

# Rule Book & Guide to Wrestling

FREESTYLE, GRECO-ROMAN & FEMALE WRESTLING

2017 Edition—FOR ALL AGE DIVISIONS

\*The official UWW rules book supersedes this publication at all times. This rule book does not reflect rule modifications for UWW qualifiers or international competitions.

**USA**wrestling  
**/USWOA**



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# Foreword

Wrestling, like all other sports, obeys rules that constitute the “Rule of the Game” and define its practice, the aim of which is to “pin” the opponent or to win by scoring more points.

Greco-Roman (G/R) and Freestyle (F/S) wrestling basically differ as follows:

In Greco-Roman Wrestling, it is strictly forbidden to grasp the opponent below the beltline or to trip him or to use the legs **actively** on his opponent to perform any action.

In Freestyle and Women’s Wrestling (WW), however, it is permissible to grasp the legs of the opponent, to trip him or her and to use the legs actively to perform any action.

Beach Wrestling and Folkstyle Wrestling are subject to specific regulations.

Frequently modified and always subject to further modification, the rules set forth herein must be known and accepted by all wrestlers, coaches, referees and leaders. They call upon those who practice the sport to fight totally and universally, with complete honesty and fair play for the pleasure of the spectators. This rulebook is being continually updated at this ULR link: <http://www.uswoa.com/page/show/1453167-current-uwv-fila-and-usaw-rule-modifications-for-officials-and-coaches->

## **Modern Wrestling**

This rulebook contains the USA Wrestling rules pertaining to Freestyle and Greco-Roman styles of wrestling, as dictated by the international governing body of wrestling, United World Wrestling (UWW), and modified for age-group competition within the United States. All Senior, University and UWW age group events sanctioned in the United States will adhere to the UWW rules with some modification to the pairings procedures, weigh-ins and protest procedures.

*This rulebook is fluid--UWW makes adjustments to the rules periodically to help the sport adapt to changes it sees during higher level competitions, which trickle down to all levels in our domestic system. The rules are generally made with the Senior athlete in mind, but appropriate modifications to these rules are made by USA Wrestling to cater towards the younger athlete in terms of ability and overall safety. Officials will use tactics, commands, and strict application of the rules to see that the ideals of total universal wrestling are adhered to.*

Regardless of what rules are utilized, there are some basic principles that govern wrestling and the application of any rules currently in place or that shall be adopted in the future. The principles are as follows:

**Universal wrestling:** Universal wrestling is a quality which enriches the sport. Universal wrestling requires a variety of actions and holds, and the development of new techniques. It applies to wrestling in the standing and par terre positions. The wrestler must strive to master the techniques involved in as many scoring actions as possible. The wrestler, who exhibits diversity in their performance throughout the match, is wrestling universally. This mentality exists in both offensive and defensive situations where wrestlers are expected to attack and counterattack continuously during the match.

**Passivity:** penalty for not actively scoring points or attempting to score points. Any attempt to avoid wrestling — by blocking, by pushing, by going out of bounds, by “playing the edge” can be deemed to be passivity. In matches where neither athlete is scoring many points, passivity can be called to help stimulate scoring. Passivity is not to be confused with “fleeing.”

**Risk:** Risk is the willingness of the wrestler to expose themselves to the possible loss of position or points during attempts to score against their opponent. The courage to take risks is a quality of the strong wrestler. The coach must insist upon development of this quality and instill this quality in all wrestlers. The concept of risk in wrestling should not be misinterpreted; it does not mean that the wrestler can execute a hold improperly and not lose points or the advantage of their position.

## **Age Group Competition**

**2017 MEN'S AGE DIVISIONS and WEIGHT CLASSES**

<b>AGE DIVISIONS</b>	<b>BIRTH DATES</b>	<b>FREESTYLE/GRECO MATCH TIME LIMITS</b>	<b>FOLKSTYLE TIME LIMITS</b>	<b>WEIGHT CLASSES</b>
<b>BANTAM</b>	Born 2009-2010	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	All rounds: Three one-minute periods	40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 75+ (15 lbs. maximum difference)
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	Born 2007-2008	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	All rounds: Three one-minute periods	50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 87, 95, 103, 112, 120, 120, 120+ (20 lbs. maximum difference)
<b>NOVICE</b>	Born 2005-2006	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: One one-minute and two 1:30 periods Consolation: three one-minute periods	60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 112, 120, 130, 140, 140+ (25 lbs. maximum difference)
<b>SCHOOLBOY</b>	Born 2003-2004	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: One one-minute and two 1:30 periods Consolation: three one-minute periods	70, 77, 84, 91, 98, 105, 112, 120, 128, 136, 144, 152, 160, 175, 190, 210, 265
<b>CADET</b>	Born 2001-2002	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: Three two-minute periods Consolation: One one-minute and two two-minute periods	88, 94, 100, 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220, 285
<b>UWW CADET</b>	Born 2000-2002	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	<b>(IN KG)</b> 39-42, 46, 50, 54, 58, 63, 69, 76, 85, 85-100, 125
<b>JUNIOR</b>	Born 9/1/1997 & after, plus enrolled in grades 9-12	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: Three two-minute periods Consolation: One one-minute and two two-minute periods	100, 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220, 285
<b>UWW JUNIOR</b>	Born 1997-1999; Born 1999 w/medical certificate	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	<b>(IN KG)</b> 46-50, 55, 60, 63, 66, 70, 74, 79, 84, 96, 120
<b>UNIVERSITY FREESTYLE</b>	At least 17 & less than 28 years old on 01/01/2017 & athlete must have graduated from high school	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	<b>(IN KG)</b> 57, 61, 65, 70, 74, 80, 86, 97, 125
<b>UNIVERSITY GRECO</b>	At least 17 & less than 28 years old on 01/01/2017 & athlete must have graduated from high school	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	<b>(IN KG)</b> 59, 63, 66, 71, 75, 80, 85, 98, 130
<b>SENIORS U23</b>	Born 1994-1998; Born 1999 with medical certificate	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	Same as Senior Division with respect to specific style
<b>SENIOR FREESTYLE</b>	Born 1997 or before 1998-1999 with medical certificate	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	<b>(IN KG)</b> 57, 61, 65, 70, 74, 86, 97, 125
<b>SENIOR GRECO</b>	Born 1997 or before 1998-1999 with medical certificate	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	<b>(IN KG)</b> 59, 66, 71, 75, 80, 85, 98, 130
<b>USA WRESTLING MASTERS (ALL STYLES)</b>	Div. A: Born during the years of 1983 and 1992 Div. B: Born during the years of 1974 and 1982 Div. C: Born during the years of 1965 and 1973 Div. D: Born during the years of 1956 and 1964 Div. E: Born during the years of 1947 and 1955	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: One one-minute and two 1:30 periods Consolation: Three one-minute periods	<b>(IN KG)</b> 50-58, 63, 69, 76, 85, 97, 97-130

*-ITALICIZED INDICATES OLYMPIC WEIGHT CATEGORIES USED DURING OLYMPICS AND OLYMPIC GAME QUALIFYING EVENTS*

*-IN F/S AND G/R EVENTS, ALL SCHOOLBOY LEVEL WRESTLERS AND YOUNGER ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE A COACH PRESENT DURING THEIR MATCH. IN FOLKSTYLE EVENTS, THIS IS NOT MANDATORY.*

