

How to properly set up for a wrestling event



As a reminder, the MIAA start of contest announcements shall be read before ALL wrestling meets and tournaments.

The full text can be found at the link below.

[MIAA Start of Competition Announcement](#)



FOR MIAA TOURNAMENT PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCERS

Start of Contest Tournament Announcement

Welcome to this MIAA (sport) (Tournament or Championship).

Participating student athletes, coaches and contest officials have worked diligently to prepare for today's competition. Please show your appreciation by demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect for all in attendance.

Ensure that your behaviors reflect the values that should be identified with these student athletes. Assume responsibility for your behavior, and the behavior of those around you. If you require assistance please call upon an MIAA, school, or security official.

Our great Nation has persevered through the leadership and sacrifices of men and women who have served, or are currently serving, in our Armed Forces. We invite both veterans and current military personnel to stand. (Pause) We thank you for your service to our Country.

Now we invite all to stand for our National Anthem.

**[At this time teams, coaches, contest officials, etc.
could be introduced.]**

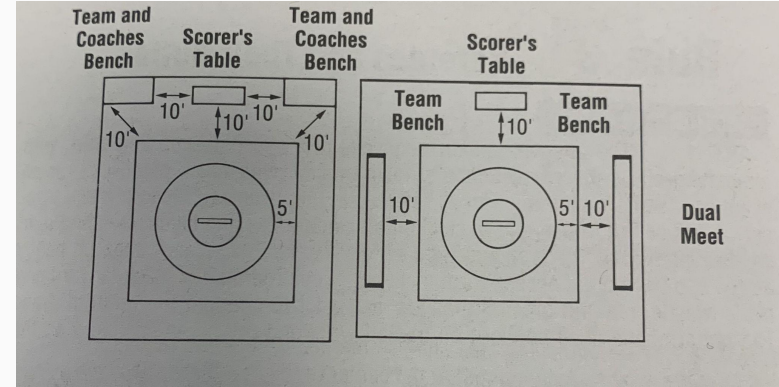
Dual Meet Set up 2-2-1

Team Benches

Rule 2-2 Art 1 “For dual meets, all team personal, **including coaches**, other than actual participating contestants **shall** be restricted to an area which is at least **10 feet** from the edge of the mat and scorers table, where facilities permit.”

NOTE: Per Rule 2-2 Art 1 - It is **NOT** permissible to have coaches on edge of mat in the corner (like a tournament).

Home contest management has the responsibility of ensure the gym is set up properly. Referees should inspect upon arrival. A visiting team coach may discuss concerns with the referee after speaking with the home contest management if there is an issue that the home team has not fixed.



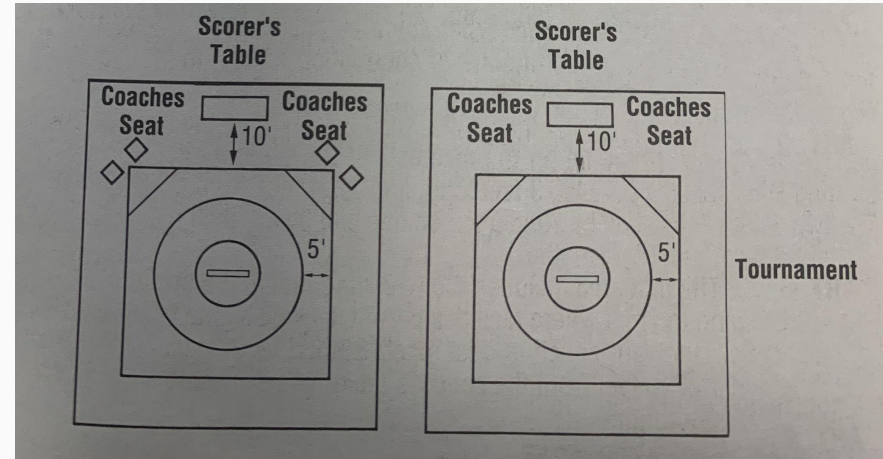
Tournament Set up Rule 2-2-2

Team Benches

Rule 2-2 Art 2 “During Tournament competition, a **maximum of two team personal (coaches and/or non-participating contestants)** will be permitted on chairs on the mat...”

Note: It is permissible to allow coaches/team personal in the corner of the mat in a restricted zone. Regardless of if chairs are used or not there shall not be more than 2 coaches/team personal in the corner.

Violations of this should be considered a violation of rule 7-5-2 (Bench decorum rule) and shall be penalized as unsportsmanlike conduct (-1 team point).



Tournament Set up

Though not required by rule, it is strongly recommended that **physical barriers** be in place for ALL in season and postseason tournament

- Helps with general crowd control
- Allows referees to clearly distinguish between coaches/team personnel who have right to be there, and parents/fans who do not
- Creates a more professional running event



Communicating with officials

Coach and Officials communication



DID YOU KNOW?



