



Secretary-Rules Editor Article #1 NCAA Wrestling Case Book Updates Updated September 8, 2025

Video Review System Inoperable

Question: During the 125-pound bout, Team A throws a challenge brick, stating that their wrestler scored a takedown. The video review system, however, is not working and the officials cannot conduct a video review. Team A would retain their challenge and Team B would not be permitted to initiate any video review challenges for the remainder of the 125-pound bout. Are referees permitted to initiate an official's review later in the 125-pound bout if the system is operational?

Ruling: Yes. Referee video reviews are initiated at the discretion of the official(s) when there is reasonable certainty that an error may have been made regarding timing, scoring and/or the proper positioning of wrestlers with the sole intent of getting the wrestling sequence correct. The referee-initiated reviews stand independent of team challenges and are therefore permitted, regardless of any technical difficulties in prior video review sequences.

Referees are reminded that coaches should not solicit or coerce the official into a review, particularly when they are not permitted to challenge.

(Rule 3.13.11)

Video Review System Restoration

Question: If the video review system is not working during an individual match (e.g., 157-pound match), neither team would be permitted to initiate a video review challenge for the remainder of that bout. Does the video review system need to be operable within a specific time frame or may teams initiate challenges once the system is functional?

Ruling: The video review system must be corrected and fully operational before the conclusion of the match in which the failure occurred. If the video review system has not been corrected, it shall be suspended from use for the remainder of the event.

(Rule 3.13.11)



Obstruction on Video Review

Question: During the second period, Team A throws the challenge brick and states that their wrestler earned 2 near fall points. The officials start the review, but the second official is blocking the camera and the challenged call in question (near fall) cannot be seen. Ten seconds later in the sequence, however, the officials see that the offensive wrestler locked their hands while on the mat. What is the correct ruling?

Ruling: Rule 3.13.12 states that any obstruction of the view on the video screen that does not allow for a confirmed ruling shall result in no review. Consequently, even though the offensive wrestler locked their hands, they could not be penalized and Team A would retain their challenge.

(Rule 3.13.12)

Riding Time in Rear Standing Position

Question: In the second period, Wrestler B, the defensive wrestler, stands up and Wrestler A follows. Wrestler A, however, makes no attempt to return Wrestler B to the mat and the referee warns Wrestler A for stalling, stopping riding time concurrently. At what point would Wrestler A start to accumulate riding time?

Ruling: In this situation, Wrestler A would need to return Wrestler B to the mat for riding time to start again. An attempt alone to return their opponent to the mat would be insufficient for riding time to restart; a successful mat return must be completed for Wrestler A to begin accumulating riding time.

(Rules 4.5.13 and 5.1.4)

Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Equipment

Question: At the conclusion of the match, Wrestler A takes off his headgear, places it on the mat and proceeds to take off his anklets before shaking hands with their opponent. Wrestler A then picks up their headgear and walks off the mat. Per Rule 5.2.1, is this unsportsmanlike conduct?

Ruling: No. Rule 5.2.1 emphasizes that any equipment is to stay in the possession of the wrestler until they leave the competition circle.

(Rule 5.2.1)