



Neutral Stalling Q&A Part #1 of 3
January 4, 2018

NO wrestler may force an unnecessary restart in the neutral position.

Examples of how unnecessary restarts occur?

1. One wrestler makes little to no effort to circle in bounds.
2. One wrestler pushes an actively circling opponent out of bounds simply to force a restart.
3. One wrestler pulls or kicks out of bounds forcing a restart.

In all three examples the wrestler(s) have other options besides going out of bounds

1. One wrestler makes little to no effort to circle in bounds. (this wrestler should work hard to circle in bounds or make an attack)
2. One wrestler pushes an actively circling opponent out of bounds simply to force a restart. (this wrestler should not push an actively circling opponent out of bounds)
3. One wrestler pulls the opponent out of bounds forcing a restart. (this wrestler should turn towards in bounds and attack or defend with an intent to stay in bounds and compete)

Questions surrounding example #1

Question: How do you determine if the effort threshold to circle in bounds has been met?

SRE Response: The wrestler with their back to the line is required to show substantial effort. This level of effort is determined by the referee. This requirement is the cornerstone of the rule and the basis by which everything is judged. Any wrestler who shows minimal effort should expect to get called for stalling if the action goes out of bounds.

Question: What happens if the wrestler with their back to the out of bounds line is shot out of bounds?

SRE Response: This is situation dependent within a given match. First, a single incident of being shot out of bounds should almost never be a stall call since the wrestler is allowed to defend themselves. However, a wrestler who is being repeatedly shot out of bounds is an indicator that the wrestler is repeatedly backing to the out of bounds line. When repeated backing to the line occurs, this must be met with a traditional stall warning. This is why you sometimes see stall calls when wrestlers are shot out of bounds. The call being made is a traditional stall call and not an out of bounds violation. Currently in the rules we do not have a mechanism for distinguishing one from the other.

Question: Can a wrestler be called for simultaneously for traditional stalling and neutral out of bounds stalling.



SRE Response: These are two different types of stalling, one is avoiding wrestling action and the other is forcing an unnecessary restart. Knowing this, yes this can occur. However, there should be a period of reaction time between them. A traditional stalling call, followed by an immediate back out does not require two stalling calls.

Questions: What happens if two wrestlers are straddling the out of bounds line and the action is called out of bounds?

SRE Response: Any wrestler on the out of bounds line is responsible for making a substantial effort to circle in bounds. This scenario would require a double stalling call.

Additional details regarding these previously interpreted situations can be found in the NCAA Wrestling [Case Book](#). Please review the following approved rulings related to this article: AR: 5-8, 5-9, 5-12

In part #2 of this article I will answer questions related to Example #2 the pushout.