



**GUIDEBOOK
FOR
THE CHALLENGE
&
VIDEO REVIEW
GRECO-ROMAN WRESTLING
FREESTYLE WRESTLING
WOMEN'S WRESTLING**

Second Edition

PREFACE

In 2018, USAW and USWOA introduced "The Challenge and Video Review" process at the Cadet / Junior Nationals in Fargo N.D. Our motto was and still is, "Every Bout, Every Mat, Every Session." Our first attempt in Fargo did not occur without mishaps, as there were many. Fortunately, referees, coaches and wrestlers saw the benefit of the challenge/video review and embraced the process. No longer do we have bout protests lasting past midnight.

Since our first attempt in 2018 at Fargo, the challenge and video review process has grown exponentially. We now have the challenge and video review process at all our national tournaments, to include the duals, our regional tournaments, and some states have incorporated the challenge and video review process. With all that said, we still have a long way to go. Our skill set as jury members are not quite what it needs to be. We must keep our challenges from running long, we must make bout defining calls with confidence, we must not search for things that aren't there, and we must not make the review out to be more than it actually is.

The guidebook is designed to complement the USAW and UWW rulebooks and assist the coach, chairman and jury member in his or her responsibilities regarding challenges and video review.

I wish each of you the very best and good luck.

Tim J. Pierson
2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHALLENGE PROCEDURE 4-5

VIDEO REVIEW PROCEDURE 5-6

CONSULTATION / CONFERENCE 6

POST-BOUT PROTEST 6

JURY DECISION EXAMPLES 6-7

JURY PHILOSOPHIES AND THOUGHTS 7-8

CHALLENGE PROCEDURE

The challenge process is an action where a coach is allowed to request the bout be stopped, and the jury and mat chairman review a contested situation on video. This process is only available during competitions specifically designated by USAW.

Each wrestler is entitled to one (1) challenge per match. If after reviewing the challenge the jury modifies the original decision, the wrestler who requested for challenge will have the challenge block returned and can be used again during the bout.

The coach can request a challenge from the coaching area on the mat. Once a challenge block has been thrown, the coach must remain in his/her designated corner unless specifically requested by the chairman or is asking one of the three questions confirming score, time, or criteria. Coaches are not allowed to walk onto the wrestling mat or carry the challenge block to the chairman's table voicing their displeasure with a call, or attempting to offer their opinion on what they think the call should be.

A coach must issue the challenge within a reasonable amount of time after the referee team has awarded or failed to award points for a contested situation. The "reasonable amount of time" to request a challenge is not fixed and is generally considered from the time the questioned score (no score) appears on the official scoreboard. Any decision about the timeliness of the challenge will be at the discretion of the jury.

Once a coach requests a challenge, the chairman must accept the challenge block. If there is any question about whether the challenge was requested in a reasonable amount of time, the challenge will be accepted. It is very important the Chairman has the score posted on the official scoreboard in a timely manner. The Chairman cannot refuse a challenge on his/her own prerogative. Only the Jury can refuse a Challenge.

To request a challenge the coach must throw a colored object (challenge block) onto the mat to notify the referee team.

1. The color of the object will correspond to the color of the wrestler's singlet.
2. The challenge block should not be thrown in an aggressive manner toward the referees or wrestlers. Doing so, could result in a yellow or red card for the coach.
3. Requesting a challenge (throwing the challenge block onto the mat) **DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY STOP THE ACTION.** Only the Chairman can stop the bout (at the appropriate time) in order to review the challenge.

The mat chairman will indicate to the referee to stop the bout to review the challenge as soon as the situation becomes neutral or when there is no imminent scoring.

If a natural stoppage occurs in the bout and the challenge is not offered, prior to re-starting the bout, the challenge will be denied.

If the Chairman is unsure of the nature of the challenge, they may request to speak directly with the coach in order to understand what is specifically being challenged.

1. Chairman asks, "Coach, what are you challenging?"
2. Coach responds, "I am challenging ___Specific Situation___."
3. This is the proper exchange between the chairman and coach.
4. Once the specifics of the challenge are determined, the coach returns to his/her corner.
5. Situational discussions or debates between the chairman and coach are not allowed.

