



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES LUTTES ASSOCIEES
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATED WRESTLING STYLES

FILA

**TO ALL NATIONAL FEDERATIONS
TO ALL BUREAU MEMBERS
TO ALL TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS
TO ALL REFEREEING DEPARTMENT MEMBERS**

Subject: Modification of the wrestling rules

Dear Colleagues,

Further to the 2008 Congress that took place in Beijing, the FILA Bureau adopted some amendments to the wrestling rules that were presented to all National Federations by circular letters on 9 and 25 February 2009. Those amendments were put to test during all international tournaments and Continental Championships in 2009 and brought full satisfaction.

The modifications are therefore officially adopted and must be applied to all international competitions from this date forward. The rules will not undergo any other changes until the 2012 Olympic Games.

FILA will publish a new edition of the wrestling rules in September 2009.

A) FOR ALL WRESTLING STYLES : FREESTYLE, GRECO-ROMAN, FEMALE WRESTLING

1. Refereeing of the match

The refereeing body is composed of the referee, the judge, and the mat chairman. All decisions must be made unanimously or with a majority of 2 on 1. The refereeing body is not allowed to use the video evidence to make its decisions.

2. Wrestler's right – the challenge

The challenge is the action through which the coach is allowed, on behalf of the wrestler, to stop the action and request the refereeing body to watch the video evidence in case of a disagreement with the call.

This possibility is only offered during competitions in which the video control is formally established by FILA and the Organizing Committee.

The coach must request the challenge by raising a white paddle, immediately after the refereeing body has awarded the points to the contested situation.

If the wrestler disagrees with the coach's decision, then the match continues.

Specific Points:

- Each wrestler is entitled to one (1) challenge per match. If after reviewing the challenge the refereeing body modifies its decision, then the challenge can be used again during the match.
- If the refereeing body or Jury of appeal confirms the decision, the wrestler loses the challenge and his opponent will receive one (1) technical point.
- The mat chairman will demand to stop the match to review the challenge as soon as the situation on the mat becomes neutral.



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- No challenge can be requested in the event of a fall, being understood that the fall must be confirmed by the mat chairman further to the decision of either the referee or the judge (this provision requires a modification of Article 44 of the wrestling rules).
- The coach requesting the challenge must do so from his seat, without stepping on the mat or approaching the judge's or the mat chairman's table.
- During the review of the challenge, no consultation among the refereeing body is permitted.
- After having reviewed the action once, the referee gives his decision first and is immediately followed by the judge who gives his decision from his seat with the material available to him (paddle or electronically). If the mat chairman agrees, there will be no further intervention by the Jury of appeal.
- If the mat chairman is in disagreement with the referee and the judge, he shall seek the opinion of the Jury of appeal. In this case, the decision made by the Jury of appeal and confirmed by the mat chairman is final and cannot be challenged anymore.
- It will not possible to request a "counter challenge" once a final decision has been made by the refereeing body or Jury of appeal.
- The challenge is taken into consideration immediately after the coach has raised the white paddle and it will not be possible for him to withdraw it.

3. Jury of appeal

The Jury of appeal is a group of refereeing experts whose function is to make sure that the wrestling rules are strictly applied during all major FILA events, such as: the Olympic Games, the World and Continental Championships, the World Cups, the Golden Grand Prix tournaments, and the specific Games.

The Jury of appeal is formed by the FILA President or his substitute and is made up of three (3) persons chosen among the Instructors, the Bureau members, or knowledgeable refereeing people according to the different matches and wrestlers' nationality. There is one Jury of appeal per mat.

Functions:

- The Jury of appeal is responsible for controlling that all rules governing a wrestling match have been applied by the refereeing body before the winner of the period or the match can be declared by the mat chairman.
- One member of the Jury of appeal will be appointed as coordinator and will be in charge of announcing the Jury's decisions on behalf of all.
- If the Jury of appeal notices that a serious administrative, timing or scoring mistake has been made, the coordinator must bring it to the mat chairman's attention and ask for its rectification.
- If the Jury of appeal notices that the mat chairman did not stop the match further to a challenge request, the coordinator must ask him to do so immediately after the action is completed.



