

2014 UIL State Evaluation Criteria

MECHANICS

Positioning: You should always be in position to:

- Properly view all action including near falls and falls
- Make appropriate calls
- Stop action for potentially dangerous situations, penalties, and out-of-bounds situations

Always keep a comfortable distance from the action, far enough away during times of action to allow for a good overall view. Work to the “short side” of the mat, the side on which the wrestlers are closest to the out-of-bounds line. By assuming this position, not only does your physical presence encourage the wrestlers to stay in bounds, but it also gives you the ability to cut down the mat by decreasing the distance you need to follow the action. Position yourself in out-of-bounds situations so that you’re at a distance and angle that allows you determine control and evaluate the supporting parts of the wrestlers. Usually you can straddle the out-of-bounds line; but, this may not be appropriate if you’re concerned about a possible injury occurring due to action continuing onto the floor. When an out-of-bounds is imminent, shift your focus to the wrestlers’ supporting points.

When setting the wrestlers in the referee’s position, stand in front and to either side that allows you to view the top wrestler’s position. Maintain eye contact with both the timer and the scorekeeper.

When looking for a fall, position yourself in front of the defensive wrestler’s head and shoulders. If the view in front is obscured, take a view through the defensive wrestler’s hips. Keep at least 3 to 5 feet away and never reach in to touch the shoulders or to feel for the pin!

During injury time-outs, stand near the injured wrestler and monitor the situation.

Movement / Mobility: Movement is related to both positioning and anticipation; so focus is on the ability to keep up with the action at any speed. Movement always has a purpose; it places the official in the proper position at the proper time.

Anticipation: As a result of experience and knowledge, you should foresee the potential of any action. Running after an action is a result of poor anticipation. Anticipate where the action will end and put yourself in the best position for when, or even before, those actions occur.

Since the safety of the contestants is our #1 priority, anticipate actions, situations, and holds that may be potentially dangerous or illegal. You don’t always have to stop the action, yet you must be in a position to do so if necessary and close enough to verbally caution the wrestlers of a potentially dangerous situation.

Besides recognizing and anticipating potentially dangerous situations, anticipate situations that may become emotional. In hotly contested matches, always knows preventive actions to head off any abusive or unruly activity with participants and/or coaches.

2014 UIL State Evaluation Criteria

Match Procedures: Always follows the proper mechanics at the beginning, during, at the end of the match and throughout the tournament. When the wrestlers arrive in the center of the mat, give a quick visual check for proper equipment.

Before the match, check with both the timer and scorekeeper to see if they are ready. When stopping the match, maintain visual contact with the wrestlers in case they do not respond to the sound of the whistle. In cases of extreme crowd noise or confusion, maintain a position close enough to the wrestlers to enable them to hear the sound of his whistle easier. In extreme situations in which the wrestlers cannot or will not respond to the sound of the whistle, you may be ready to physically “tap” both wrestlers. Quickly return to the center of the mat from out-of-bounds with the first wrestler, keeping your eyes on the second for potential injury or stalling situations.

When setting the wrestlers in referee’s position, make sure that the correct wrestler is down and in a stance that enables the offensive wrestler to assume a correct starting position on top.

SIGNALS

Visual: Use only the adopted National Federation signals. When awarding points, hold up the hand with the appropriate colored wrist band high overhead and rotate it slowly so that the number of fingers may easily be seen at all angles. In each case, your hand comes up quickly and decisively as soon as the action warrants.

When asking a wrestler for his choice of position at the start of the 2nd or 3rd period, turn to the wrestler who has the selection, then both visually and verbally indicate choices. Suggest ‘Top, bottom, neutral or defer’ (defer obviously only asked in the 2nd period). At the same time, signal with the corresponding colored wrist band (palm open) up, down, neutral or defer. If the wrestler’s choice is to defer, use a crossing motion with hands in front of body (indicates defer) and then ask the other wrestler his choice of top, bottom, or neutral.

Calling a near fall, (when possible) count out loud and simultaneously (palm open) move your hand slightly upward from your chest to a fully extended position. Make sure your verbal count matches the extreme point of your visual signal. When calling a fall, the count is silent and there is no visual signal.

Verbal: The volume, intonation and intensity of verbal signals communicate both information and confidence. The verbal instructions used are only those adopted by the National Federation. Know the proper terminology and the appropriate time and place to use it. In order to promote activity, offer such verbal comments as: “center”, “action”, and “contact”.

Volume is generally dictated by the intensity of the match and crowd noise. In a fast paced match, you may need to increase the volume of verbal signals in order to counter the difficulty the wrestlers will have in following the sound. In matches where crowd noise may interfere with the ability of the wrestlers and coaches to hear, increase the volume appropriately. Your overriding priority is to communicate with the wrestlers.

You are not only communicating information, but also your own authority, confidence, and self-assurance. Therefore, intonation of verbal signals should be in the form of stimulation and command; not in the form of pleading and questioning.

