

## INTERPRETATION OF SUPPORTING POINTS WHILE IN A NEAR FALL SITUATION

(11/28/2018)

**Rule 5.15.2b** – 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 a defensive wrestler's shoulder or scapula is considered to be all the supporting points.** We have been inconsistent in the interpretation of the above description of what is “inbounds” while the defensive wrestler is in a near fall situation. To go along with the continued effort to award aggressive wrestling, and improve consistency among officials, the following has been modified since the 17-18 season. If a near fall or fall is to be awarded with the offensive wrestlers supporting points out of bounds, it would be necessary to only have **any part** of one shoulder or scapula of the defensive man inbounds **and in NF criteria**. Remember, the 28 foot perimeter line is considered in bounds.

This photograph illustrates the above interpretation. The defensive wrestler is inbounds and a near fall or a fall may be earned. Notice that part of defensive wrestler's scapula is in contact with the 28 foot circle. As long as that scapula (or shoulder) is **in criteria**, they are inbounds and a NF may be earned. It is not necessary for the shoulder or scapula that is on the boundary line to remain in contact with the line.

In the above situation, if the defensive wrestler is in a high bridge or on both elbows, no shoulder or scapula is in contact with the mat, they are considered inbounds. That is because they are in NF criteria. Remember, safety is the top priority when such a large portion of both wrestlers is off the mat.