Nation wide there is a shortage of wrestling referees!

Major reasons cited:

- Online harassment
- Treatment by coaches
- Beratement by parents and fans
- Age
- Family obligations

▶ La Pine offsets referee shortage with officials mentorship program

'It is a grave need': Maine grappling with shortage of high school wrestling officials

Observer-Reporter

It's official: Shortage of refs a concern in several high school sports

Recognize the difference between advocating for athletes, and having an adversarial conversation

Communication should always be professional

Quick review of pertinent rule(s): 7-4-5
Conduct of coaches, team personal and others

Know difference between coach misconduct (Rule 5-3-5), unsportsmanlike conduct (5-30-1), and flagrant misconduct (Rule 5-12-1)

Penalty Chart on Pg 44-45 of 23-24 rule book

Rule 7-4-5 Conduct of Coaches, Team Personal, and others

- All persons affiliated with the team including wrestlers, coaches, athletic trainers and managers are subject to the rule.
- Coaches/Personal are restricted to bench/chairs/restricted zone while the match is occurring.
- Coach may approach scorers table to question mis application of a rule, the score or time.
 - Please understand that judgment calls (i.e stalling) are not something the coach should approach the the table about
- Per NFHS rules and interpretations, if a coach goes to the table to discuss the mis application of a rule, and the referee determines there has not been a misapplication of the rule, the coach shall be issued a warning for coach misconduct. A second coach misconduct results in a team point deduction.
- Arguing/protest a call from the corner fall under the rules for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Common Situations

Situation: Two high level wrestlers are battling each other in the semi-finals of the MIAA All-states. As expected, tensions and emotions are running high. Early in the third period, when the score is tied, the official recognizes the top wrestler is stalling. He blows the whistle and issues a stalling warning to the top wrestler. Upon the restart, the bottom wrestler escapes and the match finishes with a 1 pt differential.

The coach of the wrestler who has lost is upset and thinking “Why did this Ref call my guy for stalling?” Since this is a judgement call, approaching the table and asking for an interpretation isn’t a viable option. That said the coach has a few options here:

1. He can go ballistic and inflame the situation by going directly up to the referee after the match. Coaches who do this should expect to be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct and if egregious enough, flagrant misconduct.
2. The coach can wait until a later time and approach the referee for a clearer understanding of what the official observed resulting in the stalling call. Perhaps even wait until after the tournament. The coach in this situation has a much cooler head as time has passed and is looking for an honest understanding of what the official observed so he can use it to help educate his athlete in the future.

Option 2 is clearly the better more professional option

Common Situations

Situation: Two wrestlers are engaged in a back and forth match in a hotly contested league dual meet. Each wrestler has secured takedowns, multiple near falls, and reversals. At the end of the 1st period the board shows a score of 9-7 with red winning. Since there was a flurry of points, it's unclear the exact sequence of scoring to Green's coach, and he would like to confirm the score before the start of the second period. What should the coach do?

1. Scream from the team bench - "Cmon get the score right!! If this isn't hometown cooking I don't know what is!"
2. Run to the score table and yell at the official scorekeeper that they have the score wrong. Then berate the time keeper and official while they are trying to determine if the score is correct or not.
3. Approach the table and ask the referee to clarify the score. After review and the explanation from referee, when it was determined the score was correct, walk back to the bench and coach his athlete in the second period.
4. Approach the table and ask the referee to clarify the score. After review and the explanation from referee, when it was determined the score was correct, argue with referee and say "can't we get an adult running the scoreboard?"

Option 3 is clearly the better most professional option

Other Applicable Rules

Rule 3.1.2 Referee Judgement

Rule 3.1.3 Referee Jurisdiction

Rule 3.1.9 The Letter and Spirit of the Rules

Rule 3.1.13 Authority to rule on situations not specifically covered in the rules

Rule 6.6.6. Correction of Errors – page 35 & 36

Rule 7.5.1 Conduct of Coaches, Team Personnel and others. Covers persons affiliated with the team

Rule 7.5.2 Conduct of Coaches, Team Personnel and others. Bench decorum

Rule 7.5.3 Conduct of Coaches, Team Personnel and others. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Rule 7.5.4 Conduct of Coaches, Team Personnel and others. Coach misconduct

Rule 7.5.5 Conduct of Coaches, Team Personnel and others. Flagrant Misconduct

Rule 7.5.6 Conduct of Coaches, Team Personnel and others. Spectator(s)

Summary

The coach and official should always be professional with their interactions

If you see a fan abusing/berating an official, say something to them.

Fans and parents will feed off the energy and culture of the head coach.

Officials pride themselves on being professional, unbiased and preserving the integrity of sport

Encourage current and past athletes to become an official. There is a shortage nationwide at the youth, high school and collegiate level. The future of our sport depends on this.