## 2017 WOMEN'S AGE DIVISIONS and WEIGHT CLASSES

AGE DIVISIONS	BIRTH DATES	FREESTYLE/GRECO MATCH TIME LIMITS	FOLKSTYLE TIME LIMITS	WEIGHT CLASSES
INTERMEDIATE	Born 2008-2010	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	All rounds: Three one-minute periods	45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 85+
NOVICE	Born 2005-2007	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: One one-minute and two 1:30 periods Consolation: three one-minute periods	60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 102, 110, 118, 118+
SCHOOLGIRL	Born 2003-2004	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: One one-minute and two 1:30 periods Consolation: three one-minute periods	66**, 70**, 74**, 81, 89, 97, 105, 113, 120, 128, 137, 145, 155, 175, 195
CADET	Born 2001-2002	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: Three two-minute periods Consolation: One one-minute and two two-minute periods	84, 88, 95, 101, 108, 115, 124, 132, 143, 154, 172, 198
UWW CADET	Born 2000-2002	Two two-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	(IN KG) 36-38, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 56, 60, 65, 70, 78, 84, 100
JUNIOR	Born 9/1/1997 & after, plus enrolled in grades 9-12	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: Three two-minute periods Consolation: One one-minute and two two-minute periods	97, 105, 112, 117, 121, 125, 130, 139, 148, 159, 172, 198
UWW JUNIOR	Born 1997-1999; Born 1998 w/medical certificate	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	(IN KG) 40-44, 48, 51, 55, 59, 63, 67, 72, 79.5*
UNIVERSITY	Born 1993-1999 & athlete must have graduated from high school	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	(IN KG) 48, 53, 55, 58, 63, 69, 75
SENIORS U23	Born 1994-1998; Born 1999 with medical certificate	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	(IN KG) 48, 53, 55, 58, 60, 63, 69, 75
SENIOR	Born 1997 or before 1998-1999 with medical certificate	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	N/A	(IN KG) 48, 53, 55, 58, 60, 63, 69, 75
USA WRESTLING MASTERS (WOMEN'S FREESTYLE)	Div. A: Born during the years of 1983 and 1992 Div. B: Born during the years of 1974 and 1982 Div. C: Born during the years of 1965 and 1973	Two three-minute periods with 30 second rest b/w periods	Championship: One one-minute and two 1:30 periods Consolation: Three one-minute periods	(IN KG) 50-58, 63, 69, 76, 85, 97, 97-130

-\*\*INDICATES SCHOOLGIRL WEIGHT CLASSES ONLY USED TO DETERMINE PanAM SCHOOLGIRL TEAM

-ITALICIZED INDICATES OLYMPIC WEIGHT CATEGORIES USED DURING OLYMPICS AND OLYMPIC GAME QUALIFYING EVENTS

- \*NOT A UWW WEIGHT UTILIZED INTERNATIONALLY

-IN F/S AND G/R EVENTS, ALL SCHOOLGIRL LEVEL WRESTLERS AND YOUNGER ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE A COACH PRESENT DURING THEIR MATCH. IN FOLKSTYLE EVENTS, THIS IS NOT MANDATORY.

Please note the 30 second rest time is from whistle to whistle, do not allow extra rest time talking to coaches. It is not 30 seconds talking to the coach.

## Competition Procedure

### Weigh-In Procedure

- No wrestler may be accepted at the weigh-in if they have not undergone a medical examination within the time period stipulated in the regulations governing the competition in question. Medical examinations are always performed before the weigh-in at all levels of competition.
- Wrestlers must show their USA card and registration form to receive a weigh-in card.
- The contestants will be weighed wearing their "competition singlet\*" without modifications and without their shoes after having been examined by qualified trainers and/or physicians who are obliged to eliminate any wrestler who presents any danger of contagious disease.
- No weight tolerance will be allowed for the singlet at any age level.
- Wrestlers should not be allowed to change out of their singlets into their normal attire in the weigh-in area. The wrestlers should be directed to a private area away from the weigh-in area to change their clothes.
- Contestants must be in perfect physical condition, with their fingernails cut very short. A wrestler's face and/or head hair (if short in appearance) must be cleanly shaven or have growth that is non-abrasive.
- For all competitions, wrestlers may only weigh-in at one weight.
- Any means of drastic weight reduction is strictly prohibited. The practice of dehydration by use of rubber, plastic or rubberized nylon suits, hot rooms, hot showers, hot boxes, saunas, steam rooms, heating devices, diuretics, emetics, laxatives, excessive food or fluid restriction and self induced vomiting is a violation of USA Wrestling

rules. Violation of these rules shall cause the individual(s) to be disqualified from the competition. Athletes may not leave the weigh-in area or initiate any activity for means of weight reduction.

- For Cadet & Junior Division National Championships multiple day weigh-ins have been adopted and weigh-ins shall occur a maximum of 4 hours prior to initial competition. For the second day weigh-in a 2 lb allowance shall be given.
- For the Kids FS/GR Nationals and Kids/Cadet Regional Competitions, weigh-ins shall occur as established by the Kids/Cadet Council and Region Councils, respectively. For Kids/Cadet Region competition, an athlete may weigh-in for both styles at the first style's initial weigh-in if competing in the first style. For National Competition in the Kids Division, wrestlers need only weigh-in once if competing in both styles.
- For all Junior Division Regionals, weigh-ins shall occur a maximum of three and minimum of two hours prior to competition on the first day of competition, and athletes may weigh-in for both styles at the first style's initial weigh-in if competing in the first style. For all other divisions weigh-ins shall occur as established by their respective National Councils or Sports Committee.
- For all Kids, Cadet, UWW Cadet, Junior, UWW Junior, and University division regional and national events, weigh-ins shall begin at the designated time to conclusion, except when the competition is a qualifying event for a World level competition. In that case, UWW rules shall apply, with USA Wrestling modifications. All athletes must be present at the beginning of the designated weigh-in time. Athletes shall have two consecutive attempts to make weight, the initial attempt when called to the scale and an immediate challenge of another tournament provided scale or designated "over" scale located in close proximity to the initial weigh-in scale(s).
- For Kids, Cadet, UWW Cadet and Junior divisions, a wrestler who does not weigh-in, or fails to make weight according to the above restrictions, cannot place and is eliminated. No other athletes may be moved up, outside the final four in each pool, for placing purposes. This rule does not apply to wrestlers issued a red medical alert form.
- All competitors in Masters Class C, D and E must present a letter of medical clearance at USA Wrestling National Events medical check to weigh in that states the competitor is cleared to compete without any restriction. The letter must state that the competitor has the cardiovascular ability to compete in an intense, vigorous competition per UWW Regulations. The letter must be dated within 90 days of competition. The letter must clearly identify the location and contact information for the MD or DO who authorized the athlete for competition.

\*Officials responsible for the weigh-in must check that the wrestler's singlet is the singlet they will use for the competition. The singlet must be colored predominantly a clearly distinguishable shade of red or blue (other colors may be mixed with red or blue, but the singlet must still be clearly red or blue). For Cadet and Junior Division National Championships ("Fargo"), athletes must wear their state approved singlet. For males, either a high cut or low cut singlet is allowed. *Only for the USAW Senior Team Trials shall athletes be required to wear the "high cut" singlet (predominantly red or blue) as stipulated by UWW. The use of a two-piece singlet/uniform is not allowed at any Freestyle or Greco-Roman USAW Regional or National Championship. Folkstyle wrestlers are allowed to wear a two-piece singlet/uniform provided the following conditions are met: shorts must be either compression or board shorts and tops must be a tight-fitting sleeveless, short, or long sleeve shirt (shorts shall not be excessively baggy or have pockets, buttons, or snaps).* **For any regional, national, or international competitions held in the United States, women competitors in all age divisions must wear a womens cut singlet.**

### **The Bout**

- The use of protective headgear of a type required for scholastic wrestling is authorized and recommended in Junior, Cadet, and UWW Cadet competition. Headgear is allowed in Masters, Senior, U23, University and UWW Junior competition, but must be removed at the request of the opponent unless it is worn for a certified medical reason. **Headgear is mandatory for all Schoolboy/girl and younger in all USAW Regional and National Championships.** In any division, a face mask is allowed only to protect an existing injury, or an injury occurring during the bout, and must be prescribed by a medical doctor or the event's chief medical officer.
- Wrestlers must wear shoes designed specifically for wrestling, with firm ankle support. Furthermore, competitors are required to tape their shoe laces down (wrestlers must provide their own tape) or wear a wrestling shoe fixed with an apparatus that prevents unfastening of the laces. If the laces of a wrestler come undone during a match, that wrestler can be penalized by his/her opponent receiving one point.
- Women wrestlers must wear a properly fitting sports bra underneath their singlets.

