To: OHSAA Athletic Directors and Wrestling Head Coaches

From: Tyler Brooks, Director of Officiating & Sport Management
       Jim Vreeland, OHSAA Wrestling Director of Officiating Development (DOD)

Re: 2018 September Pre-Season Newsletter

Greetings Everyone,

This is the third annual fall newsletter sent in an effort to communicate some necessary information concerning our upcoming 2018-19 wrestling season. Once again there are several important issues to share which hopefully will make for another successful wrestling year!

Tyler Brooks is the new administrator of wrestling at the OHSAA office. Tyler has supported Beau Rugg in the administration of the sport since his start at the OHSAA in March 2014. He looks forward to supporting and enhancing the proud tradition of Ohio interscholastic wrestling!

1 – Along with a new updated skin form, the OHSAA will begin a new protocol with respect to doctor visits and the signature required. OHSAA Senior Director Debbie Moore, Dr. Randy Wroble, and Dr. Jess DeMaria have been working with Ohio dermatologists to provide availability for wrestlers to have quick access to a dermatologist’s office for the most accurate diagnosis and treatment of our serious skin conditions. For those dermatology offices that have elected to join this new initiative the Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) affiliated with the practice may sign the approved skin form. The link to find the list assembled to date is ...
   • http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Wrestling/ApprovedShortNoticeDermatologistPractices.pdf

   What this means is that if a CNP or PA is affiliated with one of these practices, then he or she may sign off on our wrestling form. This privilege is restricted to those mid-level medical personnel who work in these practices only. Please make sure that this information is communicated

2 – There have been significant changes made to the regional round of the OHSAA Dual Team Wrestling Tournament for the 2018-19 school. Beginning this year, the regional round will be a single-day event taking place at eight sites for each division. Each site will advance a regional champion to the State Dual Team Tournament. The regional date is Saturday, February 2, 2019, and the state date is Sunday, February 10, 2019. The deadline to enter/withdraw your school without penalty is December 13, 2018.

3 – A revision to the OHSAA transfer bylaws was approved this spring. If you have a student who transferred to your school and wants to participate on your team, please be aware that the student will likely have to sit for a portion of the season UNLESS he or she can meet the requirements
of one of the transfer exceptions. The student and his/her family need to schedule a meeting with your school athletic administrator or principal in order to determine if the requirements of an exception can be met. If the student transferred **prior** to May 16, 2018, they MAY have to sit out of all contests until the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed. If the student transferred **after** May 16, 2018, he or she MAY have to sit out the second half of the regular season AND the OHSAA tournament. These varying consequences are due to a referendum vote by the member schools that took place in May to change the transfer consequence. It is imperative that you alert your AD or principal as soon as you realize that you have a transfer student so they can start any necessary paperwork.

4 – If a **student from another school approaches you** to inquire about joining your school team, you should direct the student to have his parents/guardians arrange a time to meet with your school’s athletic director.

5 – **ACT / SAT Testing**: Weighing in for an event the day of a college entrance exam is not an officiating detail. The OHSAA supports the entire education process, believes officials are part of the entire educational team and education comes first. The responsibility lies with the coach to contact the host tournament director and comply with whatever arrangements the host tournament director would like to set to weigh-in any students who have registered to take either the ACT or SAT entrance exam. This will impact only a few Saturdays during the season. This OHSAA understanding and requirement to weigh-in also applies to other educational activities such as college visits, college/scholarship interview, etc. Don’t expect officials to be aware of this weigh-in fact for your wrestlers. **The coach must make arrangements with the host school.**

6 – Again this year we need to help everyone understand **the importance of hiring officials as early as possible**. This is especially true with the middle school programs. We had a great many emails sent trying to locate officials for duals and tournaments just days before their event.

7 – The NFHS has made **fourteen (14) rule changes** for the 2018-19 season. Those changes can be found on the NFHS website (**click here**). Coaches should make sure they log on to listen to the entire rules presentation, as we have a number of very important topics to relay along with these new rule changes. The out-of-bounds has seen a serious revision along with new near fall out-of-bounds requirements.

8 – As of last season, an **alternative uniform** is now acceptable, which is a tight-fitting shirt with shorts. The specific requirements are listed on the web site and will be discussed during the rules meeting. The other issue to share is the fact that the Mercado head gear is now accepted. Since it has rigid ear guards, it is now a legal wrestling head gear. There have been many questions about this piece of equipment and now the rigid ear guards meet the necessary safety requirements.

9 – A quick reminder about **shoe laces**: they must be laced to the top eyelet, secured in one of three ways (in a Zipper pouch, with a Velcro flap or taped around the ankle) and the shoes must stay on the feet (if one comes off it is a technical violation). The official still has the option to ask the wrestler to tape the laces around the ankle. Wrestlers may wear low ankle socks during their weigh-ins.

10 – Rule 6-6-4 and 6-6-5 regarding the **correction of errors** has been more completely spelled out and is specific. All coaches should familiarize themselves with these two rule changes. These will also be discussed during the rule interpretation presentation. There were several states that misapplied these rules, Ohio among them. Simply stated, a score or match cannot be changed once the next match has started. Read more about this rule.
11 – **Rule 4-1-5** states “The uniform shall be worn as intended/designed by the manufacturer.” This is applicable to all parts of the uniform and any other special equipment worn by the wrestlers. Wrestlers and coaches are not allowed to cut and/or alter any material which changes the manufacturer’s product. This includes both weigh-ins and competition. Rule 4-3-1...6 discusses special equipment, braces, tapping, padding and the necessary safety concerns.

12 – There will be several **new pages of illustrations** showing the aspects of illegal holds/maneuvers that will be posted on the OHSAA wrestling web page, along with numerous other illustrations, PowerPoints and other educational material for officials, coaches and parents. Hopefully all postings are available by mid-September.

13 – Remember that **good sportsmanship** is not an accidental happening. Officials and coaches both need to work together to provide our athletes good role models.

14 – **Special needs may require the OHSAA to allow special accommodations** for some athletes to participate. The **coach must present the official** with the special accommodations letter (obtained from the OHSAA) prior to weigh-in. Special accommodations may include but not limited to the following: youth ankle monitor, medical device, medical monitor, amputee needs, and blind, deaf and/or transgender rulings, to name a few.

The official simply needs to follow the specific directions set forth in the accommodations letter. Any special accommodation letter is valid only for the sport season in session.

Thank you and best wishes for a successful 2018-19 season!

Tyler Brooks  
Director of Officiating & Sport Management  
tbrooks@ohsaa.org  
614-267-2502 ext. 112

Jim Vreeland  
Wrestling Director of Offic. Development  
vree66@gmail.com  
419.707.1133