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- During the video review, the Jury of appeal will not be allowed to speak with the refereeing body that must make its decision on its own.
- If the majority of the refereeing body reaches an agreement (the mat chairman's agreement being mandatory), the Jury of appeal cannot intervene and the decision is final.
- If the mat chairman does not agree with the referee and the judge, then he must seek the Jury of appeal's decision and it will be considered final and irrevocable.
- A complete set of red, blue and white paddles must be made available to each Jury of appeal in order for its decision to be seen by everyone.
- No further appeal can be lodged to the FILA Bureau, CAS, or any other court once a decision has been made by the refereeing body (agreed upon by the mat chairman) or by the Jury of appeal.
- The FILA Bureau can eliminate a member of the refereeing body or Jury of appeal at all times if it deems that a serious mistake in the application of the rules or in the decision of a challenge has been made.
- The Jury of appeal will also be in charge of assessing the referees' work and submitting its written evaluations to FILA.

4. Penalty for negative wrestling

All penalties provided for in the wrestling rules against negative wrestling and illegal holds remain in force, but the referees are required to be stricter in the application of the procedure, that is: one verbal warning « attention » and if the illegal action continues, award a caution to the wrestler at fault and the corresponding points to his opponent.

Illegal actions include:

- Fleeing the hold
- Fleeing the mat
- Fleeing the mat once the clinch has been ordered
- Blatant refusal to maintain contact in standing position
- Ground defense consisting in blocking the opponent by bending or raising the legs in Greco-Roman wrestling

NB: No caution for passivity or technical points to the opponent are awarded.

B) FOR GRECO-ROMAN WRESTLING ONLY

The Greco-Roman matches are still won by 2 winning periods of 2 minutes broken down into 90 seconds of regular wrestling and 30 seconds of ordered ground wrestling. The wrestler who takes the clinch will be able to choose between the side position and lift or the back position, standing or one knee to the mat, with his hands resting on the opponent's shoulders. In all periods, the wrestler who wins by points after 90 seconds will have the advantage of the clinch and will not be penalized if he does not score during the 30 seconds. In such situations, if the top wrestler does not advance his position, the wrestlers will be placed in standing position again to complete the period. At the end of the 2 minutes, the winner of the period is declared.



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If after 90 seconds the score of the period is tied by 0-0, the advantage of the clinch will first be given to the red wrestler and if the situation is repeated in a second period, the advantage of the clinch will be given to the blue wrestler. When the clinch is ordered after a tied score of 0-0, the top wrestler has to score to win the period. If the top wrestler does not score any point, the bottom wrestler will receive 1 point and win the period.

If each wrestler won a period and the 3rd period is tied by 0-0, the choice of the position, top or bottom, will be given to the wrestler who scored the highest number of technical points in the first two periods (added together). If the two wrestlers scored the same number of technical points, the following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- 1) Number of cautions, 2) Value of the points, 3) Draw

If no technical point is scored during the 30 seconds, 1 point will be awarded to the bottom wrestler and he will be declared winner of the match.

Examples:

	RED	BLUE
Périod 1	3	---
Périod 2	---	3
Périod 3	1	1

The blue wrestler scored the last technical point in the third period. He wins the clinch and he will not be penalized if he does not score during the last 30 seconds.

	RED	BLUE
Périod 1	111	3
Périod 2	2	1
Périod 3	1	---

The red wrestler wins the clinch and he will not be penalized if he does not score during the last 30 seconds.

	RED	BLUE
Périod 1	3	---
Périod 2	1	2
Périod 3	---	---

The red wrestler gets to choose the position (top or bottom). If the top wrestler does not score, 1 point will be awarded to the bottom wrestler who will win the match.

	RED	BLUE
Périod 1	3	-
Périod 2	-	3
Périod 3	---	---

The referee draws a ball and the wrestler who gets picked takes the top position. If the top wrestler does not score, 1 point will be awarded to the bottom wrestler who will win the match.



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	RED	BLUE
Périod 1	5	---
Périod 2	---	3
Périod 3	1	1

The blue wrestler scored the last technical point during the third period. He wins the clinch and he will not be penalized if he does not score during the last 30 seconds.

	RED	BLUE
Périod 1	2 – 0	11
Périod 2	3	111
Périod 3	---	---

The blue wrestler gets to choose the position (top or bottom). If the top wrestler does not score, 1 point will be awarded to the bottom wrestler who will win the match.

	RED	BLUE
Périod 1	2	1
Périod 2	1	2
Périod 3	---	---

The referee draws a ball and the wrestler who gets picked takes the top position. If the top wrestler does not score, 1 point will be awarded to the bottom wrestler who will win the match.

Raphaël Martinetti
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