



## Secretary-Rules Editor Article #4 NCAA Wrestling Case Book Updates Updated December 11, 2025

### Technical Falls

**Question:** In the third period, both wrestlers are in the neutral position and Wrestler A is winning by a score of 12-0. Wrestler A locks up their opponent in a bear hug and takes Wrestler B directly to the mat. Wrestler B ends up on their back and is close to but not in near fall criteria. The referee awards a takedown to Wrestler A. Since Wrestler B is close to being in near fall criteria, does the referee allow Wrestler A the opportunity to score a fall, or is the match over?

**Ruling:** The match is over, and Wrestler A would win by technical fall, 15-0. Rule 2.3.6 states, “A technical fall terminates the match and occurs when a wrestler has earned a 15-point advantage over the opponent.” Since the referee awarded Wrestler A three points for the takedown, the score is 15-0, and the match would be terminated.

Note: The interpretation would be different if Wrestler B was taken down and in near fall criteria (please reference Case Book A.R. 2-5).

(Rule 2.3.6)

### Riding Time After Offensive Wrestler is Penalized for Stalling

**Question:** From referee’s position, Wrestler B, the defensive wrestler, stands up and Wrestler A follows and locks their hands around the waist of Wrestler B. Wrestler B separates Wrestler A’s hands and begins to get away when Wrestler A changes off to a single leg and is still in control. Wrestler A, however, fails to initiate a mat return and eight seconds later, the referee penalizes Wrestler A for stalling. Does riding time stop even though the wrestlers are no longer in rear standing position?

**Ruling:** Yes. Although the wrestlers are no longer in rear standing position, no advantage shall be gained after an infraction and consequently, riding time shall stop. In this situation, wrestling action would continue but the referee should clasp their wrist when penalizing Wrestler A to stop riding time. Riding time would restart when the offensive wrestler either returns their opponent to the mat beyond reaction time or wrestling action brings both wrestlers back to the mat beyond reaction time. After being penalized for stalling in this position, an attempt to return their opponent to the mat alone would not be sufficient to restart riding time.

(Rules 4.5.13, 5.1.4 and 5.7.15c)