

Every year I recruit good officials to work our kid's tournaments. When I ask them to return and work for the organization again I sometimes get responses like: "You can't pay me enough to take that kind of grief" or "Coaches and parents are rude and disrespectful". I realize that not all are cut out to be officials but I know many of these people would become better and even excel if they were treated better. In an effort to curb comments and behavior by coaches and parents that are inappropriate I'm instituting the following procedures at our state tournaments. I also realize that in general coaches are a good bunch of people. However there are a few who continue to think they can do or say anything they want at mat-side.

Coaching etiquette

#1 **Coaches making comments that are not directed as encouragement and instructions to their wrestlers will be identified and warned.** During that first warning, the coach's pass will be marked and on the second offense the pass will be removed.

#2 Coaches will be asked to have only two coaches displaying a coach's pass in the chairs at mat side. This includes other wrestlers, photographers and moms. Coaches will be asked to police this policy on their own. Coaches that fail to comply will be asked for their passes so that the pass can be marked on the first offense and removed on the second offense. On deck wrestlers and coaches will be asked to stand in back of the fenced off area. Wrestlers easily know when they are going to be called by looking at the clip-board directly behind the score table at that mat.

#3 Questions about a score or a misapplication of a rule should be directed to the official on the mat. The conversation should **always** begin with "Sir or Ms. I have a question". This should happen during a normal break in the action. Not addressing an official in this manner does not warrant a response on his or her part. Officials have also been instructed to be cordial and listen to the coaches concern. If the official agrees there was an error, it will be fixed. If not, the coaches in the corner will receive a "bench warning" and any other questions to the official during that match that do not result in correction of an error, will cause that coach to have his/her pass marked on the first offense and removed on the second offense. This rule is directly out of the National Federation of High School wrestling rule book.

#4 New or replacement coaches' passes will not be sold to coaches that have had their passes removed.

#5 Unresolved grievances about officials or a call made by an official should be brought to Tom Kuisle or Bill Hinchley. Judgment calls are made in a split second by officials. We will not spend much time discussing these calls because they often depend on the position of the officials and the wrestler's movement. Misapplied or misinterpreted rules will command more attention by the head officials.

We are always looking for good officials. I would be more than happy to help you get started in the profession.

Thanks for your cooperation and good luck.
Tom Kuisle, MN/USA Mat Officials Director