**All wrestlers are prohibited to:**

- Wear bandages on wrists, arms or ankles except in the case of injury and on doctor's orders. These bandages must be covered with elastic straps. Hard (knee) braces must be covered with a minimum of ½ inch closed cell neoprene padding. The chief medical officer or head athletic trainer (or if unavailable, the head wrestling official), prior to competition, has final approval for any accessory taping or protective equipment.
- Wearing any tape on only one finger. Tape can be worn to provide support to two or more fingers. Again, the chief medical officer or head athletic trainer has final approval of any accessory taping worn by the athlete.
- Apply any greasy or sticky substance to the body.
- Arrive at the mat perspiring for the beginning of the first or second periods of a match. It is the responsibility of the coach and the wrestler to report dry and "toweled down". Referees may not mandate that wrestlers "dry off" during the middle of a period.
- It is forbidden to wear earrings, barrettes, bracelets, rings, or any metal or rigid object, as well as men's wrestling singlet with a T-shirt underneath. Female wrestlers are prohibited from wearing underwire bras.
- The wrestlers must come to the mat fully dressed and prepared to wrestle. If the athletes do not come to the match prepared, they are allowed one minute to conform to the rules, otherwise risking disqualification from the match. Under no circumstances are the athletes allowed to change their singlet mat side—this must be done in a private area at the arena.

***The Mat***

The official international mat consists of four distinct areas:

- The **Center area**, which is a 7-meter diameter circle.
- The **Starting area**, which is a one-meter circle in the very center of the mat.
- The **Passivity zone**, which is a one-meter band around the perimeter of the Center area. The passivity zone may be marked by taping a line of dashes inside the out-of-bounds line.
- The **Protection area**, which should extend a minimum of 1.5 meters beyond the Passivity zone.
- The inner 10-foot folkstyle circle has no meaning internationally, and when standing, the contestants start in the middle, facing each other about a meter apart. It is not mandatory that the athletes begin the match or subsequent restarts on any "starting" lines.
- One corner of the mat should be marked in red and the other in blue, so the wrestlers and the coaches know where to report. This can be done with colored chairs, with colored plywood under the chairs, or simply with red and blue signs. The red corner should be on the referee's left as he faces the judge's table. UWW approved mats are not required for domestic competition.
- For local and state level competitions for the age groups Schoolboy/girl and lower, mats less than full size but not less than a quarter of a full sized (standard) mat may be used when necessary. Adequate protection around all mats should be in place.
- The protection area must be clearly marked. Each pair of wrestlers is entitled to a wrestling area devoid of obstructions, including other wrestlers, coaches and observers, etc.
- On mats where a line is used to indicate the out-of-bounds, the outermost edge of that line is considered as the true out-of-bounds. For purposes of this rule, the line itself is still considered part of the wrestling area.
- The area around the mats should be large enough to accommodate a table for the mat chairman and volunteer clock controllers, a table for the judge, one or two score clocks, and any necessary video equipment used. There should still remain adequate space for the protection of the athletes.

***The Refereeing Body***

All officials should look professional and well groomed. Jewelry, outside of a wedding ring and watch to accurately determine the end time of a match, should not be worn. The official's uniform for the USWOA shall include: a black polo shirt, gray trousers, black belt, black socks and black shoes. The officials will wear a blue armband on their right wrist and a red armband on their left wrist. They shall have a functioning whistle and lanyard available.

If possible, each bout should consist of three officials—a mat chairman, a referee, and a judge. However, if the size of the tournament at local, state, and regional events exceeds the available number of officials, it is acceptable to not use three officials. Decisions must be made unanimously or by majority in all cases of judgment. The mat chairman is seen as the leader of the crew, whose opinion is only necessary when the referee and judge disagree in evaluation of the match. However, it is necessary that the mat chairman approve all cases of fall and in all cases of passivity in both F/S and G/R.. In no way is the mat chairman allowed to change the call of the referee or judge without consultation of the entire crew. It is also the duty of the mat chairman to confer with his or her crew when they see a blatant misapplication of a rule. Further, the mat chairman is allowed to call a consultation with the crew and if necessary, request to watch the video of a questioned action without an official challenge being issued by a coach or athlete. The mat chairman is the only person that is allowed to confer with the coaches if they have a question.

The judge's duties include calling actions and holds as they see them. They may initiate calls, including falls, if they feel the referee was not in proper position to evaluate those actions. The referee's main duties include maintaining the safety of the wrestlers at all times, starting and stopping the match appropriately, and in most cases, being the first to offer their judgment in evaluating actions. It is essential for the referees to move with the wrestlers and anticipate the actions of the wrestlers to be in the best position to evaluate actions as they occur.

The referee shall use proper UWW vocabulary in a loud and assertive manner during the course of a match to inform the wrestlers to be more offensive, to stay in the center of the mat, or to warn them about any impending penalties they may be subject to if they do not change what they are doing. It is also essential that the referee use hand gestures to indicate which wrestler is being warned to help the other officials, coaches and spectators understand what they are looking for. UWW vocabulary includes:

- *ACTION*: to inform one or both wrestlers to wrestle more aggressively and actively try to improve position or to attempt more scoring actions.
- *CONTACT*: to inform a wrestler to place his/her hands on the back of their opponent in a par terre starting position or to assume body-to-body contact in the standing position. This term is often used for wrestlers who are failing to engage holds with their opponent.
- *OPEN*: the wrestler must alter their position to allow their opponent to take hold. Often used when wrestlers are "clammed up" while in par terre, interlocking fingers, or blocking holds of their opponent in a standing position.
- *NO BLOCK*: used to warn a wrestler that they are using their hands, arms or head to block offensive activity from his or her opponent and must change tactics to allow their opponent to take hold
- *ATTENTION*: used to warn wrestlers of an illegal action or impending penalty. Often tied to passivity or fleeing type actions as well as potential leg fouls in Greco-Roman.
- *HEAD UP*: used to inform the wrestler to raise their head to avoid using the head as a weapon and/or blocking tool.
- *CONTINUE*: used if the wrestlers stop due to confusion (a whistle on an adjacent mat, e.g.) or if the wrestlers should continue an action where a potential score is developing slowly.
- *ZONE*: used to inform a wrestler that they have entered the 1 meter outer perimeter of the mat area and that they are close to going into the protection area.
- *CENTER*: used to inform the wrestlers to attain position away from the out-of-bounds and closer to the starting area on the mat
- *PLACE*: used to inform the defensive wrestler in par terre that they are getting close to the boundary and should make an effort to stay in the wrestling area.
- *NO FINGERS*: this is to inform the wrestlers to quit grabbing or interlocking fingers from any position on the mat. If twisting is involved, this is an illegal hold and should be penalized immediately. If a wrestler continues to grab fingers after a verbal "open" command has been given, the wrestler at fault will be penalized with a caution and his opponent will receive two points.



### **CALL TO THE MAT**

The wrestlers are either called to the mat or their bout number and assigned mat are indicated on a revolving TrackWrestling screen located at the wrestling venue. Wrestlers are only guaranteed a 15 minute rest between bouts in all styles, including Folkstyle (20 minutes per UWW rules to only be used in UWW events). However, this rule will not apply to events that serve as a world championship trials event or qualifier for a trials event where the rest time will be 30 minutes. If a wrestler is not present at the time of his/her bout, they will be called over a loudspeaker three times at 30-second intervals. If after the third call the wrestler is not present, he/she will be disqualified from that match and the opponent will win by default.

