by either the on-mat officials (via conference or referee video review) or the independent reviewer.

Referee video reviews would occur before review by the independent reviewer(s); if the call on the mat is unchanged, the referees shall then ask the coach of Wrestler B what they would like to challenge and the independent reviewer(s) would then review the sequence.

(Rules 3.13.4b, 3.13.8b, 3.13.9d and 3.13.9f)

Assessing Match Penalties



Question: Utilizing a hammerlock, Wrestler A has their opponent in a pinning situation. Wrestler A adjusts their position and takes Wrestler B's arm off the back momentarily, creating an illegal hold, but quickly moves Wrestler B's arm back into a legal position. Since the presence of injury no longer exists, does the referee allow wrestling to continue?

Ruling: No. Although Rule 5.1.2.f states that a match shall not be stopped during scoring situations unless necessary to prevent injury, no advantage can be gained as the result of an illegal act. In this situation, while the presence of an injury may not exist, allowing the near fall situation to continue after Wrestler A used an illegal hold would constitute an unfair advantage. The referee should stop the match, award any earned near fall points to Wrestler A (prior to the illegal hold), one penalty point to Wrestler B, start recovery time (if applicable) and then restart wrestling with Wrestler A in the top position.

(Rule 5.1.2)

Stalling By Ankle Ride

Question: Wrestler A, the offensive wrestler, applies a bow and arrow to the defensive wrestler and begins to work for a turn. Is the referee required to immediately start a five-second count?

Ruling: No. If the offensive wrestler makes an attempt to put their opponent in a near fall situation (defined as on their back or in a near fall criterion), the five-second count should not be initiated. An attempt is defined as a position where, in the sole judgment of the referee, the offensive wrestler is actively progressing and/or advancing toward a near fall situation.



The referee should, without coaching, utilize appropriate verbal commands (i.e., "improve") to ensure that the offensive wrestler is improving their position. If, however, the referee determines the offensive wrestler is no longer actively progressing and/or advancing toward a near fall situation, the five-second count shall immediately be initiated. If the referee reaches the fifth count before the offensive wrestler moves their arm(s)/hand(s) back up above the buttocks of the defensive wrestler, releases the hold or initiates another attempt, then the offensive wrestler shall be called for stalling.

Referees must recognize active progression and/or advancement towards a near fall situation to avoid penalizing the offensive wrestler unfairly. Conversely, referees must also exercise sound judgment and immediately initiate a five-second count when, after verbal commands have gone unheeded, and active progression toward a near fall situation is no longer present.

(Rule 5.7.13)

Stalling by Ankle Ride



Question: From referee's position, Wrestler A, the offensive wrestler, works out to the side in an effort to turn their opponent onto their back and then grabs the defensive wrestler's ankle. The referee begins the mandatory five-second count. Three seconds later, Wrestler A turns Wrestler B onto his back but is still holding onto the ankle. Does the count continue?

Ruling: No, the count should stop. Like the side headlock rule (Rule 5.7.14), if the offensive wrestler fails to release the ankle or place his opponent in a near fall situation (defined as on their back or in near fall criterion) before the referee reaches their fifth count, the offensive wrestler shall be called for stalling. Since Wrestler B has been turned onto their back, the count shall stop.

(Rule 5.7.13)

Stalling By Ankle Ride

Question: Wrestler A, the offensive wrestler, has turned their opponent onto his back. Wrestler B starts to bridge when Wrestler A then grabs Wrestler B's ankle. Does the referee need to start a five-second count?

Ruling: No. The intent of the five-second count is to prevent the offensive wrestler from stalling. In this situation, since Wrestler A has their opponent in a potential pinning situation, wrestling should continue without a five-second count.

(Rule 5.7.13)

