



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES LUTTES ASSOCIEES  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATED WRESTLING STYLES

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## TO ALL NATIONAL FEDERATIONS TO ALL BUREAU MEMBERS

**Subject: Modification of the wrestling rules**

Dear Colleagues,

The FILA Bureau that met in Rome (ITA) on 31 January 2009 approved the following amendments to the wrestling rules. These modifications will come into force with immediate effect for all international competitions entered in the FILA calendar. Sequel to the Continental Championships at the end of May 2009, the FILA Bureau will analyze the impact of these modifications and make its final decisions regarding the ones that must remain in force until the 2012 London Olympic Games.

### 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. Wrestlers' right

Each wrestler is entitled – once during the match – to ask the mat chairman to review the video evidence along with the refereeing body and the jury of appeal if he/she deems that a mistake has been made. This request must be made by the wrestler's coach who must raise a white card and wait for the mat chairman to order the referee to stop the match once the bout is back into neutral position. The refereeing body must stay in its place while the disputed action is displayed in slow motion on the giant screen (if there is one in the hall) or on the scoreboard. This option has already been added to the Heracles software. This solution would allow the public to also review the action and give the refereeing body the opportunity to confirm or change its decision.

Each wrestler will be allowed to request the video review only once per match, but if the « challenge » is accepted and the refereeing body (or the jury of appeal) changes the contested decision, the wrestler will still be able to use his/her right another time during the match. If the refereeing body validates the decision and rejects the « challenge », the wrestler will not be allowed to use his/her right anymore and 1 point will be awarded to his/her opponent.

#### 3. Jury of appeal

For each Championship, a jury of appeal composed of 3 persons (Instructors, Bureau members, or experts) will be formed for each mat by the FILA President or the person appointed by him for that purpose. This jury of appeal will be seated away from the judge and the mat chairman and will not be able to communicate or influence the refereeing body in any manner. Its main duty will be to control that all refereeing procedures are applied in accordance with the wrestling rules. The jury of appeal will not be entitled to ask for a video review, this right being reserved for the wrestlers.

When a wrestler asks for a video review, the jury of appeal will examine the action at the same time as the refereeing body and the public. The jury of appeal will be informed of the refereeing body's decision by the mat chairman and if it deems that the refereeing body is



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mistaking, the jury of appeal will have the final say. If the refereeing body or the jury of appeal make a serious mistake, they will be sanctioned by the FILA Bureau, but no additional protest or appeal will be accepted for the match in question.

#### 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 with his hands resting on the opponent's shoulders and a knee to the mat. 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.

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 value of the points will be taken into consideration and then the least amount of cautions. If these criteria still don't allow reaching a decision, the advantage of the clinch will be determined by 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.

#### C) 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 does not stop, award a penalty to the wrestler at fault and the corresponding points to his/her opponent.

Illegal actions include:

- Fleeing the hold
- Fleeing the mat
- Fleeing the mat once the clinch has been ordered
- Head on chest to block Greco-Roman wrestling
- Blocking the opponent's wrists to prevent an action
- Blatant refusal to maintain contact in standing position

Raphaël Martinetti  
FILA President

Corsier-sur-Vevey, 12 February 2009/ap