

To: NFWOA Members

From: Dan Hanley, President

Date: January 22, 2013

Re: That damn stalling call

I thought I'd take a couple of minutes to discuss the most frustrating call we normally make. STALLING!

WE each bring our own "sensitivity" onto the mat based on our own criteria and experience. If you were a "Leg" wrestler, you're more likely to give that guy on top more time to work his magic. If you were "screwed" by a "Leg" wrestler, you're more likely going to be less patient with the top guy. If you were a "counter" guy on your feet, you'll accept less "offense" from the neutral position as long as the guy "actively" wrestles when attacked. You get my point?

What's our job? I see our job as "don't let him cheat". I don't see our job as "make him wrestle". Though there are several descriptions of "by the rule" of stalling (eg. Heal to butt with man broken down for 5 seconds), many times a stalling call isn't the best call. Question? Who's cheating?

I thought I'd pass along my theory.

My job is to make sure that one wrestler is kept from scoring because his opponent has stopped wrestling. There's a difference. No matter 106 or 285, they have to "present" themselves on the mat so that scoring can happen. I expect big guys to work as hard as the little guys, but understand that they will likely do it differently. I MUST be consistent in the application of my standard, throughout the match. If I allow a wrestler to "defend" a particular attack in neutral during the first period, I must not penalize that same style in the third.

#### Neutral Stalling

My question is..... "who put themselves at risk by attacking?" Not shadow or fake shots but real attempts to gain a takedown. Pushing is NOT offense. This is NOT sumo. Is the wrestler circling to the edge before any offensive attack so that he can bail OB if it fails? Is the head or elbow(s) blocking? I do count shots but I don't call stalling every time I reach a 3 differential. I adjust based on the match itself. The best time to call stalling is when the attack is being defended, while he's backing up, not when there isn't any action afterwards. If both guys are "Not wrestling aggressively", you don't have to make a call at all. I have used "double stalling" but I use it sparingly. If they don't want to wrestle and neither guy is "cheating", let that clock run.

## Late Match Stalling

This is the hardest part of our vocation. Dave Hickson once told us that we earn our money on the edge and at the buzzer. Well, as Greg Stoos has properly said for years, the coaches will yell, "let the wrestlers decide who wins". Greg properly points out that when you don't make that proper "stalling" call late, the Official is deciding who wins by letting a wrestler "cheat". But remember a couple of truths.

Don't get lazy in the area. Call it when you see it. If you see stalling in the first, call it, because if you see the same tactic in the third and didn't, you'll be inconsistent and that reflects on you poorly.

## Last 20 seconds

My theory is that everyone in the gym would make the same call. The guy that's ahead, got there by being aggressive early and probably often. Now, we're late in the match and his opponent MUST get aggressive for a chance to win. Big guys pushing comes to mind. Your question again? Is he cheating? He may have spent the entire first and second periods working harder than his opponent, now the guy that's losing has no choice but to go 100%. Don't penalize the wrestler as long as he "presents himself" for a fair chance to score.

## Down on the mat

Basics – Top man, work to score..... bottom man work to escape or reverse. How do you tell????

Bottom – Is he working for hand control? Is he building a base? Is he working to gain elevation? Is he being "overpowered" ?

Top – Is there an effective attack that he is making? Does he "attempt" to get off to the side and work for near-fall? Is he changing the attack that is well defended? Is he un-able to change his attack because the defensive wrestler is just holding on? Do I have a Stallmate instead of stalling?

One leg in attack – With a single leg in the top man has a number of reasonable attacks that can be mounted. AND the bottom man has several defensive options. Therefore, watch closely to see who is doing what. The bottom MUST defend by gaining elevation, first with hips, then with torso. The top man must attack the top half of the body, in most cases, to work for points. When action is not happening to an acceptable level, stallmate should be your first call. "You guys have to work to improve your position" is what you say after stallmate call. The second time, there MAY be a stalling call in either way, depending what you see.

Double leg in attack – Double legs in (effectively) is a bit easier to call. The top man has most of the responsibility to create action. Physics tells us that in order for the top man to score NF, he must slip a leg out. Hanging a power half from side to side can only be allowed for a short period. Stallmate the position and get them to move on. If the top man "repeatedly" goes double legs, and is unsuccessful in

turning the bottom man, top man has the responsibility to move on to something else, otherwise he's just riding. You can NOT call the bottom man for stalling when top had double legs in most of the time. If the bottom man is grabbing an arm and holding on you probably can call him, but that's about the only time. Repeatedly goes something like this.

1<sup>st</sup> time – Stallmate, 2<sup>nd</sup> time- stallmate on you top, 3<sup>rd</sup> time – stalling top.

Also, watch for PD on those power halves. If the bottom man can't roll the off shoulder, he'll blow out either or both if not stopped.

Finally, ask yourself "What do I need to call" not " what can I call". That way you won't affect the outcome, you'll only stop the cheating.

Just my thoughts.

Dan