



Chuck Barbee SRE Article #4
Match Stoppage Rules Reminders
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In this article I will provide reminders and clarifications to a few rules related to match stoppages. If after reviewing the article you have questions, feel free to contact me at ncaaruleseditor@gmail.com.

Match stoppages: stopping and restarting an individual match can have a dramatic impact on the outcome of a match. Because of the serious nature of stoppages, there are numerous rule requirements designed to address each stoppage. In the interest of fairness to teams and competitors, it is critical that these are applied consistently. The following are a few rules reminders related to match stoppages.

- 1. Rule 3.19.2 Coach Questioning a Rules Application:** Any time a coach stops the match to question a referee (about a call or no call) the coach shall be charged with a questioning a rules application penalty, if the call is not changed/overtuned.

SRE Feedback: This rule is in place to provide teams the opportunity to question referee calls when they believe an error occurred. It is also in place to minimize frivolous stoppages that might occur when a team may be stopping the match (or matches) repeatedly, in order to manipulate the outcome of a match. If referees do not make this call, then a team may use excessive questioning a rules application stoppage without any penalty, which is unfair to the opposing team(s).

Penalty Sequence for Questioning a Rules Application: warning, warning, deduction of 1 team point for each subsequent violation. In dual meets the official score keeper shall record and deduct team points as appropriate. In tournaments, the individual match scorer will record the penalty and the head table is responsible for tracking the penalty sequence for all teams and making the appropriate team point deductions.

- 2. Rule 2.2.16 Stalemate:** when wrestlers are interlocked in a position other than a pinning situation in which neither wrestler is improving position, the referee may stop the match...

SRE Feedback: the stalemate call is another match stoppage that can have a dramatic impact on the outcome of a match and it is not intended to be used haphazardly. The rule states a referee **may** stop the match. The use of the word **may** for applying the stalemate rule is to better ensure it is called consistently both in the beginning of the match and towards the end of the match when there is more pressure. This wording also allows referees to use their professional discretion to determine when oral commands, outlined in Rule 7.3.6, such as action or improve are more appropriate than stopping the match.

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- 3. Coach Video Review Stoppages, Rule 3.13.9:** stopping the match to request a video review is a legitimate request of a coach. However, there are numerous scenarios in which these requests can and should result in the application of a penalty to the requesting team. Here are a few reminders:
- a. A coach review must be requested immediately for it to be valid. If in the opinion of the referee the request is not timely then the coach is denied the review and issued a control of mat violation.
 - i. SRE Feedback: untimely video review requests are viewed as an attempt to manipulate the outcome of the match and a very serious intentional match stoppage violation.
 - b. If a coach requests a video review when they do not have a video review to use, the team is issued a control of mat violation penalty.
 - i. SRE Feedback: again, it is a serious violation when a match is stopped by a team in order to execute a review they do not have. Because of this team's actions you can deny their review, but you can never take back the match stoppage which might alter the outcome of the match...therefore a control of mat violation penalty is always applied.
- 4. Other Important Match Stoppage Rules:** I am not discussing each of these individually, but I recommend you review these rules and any associated Case Book postings that involve unnecessary match stoppages.
- a. Questioning Timing and/or scoring Rule 3.19.1 (the only allowable stoppage without warning or penalty and the coach must request properly as per Case Book A.R. 3-14))
 - b. Neutral out of bounds stalling, Rule 5.7.5
 - c. Stalling by kicking out of bounds, Rule 5.7.8
 - d. Stalling by fleeing the mat, Rule 5.7.9
 - e. Delays directly related to shoes or shoe laces, Rule 5.7.16
 - f. Unethical injury timeout, Rule 6.1.1

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