



Secretary-Rules Editor Article #5
NCAA Wrestling Case Book Updates
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Technical Falls

Question: Early in the second period, Wrestler A is the offensive wrestler and is winning their match by a score of 13-0. Wrestler A then uses a wrist and arm bar tilt to take their opponent into near-fall criteria and earns a four-point near fall. Ten seconds later, Wrestler B is able to belly out although Wrestler A still has the wrist and arm secured and the referee is still holding the four near-fall points. Does the official stop the match at this point and award the four near-fall points (thus awarding Wrestler A with a technical fall) or should wrestling be allowed to continue?



Ruling: Wrestling should be allowed to continue. Although a technical fall occurs when a wrestler has earned a 15-point advantage over their opponent, matches shall not be stopped for a win by technical fall until the points are awarded by the referee. In this situation, while Wrestler A has earned more than a 15-point advantage over their opponent, the referee has not yet awarded the near fall points since Wrestler A still has the wrist and arm secured. The awarding of near fall points would only occur when the defensive wrestler (Wrestler B) is both out of danger and able to defend their position. Until this occurs, wrestling should continue and give Wrestler A the opportunity to score a fall.

(Rule 2.3.6)

Medical Forfeits

Question: During the first round of a tournament, Wrestler B applies an illegal chicken wing on their opponent and applies forward pressure, parallel to the long axis. Wrestler A screams out in pain and the referee immediately stops the match, calls an illegal hold on Wrestler B and awards one point to Wrestler A. The referee also starts recovery time for Wrestler A. After the two minutes for recovery time elapses, the athletic trainer states that Wrestler A needs additional medical attention and will not be able to continue. The referee disqualifies Wrestler B and

Wrestler A is declared the winner. Wrestler A is unable to continue in the tournament and the coach of Wrestler A informs the tournament committee that Wrestler A will be medically forfeiting their remaining matches. Will Wrestler A's next match (one that they will medically forfeit) count as a loss on their ISRF (individual season record form) since it was not preceded by an injury default?

Ruling: No. Although medical forfeits must still be recorded on the season record form, this would not be charged as a loss for Wrestler A as they were injured and are unable to continue because of an illegal action.

(Rule 2.10.12b)

Grasping Clothing or Equipment

Question: During a scramble situation, Wrestler A, the offensive wrestler, gets two fingers stuck inside Wrestler B's left wrestling shoe and pulls on the shoe. Is this permissible and what call, if any, should the referee make?

Ruling: Rule 5.8.6 states that the grasping of equipment is a technical violation. In this situation, the referee should stop the match, penalize Wrestler A for a technical violation (grasping equipment) and award one point to Wrestler B. It should be noted that the pulling action on the shoe makes this a violation, not the fact that the fingers were inside the shoe. Whenever possible, the referee should utilize both verbal commands and, if warranted, stop the match to prevent illegal holds and/or technical violations from occurring.

(Rule 5.8.6)

Recovery Time / Injury Time and Blood

Question: In the first period, Wrestler A applies an overly forceful cross-face to their opponent resulting in Wrestler B's neck being twisted awkwardly. Wrestler B's nose also begins to bleed heavily. The referee stops the match, penalizes Wrestler A for unnecessary roughness and then awards one point to Wrestler B. The offended wrestler is provided recovery time when an unnecessary roughness violation occurs but since Wrestler B is also bleeding, what is the proper protocol for the official? Does the bleeding timeout get addressed first or does recovery time start immediately or can the bleeding timeout occur simultaneously with recovery time?

Ruling: The bleeding timeout would be addressed first, followed by recovery time, if needed. To allow the medical staff to properly assess the potentially injured wrestler, coupled with the potential risk of bloodborne pathogens, the bleeding timeout shall be addressed first. When the bleeding timeout has been properly attended to, the referee shall then start recovery time, if necessary, and the offended wrestler would be allowed a maximum of two minutes of recovery time to be ready to wrestle.

Follow Up Question: During the second period of a match, Wrestler A indicates to the referee that they are hurt and requests an injury timeout. The referee stops the match and notices that Wrestler A is bleeding underneath their eye. Does the injury clock start as soon as medical personnel arrive on the mat or does the bleeding timeout get addressed first or can the injury and bleeding timeouts occur simultaneously?

Ruling: Mirroring the interpretation of bleeding and recovery time, the bleeding timeout would be addressed first. Once the bleeding timeout has been attended to, the referee shall then start injury time for Wrestler A. Per Rule 6.1.24, timeout for bleeding shall not count against the wrestler's 1½ minutes of injury time. Note that if after the bleeding timeout, Wrestler A indicates they are ready to return to the match before the injury time clock begins, the referee shall charge Wrestler A with a timeout and ensure that one second of injury time is recorded.

(Rules 5.3, 6.1.23, 6.1.24, 6.3.5)