### **INTERRUPTION OF THE BOUT**

- The referee is obligated to stop the match if they determine a situation to be potentially dangerous and could possibly cause harm to either wrestler. The mat chairman should also have an active role in recognizing potentially dangerous actions and inform the referee if they believe the match should be stopped. Wrestling will restart in the standing position.
- If a wrestler is clearly injured or is bleeding, the bout must be stopped immediately. If the wrestler that is injured/bleeding was the defensive wrestler while in par terre, wrestling will resume in the par terre position. If it was the offensive wrestler, wrestling will resume in the standing position. Wrestlers are allowed a maximum of two minutes injury time and five minutes of blood time (time for cleanup of the athletes or mats is not included in this blood time allotment). For UWW Cadet, UWW Junior, University, U23, Masters or Senior athletes, **a maximum of 4 minutes of blood time will be allowed**. If the bout cannot be continued due to medical reasons, the competition doctor/trainer in charge has the full authority to not allow the injured athlete to continue. This decision cannot be contested.
- No athlete is allowed to take the initiative to interrupt the bout by choosing to wrestle in the standing position from par terre or by pulling his opponent back to the center from the edge of the mat. If after an “attention” the athlete does this again, they will be penalized by a caution and two points to their opponent.
- Athletes should be given a reasonable amount of time to complete actions from all positions, assuming an action is imminent. If, however, the athlete is given multiple times to score a given action to no avail or has been given adequate time to develop a scoring maneuver to no avail, the referee shall stop the match and restart the wrestlers in a standing position. Confirmation for this procedure is not required. **There is no time limit that dictates when the referee should stop the match. If the offensive wrestler is working hard towards a scoring maneuver and not “faking it”, the referee is obliged to allow this to continue as long as they like.**
- Out-of-bounds is determined by:
  - a. one opponent having the entirety of their foot outside the boundary area while in a standing position
  - b. the whole head of the defensive wrestler **touches** the protection area while in par terre
  - c. the pinning points/chest of the defensive wrestler, while in par terre, are in the protection area, but not necessarily touching the protection area.
  - d. if, while in the standing position, the offensive wrestler has his/her opponent lifted completely off the mat and is in complete control, the offensive wrestler steps with both feet outside of the boundary, this will be deemed to be out-of-bounds. In this same scenario, the offensive wrestler will be allowed to finish his/her throw if they have one foot outside the boundary and complete their action in one continuous motion but should be stopped immediately once two feet step outside the boundary, assuming no throwing action has started yet.
- If a line is used to indicate the out-of-bounds, the outside portion of that line is considered the true “out-of-bounds.” If a wrestler starts an action while in the wrestling area, that action will be allowed to continue and scored appropriately if it goes out-of-bounds, regardless of which athlete touches the protection area first. **However, counteractions cannot be scored out-of-bounds. For example, if Red starts a head and arm throw in bounds causing Blue to go to his or her back out-of-bounds and then**

**Blue initiates a roll through, only the head and arm throw should score. The roll through is not valid since Blue went out-of-bounds prior to starting the roll through.**

- All illegal actions (fleeing the hold, fleeing the mat, leg fouls in G/R) should be scored appropriately with wrestling resuming in the position in which the infractions occurred. Control is not required to determine what position the wrestlers will restart after a fleeing the hold or fleeing the mat scenario. Par terre simply refers to mat wrestling, whereby control is not required to be in this position. **For example, if Red snaps Blue down into a front headlock with Blue's knees on the mat and Blue decides to push himself out of bounds to avoid being turned, fleeing the mat could be called and the wrestler's would restart in par terre, Red being on top.** All lifts that start in a par terre position where a foul occurs by the defensive wrestler in the process of being lifted and/or thrown should be restarted in par terre.
- If a challenge is requested by a coach within approximately 5 seconds of the score being put on the scoreboard or of the action at question occurring, the mat chairman will order the referee to stop the bout when the athletes have attained a neutral position and no more scoring is imminent. **If the athlete chooses not to want the challenge, it is his or her prerogative to inform the referee that they don't want to challenge prior to the review being initiated. Referees will no longer ask the athlete if they want to challenge.** The mat chairman and head official will then review the video of the last scoring action and determine the proper scoring decision. The only situations in which a challenge will not be allowed is in the case of a confirmed fall or in situations of passivity. The actions leading to the fall or the time left in the match before the confirmed call can be challenged but the fall itself is not challengeable. The challenge is only available at designated national competitions.

### ***END OF THE BOUT***

Bouts may be won by:

- Fall: commonly referred to as "pin." In the Schoolboy/girl level and younger, falls are two seconds of shoulder/scapulae compression. A hand motion indicating the two count is recommended. At the Cadet level through Seniors, falls are one second. **There is no such thing as a "touch" fall.** Both shoulders/scapulae of the defending wrestler must compress the mat simultaneously for the allotted time and the offensive wrestler must exhibit complete control of the defensive wrestler to achieve a "fall." Falls in the protection area are not valid—the head of the defensive wrestler must be in bounds for a fall to be considered valid. The referee and/or judge raises the hand of the offensive wrestler to request confirmation from the mat chairman for a fall. It is not obligatory for all three officials to offer an opinion when a fall call is requested, but the mat chairman must approve of the fall for it to be official. Once the fall is confirmed by the mat chairman, the referee should gently slap the mat and blow their whistle to end the match. The mat chairman, if not in the best position to see a fall, should respect the position of the referee and judge in relation to the athletes in determining whether a fall has been attained in making his or her official decision. [Video](#)
- By injury, withdrawal, default, or disqualification of the opponent (brutality or 3 cautions for rules infractions)
- By technical superiority—USA rules indicate that technical superiority is a difference in ten (10) points for F/S and G/R at the Junior level and younger. At the U23, University, Senior, UWW Cadet, and UWW Junior events, technical superiority is 10 points in F/S and 8 points in G/R. If a wrestler attains the point difference for technical superiority during the course of completing an action and the defending wrestler immediately produces a counterattack in bounds, that counterattack is valid and should be scored. In other words, there can be no pause from the offensive action to the counteraction. If after that scoring sequence there is no longer technical superiority, the match should continue without stoppage. It is the duty of the mat chairman to inform the referee to stop the match if technical superiority has been attained. [Video](#)

- By decision—one opponent has scored more points or has won based off of criteria.
  - If the point total is equal at the end of a match, the following criteria will determine the winner, in this order:
    1. Highest value scoring actions (most 5 point actions, most 4 point actions, most 2 point actions)
    2. Least number of accrued cautions
    3. Last point scored
- Once the bout has concluded, the mat chairman should confirm the winner by holding his/her hand or paddle in the air corresponding to the color of the winning wrestler. The referee shall raise the hand of the winner in the direction of the chairman, and while holding the wrists of both wrestlers, rotate them towards the judge as they raise the hand of the winner. At this point, the referee will have the athletes shake each other's hand and of the opposing coach. It is not obligatory for the athletes to shake the hands of the refereeing crew. The headgear, if worn can be removed and held by the athlete but must not be thrown towards the coach or any spectator. The singlet straps of either athlete must stay up until the athlete has left the wrestling area. If an athlete refuses to shake his/her competitor's hand or the hand of the opposing coach, they could be disqualified from the match (no classification points) or if egregious, be disqualified from the competition. [Video](#)

### **VALUE ASSIGNED TO ACTIONS AND HOLDS**

In order to fully understand values assigned to certain holds, certain terms must be clarified:

