

2019-2020 Early Season Rule Update
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It has been brought to our attention about a reconstituted wrestling move titled: "The Assassin". It is a variation of the Kolat maneuver that has gained recent notoriety and has several elements that ranges between unnecessary roughness, potentially dangerous to illegal hold/maneuver, as shown in the attachment.

This is another variation of a legal headlock because the arm is encircled however, the pressure against the neck puts it in the category of an illegal hold, Rule 7-1-5v. Any hold/maneuver with pressure exerted over the opponent's mouth, nose, throat or neck that restricts breathing or circulation

Referees need to be aware of this maneuver and if it is applied the match should at least be stopped as potentially dangerous as soon as the offensive wrestler steps across their opponent and the wrestler cautioned against using this hold. A second attempt at this maneuver by the same wrestler will result in a penalty.

In the paragraph above I say it should be at least stopped as potentially dangerous, because it can also be immediately called illegal if the Referee feels the hold has cut off circulation or breathing.

The same guidelines listed above will be applied to a similar hold known as a Neck Bow. The Neck Bow is a side headlock similar to the Merkel but without a leg included. If the wrestler applying the hold executed a forward roll the match will be immediately stopped as potentially dangerous and the offending wrestler will be cautioned against attempting the maneuver again. A second attempt at this maneuver by the same wrestler will result in a penalty.

Again, this could be called illegal on the first attempt if the referee felt the call would be appropriate due to undue pressure to the side of the neck.