2018-19 Questions continue:

Are cold sores a contagious skin issue? **Ruling: Yes**, I believe what we commonly call a cold sore is actually a form of the herpes virus. As officials we need to ask the wrestler / coach for a physician’s note to allow the participant to compete.

From the neutral position, if wrestler A false starts, but does not make contact and wrestler B reacts and strains his knee is it still recovery time? **Ruling: Yes**, wrestler A get the caution for the false start and because of his action wrestler B is injured it is recovery time. If B cannot continue he would be the winner. Rule 5-28-3 “… or a result of a false start” means that a false start occurred.

What procedure is in place if either wrestler goes off the mat onto the floor? **Ruling: Action stops, wrestling is restarted back in the center, and basically no points earned.** If a toe down takedown occurs and the defensive wrestler lands on the floor with any part of his body, it can’t be scored. This is also true if the wrestlers go into the coach’s corner and make contact with the chairs or coaches or into the scoring table. Action also stops if the wrestlers are interfered with by the officials too close to action and block a wrestler from countering. If a takedown occurs out of bounds with the defensive wrestle landing on his butt out of bounds, then places his hands behind him to brace from going to his back which case his hands to land on the gym floor; The sequence of events require the two-point takedown scored first then action is stopped being on the floor.

**We all need to be consistent every time we officiate**

The question of **fleeing or stalling** continues to come up everywhere. Fleeing is when a wrestler leaves the competition circle to avoid giving up a score. Some examples are when a wrestler hips to get to the OB then dives OB, rather than letting the defensive wrestler get an escape the offensive wrestler pushes him OB, and rather than giving up a reversal on a switch the offensive wrestler crawls OB while near the OB line. These are all examples of action wrestling with one the mat to avoid giving up a score. These are all technical violations, one match point. The push, pull or lift a carry the opponent OB are none action scoring situations. Wrestlers must stay inside the competition area, if either leaves the mat is such a passive manner it is stalling. When the offensive wrestler lifts and steps OB while carrying his opponent it is stalling. Action – counter action wrestling at the edge is not stalling.

**Rule 5-15-2 b** discusses a unique twist to the near fall / fall situations. … “When the defensive wrestler is on their back while the supporting points of either wrestler are inbounds wrestling shall continue. In this situation any part of the defensive wrestler’s shoulder or scapula is considered to be all the supporting points” Wrestling has been continually changing. The philosophy “reward aggressive wrestling” has in itself helped wrestling. From the toe down takedown, giving near fall w/ an extra point added and included the penalty(s), near fall/fall out of bounds to now we arrive with a single shoulder/scapula on, over and inbounds … it counts as all the supporting points to continue (or start) near fall or earn the fall. When you think about it … it makes complete sense.

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