- PAR TERRE: simply refers to mat wrestling where the wrestlers are in no advantage position (think of a front headlock) or where one wrestler is in the dominant position on top.
- NEUTRAL POSITION: where neither wrestler is at an advantage in a standing position
- DEFENDABLE POSITION: where the defensive wrestler has his or her chest facing the mat in a par terre position. The defensive wrestler must attain a defendable position in order for the offensive wrestler to score multiple times off the same maneuver.
- CORRECT HOLD/ACTION: an action by the offensive wrestler that causes his or her opponent to change direction or move through the air but does not cause the opponent to expose his or her back towards the mat. This situation can occur either in a standing or par terre position. It is the job of the officiating team to reward risk and good technique, hence the rewarding for "correct holds/throws." [Video](#)
- DANGER: refers to the position of the defensive wrestler when their back is exposed past 90 degrees. When a defensive wrestler has his or her back exposed towards the mat, his or her head, shoulder, or elbow must be in contact with the mat to be considered to be in a "danger" position. [Video](#)
- TURN: where the offensive wrestler causes the defensive wrestler to rotate his or her torso but does not hit any points of danger while being rotated. This position often occurs during an ankle lace where the defensive wrestler is in a "sitting" position as they are being turned. [Video](#) [Video](#)
- SLIP: where an offensive wrestler makes a solid attempt at a throw or other scoring action but is unsuccessful through no effort by the defensive wrestler. The offensive wrestler must return to a neutral position and not land directly on his or her shoulders during the action for it to be considered a "slip." The referee must get confirmation from either the judge or mat chairman prior to stopping the match if they believe a slip occurred. Restarts will occur in the standing position. Slips can occur from either a standing or par terre position. [Video](#)
- TAKEDOWN: awarded to the wrestler who takes his opponent to the mat with control and the defensive wrestler hit 3 points of contact (head, hands, and knees). All takedowns are worth two points. To achieve a takedown the offensive wrestler must:
  - Pass behind their opponent from a neutral position, take their opponent down to the mat from a standing position, or gain control of both legs of his or her opponent while that wrestler is on his or her hip or in a sitting position on his or her backside while the plane of the defensive wrestler's back is less than 90 degrees towards the mat or the defensive wrestler plants their hand on the mat.

- o **Examples that are not takedowns** - if the offensive wrestler spins behind his or her opponent and the defensive wrestler attains a quadpod position, it is not considered a takedown until the defensive wrestler's head, elbow or knee contact the mat. The "Merkle" position, where one wrestler has his/her leg encircled inside the leg of his or her opponent while in par terre and have the head and arm of their opponent locked at the same time is not considered a takedown in international wrestling because the offensive wrestler has not passed behind the defensive wrestler. The hips of the defensive athlete must be covered for the offensive wrestler to achieve a takedown.
- o **Specific Situation** - a near-side cradle is not considered a takedown until the offensive wrestler breaks the defensive wrestler down to the mat in a flat lying position.
- **REVERSAL:** rewarded to the defensive wrestler who is able to overcome the dominant offensive wrestler from a par terre position and gain control. All reversals are worth one point. [Video](#)
- **FEET TO BACK:** where the offensive wrestler causes his or her opponent, from a standing position, to go into an immediate danger position on the mat. The offensive wrestler may be on his or her knees for this to occur. These actions must be continuous—any pause by the wrestlers on the mat prior to the defensive wrestler going to danger will only result in two points. All feet to back actions are scored four points. If a "feet to back" situation is considered to be "grand amplitude," that action should be scored five points (see below). [Video](#)
- **GUT WRENCH:** any turn by the offensive wrestler in par terre where they are locked around the torso, from shoulder to waist. Multiple gut wrenches can be completed in succession in both F/S and G/R. [Video](#)
- **FLEEING THE MAT:** where either wrestler goes out-of-bounds voluntarily and makes no effort to stay in the center wrestling area. This can occur in either standing or par terre wrestling. This is penalized by a caution to the wrestler at fault and two points to the opponent. Restarts following a fleeing the mat call shall start in the position in which the infraction occurred. [Video](#)
- **FLEEING THE HOLD:** where either wrestler is avoiding contact with their opponent to prevent being scored upon. This can occur in either standing or par terre wrestling at any point in a match, but most often occurs when time is running out. **EXCEPTION:** *If this call happens with less than 30 seconds in either period, the mat chairman must agree with the call for it to be valid. This is penalized by a caution to the wrestler at fault and two points to the opponent. Challenges, if being utilized in the tournament, can be used in this specific fleeing the hold scenario.* Restarts following a fleeing the hold call shall start in the position in which the infraction occurred. [Video](#) **Recommended Procedure:** If the officiating team recognizes fleeing the hold, they should stop and give an "attention" to the wrestler at fault assuming their is adequate time left in the period. Then if the same wrestler continues to flee the hold, then the referee should stop and ask for a caution and 2 points. By blowing the whistle, this will stop the clock so that there is time left in the bout if the call is confirmed. **It is permissible to make this call with less than 10 seconds remaining in the match without giving a verbal warning as long as the call is made prior to time running out.**
- **LEG FOULS:** actively using the legs to score upon or prevent being scored on in **G/R** wrestling. The defensive wrestler in **G/R** cannot bend or raise either or both of his legs to prevent a hold being executed. **The defensive wrestler is also prohibited from creating a figure 4 with his own leg in order to prevent the top wrestler from stepping in between their legs during par terre wrestling.** Brushing of the legs or any other inadvertent contact with the legs during **G/R** wrestling should be ignored. Referees should point to a leg foul when they observe it. If the foul is being committed by the defensive wrestler and there is no imminent threat of harm to either wrestler, the action should be allowed to be continued and scored properly. Once the offensive scoring action has been completed or stopped and confirmation of the foul has been given by the judge or mat chairman, the referee should stop the bout, signal a caution for the wrestler at fault, and score two points for the offensive wrestler. Restarts should happen in the position in which the foul occurred. If the offensive wrestler commits a leg foul, he or she is given a strict "attention" and the wrestling restarts in a standing position. If the offensive wrestler commits another similar leg foul after the warning, that wrestler is then given a caution and two points to his opponent for an illegal action. [Defensive Leg Foul Video](#), [Offensive Leg Foul Video](#)

- GRAND AMPLITUDE: any action or hold by the offensive wrestler from a standing or par terre position that causes his or her opponent to lose contact with the mat, makes him or her describe a broadly sweeping curve in the air and brings them to the mat. In **G/R**, it is essential that the offensive wrestler accompany their opponent to the mat. If a grand amplitude throw lands directly in danger, five points shall be awarded. If a grand amplitude throw is executed but the defensive wrestler does not land in danger, four points will be awarded. [Video](#)
- STARTING POSITION: in the standing position, athletes shall start the match in the one meter starting area while facing each other. It is not essential for the athletes to be in contact with any start line if using a folkstyle type mat. In the par terre position, the bottom wrestler shall have their arms extended and locked at the elbow. The back shall be straight with the upper leg and lower legs forming a 90° angle (tabletop position). The top wrestler shall place their hands on the back of the opponent **while standing or kneeling behind the bottom wrestler**. It is illegal for the top wrestler to straddle both legs of the bottom wrestler but they may place one foot or knee in between the legs of the bottom wrestler. **In G/R, the bottom wrestler must go flat to the mat after the match is restarted; they are not allowed to block, to go to a crouched position or stand-up after the whistle is blown.** Further, in **G/R**, it is illegal for the bottom wrestler to jump or lunge forward at the start. An attention is offered as the initial warning, followed by caution and two points to the top wrestler for any incorrect starts or subsequent “jumps.” In this case, wrestling shall restart in par terre. **When setting up for the par terre starting position, the top wrestler must immediately move to the proper position and place their hands on the back of their opponent. They are not allowed to “dance” around the mat or delay the start in any manner.** [Video](#)
- STEP-OUT: if the attacking wrestler steps out first while in the process of an action, the following situations may occur:
  - If the action is completed, the points will be scored as appropriate
  - If the action is not completed, the opponent will score one point because the offensive wrestler stepped out-of-bounds first
  - If the offensive wrestler has lifted the defensive wrestler and steps out with both feet, the bout shall be stopped and no points will be awarded. If the offensive wrestler has the defensive wrestler lifted off the mat and only steps out with one foot but is in the process of completing the throw, the action should be allowed to continue and scored appropriately. All in all, if the offensive wrestler has the defensive wrestler lifted off the mat and either steps out with both feet or steps out with one foot and is not able to complete their throw or is not doing anything to try to score, the bout shall be stopped, no points shall be awarded and wrestling will restart in the standing position.

