**Position of Advantage**

The offensive wrestler maintains the position of advantage until the opponent

(defensive wrestler) is awarded an escape or a reversal by the referee.

**In Bounds**

Contestants are considered to be in bounds if any part of either wrestler is on

or inside the boundary line. Wrestling shall continue as long as either wrestler

remains in bounds. It is the responsibility of both wrestlers to maintain action

by staying in bounds. For the purpose of awarding a point(s) at the edge of the

wrestling area, a point(s) shall be awarded when control is established or lost

while any part of either wrestler finishes on the mat in bounds.

When the defensive wrestler’s back is exposed to the mat in a pinning situation

***while any part of either wrestler is in bounds, near-fall points may be earned or***

***a fall called.***

If there is no action at the edge of the mat, the referee may stop the wrestling.

**Near Fall**

A near fall is a position in which the offensive wrestler has the opponent in a

controlled pinning situation in which (1) the defensive wrestler is held in a high

bridge or on both elbows, or (2) any part of one shoulder or scapula, or the head

is touching the mat and the other shoulder or scapula is held at an angle of 45

degrees or less to the mat, or (3) any part of both shoulders or both scapulae are

held within four inches of the mat. In any pinning situation, a near fall may occur

if any part of either wrestler remains in bounds.

A continuous roll-through is not to be considered a near fall.

*Two-point Near Fall*. If a criterion for a near fall is met and held

uninterrupted for two seconds, two points shall be awarded.

*Three-point Near Fall*. If a criterion for a near fall is met and held

uninterrupted for five seconds, three points shall be awarded.

*Counting the Near Fall*. A verbal count and, whenever possible, a visual

hand count shall be used in determining a near fall. Likewise, a referee shall

verbally inform the wrestlers when near-fall points have been earned. A near

fall is ended when the defensive wrestler is no longer in a pinning situation.

The referee must not signal the score for a near fall until the situation is ended.

Only one near fall shall be scored when using the same pinning combination,

regardless of the number of times the offensive wrestler places the defensive

wrestler in a near-fall position during the pinning situation.

Only the wrestler with the advantage, who has the opponent in a pinning

situation, may score a near fall. Bridge-backs in body scissors or bridge-overs

with a wristlock are not considered near-fall situations, even though a fall

may be scored.

When defensive wrestlers place themselves in precarious situations during

attempted escapes or reversals, particularly leg vines and body scissors, a

near fall shall not be scored unless the offensive wrestler has control of and

definitely has restrained the opponent in a pinning situation for at least two

seconds.