

Preseason Interpretations and Updates from the NHFS & the OHSAA Interpreters

Situation A:

With 10 seconds left in the third period, both wrestlers go out of bounds in a flurry of action. Once Wrestler B is set (down on all fours), Wrestler A indicates he wants the Optional Start by properly signaling his desire to the Referee. The Referee informs Wrestler B of the Optional Start. Once both Wrestlers are set the Referee blows his whistle to initiate action. Wrestler A pushes off of wrestler B and takes three steps backward, but Wrestler B does not move.

Ruling:

Since Wrestler A has initiated action by pushing off and stepping backward, Wrestler B would be either warned or penalized for stalling, without stopping the match. If, after the warning he still refuses to move, he would be penalized a second time for stalling. The Referee may choose to instruct both Wrestlers with the command "Action". However, if there is no action within 3 - 5 second, stalling should be called on Wrestler B.

Note: This is a change in interpretation recently given to us from the National Federation.

Revision of NFHS 2007-08 Preseason Guide - *New Restart Option: Neutral Position*,
Located on Page 2, Situation 3.

Situation B:

Both Wrestlers go out of bounds. For the second time in a row, Wrestler A waits until Wrestler B gets set in the defensive starting position (down on all fours) and then signals to the Referee that the decision is for a neutral Restart.

Ruling:

The Referee should allow the Neutral restart, just as he would allow the choice of the Optional start in this situation. It was never the intent to penalize the offensive wrestler in this situation. If, however, Wrestler A kneels down to assume the starting position, then decides he wants a neutral restart, we would have delay of match, which is stalling.

Note: This is a change in interpretation recently given to us from the National Federation.

Situation C:

At the start of the second period, wrestler A gets his choice of position and indicates he wants the Top position. Once wrestler B is set, wrestler A changes his mind and says he wants the Neutral position. Can wrestler A change his mind at this point without a penalty?

Ruling:

No. Once wrestler A decides on a position and the bottom man is set, he can no longer change his mind. Wrestler A would be called for delay of match and warned or penalized for stalling. (Once wrestler A is penalized, the official would ask him what position he wants at that point and start the period.)

Situation D:

In the second period Wrestler A has his choice to start the period and chooses Neutral position . At the start of the third period, Wrestler B gets his choice to start the period and takes the Bottom position. Then Wrestler A says he wants a Neutral start. Can Wrestler A request the Neutral position?

Ruling:

Yes, Wrestler A can request the Neutral start even though Wrestler B had his choice to start the period. The thinking behind this is that Wrestler B did in fact get his choice to take the bottom position, so Wrestler A can then let the Official know he wants Neutral. The Official will signal the Neutral position and give Wrestler B one point for an Escape and start the wrestlers on their feet.

Situation E:

Wrestler A shoots in for a takedown and wrestler B applies a figure-four.....while the official allows wrestler A to finish the move, wrestler B's figure-four turns into a scissors which is illegal. The official immediately stops the move and penalizes wrestler B for the figure-four which is a technical violation. Should wrestler B also be charged for an illegal hold?

Ruling:

No. The official should just penalize for the technical violation in this situation. The official should be in position to stop the figure-four before it becomes an illegal scissors. If on the other hand, wrestler B was trying to intentionally hurt the other wrestler with the scissors, then the official could call him for unnecessary roughness and penalize accordingly.

Source: OHSAA Interpreters

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