Visible pushouts in either style will not be scored. If a wrestler visibly pushes out their opponent, they will be given an “attention” the first time. If it continues, it would be a caution and 2 points. Any normal style wrestling that results in an athlete stepping out-of-bounds, will result in their opponent receiving one point.

### **1 POINT**

- Step-outs—in F/S and G/R, if the offensive wrestler steps out-of-bounds first while completing an action, allow the action to continue and score. If the action results in no points, the opponent of the wrestler who stepped out-of-bounds first will be given one point (see exception for lifting situations bottom of page 9/top of page 10). [FS Video](#) [GR Video](#) If there is no clear action that lead to the athletes going out-of-bounds, the opponent of the wrestler who goes out-of-bounds first will get one point. If a wrestler clearly pushes his opponent out-of-bounds with no observable technique, no points shall be awarded (for e.g.-straight arm push-out). The “pushing” wrestler will be given an attention and told not to push anymore. Any subsequent “pushing” by the warned wrestler shall result in a caution and two points to his or her opponent for an illegal action. [Video - par terre no points](#), [Video - pushing out no points](#)
- In **F/S**, to the opponent of a wrestler designated as passive who fails to score during a 30-second activity period (see “passivity” section for further clarification). [Video](#)
- In **G/R**, every two confirmed passivity warnings (after one verbal “attention”/warning for passivity) will result in one point to the opponent. The bout shall not be stopped to issue the “attentions” or any subsequent points given due to passivities (see “passivity” section for further clarification).

- Reversals [Video](#)
- To the opponent of the wrestler whose coach requested a challenge and the call that is made after video review does not benefit the challenging wrestler.

## **2 POINTS**

- All takedowns [Video](#).
- In **G/R** and **F/S**, all correct holds/actions from a standing or lifting position. [Video from Standing](#), [Video from Par Terre](#)
- In **G/R** and **F/S**, any turn that begins in par terre. Danger does not need to occur. [Video](#) [Video](#)
- In **G/R** and **F/S**, any low amplitude lift where the defensive wrestler does not land in a danger position.
- In **G/R** and **F/S** to either the top or bottom wrestler who refuses correct par terre position after a friendly “attention. If the bottom wrestler commits the infraction he or she will receive a caution and two points is awarded to the top wrestler; wrestling will restart in par terre. If the top wrestler refuses to start correctly he or she will receive a caution, the bottom wrestler is awarded two points and wrestling will restart standing. [Video - incorrect start by the top wrestler](#), [Video - incorrect start by the bottom wrestler](#)
- In **G/R** and **F/S**, all cautions, regardless of cause, will result in two points to the opponent of the wrestler at fault. [Video - Fleeing the Hold](#), [Video - Fleeing the Mat](#), [Video - GR Leg Foul that scored points](#), [Video - Leg Foul in Danger Position](#)
- To the attacking wrestler whose opponent flees the mat while in a position of danger. Wrestling shall restart in par terre. [Video](#)
- To the attacking wrestler whose opponent commits an illegal hold or leg foul that prevents the execution of that hold.
- To the defensive wrestler who is able to effectively counter an offensive action and hold the offensive wrestler in a position of danger. [Video](#)
- **In G/R and F/S, if a wrestler refuses to “open” after interlocking the fingers of his or her opponent, the match will be stopped. The wrestler at fault will be given a caution and his or her opponent will receive two points.**

## **4 POINTS**

- All feet to back situations, with the exception of grand amplitude actions that land in danger. [Video - FS](#), [Video - GR](#)
- In **F/S**, all lifts from par terre that result in the defensive wrestler being put into a direct and immediate danger position. [FS - Video](#)
- In **G/R** and **F/S**, all grand amplitude throws where the defensive wrestler does not land in danger. [Video](#)

## **5 POINTS**

- In **G/R** and **F/S**, any grand amplitude throw where the opponent lands directly in a danger position. [GR - Video](#)

## ***PASSIVITY***

Passivity is a tool that the officiating crew can use to stimulate action from a wrestler who is not actively attempting to score. Grabbing hands and fingers, blocking with the head, clamming up in a standing or par terre position, wrestling on one’s knees while not in contact with the opponent, and backing up are all considered “passive” acts. The referee should attempt to stimulate action using proper UWW vocabulary—“open,” “action,” “contact”, “head up,” prior to officially asking for passivity confirmation. See below for style specific passivity guidelines: [Video - FS](#), [Video - GR](#)

### Freestyle-FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

#### 1st passivity violation

- Referee signals passivity with an open hand and outstretched arm, gets confirmation from judge or mat chairman. To indicate confirmation is received, referee raises hand of passive wrestler.
- Stop the match for verbal warning: "Red or blue, attention". Using one hand in a circular motion, indicate to the passive wrestler to be more active as well as clarify why wrestler is being passive.

#### 2nd passivity violation

- Stop the match once confirmation is given and there is no imminent scoring action in progress
- Indicate the 30-second activity period to the passive wrestler using both hands in a circular motion. It is not necessary to give any gestures or verbalize to the coaches that the activity time is started. The referee shall wait until the activity time is clearly indicated on scoreboard prior to restarting match.
- If neither wrestler scores at the end of the :30 activity period, one point will be awarded to the active wrestler. **The match shall not be stopped to award this point. No caution will be given for not scoring in the activity period.**
- If either wrestler scores, no cautions or additional points are rewarded. The :30 activity clock is ignored and wrestling shall continue without stoppage.

#### Further passivity violations

- Further penalty periods can be initiated directly—no warnings are given after the first verbal warning. The first verbal warning does carry over between periods.
- No activity period shall be given after 2:30 or 5:30

All passivity calls must be confirmed by the mat chairman. It is obligatory that the officiating crew stop the match around 2:00 and prior to 2:30 (if a score is in progress at 2:00) if the score is 0-0, consult, and immediately put a wrestler into a 30-second activity period. The first period in every freestyle match must never end 0-0. The 1<sup>st</sup> passivity violation should be denoted as "V" in the match paperwork; all subsequent passivity violations shall be denoted by "P."

*It is possible for acts that are deemed to be passive early on in a period, could be considered fleeing the hold if done later in a period, especially with short time on the clock (less than 30 seconds). If the referee wants to warn a wrestler for fleeing the hold, they should stop the match and offer a verbal "attention" to the wrestler at fault as well as to his or her coach. This way, the athletes, coaches, and fans will be able to differentiate when a wrestler is being called for passivity versus fleeing the hold.*

*If after restarting the match, the actions that lead to the "attention" persist, the referee should stop the bout, signal for a caution to the less active wrestler and score two points to the opponent.*

*If a wrestler is put on activity time, they must score within the :30 time frame allotted. If he or she starts an action prior to the :30 time frame being completed, he or she will be allowed to finish their action, but if that action does not score by the end of :30, the opposing wrestler will be given one point. The match will not be stopped to award these points. A caution for not scoring in the :30 activity period no longer applies.*

### Greco Roman-FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

#### 1st passivity violation (given after referee uses UWW vocabulary to stimulate "passive" wrestler)

- Referee signals passivity with an open hand and outstretched arm, gets confirmation from the mat chairman. To indicate confirmation is received, referee raises hand of passive wrestler.
- Passive wrestler gets warned without stopping the bout: "Red or blue, attention, passive."

