

USAW/NJ Policy on misconduct against our mat, pairing and other officials that help run our events.

SGB Approved 9/29/2025

USAW/NJ Policy on **misconduct against our mat, pairing and other officials that help run our events.**

Section 1 - Purpose: In order to: maintain dedicated people who wish to officiate, and, to encourage people to become officials; encourage civility and proper ways for coaches, and others to address any concerns regarding officials and officiating; promote a proper example for the youth that we serve; the following policy has been adopted by USAW/NJ.

Section 2-TERMS and information:

Organization: USA Wrestling New Jersey, a part of USA Wrestling;

Sanctioned events: USAW sanctions events

Styles of Wrestling: International; Scholastic

Licensed Officials: USA Wrestling is responsible for licensing, training, and evaluating international style officials. USA Wrestling New Jersey accepts the use of scholastic officials who have been licensed, trained and evaluated by New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association (and those of other states).

Levels of events: developmental; local; state

Unsanctioned events: USAW/NJ policy covers Sanctioned events. USAW/NJ has no policy that covers unsanctioned events. USAW officials are free to require that a non-USAW event director accept and enforce USAW/NJ policy regarding Official abuse. Reports from these unsanctioned events can be directed to USAW/NJ officials director.

Coaches: USA wrestling carded coaches; Non-USA wrestling carded coaches

Coaching levels: USA Wrestling is responsible for selling cards to coaches; providing levels of training, etc.

Types of Abuse: Verbal; Physical; Safe Sport violations;

Timing: During the contest; after the contest on event property; at a place not on the event property.

Safe Sport rules regarding treatment of Officials: The rules for defining a safe sport violation and the reporting procedures can be found [USAW-SafeSportPolicy.pdf \(usawmembership.com\)](#)

USWOA rules regarding treatment of Officials: The rules regarding abuse to officials can be found in the USWOA Rules of wrestling.

Reporting of incident and actions taken: SGB; USA Wrestling; other;

Section 3 -Misconduct can come in the form of “ABUSE” or in the form of “ASSAULT.” Misconduct can come from many places. Often misconduct comes from coaches. It can also come from the athletes, parents, team leaders, club officials, managers, etc.

Section 4 – USWOA rules: The national and international rules of wrestling have codes of conduct for the Coaches and can be found in the USWOA rule book after the section “illegal Holds and Actions” in a section labeled “COACH.” These rules deal with: where the coach can and cannot go during the bout; trying to **influence decisions** of the officiating body; **insulting**

the referee. Warnings are given via a yellow card by the mat chairman. A red card requires taking the coach's credential (pending the level of the event) and the coach leaving the arena. With either card the official shall inform the coach, the team leader (if there is one) and the tournament director. Both notifications are noted on the bout sheet and/or the electronic score device.

Section 5 Safe Sport: Charges of coach, athlete, other individual, misconduct that DON'T apply to Safe Sport, should be relayed in a chain of command to the event head official; then to USAW/NJ Officials Director; then to the appropriate council or committee. In cooperation with each other, the situation should be reviewed. Any recommendation for sanction should come from the corresponding council or committee. Charges of misconduct that apply to Safe Sport should addressed to both Safe Sport and to the event head official as stated above.

Section 6 – Act Quickly: Immediate action should be taken by the Official involved including but not limited to:

1. Written/signed/dated statement of the official/officials involved.
2. Written/signed/dated Statement of any witnesses.
3. Any video evidence; Logged as to where it can be seen at a future time.
4. Make a copy for the event head Official.
5. Head Official send a copy to the appropriate Council/committee chair and the SGB chair to make sure timing is done quickly.

Section 7- The Council and committee chairs need to be involved. The Couches Council should be the party that reviews the accusations against a coach. The style level Council chairs should be the party that review accusations against an athlete or event team leader. The membership committee chair should be the party that review the accusations against a parent, or club official or spectator. The council/committee leader involved should make a recommendation to the USAWNJ SGB as to the consequences. The final consequences need to be approved by the SGB. The SGB report and decision may need to be sent to USAW if restrictions are mandated. USAW should be involved in the suspension if membership keeps the coach from participating in USAW regional or national events. *The SGB shall notify the accused party and allow the party to make a written statement to the committee as to what happened. After a judgement has been made by the Committee and approved by the SGB the individual shall be notified in writing. The written document shall give the individual an opportunity to Appeal any decision from the time of notification. Any judgement by the SGB shall stand until the time in the judgement passes or an Appeal by the individual has been accepted.*

Section 8. When is it covered: Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after a wrestling bout, including travel to and from a match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee.

Section 9- What events are covered: All USAW/NJ sanctioned international style and scholastic style events are covered by this policy. Non-USAW sanctioned events may adopt his policy or parts thereof in order to acquire and maintain officials.

Section 10 – What is covered:

- A. Referee Assault.

(1) Any wrestler, coach, manager, club official, or team leader, etc. who commits an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee (“Referee Assault”) shall face suspension and other consequences based upon review by the appropriate councils and/or the state governing body.

(2) For purposes of this subparagraph 2(a), “Referee Assault” shall include, but is not limited to: striking, kicking, choking, pushing, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; spitting on a referee with ostensible intent to do so; kicking or throwing an object at an official that could inflict injury; or damaging the referee’s uniform or personal property (e.g., car, uniform, or equipment).

B. Referee Abuse.

(1) Any wrestler, coach, manager, club official, or team leader who threatens through a physical act or verbal statement, either explicitly or implicitly, a referee (“Referee Abuse”) shall be subject to the existing rules of US Wrestling Officials Association at/or during the event and subject to evaluation by the appropriate councils and/or the state governing body.

(2) For purposes of this subparagraph 2(b), “Referee Abuse” shall include, but is not limited to: verbal and nonverbal communication which contains foul or abusive language, trying to influence decisions of the officiating body; insulting the referee, and which may imply or directly threaten physical harm; spewing a beverage on or spitting at a referee or the referee’s personal property.

Section 11 – Who is covered -

A. Referee. For purposes of this section 2, a “referee” shall include the mat official, judge, the mat chairman, any assistant referees or those not working at the time.

B. “Officials” include the referees and those workers and/or volunteers operating the tournament for USAW/NJ.

C. Wrestling bout. For purposes of the Assault Suspension and the Abuse Suspension, a “bout” shall mean any official wrestling contest run by or sanctioned by USAW/NJ.

Section 12: Consequences and Enforcement. In general, as of this writing, USAW/NJ has had extremely little situations that might fall under this policy. Still, it is imperative that we start planning on consequences of someone subject to this policy and enforcement of the consequences:

1. Consequences: These are some consequences to consider. They in no way limit the consequences suggested by a committee and/or approved by the SGB.
1. Verbal Warning; Written Warning;
2. Dismissal from the event;
3. Dismissal from a series of events;
4. dismissal from a season; Dismissal for year(s)
5. If offending person coaches or is involved in any way during the contest from which he/she is barred participation then this becomes an automatic offense for further review and consequences.
6. Brainstorming Options on procedures of Enforcement :

(1) Be sure event administrators know: (a). Tournament director (b). Head Official (c). Mat officials.

(2) Place name and picture in a place on our website where the above can see the consequences. Place a list at each table for officials to see the admonished person’s picture, club affiliation, kids names that he/she might want to coach;

- (3) Ask the names of the people in the corner (seems arduous; coaches move from mat to mat even during a single bout).
- (4) Issue coach bands to all coaches who present their coaches card or identification.
- (5) Enforcement.

END