

**SASKATCHEWAN AMATEUR WRESTLING
OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION (S.A.W.O.A.)**

**2004-2005
POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

General Philosophy:

The official's purpose is to:

- 1) Ensure that the participants wrestle within the guidelines of the sport
- 2) Assist in the growth of better athletes, better coaches, and better people for the benefit of the sport and all involved
- 3) Protect the wrestlers while competing
- 4) To follow and enforce the rules of wrestling and its edict as put forth through the S.H.S.A.A. and/or C.A.W.A. and/or F.I.L.A. that S.A.W.A. has deemed pertinent to our program

S.A.W.O.A.'s Chain of Command:

S.A.W.O.A. is a voting "club" member of S.A.W.A. and must therefore follow the guidelines passed at S.A.W.A. meetings. A Board of Members, elected annually, runs S.A.W.O.A. internally. This Board includes a President, Vice President, Head Pairing master, Treasurer, Secretary, Northern Coordinator, Southern Coordinator, and a Past President.

Duties:

President:

- Has voting power to make or break a tie (ties are considered defeated)
- Heads the annual general meeting (A.G.M.)
- Is directly involved in the allocations of funds for official development and status maintenance
- Monitors other executive positions
- Heads any internal disciplinary actions
- Attends the S.A.W.A. A.G.M., along with one other S.A.W.O.A. member

Vice President:

- Assist in the President's listed duties
- Acts in place of the President during his/her absence

Head Pairing master:

- Oversees the appointments of pairing masters to all tournaments with the assistance of the Northern and Southern Coordinators
- Involved in the allocation of funds for official development and status maintenance

Treasurer:

- Pays officials
- Send bills and reminders to tournament directors when necessary
- Establishes fees owing according to officials rank and makes the appropriate deductions

Secretary:

- Send minutes of meetings and any newsletter to officials

Northern Coordinator:

- Ensure that the appropriate number of officials is provided for any northern tournaments
- Coordinate with the Southern Coordinator when necessary
- Appoint a head official (nationally ranked) for each tournament

Southern Coordinator:

- Ensure that the appropriate numbers of officials are provided for any southern tournament
- Coordinate with the Northern Coordinator when necessary
- Appoint a head official (nationally ranked) for each tournament

Past President:

- Advise the Board

Members:

- Stay in touch with the organization
- Be sure the Executive has your current address and phone number
- Honour any commitment you have made or inform the coordinator as early as possible
- Share any new information learned from working at C.A.W.A. tournaments

At Tournaments:

The chain of command at a tournament is as follows:

The Head Official
Pairing Master
On-Mat Official

The coordinator will appoint a " head official " for each tournament. This should not be the same person, as it will allow officials the opportunity to learn the responsibilities of the head official. If at anytime an on mat official is being confronted by a hostile participant that person should be directed to the head official.

Head Official Duties:

- 1) The head official acts as the bridge between officials and all others.
- 2) He/she will be the one to deal with the gross misconduct of the participant, coach, tournament director, media or whomever the on mat official is having problems with.
- 3) When an on mat official is having difficulties, he/she should go to the head official, at an appropriate time (finish of the bout if possible), and inform him/her of the problem.
- 4) The head official is also the bridge for others having problems with the on mat officials: protests, conduct, rule interpretation.

Officiating Styles:

One-man System:

When refereeing by yourself, **do your best.**

If you make a mistake while the action is ongoing (i.e. calling a point that wasn't there) let the action continue until they are in a neutral position.

- 1) Stop action
- 2) Fix the mistake
- 3) Let the wrestler/coaches know what is happening

Our job is to be as fair as possible.

Two-man System:

Generally, this is still a one-man system. The person on the mat uses the extra person only to confirm a caution, passivity and pin.

Unless the extra person is very experienced and the on-mat official a rookie, **do not** overturn any of his/her calls. Whenever a call is overturned, the two officials should discuss it at an appropriate time during or after the match.

Three-man System:

Follow the C.A.W.O.A. rulebook.

Red and Yellow Cards:

Yellow cards are used to warn a coach that he/she is not complying with the rules of the tournament. His/her actions, if not corrected, could cause him/her to receive a red card, which would then result in his/her being removed from coaching and possibly the gymnasium. The yellow card should be shown to the coach and he/she should be warned of the infraction that he/she is committing. This does not need to be a grand display of authority for anyone other than the coach to see. In the same respect, it does not need to be secretive either; if a coach's action warrants attention it must be addressed. Red cards are to be used as a last resort and should be the reaction to gross misconduct, not a minor event.

Ethics:

Officials must be professional in order to command the respect deserving of the position they hold.

Officials should always be on site 30 minutes before start time to review any last minute changes, mat assignments, check the site for any potential hazards, and check equipment.

An official must:

- Remain impartial
- Maintain calm in tense situations
- Treat all participants with respect
- Show confidence in his/her abilities and decisions
- Do his/her best

- Take pride in his/her efforts

Officials must dress according to the proper uniform:

- **Dress will include grey slacks**
- **Blue short-sleeved dress shirt**
- **Black belt**
- **Non-marking black shoes**
- **Wristbands, one red, one blue (only red or blue)**
- **Whistle, preferably white or black**

Clothes do not make the official, but every bit helps.

Note: If an official wants to coach or workout during a tournament, he/she should either remove or cover his/her officiating uniform.

Ranking:

Officials are ranked through performance and maintaining training. There are three main divisions of officiating:

1) Provincial - S.A.W.O.A.

- Aspirant
- Provincial C
- Provincial B
- Provincial A

2) National - C.A.W.O.A.

- Aspirant
- National C
- National B
- National A
- National A-E (Exceptional)

3) International - F.I.L.A.

- F.I.L.A. III
- F.I.L.A. II
- F.I.L.A. I
- F.I.L.A. I-E (Exceptional)

Each ranking is a steppingstone to the next highest level. As an official moves through the ranks, the type of tournament(s) and clinic(s) that he/she must take in order to maintain or promote his/her present ranking.

Provincially:

- You must attend a provincial or national clinic yearly
- Rankings are voted on and passed at the S.A.W.O.A. A.G.M.

Nationally:

- You must attend a national clinic and tournament yearly*
- * Rank may be maintained for one year of inactivity without demotion
- Rankings are voted on and passed at the C.A.W.O.A. A.G.M.

Internationally:

- You must attend an international tournament and clinic twice a year

Note: All officials are teachers/trainers.

As you learn of rule changes, modifications or interpretations from whatever level, your obligation to S.A.W.O.A. is to share this information with the rest of the organization. This ensures that all Saskatchewan officials are following the same interpretation. "Consistency" is the name of the game for us: everyone working toward the same thing in the same manner. With any changes, we will also be teaching coaches and athletes. This will also reduce friction between coaches and officials when everyone is following the same rule interpretations.