#### 2nd passivity violation

- Referee signals passivity with an open hand and outstretched arm, gets confirmation from the mat chairman. To indicate confirmation is received, referee raises hand of passive wrestler.
- Referee then puts their hand down and indicates one point to the opponent all while verbalizing that to the athletes. "Red or blue, attention, passivity, one point red or blue." The bout shall not be stopped.

#### 3rd passivity violation

- Referee signals passivity with an open hand and outstretched arm, gets confirmation from the mat chairman. To indicate confirmation is received, referee raises hand of passive wrestler.
- Passive wrestler gets warned without stopping the bout: "Red or blue, attention, passive."

#### 4th passivity violation

- Referee signals passivity with an open hand and outstretched arm, gets confirmation from the mat chairman. To indicate confirmation is received, referee raises hand of passive wrestler.
- Referee then puts their hand down and indicates one point to the opponent all while verbalizing that to the athletes. "Red or blue, attention, passivity, one point red or blue." The bout shall not be stopped.

All in all, the wrestlers are penalized, by the opponent receiving one point, for every two confirmed passivities. **Passivities are unlimited in G/R** and there is no ordered par terre. Passivity warnings carry over from one period to the next. All passivities shall be denoted by a "P" on the match paperwork.

In G/R in the case where the score is 0:0, the 2nd passivity violation to one wrestler must be called in the bout no later than 3 minutes (Schoolboy/girl and younger) or 4 minutes 30 seconds for the cadets and older. In case the bout reaches 3 minutes or 4 minutes 30 seconds and the score is still 0:0, the referee will stop the bout and the refereeing body will choose a wrestler as passive and they will give 1 point to his/her opponent.

*It is possible for acts that are deemed to be passive early on in a period, could be considered fleeing the hold if done later in a period, especially with short time on the clock (less than 30 seconds). If the referee wants to warn a wrestler for fleeing the hold, they should stop the match and offer a verbal "attention" to the wrestler at fault as well as to his or her coach. This way, the athletes, coaches, and fans will be able to differentiate when a wrestler is being called for passivity versus fleeing the hold.*

*If after restarting the match, the actions that lead to the "attention" persist, the referee should stop the match and signal for a caution for the less active wrestler. Check for confirmation. A caution should be given to the less active wrestler and two points to his opponent.*

### **ILLEGAL ACTIONS AND HOLDS IN ALL AGE DIVISIONS**

- Pulling the hair, ears, genitals, pinch the skin, bite, twist fingers or toes.
- Kick, head-butt, push, apply force against a joint or the spine, step on the feet of his opponent or touch the face of his or her opponent between the eyebrows and line of the mouth.
- Thrusting the elbow or knee into an opponent .
- Grabbing the singlet.
- Clinging to or grasping the mat.
- Talking during the bout.
- Seizing the sole of the opponent's foot (only seizing the upper part of the foot or sole is permitted).
- Agreeing to the match result between themselves.
- Throat holds or any other position of strangulation.
- Any hold where the defensive wrestler's head is cinched between his or her chest and the offensive wrestler's body, most commonly seen in standing front headlock maneuvers, where the pressure is not applied to the side.
- Twisting of arms more than 90° including forming an acute angle with the forearm in an armbar situation.
- Arm lock applied to the forearm.
- Holding the head or neck with two hands in any position without an arm encircled.
- Full Nelson, unless executed from the side without legs trapped. **\*NOTE: all full nelsons from the UWW Cadet Level and younger are illegal in all applications. Full nelsons are also illegal in female wrestling at all levels.**
- In a standing position where the defensive wrestler has attained a "pike" position (head down with legs extended into the air), all actions must occur to the side. It is strongly recommended that referees bear caution with this action at the kids level.
- Lifting the opponent who is in a bridge position and throwing him or her to the mat.
- Breaking the bridge by pushing the offensive wrestler's face or head.
- Figure four or scissors of anything other than one leg or arm. This includes a "leg cradle."
- In **G/R**, actively using the legs from an offensive or defensive position.
- In **G/R**, while in par terre, when the defensive wrestler does not keep BOTH ARMS extended and open or grabbing the hands or arms of the offensive wrestler to prevent being scored upon. The defensive wrestler is not allowed to "close" off while defending in par terre. In **G/R**, if the offensive wrestler lifts the defensive wrestler, the only tactics the defensive wrestler can use is to push off the torso of the offensive wrestler or post one arm of the offensive wrestler to prevent being scored upon. Otherwise, the defensive wrestler may not use their hands in other other way to prevent being scored upon.
- In **G/R**, when the defensive wrestler raises or bends his legs in par terre to prevent being lifted and/or being scored upon.
- In **G/R** and **F/S**, the defensive wrestler in par terre must maintain center mat position. They are allowed to defend an action by inching forward or moving side to side to alter the position of the offensive wrestler, but they are strictly forbidden from "swimming" towards the edge of the mat. If this occurs, the referee must move in front of the defensive wrestler, yell "attention, stop" to the defensive wrestler. If the "swimming" persists, fleeing the hold (caution and r two points) shall be awarded, depending on the style in which it occurs.

#### **Illegal holds in the Kids Division (Schoolboy/girl on down) include:**

- A full, straight-back suplay from a rear standing position, or the straight-back salto to the head.
- Slam--lifting and returning an opponent to the mat with unnecessary force. May be committed by a contestant in either the top or bottom position, as well as during a takedown. A wrestler who lifts his/her opponent off the mat is responsible for his/her safe return. When a contestant is returned to the mat with undue force, so the upper half of his/her body contacts the mat first, it is a slam.
- Three-quarter nelson with a leg hook (**this move IS legal in USAW Kids Folkstyle Events**).



- Cross-chest cradle, West Point ride, Colorado or Iron Cross.
- Double arm bar with sit-out (double chicken wing). This is also illegal in USAW Folkstyle events.
- Neck wrench--grasping the opponent's chin and twisting the neck. Grasping the chin is not in itself a violation, but pulling and twisting is illegal and potentially dangerous and threatens injury to the vertebrae. This situation can develop quickly from attempting to neutralize a double-leg takedown, from countering a single-leg, reaching back from the down position, and in executing at least one form of fireman's carry. The neck must not be forced beyond normal limits.

*In any case, it is the discretion of the officiating crew of what constitutes a potentially dangerous situation and whether or not the match should be stopped for the safety and overall benefit of the athletes. This is especially important with Kids level wrestlers.*

*In most cases, if the attacking wrestler is found to have violated the rules during execution of a hold, the action in question shall be completely void and on the first offense, the referee shall give an "attention" to the attacking wrestler at fault. If the attacker repeats his or her violation, he or she will be punished by a caution and two points being awarded to his or her opponent. If the defending wrestler, by an illegal action, prevents his or her opponent from developing their hold, the defending wrestler will be given a strict "attention" by the referee during the course of the match (assuming there are no safety concerns with either athlete) to warn them of an infraction in the rules. If the illegal action persists, the referee will stop the match and caution the wrestler at fault. If confirmation from either the judge or mat chairman is attained, his or her opponent will receive two points. If a Kids (schoolboy/girl and younger) level wrestler is injured by an illegal hold and is unable to continue, the wrestler at fault is disqualified. However, if a cadet level or up wrestler is injured and the officiating crew deems it not to be considered brutality, the injured wrestler will lose by injury default.*

### **BRUTALITY**

It is against the rules to intentionally inflict pain on the opponent by using unnecessary roughness with the clear intent to injure an opponent. The wrestler who uses these types of holds and moves will be disqualified from the match they are competing in, and may be disqualified from the tournament. If the officials decide to call brutality against a wrestler, it must be unanimous among all three officials. Any calls for the wrestler who committed brutality to be removed from the tournament will be reviewed by the head official.

