

BOYS SECTIONAL COMMENTS

For use by officials at sectional seeding coaches meeting

Only the head official will address the coaches – This is a must!

- Refer to **SECTIONAL SEEDING MEETING FORMAT for sectional competition (you must follow this!)**

Encourage your wrestlers to be wrestling officials – win / win situation

Introduction of officials / importance of rating officials/ evaluate on entire day not just one call and a non-emotional moment

Make sure that all wrestlers report to mat legally ready to wrestle

Any special equipment such as taping, t- shirts, all pads including kneepads, etc. must be inspected by lead official before the first round – an announcement will be made to report to head table

- **All uniform apparel including headgear, kneepads, shoes, etc. may not have any type of advertising or promotional references other than their school logo or those allowed by rule**
- Once wrestlers check in and are accepted by the official, **anytime** a shoe lace becomes **untied**, or if the shoe comes off during wrestling, it is considered stalling

Make absolutely sure the correct wrestler reports to the mat, once the match begins, it is counted as an exposure

Have the manager explain the format of the day (times, etc.)

Introduction of Medical Personnel (if present)

- 5 minutes for head, neck, and cervical type injuries**
- This only applies to IT **not** RT, Recovery Time is always 2 minutes
- IT / BT / RT may be **suspended** if AHCP are attending other athletes
- This **5 minutes** is independent of your 1.5 min. injury – however, it is an ITO and it will be counted as one
If this 5 minute time is used again by the same wrestler they must default

Explanation of blood time

- Always** use gloves / paper towels
5 minutes cumulative

BT stops when bleeding has been controlled (plugged / covered) and headgear is on and wrestler is ready to wrestle.

Misconduct/USC /FMC (2-4 officials - lots of eyes) – **scored as usual in regional and sectional**

Misconduct (Can only happen at the table and is always assigned to the head coach)

- 1st offense is a warning**
- 2nd offense, deduct 1 team point**

3rd penalty results in head coach ejection for the entire day and a deduction of 2 team points

Unsportsmanlike conduct (can happen anywhere and is assigned to the individual committing the act)

- 1st offense, deduct 1 team point**
- 2nd penalty results in ejection for entire day and a deduction of 2 team points
- This includes coaches, contestants, and non-participating team personal (not the contestant during a match)
- If a contestant is disqualified due to USC (team points), remove from premise, they cannot place in the event, (no placement points)

Flagrant misconduct - immediate ejection for the entire day / in regionals, all points earned are deducted, 3 team points deducted – applies to all team personal

Misc.

The official and winning wrestler will verify electronic winner at the score table

3 coaches / scorekeeper / camera person per corner – no exceptions

In individual sectionals, AR will be used in the final championship match as well as the 2nd place wrestle-back matches in all divisions. This applies to both girls and boys.

All matches are 2-2-2 throughout the day, except 5th and 7th place matches for Boys Individual Sectionals

If you think there is bad time – keep your wrestler in the mat area and correct prior to the next match on that mat

Officials will **NOT** be raising hands of winning wrestlers, rather indicating a winner by raising the winning color wristband

Explain procedure for defaults / forfeits / byes.

Byes – wrestler need not report to receive the bye / wrestler must report in full uniform to receive a forfeit

Default – a wrestler may default any time after the match begins for any reason (rule 5:7) / this means any time after wrestler checks into the score table / they must take a loss

Forfeit – if wrestler fails to appear at the score table for any reason / coach must consult in advance with tournament director and AHCP to determine the ability of the athlete to continue (rule 10:2:4) / failure to do so will result in disqualification and elimination from the tournament / the wrestler does not have to take a loss for a forfeit if he does not re-enter the event, if they re-enter, a loss is recorded for the forfeit – you must take a loss if you forfeit their final match

- Your thoughts** on sportsmanship – Any questions? Have a great tournament!

SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT SEEDING

These are the guidelines for seeding wrestlers in boys sectional competition. This was taken directly from the winter season regulations.

