



December 9, 2015

With the first weekend of wrestling behind us a great deal has been learned. Ray, Dick and Jim, Ohio state wrestling rule interpreters, have discussed this topic since the end of September and realized the NFHS may have defined the rule, but it is still up to the companies to produce the piece equipment. The companies were presented the new requirement of the equipment and set out to design what met the standard.

We always look at situations from the standpoint of what meets the intent of the rule. Satisfying the intent of the rule is the ultimate key involved.

First, We would like to compliment the coaches and officials for the very cooperative way all handled the new hair cap attached to the head gear rule. Officials approved several different caps if they somehow fastened, and stayed on the head.

Second, We saw the Cliff Keen “Slicker” at several different tournaments, and it is NFHS approved. The athlete pulls the cap over the hair and gets all the hair under the cap. It is fastened through the chin strap at each end, and then snapped. Next the athlete pulls a flap on each side up and over the bottom of the ear guard creating a pocket which comes up the bottom one-third to one-half of the ear guard. This is what holds the hair cap down and on the head to hold in the hair.

Third, the intent of the rule is to stop the numerous delays of the wrestling match so the wrestler can replace the hair cap. In most cases the hair caps always mushroomed up to the top of the head and the long hair would get exposed. The intent of the rule is met when the cap stays in place and the hair does not get exposed, and the cap is somehow fastened to the head gear.

Fourth, we all need to continue to examine each case if it meets the intent by keeping the cap on the head and the hair under it.