### **CLASSIFICATION POINTS**

Although most regional and national tournaments have gone to a straight-line bracket format, some individual states still offer a vertical pairing format for brackets at their events. Because of that, it is important to understand the classification points given to the athletes following a bout. Also, in international tournaments, classification points are used for placing purposes.

<b>For the winner: 5</b> <b>For the loser: 0</b>	Fall (Pin); Injury Default, Disqualification for misconduct; Disqualification for 3 cautions; Failure to make weight at 2 <sup>nd</sup> day weigh-in at Cadet/Jr. Nationals
<b>For the winner: 4</b> <b>For the loser: 0</b>	Technical superiority, loser scores no technical points.
<b>For the winner: 4</b> <b>For the loser: 1</b>	Technical superiority, loser scored technical points.
<b>For the winner: 3</b> <b>For the loser: 0</b>	Decision, loser scores no technical points
<b>For the winner: 3</b> <b>For the loser: 1</b>	Decision, loser scores technical points
<b>For the winner: 0</b> <b>For the loser: 0</b>	Both wrestlers are disqualified for misconduct; Both wrestlers forfeit

## **2017 POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. **ALL CORRECT HOLDS/ACTIONS FROM A STANDING OR LIFTING POSITION ARE WORTH TWO POINTS IN G/R AND F/S.** PREVIOUSLY, CORRECT HOLDS WERE SCORED AS TWO POINTS IN G/R AND ONE POINT IN F/S. THEY ARE NOW WORTH TWO POINTS IN EACH STYLE.
2. **EVERY CAUTION WILL BE SCORED AS A CAUTION (0) AND 2 POINTS TO THE OPPONENT. THIS INCLUDES FLEEING THE MAT, FLEEING THE HOLD, ILLEGAL HOLDS, AND ALL FOULS.** ALL CAUTIONS IN BOTH STYLES ARE WORTH TWO POINTS TO THE OPPONENT.
3. **GRAND AMPLITUDE ACTIONS THAT CAUSE THE DEFENSIVE WRESTLER TO ATTAIN AN IMMEDIATE DANGER POSITION WHEN HITTING THE MAT ARE WORTH 5 POINTS IN BOTH G/R AND F/S. IF A GRAND AMPLITUDE ACTION DOES NOT CAUSE THE OPPONENT TO ATTAIN A DANGER POSITION, 4 POINTS SHALL BE AWARDED IN G/R AND F/S.**
4. **DURING ACTIVITY TIME IN F/S, IF EITHER WRESTLER SCORES, THE ACTIVITY TIME IS ABOLISHED (SAME AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS). HOWEVER, IF NEITHER WRESTLER SCORES, INCLUDING THE PENALIZED WRESTLER, REGARDLESS IF AN ACTION IS IMMINENT OR NOT, PRIOR TO THE :30 CLOCK BEING COMPLETE, THE OPPONENT WILL RECEIVE ONE POINT. THE MATCH WILL NOT BE STOPPED AND NO CAUTION WILL BE GIVEN.**
5. **IN THE UWW CADET, UWW JUNIOR, U23, UNIVERSITY, MASTERS AND SENIOR AGE CATEGORIES, A TIME ALLOTMENT OF 4 MINUTES HAS BEEN MADE FOR TREATMENT OF A BLOOD RELATED INJURY. THE CLOCK FOR BLOOD TIME WILL START IMMEDIATELY AFTER A DOCTOR OR TRAINER STEPS ON THE MAT. TIME FOR MAT CLEANUP WILL NOT COUNT TOWARDS THIS 4 MINUTE ALLOTMENT.**
6. **ALL PASSIVITY CALLS IN G/R AND F/S MUST BE CONFIRMED BY THE CHAIRMAN. THE JUDGE IS OBLIGATED TO GIVE HIS OR HER OPINION, BUT THE CHAIRMAN MUST CONFIRM A PASSIVITY CALL FOR IT TO BE VALID.**
7. **THE MAT CHAIRMAN WILL BE GIVEN THE LATITUDE TO REVIEW THE VIDEO OF A PREVIOUS ACTION IN CONSULTATION WITH THE REFEREE AND JUDGE WITHOUT A CHALLENGE BEING ISSUED BY THE COACH OR ATHLETE (WHERE VIDEO REVIEW APPLIES). JUST BECAUSE THE MATCH MAY BE STREAMING ONLINE (VIA TRACKCAST OR FLOWRESTLING) DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERY MATCH CAN BE REVIEWED. THE MATCH IN QUESTION MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO BE CHALLENGED IN ORDER FOR THE MAT CHAIRMAN TO ORDER A REVIEW.**
8. **IN G/R WHILE IN PAR TERRE, THE BOTTOM WRESTLER MUST GO FLAT ON THE RESTART. FURTHER, THE BOTTOM WRESTLER MUST DEFEND HIMSELF WITH BOTH OF HIS ARMS OPEN AND AWAY FROM HIS BODY. THEY CANNOT "CLOSE" OFF BY HAVING HIS ELBOWS CLOSE TO HIS BODY, OR FIGHT THE HANDS OR LOCK OF THE TOP WRESTLER. IF THE BOTTOM WRESTLER IS BEING LIFTED, HE IS ALLOWED TO PUSH FROM HIS OPPONENT'S TORSO OR POST ONE ARM OF THE OFFENSIVE WRESTLER WHILE BEING LIFTED. IN PAST YEARS, THE BOTTOM WRESTLER WAS FORBIDDEN TO POST AN ARM WHILE BEING LIFTED; THAT HAS BEEN CHANGED FOR THIS YEAR.**
9. **IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO CALL FLEEING THE HOLD WITH LESS THAN 10 SECONDS LEFT IN EITHER PERIOD WITHOUT ISSUING A VERBAL WARNING TO THE WRESTLER AT FAULT ASSUMING THAT CALL IS MADE PRIOR TO TIME RUNNING OUT.**
10. **ALTHOUGH NEVER LEGAL, GRABBING AND INTERLOCKING FINGERS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AND WILL BE A POINT OF EMPHASIS. IF A WRESTLER INTERLOCKS THE FINGERS FOR AN EXTENDED TIME AND DOES NOT FOLLOW THE "OPEN" OR "NO FINGERS" COMMAND FROM THE REFEREE, THEY MAY BE PENALIZED. IF AFTER THE VERBAL WARNING THE WRESTLER AT FAULT DOES NOT CORRECT HIS OR HER ACTIONS, THE MATCH WILL BE STOPPED AND A CAUTION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE WRESTLER AT FAULT AND TWO POINTS TO HIS OR HER OPPONENT. IN ANY CASE, IF TWISTING IS INVOLVED WHILE INTERLOCKING THE FINGERS, THIS WILL BE PENALIZED IMMEDIATELY AS AN ILLEGAL HOLD (CAUTION AND TWO POINTS TO HIS OR HER OPPONENT).**
11. **IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF THE WRESTLER TO DENY A CHALLENGE OFFERED BY HIS OR HER COACH BY INFORMING THE REFEREE PRIOR TO THE VIDEO REVIEW BEING INITIATED.**
12. **ALL COMPETITORS IN MASTERS CLASSES C, D AND E MUST PRESENT A LETTER OF MEDICAL CLEARANCE AT USA WRESTLING NATIONAL EVENTS MEDICAL CHECK TO WEIGH IN THAT STATES THE COMPETITOR IS CLEARED TO COMPETE WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTION. THE LETTER MUST STATE THAT THE COMPETITOR HAS THE CARDIOVASCULAR ABILITY TO COMPETE IN AN INTENSE, VIGOROUS COMPETITION PER UWW REGULATIONS. THE LETTER MUST BE DATED WITHIN 90 DAYS OF COMPETITION. THE LETTER MUST CLEARLY IDENTIFY THE LOCATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE MD OR DO WHO AUTHORIZED THE ATHLETE FOR COMPETITION.**