

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL EVENTS**  
**Officials Protocol - <https://www.rmnevents.com/officials>**

**Be Part of Our Future: Goals for the Present**

1. Establish a consistent and reliable process for retaining loyal officials and acquiring new ones.
2. Commit to hiring only quality officials – while continually raising the bar for all who work for us.
3. Build officiating level to that which mirrors the quality of competition and its national representation.
4. Evaluate and provide feedback to officials for their own betterment and to improve our product.
5. Standardize tournament compensation and compensate fairly for travel, time away from work/home, overnight accommodations, and amenities (midday snacks and social activity for two-day events).
6. Incentivize officials to return and work designated tournaments through bonus, gift, or like means.

**P's of Professional Performance**

- PATIENCE – Hold your call until control is distinguishable and points have clearly been earned.
- PERSISTENCE – Keep on top of situations as they evolve. Approach all in a consistent manner.
- PRESCIENCE – Anticipate direction and action. Move opposite to wrestlers who are circling.
- PERSPECTIVE – Support your peers in their action on and off the mat. Return promptly from break.
- PARTICIPATION – Fit seamlessly in your role as assessor and enforcer, not as center of the action.
- PRODUCTION – Be verbal: Action – Center – Work – Improve – Continue – Return.
- PREVENTION – Position yourself to best correct – or stop – action to keep it safe and legal.
- PROMOTION – Encourage the best in participation, performance, and acceptance of the result.

**Principle & Spirit of Competition**

Given the nature of open tournament enrollment for the youth age groups we serve, as well as valuing the regional and national diversity of the individual and team represented here, it is important to remember the principle of maintaining the integrity of the sport and spirit of the meet. Therefore, in certain situations, officials may lean toward principle over rule.

With the younger kids we are teachers as much as guides and enforcers, a give-and-take situation which may initially require more guidance and patience, especially with regard to keeping holds legal and when starting or restarting the action. Brief verbal explanations, verbalizing all calls, as well as words such as "action" / "center" / "improve" are always helpful but even more so with this age group. Be patient, positive, and professional at all times. Remember that not all adults in the corner are trained as coaches or have had their own wrestling experience.

Maintain the principle in your mind when assessing the rules. For example, the single and double arm bars are legal when used properly, yet they are always potentially dangerous. Therefore, as a proactive official, you are encouraged to verbalize warnings ("keep it legal," "careful," "watch that") throughout the execution of the move. Keep in mind that the offensive wrestler has earned the position of advantage; do your best to monitor the situation while ensuring that he safely and successfully executes his hold.

At the same time, officials are also empowered, where necessary and after warnings have been issued, to stop a hold from endangering the opponent and, where needed, to ask for the intervention of a health professional. As Head Official, it is much easier to defend a hold which was stopped in order to protect from injury; it is more difficult to explain an action that could have been prevented, but instead results in temporary or permanent harm.

As the experience and age increase, factor in the progression of the tournament day and the level of competition – especially in championship quarterfinals and semi-finals as well as all placement matches – your officiating will progress accordingly to more closely mirror higher level competition protocol. Ultimately with experience, this innate "feel" for the match – though still subtle – becomes more intentional. Be alert; your best response to a situation may vary as the circumstances within a bout evolve.

Differing age groups will bring their own challenge, but you may need to be most aware of the impact of vast differences in strength, ability, or experience within an age group. As the experience and age level advance, compounded by the more competitive rounds in the tournament, the expectations of the athletes and coaches rise in similar measure. Often these matches occur at a point in the day when you have already been tested physically, mentally, and emotionally. Be attuned to your own disposition as well to differences in athletes and competition in order to be at your best throughout the meet.

■ Bill X. Barron, Head Official – Rocky Mountain Nationals