There are three (3) challenge situations that will be denied:

1. "Passivity calls." Penalties given as a result of passive wrestling.
2. "Confirmed fall." However, a coach may request to challenge for an illegal action that led to a fall, or that time had run out prior to the fall.
3. "Counter-Challenge." The adjudication of the jury is final. A coach is not allowed to request a counter-challenge. If a coach initiates a counter-challenge, it will be rejected and the coach will be awarded a yellow card.

There are three (3) challenge questions that can be clarified at the request of the coach. The coach is still required to throw the challenge block, but once answered, the challenge block will be returned without penalty. The three questions are:

1. Is the score correct? Answer is yes or no. If no, the bout will be stopped to correct the score.
2. Is the time correct? Answer is yes or no. If no, the bout will be stopped to correct the time.
3. Who has criteria? Chairman should state Red or Blue and the exact winning criteria.

There are only two (2) challenges that can be made after the bout has ended. The two challenges are:

1. When points are added to the scoreboard after the time was out.
2. When an action occurred just before the end of the bout.

There are two (2) challenge situations that could result in time being added back on the clock. The two challenges are:

1. If a scoring action was determined to be a slip throw by the jury. The time will be set when the slip throw occurred. Any points scored after the slip occurred will be cancelled.
2. If a scoring action or confirmed fall was determined to be a direct result of an offensive foul by the jury, the time will be set when the foul occurred.

If the coach recognizes a technical error has been made by the referee team, it is imperative a challenge request be initiated in order to address and rectify the error. Delayed challenges, in which a significant amount of time has elapsed and/or a secondary scoring action had occurred, the challenge will be denied.

If the wrestler disagrees with their coach's challenge, "only the wrestler" can reject the challenge by telling the referee or mat chairman they do not want to challenge, and the bout will continue. If the coach requests a counter-challenge after the athlete has rejected the challenge, the coach could receive a yellow card.

A wrestler may also indicate his or her desire to challenge a scoring action once the athletes have come to a standing position or a natural stoppage in the bout by gesturing or asking the referee of their desire to challenge.

If the Coach, changes his/her mind and "directly requests to the referee" to withdraw the challenge, the challenge block will be returned to the Coach and he/she will be awarded an immediate yellow card for disrupting the bout.

When less than 30 seconds remain in a bout and the refereeing body agrees unanimously that one of the wrestlers is passive, they may issue a caution to the wrestler at fault for fleeing-the-hold and point(s) to his opponent. Should this point determine the winner of the bout, the other wrestler may request a challenge.

VIDEO REVIEW PROCEDURE

The Jury will consist of one or two independent referees, and the mat chairman. The mat chairman can assist the jury.

Once a challenge is accepted, the chairman will clarify the situation being challenged and notify the jury member.

The jury member will directly approach the chairman and ask, "what is being challenged?"; "what did the team score?"; and "is the scoreboard correct?" Once a challenge has been requested, at no time should the Jury by-pass the Chairmen and go directly to the coach seeking to initiate the review process.

If the mat chairman is not able to articulate the specifics of the challenge, the jury may request to speak directly with the coach. This may only occur after consultation with the chairman. Once the specifics of the challenge are determined, the jury, with the assistance of the mat chairman, will locate the contested situation on the video, and review process will begin.

It is recommended, that once the contested situation is located on the video and the review process begins, the chairman take a step back from the jury. However, they should remain close enough, in case the jury has additional questions. This will eliminate any perception the chairman is guiding or influencing the jury.

Once the review is complete, the jury will render its decision by displaying the appropriate score using the scoring paddles. If the jury confirms the decision by the referee team the challenging wrestler will lose the challenge, and his opponent will receive one (1) technical point.

The jury will ensure, if required, the mat chairman adjusts the bout sheet, confirms the scoreboard is correct prior to restarting the bout, and then leaves the mat.

The Jury's decision is final and cannot be counter-challenged.

