



## 2016-17 Major Changes for Wrestling

*The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules for the 2016-17 season.*

<p>Rule 6.1.2 and new 6.1.2.1 – Calling Injury Timeouts and Coaching</p>	<p>6.1.2. <del>Only the referee may call timeout. Additionally, the referee shall have the prerogative to stop the match to determine the presence of an injury to a contestant before starting the injury time or recovery time. Coaching is permitted during injury timeouts.</del> <u>A wrestler that wishes to request an injury timeout shall notify the referee, who is solely responsible for calling match timeouts. When an injury timeout is called by the referee, the injury time clock shall not be started until the medical personnel arrive at the mat. If a wrestler requests and receives an injury timeout, and then subsequently indicates they are ready to return to the match before the injury time clock starts, the referee shall charge the wrestler with a timeout and ensure that 1 second of injury time is recorded. Referees shall also have the prerogative to stop the match to communicate with the wrestler regarding the possible presence of an injury before requesting that medical personnel be summoned and the injury time or recovery time clock be started.</u></p> <p>6.1.2.1. <u>Coaching an injured wrestler is not permitted. Coaching of the non-injured wrestler is permitted during an injury timeout or a referee timeout. Coaching of both wrestlers is allowable during a bleeding timeout. In the case of a severe or traumatic situation, medical personnel may request the wrestler’s coach to assist in the calming of the wrestler but must remove themselves from the situation during any assessment period related to the injury or concussion evaluation. Failure to comply with the rules related to coaching an injured wrestler will be penalized under Rule 3.13 Control of Mat Area.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> For the 2015-16 wrestling season, the NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee issued interpretations to Rules 6.1.2 and 6.1.5 based on recommendations made at the NCAA Sports Science Institute Wrestling Summit. The main focus of this Summit, which was held July 20-21, 2015, at the NCAA national office, was to discuss the overall health and safety of the sport of wrestling. These interpretations represent consensus solutions to problems frequently arising during competition when primary athletics healthcare providers (i.e., athletic trainers and team physicians) must evaluate non-bleeding injuries, and especially concussion. Collectively, these rules provide an environment in which more thorough medical evaluations can be completed for the purpose of making decisions about the appropriateness of continued participation by the student-athlete.</p>
<p>Rule 6.1.5 – Concussion Evaluation Timeout</p>	<p><del>In the case of a possible concussion, once the contestant’s injury time has expired, if medical personnel are in need of additional time to properly evaluate the wrestler, a referee timeout should be called to give medical staff adequate time to render a decision</del> <u>the referee shall stop the match for a concussion evaluation. The medical staff conducting the evaluation shall have unlimited and unimpeded time to evaluate the wrestler. In cases of uncertainty, the medical staff shall be granted the ability to remove the wrestler from the competition area to perform the concussion evaluation. During the evaluation, the match will be suspended until a decision is rendered. During this match suspension period, the referee, the coaches of each wrestler, and the non-injured wrestler are to remain on the mat. A concussion evaluation timeout shall not count towards the wrestler’s injury timeout or recovery timeout. An injury timeout that gets converted to a concussion evaluation timeout, shall be handled only as a concussion evaluation timeout and the injured wrestler shall not be charged with an injury timeout. Only the referee or the medical personnel are allowed to request a concussion evaluation. See rule 6.1.2.1 for coaching during injury timeouts.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> For the 2015-16 wrestling season, the NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee issued</p>

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