

High Schools: Team Scoring

I have already run these proposals by some very significant people, and patriarchs of our sport, as well, as some Wrestling Rules Committee personnel, and Head Coaches of Top 20 NCAA Teams. All agree that these rule changes are very interesting, and/or may have some merit to at least try via a “test pilot.”

Names of these individuals, will be produced, upon request.

As you read the following proposals, the most important, are the following goals...

- We must keep and make our sport more fun for the athletes, coaches, wrestling fans, as well as the casual wrestling fans.
- We need the support and must instill the interest from the non-Wrestling/casual Wrestling Fans/People in society. We must make the sport understandable, and interesting so they will want to watch wrestling, almost as much as they enjoy watching, and understand the rules of Football, Baseball, Basketball, and Hockey.

If we miss on these above goals, we miss the logic and the point of these proposals.

1) Rules Proposal! New Team Scoring concept

Pre-Rationale

Consider the facts and the following rules changes that have taken place over the last 30 to 50 years with the 4 major sports (Football, Baseball, Basketball, and Hockey). All sports that know how to generate Billion Dollar industries. It's called marketing.

Add more scoring! Americans want to see more scoring. American sports fans understand More Scoring! Simply put, they want action, excitement, and they love seeing the scoreboard lite up!

Football, over the last 20 years interjected the “**Defensive Illegal Contact**” rule. Meaning, you can't touch a potential receiver more than 5 yards from the line of scrimmage. They make it harder and harder for defenses to stop offensives. Why? So the offenses could score more points. In fact, the NFL continues to change the rules, so the **offenses have more of an advantage to put more points on the scoreboard**. Why?

Baseball, juiced the baseball, lowered the fences, so there are more Home Runs (scoring) , RBI's (scoring), and both leagues now have the Designated Hitter. **Why?**

Basketball added a “3” point line, and the rules make it harder every year for the defenses to stop the offenses, especially down low, in the paint (near the basket). **Why?**

Hockey added a new overtime a rule “three on three,” to increase excitement and scoring in overtime, and shorten the overtime period. The NHL have demanded that the officials call more penalties, so they are more power-play goals. **Why?**

Why? Americans want to see more points!

Wrestling has continued to keep the scoring of their matches the same way for over 70 years and refuses to change the rules to increase more scoring. **Why?**

Rules Proposals

Rule (Option 1): “Go for the Fall, and Let it Fly”

- **The team with the most falls wins the Dual Meet (5 fall minimum)**
- **If there are No Falls, or if the minimum (5 falls) is not reached, the team with the most “Individual Bout Points” in the other bouts, wins the match.**
- **A Forfeit will count as a fall. Any DQ or Injury Default will count as a fall.**
- **If there is still a tie, then we use the current Tie Breaking Criteria**

Rationale: Everyone want to see the athletes Go for “The Fall!”

Rule (Option 2) Emphasize the Fall, Minimize “just” winning by Decision

How to Score the Result of each bout

Decision 2 points

Major 3 points

Tech Fall 4 points

Fall (2nd/3rd period) 6 points

Fall (1st period) 7 points

Rationale: We must widen the gap between the Tech Fall, and the Actual Fall! Minimize “just wining by decision,” and Reward More Team Points for The Fall!

Minimize the boring “Decisions,” and at the same time Justify and Reward and the Impact of the main goal of our sport? The Fall!

Rule (Option 3)

“A Point Scored is a Point Earned”

The points that a wrestler scores in the individual about, counts towards the total team score

Just like Football, Baseball, Basketball, and Hockey

Wrestler A wins 9-2

Wrestler A's team gets 9 Team Points, and wrestler B's team gets 2 Team points

Matches still ends with a technical fall (a 15-point difference), with both teams receiving the points that were scored in the Bout

Wrestler A wins the bout 19-4, the match is over. Wrestler A's team receives 19 team points, and wrestler B's team receives 4 team points.

If a fall occurs, the wrestler who scores the fall, receives **6 bonus points in addition to** the score that has already been earned and recorded. If wrestler A pins wrestler B, and at the time of the fall, wrestler A is winning the bout 5-2, wrestler A's team will receive **6 bonus points, on top of the 5 points already earned**. Score ends up being wrestler A-11, and wrestler B's team receives 2 points.

If wrestler A is beating wrestler B (10-3), and wrestler B pins wrestler A. Result wrestler A's team receives 10 points, and wrestler B's team receives 9 points.

It all about scoring points. Not winning a losing the match.