2014 UIL State Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrative: This describes how you carry out your actions rather than describing the actions themselves. It measures the forcefulness and purpose of your actions, often indicted by the speed at which you make your signals. This also indicates your level of confidence - There is a fine line between confidence and arrogance and we should always strive to maintain the highest level of professionalism.

Whistle: Since the sound of a whistle starts and stops all action, it should always be clear, precise, and loud enough for all involved parties to hear and is never faltering. When starting the wrestlers, the whistle is coordinated with the movement of your hand, particularly in the case of matches involving hearing impaired wrestlers.

RULES APPLICATION

Understanding: You should not necessarily cite each rule by line and verse, but you should know each rule and when to apply it. Recognize all infractions and know the penalties for each, including sequence. Particularly in areas of potentially dangerous, or illegal holds, you must instantly recognize the situation and what action to take, including being able to translate the stated rules to the actions occurring on the mat. You should not only know the literal interpretation of each rule, but also the intent, or why the rule was written. Intent (or 'spirit of rule') deals mainly with the philosophy of the rule, including something about the evolution and history behind a particular rule. You will best obtain this knowledge from attending clinics and working with more senior, and/or experienced officials.

Spirit: In cases where the action does not call for an exact translation of a rule, judge the situation on the basis on fair play and good sportsmanship. The "Spirit of the Rule" or "Rule of Good Sportsmanship" should be paramount in officiating.

JUDGMENT

Determining Control: Determine control in a decisive and consistent manner. In attempted escapes that go out-of-bounds or are not completely finished before the end of the period, you must make a decision on control instantly, applying good judgment.

In reversal or escape situations, focus on the offensive wrestler and determine if he is able to maintain control over the defensive wrestler. Look for the defensive wrestler to establish neutrality or dominant control, rather than the offensive wrestler having lost control.

Consistency: Since judgment is your overt application or interpretation of the rules, you must be able to carry out that judgment consistently from the beginning of the match until the end, and throughout the tournament. Mentally evaluate the criteria that must be met in order to make a call and use the same evaluative procedure and criteria each time that call is made.

Edge of Mat: In situations that involve action along the edge of the mat, position yourself correctly and determine out-of-bounds, who initiates the action, who hinders the action and who is using the edge to gain an unfair advantage, penalizing accordingly.

2014 UIL State Evaluation Criteria

STALLING

Recognition: You must have an intimate knowledge, insight, and understanding into the sport of wrestling to recognize the dynamics, philosophies, and tactics of stalling and insist that both wrestlers work to improve their positions, work for a pin, takedowns, escapes, etc. It is rare for both wrestlers to be attacking equally. There is often an ebb and flow within a match. You must determine who is working harder, or even, who is working more sincerely.

You must be able to recognize the difference between sincere effort and those actions that are meant to make the wrestler look busy, or that are fake. Discern between a wrestler who is unable to execute a move and one that can execute but will not, many officials wrongly call the inferior wrestler for stalling.

Consistency: The actions or inactions that would warrant a stalling call at the end of a match should also be penalized at the beginning. The official establishes a standard that is applicable throughout the tournament, and although the situations, pressures, and flow will vary, the criteria and application remain the same.

MATCH CONTROL

Communication: Communicate information to all interested parties in a clear, precise, and efficient manner. The information is given in the simplest terms and in the shortest time possible.

With wrestlers, be direct and to the point. Wrestlers often have reduced capacity to understand complex instructions during a match. With coaches be unemotional and specific, and realize you may have to professionally give them information to eliminate confusion.

Communicate clearly and succinctly with both the time and scorekeeper. Ensure that your verbal and visual signals are the official ones and are always clearly understood. You should have a goal of not looking at the table when awarding points and always try to keep the wrestlers between you and table when communicating. This can only be accomplished by establishing a rapport with your table workers.

Poise: You must always keep your composure, especially in difficult situations. Show firmness in your application of the rules, and don't be intimidated by coaching staffs, other officials or fans. In volatile situations remain calm, self-assured, and professional at all times. In dealing with highly emotional situations, remember that you have the necessary authority to keep control of the situation and you must keep a controlled dialogue, including eliminating all parties that are not essential to the discussion.

In difficult situations on the mat, always collect your thoughts and make a deliberate judgment. Make these in a timely manner, but follow the philosophy that it is better to make the right decision rather than a rash one.

Flow: A match should flow smoothly, be well paced, and not be unduly interrupted with unnecessary stopping and starting. You should encourage wrestlers to keep the action going and to improve their positions. Do not stop the action for minor problems and be sensitive to such stalling tactics as straggling back from out-of-bounds or pulling up one's socks. In cases of injury, maintain vigilance over the athlete's care and make sure that they are treated for an injury. Ensure that time does not go beyond the prescribed limit by indicating to the coach the amount of time remaining. When time has expired, the wrestler must be ready to wrestle as if coming from an out-of-bounds situation.