

Proposed Certification Procedures for NEMWA Tournament Officials

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Certification is required for paid officials at NEMWA tournaments. This document outlines the procedures used to insure that referees are qualified to officiate NEMWA youth wrestling matches.

The certification process takes place in two steps.

1. Learn rules specific to NEMWA and youth wrestling. Sufficient knowledge will be tested with a one-page written test.
2. Learn how to properly officiate a youth wrestling match. This will be taught and tested using an apprenticeship approach. The apprenticeship requires supervised officiating of at least 5 matches in each age group and must include matches with both lighter weights and heavier weights.

General Knowledge Required for Written Test

1. Scoring, including penalties, mercy rule, and overtime sudden death.
2. All rules pertaining to wrestler safety.
3. Number of periods and period times for each age group.
4. Allowable starting or restarting positions.
5. Proper handling of the bout slip.

Practical Knowledge Required under Apprenticeship

1. Pre-match wrestler inspections: Includes headgear, skin rashes, fingernails, mouth guards (for those with braces), jewelry, hair, clothing, etc.
2. Methods to maintain wrestler safety. Includes referee's position on the mat, potentially dangerous situations, illegal moves, etc.
3. Communication with the wrestlers and match logistics. Includes ankle bands, handshake, scoring, use of whistle, use of touch, warnings, encouragement, etc.
4. Communication with the scoring table. Includes proper use of hand signals, eye contact, use of whistle, etc.
5. Managing unusual situations. Includes stalling, unsportsmanlike conduct, problems with coaches, problems with spectators, injuries, etc.