

NCAA Changes 10 Wrestling Rules For 1966

The NCAA has announced for this year ten wrestling rule changes.

One big change is the shortening of the first period to two minutes. This change will give more action to the first period which is usually a testing period between the two opponents. The wrestler will have less time to waste and will have to make a quicker decision on his movements to shoot. Oswego philosophy should be to shoot for the takedown more quickly. A disadvantage of this change will be loss of a minute in wrestling time which could be crucial to winning a match.

The committee voted to adopt the modified form of the "Olympic" starting position for both high school and college wrestling but will delay the change for another year to give coaches a chance to experiment and practice with the proposed revision. The "Olympic" starting position entails the placing of both hands with thumbs together of the top man on the bottom man's back. The advantage man may stand or kneel any place around the man with the disadvantage. The man on the bottom will be on hands and knees with his hands at least 8 inches from his knees. There are two reasons for this change. One, this is the position used in International rules and the NCAA is trying to get college rules to coincide more with the International rules. Boys that go on from college to higher wrestling and those participating in AAU tournaments will benefit by the knowledge of their rules.

The first NCAA radical change toward International rules was the one second fall. The second reason is that this change gives the advantage back to the top man and allows the bottom man to show his defensive ability. Oswego, who has been a big stand-up team for the escape, will have to change their thinking and will be working on this position this year. A few Lakers have competed under International rules and Coach Howard has had considerable experience with

this rule.

The new rules call for two judges in the NCAA finals to serve as advisors to the referee. In case of questionable calls, the two judges, voting together can overrule the referee. This change also leans toward the International rules.

The keylock, overhead double arm bar and the headlock without the arms are now illegal but the guillotine is now legal for both college and high school wrestlers, even though an arm may not be included with the hands overlapped or locked around the head. The keylock being illegal may hurt Oswego who has used it occasionally but this rule has been made for safety of the wrestlers.

The Committee voted to stress elimination of stallings and "holding legs" (Rule X, Section 7b) was made a stalling violation advantage position. A strong note points out the responsibility of contestants, officials and coaches to avoid use of stalling tactics and calls upon officials to constantly call stalling violations.

Holding legs has always been a stalling tactic and has been a hard judgement call by the referee. The ref has to judge whether the man is stopping his opponent from reversing or whether he is just stalling. This is to the advantage of Oswego who has never been a stalling team and it should make the Laker opponents wrestle more.

The Center Circle of the Mat has been recommended to be a different color from the outer circle. This will help both player and referee to judge the position on the mat. Oswego already has made use of the different colors on the mat.

A change back to the previous method of raising the winner's hand after the match will help to clarify who has won to the audience.

Other self explanatory changes are contestant weigh-in without clothing, elimination of the turn to the left after shaking hands at the start of the bout to quicken the contest and the wearing of proper attire by the contestants before the audience.

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