That's right coaches, you will start to recruit scorers and pinners, not just winners. How exciting???

Just think, telling the fans what they are in for. More scoring! More excitement. More fan interest! More Attendance! More revenue!

Coaches! Outside of a few dual meets around the country, what does your attendance look like?

Everyone understands basketball, Everyone. Score a point, and it goes up as a point. **In our sport, wrestling, that gives your team ONLY 3 team points for winning 15-9 is counterproductive. Especially when wrestlers that wins 1-0, scores the same 3 team points. It's just not fair, and simply put, just doesn't make sense.** Especially to the wrestling fan, and especially the non-Wrestling fan. Why, why would you want to bust your butt as a wrestler or risk getting pinned by scoring a bunch of points when it means so little. It only makes sense to the older fans who grew up under our current system, and resist change most of the time. **All, all, all the major sports that make \$\$\$ and have huge TV contracts keep their scoring simple. Score a 6-point touchdown and your team gets 6 points. Sink a three pointer in basketball and you team gets 3 points. Hit a home run and your team scores the run. Why, why, why can't we see the wisdom of the simplicity.** Our scoring system keeps new fans at home because it confuses them and it keeps our athletes focusing, "only on winning," versus action, letting it fly, or increase the level of excitement and entertainment. There's no reason to go for the fall, open up the offense, or score a lot of points.

See below link

<https://pittsburghpanthers.com/news/2022/1/14/wrestling-no-19-pitt-stuns-no-6-arizona-state.aspx>

Last year the University of Pittsburg, **ONLY had 3 falls and one win via DQ (stalling)** versus the ASU **6 wins (5 by decisions, and a major decision)**. Pitt **ONLY won 4 of the 10 matches, but still won the dual meet**. No One Complained.

This is exactly what the sport needs! More falls wins the match!

Afterall, what is the goal of a wrestling bout? Correct! The Fall.

Forfeits!

If team weighs in a wrestler, and does not wrestle the athlete, the forfeit will be worth 15 Team points

If team Legitimately does not have an athlete to weigh in, via the electronic roster, or is obvious diagnosed with an injury, via a physician's signed prescription/note, the forfeit will only be worth 8 team points. This documentation must be presented and signed no less than 24 hours prior to the date of the competition (Dual meet or Tournament). No Physicians note will be accepted the day of any competition, other than if athlete is injured on the first day of competition, with another day to follow.

This will ensure that a coach who might be up 10 team points with one about left, from forfeiting the match so they don't give up more than 10 points. This will prohibit coaches from unethically winning the dual meet, just by simply forfeiting that last about (if they are only winning by 14 points or less. Do the math).

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Clarification or Point of Emphasis! "Officials should use the 10-foot circle as a guide for "traditional stalling" in the neutral position"

As the wrestlers get towards the out of bounds, boundary area, and there is no imminent action, the official should stop the action, make the call verbally, "NO ACTION," and bring the wrestlers back to the middle of the mat. The wrestler that leaves the 10 foot circle more than twice, should be warned and/or penalized for stalling!

It's called, "traditional stalling"

Something, that the NFHS rules committee have been trying to emphasize over the years, with much failure...

Trust me! It works...

After spending over 41 years as an official in Pennsylvania, North Jersey, and the Cleveland Ohio area, officiating, Flo Wrestling's Who's # 1, Iron Man, Beast of the East, The Hurricane Tournament (Lehigh Valley), etc. Approximately Forty Percent of the wrestlers that I have officiated over the last 15 years, end up wrestling at the NCAA level, and/or become All-Americans two and three years later...

I practice what I preach when I officiate, and it works!

We need the support of coaches, the NFHS Committee, and many influential people to at least test, as a pilot test market in a few states, to just try these rules.

We all know that Rome wasn't built in a day

The sport needs change that encourages more action, more excitement, and leads to more points being scored. Remember, Americans and the fans want this.

In closing, Imagine this...

Two guys are sitting in a restaurant, on a Saturday night, and one says to the other, "Hey! Did you see that High School match last night?

No! Who won, what was the score?

Washington high beat Lincoln High 112-97

Wow! That must've been a hell of a basketball game!

No! It was a wrestling match! They changed the rules!

Everybody lets it fly, and everyone tries to score as many points as they can NOW, from the start of the match to the final buzzer.

It's not like soccer anymore, it's like a great football game, or basketball game.

It's real exciting! You should check it out!

Cool! I will! I can't wait till next weeks' match!"

Lets Just Do It! Or at least Just Try It!