

Proposed OKWA Participant Code of Conduct

Explanation

This policy is designed to assist all participants in OKWA activities identify standards of conduct which are and are not acceptable as participants of OKWA activities, both at OKWA functions and in relation to OKWA in the public.

Scope

- a. A registered club of OKWA includes any club registered with OKWA; and any and all administrators, coaches, parents, wrestlers or any other types of participants are primarily the responsibility of the club.
- b. While attending any OKWA function, clubs are ultimately responsible for the control of these participants and for their actions.
- c. While clubs are primarily responsible for discipline of participants who act in an unacceptable manner, OKWA maintains the authority, through processes in accordance with the Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations of the organization, to affect discipline of said participants and/or the club(s).

Communication Conduct Standards

Definitions

- a. Verbal Communications – Any communication made by speaking and/or writing, to include “telecast” and other forms of audio or video means.
- b. Electronic Communications – Any communication made by email, picture, text, chat, instant message, blog, social media platform, or other electronically written means.
- c. Communication Misconduct – Any form of communication utilized to inflict degradation or harm, to include, but not limited to; harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, or any other types of misconduct that undermine dignity and respect.

Expectations

- a. Club leaders should reinforce a climate where current and future participants of OKWA understand that online misconduct is inconsistent with OKWA values.
- b. When engaging in electronic communication, participants should consider the “Think, Type, Post” philosophy.
 - “Think” who may view it. Is it possible that a youth athlete may see it? Does it further the athletes, my club, OKWA or the sport, or does it degrade them?
 - “Type” a statement that furthers the values of the athletes, clubs, OKWA and the sport of wrestling.
 - “Post” (or send) only those messages that demonstrate dignity and respect for self and others.

- c. Participants of OKWA should refrain from the use of name-calling, profanity applied in a derogatory manner, degradation/humiliation of the representatives of OKWA and degradation/humiliation of clubs or individuals who are involved with OKWA activities.
 - Discussion of evidenced infractions of individuals is not considered derogatory when used to promulgate said infractions in an effort to affect possible disciplinary action.
- d. Participants should refrain from engaging in arguments/debates concerning OKWA on social media platforms except to provide feedback in a positive manner.
- e. Participants of OKWA should limit social media posts about representatives and/or other participants of OKWA to supportive and positive, to include both OKWA and personal accounts.
 - Although negative information by any means is discouraged, an individual maintains the basic constitutional right to privately discuss these matters with other individuals by non-social media means such as verbally and via private email or other private and personal means.
- f. Participants of OKWA should limit speaking publicly and on social media on OKWA matters to desired/needed changes of issues/items in a positive manner.
- g. Participants of OKWA should keep disagreements and differences, whether personal or professional, private until such time as they have been resolved.
- h. Participants should at all times make effort to speak positively on matters concerning OKWA, in a manner which contributes to the improvement of OKWA, improvement of others' view of OKWA, and/or helps to promote the mission of OKWA.

1.4 Actions

- a. Any communication misconduct should immediately be reported to club leaders and addressed at the club level.
- b. The OKWA should be notified of any communication misconduct addressed at the club level. OKWA may or may not opt to affect discipline at the organizational level.
- c. Any communication misconduct of an Executive Board or Grievance and Discipline Committee member should be reported to the Grievance and Discipline Committee, who may take action as needed, and as is allowed within the scope of the OKWA Bylaws.
- d. Any communication misconduct within official meetings of OKWA or one of its regional divisions will not be tolerated.
 - The Executive Board or Regional Director(s), whichever is applicable, may remove the individual from the meeting.

Sanctioned Tournament Conduct Standards

In order to create a more orderly and efficient tournament environment, rules and protocols must be strictly enforced.

1. The following are considered, in accordance with the NFHS Rule Book, technical violations, and award the opponent 1 point:
 - Wrestlers may not leave the mat during a match unless first approved by the official.
2. The following are violations which, in accordance with the NFHS Rule Book, may result in warnings, deduction of up to 3 team points, removal from the facility, and/or arrest by law enforcement:
 - All spectators must remain in the stands or other acceptable location away from close proximity of mats.
 - Any/All use of tobacco products is prohibited.
 - Any/All use or influence of alcohol and/or illegal substances is prohibited.
 - Any form of verbal or physical abuse toward any person is prohibited.
 - Only coaches, with proper credentials, may be at mat-side/in corners or may address officials.
 - There is a maximum of 2 coaches per corner – seated if the venue provides seats, otherwise kneeling.
 - Only coaches from the same team may be in a corner – no coach may stand in front of, behind or near opposing team coaches.
 - Coaches may not approach an official or wrestlers without the approval of the official.
 - Coaches may address the official during a match only by calling time-out with the time/score keeper(s) at the table, then being recognized by the official.
 - Conferences with officials during a match may only be for a mis-application of rules, scoring errors, timing errors, or safety issues.
3. Multiple violations of conduct may result in removal from the event, from future OKWA participation, or from the OKWA in its entirety.
4. Officials will be the primary persons responsible for enforcement of match, coach and spectator conduct, and enforcement of all Rules and Regulations.
5. The host club tournament director personnel, coaches and security are primary persons responsible for event operations and supporting officials with any floor ban or removal violations.

KNOW YOUR ROLE AND RESPECT OTHERS

The social atmospheric environment, health, safety, well-being and conduct of our OKWA events is the responsibility of everyone in attendance, so **KNOW YOUR ROLE!!!**

FANS.....Cheer! (from the stands)

TABLE WORKERS...Work!

KIDS.....Wrestle!

OFFICIALS.....Officiate!

COACHES.....Coach!

PARENTS.....Love and support your children! (from the stands)