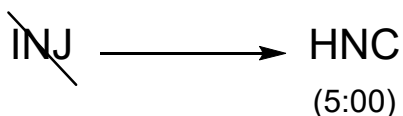


HNC Key Points:

- If signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion are observed, NFHS rules and Ohio law require that the match be immediately terminated, and the contestant shall be removed from further competition. In this situation HNC protocol does not come into play.
- If an assigned appropriate health-care professional (AHCP) (physician or certified athletic trainer) is present at the venue, the referee may utilize a HNC time-out so that the afflicted wrestler can be evaluated.
- If an AHCP is not assigned to the event, the referee may not utilize the HNC injury time-out.
- In the absence of an assigned AHCP, a regular injury time-out is utilized (the referee must be cognizant of signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion – see below).
- If an appropriate health-care professional is not assigned to the venue and the referee suspects a potential HNC injury, the situation will be covered under Rule 8-2-4a (...the match shall be terminated, and the contestant removed from further competition if signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion are observed by the referee). Otherwise, regular injury time is utilized.
- The duration of the HNC time-out is a maximum of 5-minutes. Elapsed HNC time must be recorded in the scorebook or on the bout sheet (see below).
- The initial match stoppage for HNC falls under injury time. Once the AHCP arrives at the mat for the HNC evaluation, the injury time-out transitions to a HNC injury time-out with the elapsed injury time converting to the remaining 5-minute HNC time allocation (injury time does not transition to HNC injury time until the AHCP arrives at the mat to begin the HNC evaluation).
- Upon transitioning from the injury time-out to the HNC injury time-out, the initial injury time-out (including elapsed injury time) are not charged to the injured contestant.
- Upon transitioning to the HNC injury time-out, the referee faces the table to convey the HNC single.
- The assigned, on-site meet, AHCP who determines that a wrestler should not participate, shall not be overruled.
- Coaching is allowed during a HNC time-out, however, coaching shall not interfere with the AHCP evaluation.

- Only two team attendants of the afflicted wrestler may be on the mat attending to the injured contestant. There is no limitation on the number of AHCPs who are allowed to attend to the injured contestant.
- A second HNC injury (does not have to be the same injury) in the same match requires the wrestler to default the match.
- If a contestant is injured as a result of an illegal hold/maneuver, unnecessary roughness, unsportsmanlike conduct during the match or the result of a false start (by the opponent) in the neutral position, the injured wrestler is entitled to two-minutes of recovery time, which is not deducted from the injured wrestler's injury time allowance, nor shall it constitute a HNC time-out. The HNC time-out is not connected to recovery time.
- Following the HNC evaluation, the contestant is required to prepare without delay for continuation (if cleared by the AHCP) or default (if not cleared by the AHCP) of the match.
- A wrestler may not use an injury time-out following a HNC timeout.
- When HNC injury time occurs during bad time, the HNC time used will not be voided.
- Blood time takes precedence over HNC injury time.

Suggested score book/bout sheet protocol for tracking HNC injury time (approved by NFHS):



In this scenario, the official stopped the match for a suspected HNC injury. The initial match stoppage is applied to injury time (INJ) protocol. When the meet assigned AHCP arrived at the mat and initiated the HNC injury evaluation, the injury time transitioned (indicated by the arrow) to a HNC injury time-out (HNC). At this point, the injury time-out (INJ) is negated (indicated by the diagonal strikethrough line) and is not charged to the afflicted contestant. The AHCP used the remainder of the 5-minute HNC time allotment to complete the HNC evaluation (indicated by 5:00).