



Secretary-Rules Editor Article #3
Frequently Missed Rules Examination Questions for 2023-24
November 3, 2023

Congratulations on completing the 2023-24 NCAA wrestling rules test. Some of the more frequently missed examination questions are listed below along with some feedback.

Question #1 was missed by 80% of test takers. Note: 97% of test takers were given credit for a correct response – please read SRE comments below.

Question: Wrestler A, who is in the top position, grabs the defensive wrestler's ankle and the referee starts a five-second count. When should the referee stop the five-second count?

SRE Feedback: When the annual rules test opened on September 18th, there was one correct answer to this question (A – When the offensive wrestler releases the hold). However, when SRE Article #2 was released and published an interpretation on the stalling by ankle rule, the correct answer changed to (D – Both A (when the offensive wrestler releases the hold) and C (when the defensive wrestler is turned onto his back). This appears to have confused many individuals and consequently, any test-taker who answered A (when the offensive wrestler releases the hold); C (when the defensive wrestler is turned onto his back); or D (Both A and C) was given credit for a correct response.

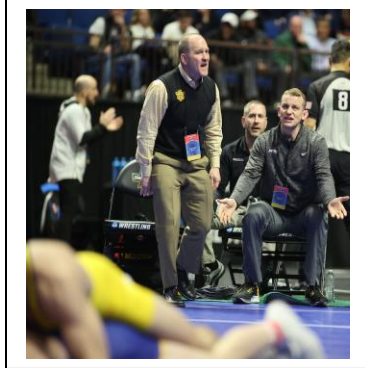
Question #2 was missed by 50% of test takers.

Question: By rule, the second referee is permitted to penalize a coach for a control of mat violation.

Correct Answer: True

SRE Comments: While the rules book describes the process for the second referee to report violations (Rule 7.5.6), this question does not ask about the process. It specifically asks whether the second referee is permitted to penalize a coach for a control of mat violation. Rule 7.5.4 specifically states that, “The second referee has the same mobility and authority as the referee...” and consequently, the second referee is, by rule, permitted to penalize a coach. There are situations where a second official penalizing a coach immediately would be appropriate. As an example: a coach runs into the competition circle in direct sight of the second official while the lead referee's back is turned.

Question #3 was missed by 47% of all test takers.



Question: Coaches can no longer be penalized for a control of mat violation on video review challenges.

Correct Answer: False

SRE Feedback: Rule 3.13.9h (a rule change for the 2023-24 wrestling season) states that the only penalty for a coach who delayed throwing the foam brick to initiate a video review challenge will be the loss of the video review challenge. The rule change removes the control of mat violation on the coach. How, then, could the correct answer be false?

Rule 3.13.9i states that a coach who either challenges a previously made ruling or initiates a video review challenge when the team's allotment of challenges has been exhausted is considered to be intentionally delaying the match and is to be penalized with a control of mat violation.

Question #4 was missed by 37% of all test takers.

Question: Wrestler A fails to report to the mat for their first match of a tournament within five minutes after their name has been announced on the PA system. The coach of Wrestler A states that they didn't hear the announcement but is now ready to wrestle. What is the proper protocol?

Correct Answer: Wrestler A loses their first match by forfeit and is eliminated from further competition in the event.



SRE Feedback: All but one test taker correctly answered that Wrestler A loses their first match; Rule 3.22.10 confirms that this is a loss via forfeit. More than a third of all test takers, however, erroneously stated that Wrestler A is eligible to compete in the consolation rounds. Rule 3.22.12 specifically addresses that, "A forfeit shall eliminate a competitor from further competition in that event."

Question #5 was missed by 35% of all test takers.

Question: With no score in the match, Wrestlers A & B are in the neutral position and a scramble situation occurs. The referee awards a takedown to Wrestler B, who now leads, 3-0. Immediately afterwards, Wrestler A secures a reversal that is awarded by the referee, to make the score Wrestler B - 3, Wrestler A - 2. The coach of Wrestler A throws the challenge brick to question the initial takedown awarded to Wrestler B. After review, the officials overturn the initial takedown call awarded to Wrestler B. What correction, if any, should follow?

Correct Answer: Wrestler A should be awarded a takedown and wrestling should resume with Wrestler A leading the match, 3-0, and in the top position.

SRE Feedback: Note that video review challenges for the 2023-24 wrestling season involve a wrestling sequence, defined as the time from the alleged error, as stated by the challenging coach, until the match was stopped (or should have been stopped) by the referee. The sequence was implemented to account for all wrestling action. In this scenario, since the initial takedown awarded to Wrestler B was overturned after review, the wrestlers are neutral and since Wrestler A (initially awarded a reversal) ends up in control, they would be awarded a takedown. The addition of the sequence into the video review challenge process eliminates the need for additional wrestling.