By rule, once the wrestler checks in at the scoring table, he/she is to go directly to the center of the assigned mat. Although every wrestler has five minutes to report in at the table and could stand by the table for a period of time to formally check in to give his/her name, this would hold up the event.

Our Ohio procedure with respect to a coach being present is the following: **We do not want our officials starting a wrestling match where a student-athlete is alone without a coach.**

There are several reasons for this policy:

1. Safety: If the wrestler happens to get injured in the opening of the match there needs to be a coach there to attend to him/her. There is no reason more important that safety.
2. We do not need to create a situation that sparks a legal situation. If the wrestler sustains a serious injury the coach’s comments may have prevented or lessened the injury. If a legal situation occurs the official, host school, AD, and school administration may all be brought into the situation. We must prevent problems, and we can by making sure every wrestler has a coach. “We do not need to pick buggers.”
3. Especially with junior high wrestlers or first year wrestlers, their coach is there to give them a little confidence / assurance. This is one of the reasons why we have lost wrestlers from our line-ups. They get discouraged and quit without help to improve.
4. It is also contradictory to require coaches to have a pupil activity permits but then start a match and wrestle without the coach present.
5. We disrespect the school, coach, and program when we start a match without a coach present to work with his wrestler.
6. Common sense even tells us not to let a young athlete go out on the mat alone. What would you want for your son/daughter?
7. This is a simple problem to solve. If there is only one coach with a program and is on another mat, allow the next match to move up and officiate that match first. When that match ends the missing coach should be present.