In case of a major technical problem that prevents video review of the contested action, (the action goes out of camera view or the camera does not record the contested situation), the referee team's initial decision will be upheld, the challenge block will be returned to the coach and they will not be penalized. If this happens, it is recommended the mat chairman conduct a consultation with the referee team regarding the contested action. If the chairman conducts a consultation, regardless of the final referee team decision, the challenging coach will not lose his/her right to challenge or incur a penalty.

The video will be displayed on a big screen monitor, projector, or TV if one is available for the competition. If one is not available, the jury and mat chairman can watch the video directly on the mat side computer.

MAT CHAIRMAN CONSULTATION/CONFERENCE

The mat chairman has ability to watch the video with referee team during a consultation without a challenge being issued. This would not include the jury. After the decision of the consultation of the referee team, the action could be challenged and be reviewed by the jury and mat chairman.

At no time can the coach request a consultation by the referee team to review the video. Using video during consultations will be at the sole discretion of the mat chairman. If the coaches want to use video review for a situation, they must request a challenge.

In the case of a serious technical mistake, not seen by the referee team, the jury member(s) may intervene to correct a technical situation such as timekeeper mistakes, wrong points or cautions published on the scoreboard, mistake in resuming the bout in parterre or in standing position, declaration of incorrect winner, etc.

At no time may the jury member(s) intervene with the referee team in regards to judgement situations such as how points were scored, passivity calls, fouls, or negative wrestling calls.

POST-BOUT PROTEST

If a tournament is specifically established with challenge procedures, post-bout protests will typically not be accepted.

A written post-bout protest is a notification of a potential procedural error on behalf of the referee crew that may have affected the results of a bout.

Refer to the USAW Rulebook for specific post bout protest submission requirements.

JURY DECISION EXAMPLES

If after reviewing the video, the jury:

1. Modifies the decision of the referee team in favor of the wrestler who has requested the challenge. Challenge Won. The challenge block will be returned and the challenge can be used again during the bout.

Example:

- Referee team confirms R2. Red challenges for a four.
- The jury confirms R4.
- Red wins the challenge and gets the challenge block returned.

2. Confirms the original decision of the referee team. Challenge Lost. The wrestler who requested the challenge loses the challenge, the challenge block will remain with the chairman, and his/her opponent will receive one (1) point.

Example:

- Referee team confirms R2. Red challenges for a four.
- The jury confirms R2.
- Red loses the challenge, loses the challenge block, and Blue will be awarded one (1) point.

3. Modifies the decision of the referee team and the outcome is worse than the original call. Challenge Won. The challenge block will be returned and the challenge can be used again during the bout.

Example:

- Referee team confirms R2. Blue challenges no takedown.
- The jury's decision is R4.
- Blue wins the challenge and gets the challenge block returned.

4. Special note. Pay close attention to changes in criteria; A change in criteria can go "for" or "against" a wrestler.

Example #1:

- The score is R0-B2.
- Referee team confirms R2-R2-B2. Blue scored last.
- Score is R4-B4. Red challenges for a four.
- The jury confirms R4.
- Score remains the same, however, Red is now winning on criteria. (Highest Point Value). Red wins the challenges, gets the challenge block back.

Example #2

- The score is R0-B2.
- Referee team confirms R4-B2. Blue scored last.
- Score is R4-B4. Blue challenges for an R2-R2.
- The jury confirms R2-R2-B2.
- Score remains the same, however, Blue is now winning on criteria. (Last points scored) Blue wins the challenge and gets the challenge block back.

JURY PHILOSOPHIES AND THOUGHTS

"DON'T MAKE A CHALLENGE/REVIEW MORE THAN IT IS" Reviews are quite simple. A challenge is made by a coach, and you walk over and ask the Chairman what was called? You watch the video and determine if the call either meets criteria or it doesn't. You make "your" call, and walk away. It's that simple.

"SLOW DOWN AND THINK" "As a jury member, it is very important to slow down and think. Your job is not just reviewing a contested situation. It's also analyzing criteria as well. Even though the score may remain the same, criteria may change, and change the winner.

"TIME" Time is a luxury we do not have. As a jury member, we need to be quick in our reviews. Over the past few years, we have had issues of taking a very long time to make a decision. We cannot let this continue to happen. Coaches figure out who is slow and they throw the brick to give their wrestler a break. It may cost them a point, but the rest is worth it. When we take "forever" for a review, we remove the conditioning aspect of wrestling. Our goal is to be under one minute for a review.