C. Sectional seeding Information and Procedures

- (1) Tournament Management Software shall be used for seeding of all sectional tournaments.
- (2) Materials to have on hand: Computer, projector and screen.
 - (a) Tournament host should display to all coaches a list of participants by weight, not by team, with their records. For example, all 106 pound wrestlers should be listed not alphabetically but according to their record, with the best winning percentage listed first and the one with the poorest record listed last.
- (3) When drawing a bracket, State seeding criteria will be used for sectional seeding:
 - (1) Head to head competition
 - (2) Competition against common opponents
 - (3) Returning State Champion
 - (4) Returning second or third place finisher in previous season
 - (5) Returning fourth through sixth place finisher from previous season
 - (6) Sectional Champion
 - (7) Returning State qualifier in previous season
 - (8) Winning percentage in the current season
- (4) General considerations.
 - (a) Do not start your meeting early unless all coaches are present and ready to start. The meeting must be conducted by a licensed WIAA wrestling official and they will have final authority.
 - (b) The seeding meeting is a working session and attendance should be limited to coaches and at the host's option, working media. The seeding meeting should not be open to spectators.
 - (c) Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the head official will meet with each head coach in confidence and they shall verify their contestants / wt. class. This means they may alter their line up in any manner as long as the wrestler is eligible for that weight class. Coaches may not request to see nor may the official divulge other school's lineup changes during this process.
 - (d) Final line up changes will now be announced by the head official prior to the start of the seeding meeting.
 - (e) Any ground rules to be used that are not already entered into tournament management software must be established by a simple majority vote of the head coaches present with the official voting if there is a tie.
 - (f) Appeals will only be allowed for wrestlers who do not meet the criteria (10 matches) by using the following mechanisms:
 - 1) The coach making the appeal shall make a statement regarding factual information indicating a seed is justified.
 - 2) Any head coach present may either support or make a statement of disagreement regarding the request. Their opinion should also be limited to factual information.

3) A simple majority vote of the head coaches present and voting will prevail (a coach does not need to vote). A tie vote means the appeal lost. The head official may not vote on such appeals.

(g) The following ground rules should be followed.

1) All wrestlers are seeded. Those wrestlers with 10 or more matches will be seeded first.

Those with less than ten matches will be seeded immediately following.

2) The following criteria should be used to calculate record percentages.

a) A wrestler may not assume losses in order to build up their record to the minimum number of 10.

b) Only varsity experience shall be counted. It is considered varsity competition if either wrestling is representing their varsity. All varsity experience shall be counted regardless of the weight class the record was earned at.

c) Matches won by a forfeit shall be included in the win record of a wrestler. This would not apply if the whole team won by a forfeit. For example, the opposing team did not show up for the contest. Forfeit losses caused by an earlier default in a tournament shall not be included on a wrestler's record unless they return to competition in that tournament.

d) Wins and losses resulting from defaults shall be included in a wrestler's record.

e) All byes in the championship bracket or consolation bracket received during regular season tournaments will count as wins if the wrestler won their next match in the bracket.

3) A wrestler deserving a seed may not refuse nor request a lower seed.

4) All wrestlers in a bracket will be seeded and when byes exist, the highest seed(s) will receive bye(s).

Boys Wrestling Sectional Seeding Meeting Format

Only the head official will address the coaches!

1. Prior to the tournament, participating schools will provide the host school with a list of contestants / weight class by set deadline.
2. At the weigh in, coaches may shift contestants to another weight class, or entirely remove or replace them. Contestants shall be weighed in by weight class at sectionals.
3. Immediately following weigh in, all officials and coaches should report to the seeding meeting.
4. The host school shall display a list of contestants / weight class. If time permits (No delay), the host school may provide all schools with a copy of the weigh in sheets.
5. Prior to the onset of the meeting, the head official will announce any changes / weight class that were made at the WI. Coaches may also update records, spelling corrections, etc.
6. The **head official** will now announce that each school, in confidence, shall verify their contestants / wt. class. This means that they may alter their line-up in any manner as long as the wrestler is eligible for that weight class. This will be done with the head referee meeting with each head coach independently in an environment outside the seeding meeting room (hallway, etc.). The coach cannot request, and officials may not divulge how other schools have adjusted their lineup. Coaches need not meet with the head official if their lineup remains unchanged, but they may. No lineup changes may be made after this point.
7. Head official will now go back into the seeding room and announce the changes that were presented to him in confidence.
8. Begin with the 106# class for boys and display seeds as they appear on USA bracketing. USA Bracketing will seed all wrestlers.
Identify if there are any wrestlers who are below the 10-match minimum.
If an athlete does not meet the 10-match minimum, a coach may request special consideration.
The coach must request the highest appropriate seed.
Seed appeals must begin with the highest seed being requested. If multiple coaches are making seed appeals they will be taken in the order of seed and then the order which they occur.
Example: If a coach asks for a #4 seed and another coach is asking for a #3 seed, you must consider the #3 seed first and then deal with the #4 seed appeal.
Once a seed appeal is made, all seeds ranked above that are locked (Appeal for #3, #'s 1 and 2 are locked in)
The coach making the appeal shall make a statement regarding factual information indicating a seed is justified.
Any head coach present may either support or make a statement of disagreement regarding the request. His opinions should also be limited to factual information.
A simple majority vote of the head coaches present and voting will prevail (a coach does not need to vote). A tie vote means the appeal lost. The head official may not vote on such appeals.
If it passes, voting is complete and the seed is set.
If the requested seed is denied, the coach may request a lower seed, which again requires a majority vote.
If no seed placement is approved, the athlete remains placed according to the standard computer seeding process.

