

RMN EVENT OFFICIAL PREPARATION & PROCEDURE

RMN EVENTS: P's WITH A PURPOSE

PATIENCE: Be adaptable, flexible, and intuitive in your approach. Long after the final result, people will remember that you took time to get things right, to show concern for their kids, and to match your energy and creativity to the age, experience, and skill level of the wrestlers.

PERFORMANCE: As mats close toward the end of the day, please assist others in your group by relieving others, creating smaller rotations, and eventually acting as head and assistant. *Equal work and equal pay ... we are not done until EVERY mat is done. Please do this on your own integrity without the Head breaking up your social groups or directing you away from cell phones.*

PERIMETER: Our mats are 24 & 30-foot circles with limited padding outside the circle. Verbally encourage and direct wrestlers to engage in action and work toward the center of the mat. *On the boundary, stop wrestling after a score (show points first) or if there is no significant activity.*

Allow wrestling to continue as long as it can be done safely and legally. Work with officials on adjacent mats to allow a situation to progress or finish without interfering with the other match.

PERSPECTIVE: RMN has mastered the art of flow and balance by calculating the number of mats and officials needed in advance in order for action to conclude at or before a given time. (We aim for a max of 8-10 hours of wrestling, excluding session breaks.) Throughout the session, matches will be shifted to mats with fewer bouts, so that most mats finish at approximately the same time. Leave your mat only when cleared by the Head Table or the Head Official.

PREPARATION: After we break from the meeting, we need to band the first two competitors PRIOR TO the prayer, national anthem, and countdown music. If the first two wrestlers are not ready, call up the "on deck" or "in the hole" competitors.

If all else fails, fake it by standing two wrestlers out in the center and start/stop the "match." When the announcer says: "Let's get ready to wrestle!" ... ALL mats must begin on a simultaneous whistle.

PROCEDURE: Some wrestlers compete in more than one weight. Call the kids AND the coach to the table. Mouthguards for braces are strongly recommended but not required by RMN. Headgear is required for wrestlers 13U & Younger, unless they are wrestling in the 15U/18U bracket.

Do not award a forfeit unit you clearly confirm with a coach or the head table that a wrestler is not present or unable to compete. *Wrestlers travel a long distance from 30-40 states – let's try our best to help them do that!*

If a competitor is in more than one weight class or division, ask him/her to check in at both mats. After finishing on one mat, s/he needs to directly report to the other mat, at which point we give them one full match (or two shorter bouts) to rest before they compete again.

Those wrestling back for true 2nd (end of the day) have a max of 15 minutes but that is a guideline not a rule; if you ask both wrestlers and coaches, they are often ready before the designated start time.

Be familiar with our specific starting procedures, so there are no glitches! RMN's CEO, Ed Gutierrez, personally oversees the opening procedures ... if each of you are not in sync as one unit, he will notice – and I will hear about it!

PROFILES: We post your bios to www.rmnevents.com/officials. Briefly describe your experience as a wrestler/coach/official, detail your philosophy of officiating, why you enjoy it, and tell us what you look forward to / appreciate about RMN Events.

PROTECTION: If there is a potential head-neck-cervical injury: 1) start/stop the injury clock; 2) call for trainer; 3) trainer then evaluates; 4) if no HNC eval is required, official will restart injury time; 5) IF the trainer needs to perform a 5-minute assessment, then the referee signals HNC (fist to forehead). If the trainer needs additional time to properly assess an athlete before allowing / denying a return to action, we will not interrupt this assessment until it is complete.

PROTEST & SUPPORT: Remember that many of the coaches/parents are not trained on protocol or the rules. To discuss a situation, bring the coach to the table and LISTEN before you speak.

If a coach asks for a Head Official. You must keep coaches and competitors at the mat until the Head or an Assistant Head arrives. Your group leader may help you deal with minor situations.

Only the Head Official determines whether a video review is required (mostly match-deciding situations or those involving a clock or scoring correction).

PROTOCOL: We put EVERYTHING in writing! You are expected to be thoroughly familiar with ALL procedures and adaptations prior to working one of our events. If you have questions, ask them in advance. This diligence on your part will help shorten the 8 am officials' meeting at the venue.