"TWO TIMES MAX" When you are called upon to conduct a review, watch the video one to two times normal speed max. You should be able to make your call within that timeline. The exception will be a third time in slow motion. If you have an action that is more complex, you may need to look at it in slow motion such a step out, or foul. With that said, slow motion is not for every action. Slow motion can actually change the way an action appears. Do not immediately jump to slow motion.

"THE CREW MADE AN ERROR AND I NEED TO FIX IT" If you're called for a review, show up, review the action, make your call and move on. Keep it simple. You're not there to try and find something the crew did wrong or "fix" the crew. The crew made the call; the coach didn't agree with it and the call gets challenged. Your job is to determine if the confirmed score meets criteria or not. Sometimes we get our thinking twisted that we are being called to save the day and fix the crew. DON'T DO THIS. The crew won't like it and you won't like it either if it happens to you. Remember, it's not just the referee crew. The coach has a say in the challenge process as well.

"THE CREW MISSED SOMETHING AND I NEED TO FIND IT" When you are called, review the action being challenged. "IF" you see something very obvious, such as a foul, then absolutely make a call. However, just review the contested action. Do not eat up time searching for something that's not there. You will have challenges that are so obvious the natural reaction is "there's more here than just this." Example: Blue has a merkle on Red. The referee team awards no points. Blue coach challenges wanting two points. You look at the video and then ask the chairman in a confused tone of voice, "Is this what they're challenging?" You're taken aback because it is so obvious. A merkle is not two points! Like I said above, coaches have a say in the challenge process. Coaches can and will challenge actions; out of frustration, not familiar with the rules, and they have folkstyle muscle memory. Don't let that cause you to think something is missing and begin a time-consuming search.

"I CAN'T SEE THE SITUATION, BUT I CAN GUESS" If the video does not show the action, you CANNOT make a call. If this occurs, tell the Chairman to give the challenge block back to the coach and have the referee crew conduct a consultation. Also inform the both coaches the action is not on the video and you cannot make a call. Do not attempt to guess what the outcome would be. Again, if you cannot clearly see the situation, you cannot make a call.

"RESPECT" This goes both ways. As a jury member, respect the chairman. The crew made the call, it's your job to validate the criteria of the call. Nothing more. This is not your time to reign supreme over the chairman or tutor the crew on the call. That is NOT your job. DON'T DO THIS EITHER! Conversely, the Chairman should not be telling you what to call or get upset if you change the call. Once the challenge block is thrown, it's not the referee team's call anymore. It now belongs to the Jury.

"ASKING FOR HELP" There is no shame in asking each other for help. Having an extra set of eyes, to include the Chairman, helps. Don't feel you have to shoulder the load alone on every call. There will be times you'll look at an action and go "Wow, that's odd." It's ok to ask another Jury member to look with you. But when you do ask for help, make it a quick call.

"PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR MAT(S)" Please pay attention to your assigned mat(s). Focusing on your mat(s), and not being distracted will enable you to watch the actions real time. This could quite possibly allow you to have a good idea of the contested situation, what call was confirmed, before you review it on the video. This will also help you speed up the review process.

"HE WHO THROWS FIRST WINS" If a situation occurs, and the mat chairman, thinks they'd like to have a conference, here are two items to assist you;

1. If a Coach throws the brick first, there is no conference. The challenge will be accepted and no conference will take place. If you hold the challenge and conduct a conference after the coach has requested a challenge, this will effectively give the coach two challenges for the same contested situation.
2. If the Chairman calls a conference first, and then the coach throws the challenge block, do not accept the challenge. Once the chairman conference is complete and the coach still wants to challenge, that is his/her right. Remember, if the chairman calls a conference, something is

going to change. A chairman conference could potentially address a coach's concern and expedite restarting the bout.

"CONSULTATION VERSUS VIDEO REVIEW"

1. Consultation process belongs to the mat chairman, not the jury.
2. Video Review process belongs to the jury, not the chairman.