9. Repeat the procedure described in #8 for all 14 boys weight classes.
10. Following the seeding of wrestlers the head official should refer to the "Sectional" comments handout to address the coaches.

*Note – You may wish to read the winter season regulation seeding guidelines (in advance) as set forth by the WIAA. These may be found on the WIAA web site. It will give you a more thorough overview of the process.

Role of the “OFF MAT” Official

Must have a head official (primary communicator to meet manager)

On break official

- Get out of gym (for a short time) / clear your mind / water up
- Don't abuse break time
- Still can call USC / FMC (team points)
- May eject spectators – get contest manager
- 3 / corner and **IN THE CHAIRS** – monitor any unauthorized personnel in restricted area
- Express any concerns to head official
- Head official must become aware of any USC's & MC (team pts.)
- Do not fraternize with coaches or spectators

involve all officials throughout finals of a tournament (at all mats)

- Assistant official in all finals (including consolation) if possible
- If possible an official at mat side for all final bouts
- Public perception of idle officials / professionalism (mannerisms / behavior)
- Not a time to sit, talk, and relax – be involved

off mat official (observing) – have to draw line somewhere on involvement

- **DO** – you have limited authority
 - Pay attention (help out if needed)
 - Clock /score – sorting out points
 - Proper choice
 - Misapplications of rule
 - Penalty sequence / restart choices
 - Bad time / correction of errors
 - End of period flurries (any buzzer call) – if asked to aid or if apparent (call mat official to table – use good judgment)
 - Keep corners clean / monitor bench behavior (COACHES IN THE CHAIRS)/ monitor restricted area
 - USC / FMC on coaches / bench – bring to attention of mat official / however you have right to penalize team USC's at any time
 - Help with blood time / injury time / recovery time / referee TO (2 attending – stay away from coaches and contestants during IT / BT)
 - Summoning a trainer if necessary
 - Inform mat official of spectator concerns / mat or table concerns
 - UR / USC acts – bring to attention of referee at stoppage or ASAP if necessary
 - Safety issues / concerns / potentially dangerous holds – let mat official know
 - Blatant potentially dangerous ASAP
 - Ejection of a spectator (at any time)
 - Do convey concerns / thoughts between matches

DO NOT

- Do not get involved with IH / TV / Stalling / Starting positions
- Do not call falls or NF's or any match points
- Do not get involved in judgment calls – stay away (unless at buzzer / then involve timer & scorekeeper)
- Do not destroy mat officials confidence
- Do not disrupt the flow of match if at all possible
- Do not fraternize with coaches or spectators

Assistant Referee Overview-State Tournament 2026

Rationale: Consistency with officials, multiple eyes in the correct position and getting calls right!

A. Pre-Match

- a. Directly across from scorer's table at the edge of the 28 ft. circle
- b. Watch wrestlers as they enter the circle with head official
- c. Make sure clock is properly set (same for all starts and restarts)
- d. Move to 90 degrees with view of clock (same for all starts and restarts)

B. Starting the Match

- a. HO blows whistle to start the match, move towards 180-degree position
- b. Look to scoreboard to check clock has started, (same for all starts and stops of match)

C. During the match- COMMUNICATION IS KEY!!

- a. Stay at 130-180 degrees at the 28ft primarily, always engaged in action on the mat
- b. If points are awarded, make sure they are on the scoreboard
- c. Close down situations
 - i. Line calls/out of bounds
 - ii. End of periods
 - iii. Near fall situations
- d. Walk Byes- 1-2 per period
 - i. Reaffirming calls, positive reinforcement
 - ii. Stalling thoughts
 - iii. Appearance of engagement and communication
- e. Difference in opinions- Let's Talk
 - i. Conferences should be held away from wrestlers and coaches BRIEF!
 - ii. Head has 51% of the vote, check egos at the table before the match
- f. Communications
 - i. Locked hands-can signal
 - ii. Near Fall situations, reaffirm "good on top" "grasping clothing"
 - iii. Near Fall out of bounds-

D. Between Periods

- a. DO NOT SHOW YOUR DISC, keep it in your pocket
- b. Make sure proper choice is given
- c. Make sure clock is accurately reset
- d. Position at 90 degrees with view of clock for restart

E. Overtime

- a. Give reminders- wrestle it out if in 2-30 second tiebreakers
- b. Make sure proper choices are given
- c. Make sure clock is properly set

F. End of Match-Position to see both wrestlers and coaches leaving the circle and mat area

Again, we do this to help each other and make sure the correct call is made, do this correctly and consistently and we will be successful in achieving that goal.