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NAW Officials: Addressing Coaches

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Although the official may, indeed, have the final word, the delivery of that word sets the tone for much of what transpires over the course of an event. A quick, yet proper response will help the official just as an improper response will hinder the official, even when the call or mechanics are properly executed.

There is more than one way to address coaches. Some officials are firm and absolutely follow the strict letter of the rule; some officials are more lenient and allow a little latitude to coaches. Both methods can be effective but both methods are also misused and or abused by coaches and officials. Officials should find the style that is comfortable and works best for them.

1) Addressing Coaches

- a) This is an area of needed improvement.
- b) Officials are being too lenient in the number of times coaches approach the table
- c) The tone and tenor of coaches seems to be an issue in many areas.
These are both controllable by officials and that is why we are having this discussion today.

2) Addressing Coaches

- a) Allow the coach to speak.
- b) If the coach is questioning your judgment, the coach must be called for coach's misconduct.
- c) If clarifying a situation or score, provide the clarification and return to wrestling promptly.
- d) If the official has made a wrong call, change the call or fix the situation and return to wrestling promptly.
- e) Allow only one coach from a school at the table. Do not let both schools to be at the table at the same time.

3) Addressing Coaches - Penalty procedures

- a) When the coach approaches the scorer's table one of two situations will occur; the official is going to change his call or the coach is going to leave with a misconduct warning or penalty. The official must be clear when indicating a penalty. The official should clearly indicate the penalty, use the proper signal and be positioned towards the center of the mat when doing so

4) Addressing Coaches - Verbal/ Physical confrontations

- a) Avoid raising your voice or making personal comments.
- b) Officials should never touch or grab a coach.
- c) Never strike a wrestler, coach or spectator.

d) Act only to defend yourself and only as a last resort.

5) Addressing Coaches - Body language

- a) The official's demeanor and body language shall always be maintained in a professional manner.
- b) The official should not cross their arms or point fingers.
- c) The official should remain calm.

6) Addressing Coaches - Keep discussions short

- a) Conversations between coaches and officials must be kept to a minimum; it should last only long enough to hear the coach's opinion, and time to rule on the situation.
- b) Flow of the Match Always keep it in mind.
- c) Be aware of how often you go to the table either for coaches conferences or because you simply choose to.

7) Addressing Coaches

- a) All conversations between coaches and officials must take place at the scorer's table.
- b) The official shall stop the match whenever wrestling allows.

8) Addressing Coaches

- a) Constant clarifications also impede the flow of the match.
- b) If approached in a respectful, professional manner and the official determines the situation is genuine, allow that clarification.
- c) Correction of scores should always be allowed.
- d) If the official is requested to the table often, either the coach is abusing the clarification privilege or the official's mat mechanics are a problem. If a coach is continually coming to the table for clarification a misconduct warning should be given.

9) Initial Greeting

- a) Your objectivity begins when you walk in
- b) Greet both coaches professionally
- c) Then go find a neutral place to warm up and or sit down.

10) Addressing Coaches - Conclusion

- a) Explain your calls properly
- b) Be objective
- c) Be respectful
- d) Be professional