

REVISED: September 8, 2009  
To: Prospective New Officials  
From: Michael J. Puleo, President, WCWO

RE: New Officials Checklist

West Coast Wrestling Officials (WCWO) kicks off every year in August as we prepare for the upcoming high school wrestling season. In late September / early October, we will have our first General Membership Meeting / Training Sessions that you will need to attend. We will have a series of meetings and training sessions to prepare you and others for the wrestling season that begins in November.

The first meeting is very important for new officials, as we discuss many of the start-up requirements. We will add you to our email list so that we can attempt to contact you in August to let you know about our meeting schedule. However, it is important that you contact us if you haven't heard anything from us by mid-September. If you are starting late, don't worry. You can join at any time up until December 15. After such time, we only take new members on a case-by-case basis, (of course only until we open up registration again the following year).

If you have the opportunity to get some mat-time officiating at summer USA wrestling tournaments, that would be a great idea to prepare you for the high school season. Even though the tournaments that take place now and through the summer may be Freestyle & Greco-Roman rules, the mat experience is critical. In the fall, most of the tournaments change to folk-style (high school) rules. Many of our officials attend tournaments throughout the summer. John Heyman can assist you with that, and most of the information you will need can be found on our website at [www.wcwo.org](http://www.wcwo.org). There are links there to the FHSAA site for registration, USA site for list of summer tournaments, etc.

Here's a summary of the requirements for all new / returning officials:

- ✓ Go to [www.wcwo.org](http://www.wcwo.org) for meeting dates and more information
- ✓ Register with the FHSAA as a wrestling official and select West Coast Wrestling Officials as your primary association (Register on or before October.1. \$34, includes NFHS Insurance);
- ✓ Attend the 1<sup>st</sup> and subsequent WCWO local association / training meetings (starts early October);
- ✓ Register with WCWO as your local association (register at 1<sup>st</sup> WCWO meeting, \$50);
- ✓ Complete Level II Background Screening requirements (SDHC, \$85)
- ✓ View the NFHS / FHSAA Online Rules Presentation (see [iFHSAA.org](http://iFHSAA.org) for more information);
- ✓ Read / learn the NFHS Rules & Case Book (material provided at WCWO meetings);
- ✓ Take and pass the NFHS / FHSAA Wrestling Officials Exam (online);
- ✓ Attend and officiate at least one pre-season tournament (high school / folk-style rules);
- ✓ Attend the FHSAA Field Clinic for wrestling officials (great idea for 1<sup>st</sup> year, required every 3 years, \$40);
- ✓ Obtain uniforms and other materials (we will help you with this at 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. \$30-\$100);
- ✓ Start Refeing! (WCWO assigns all WCWO officials to matches and provides your schedule to you)

Next question you have...how much will it cost me to get started? As you can see from the checklist, it may vary, depending on your experience (if any) and what uniforms and equipment you may already have, and whether or not you have previously completed a Level II Background screening. Best case scenario: \$84. Worst case scenario: most new officials are looking at approximately \$300 to get started, which includes registration fees, insurance, uniforms, the Field Clinic, and the Level II Screening. Most new officials can recuperate this in the first few weeks of officiating, depending on how much you want to work.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Again, please visit our website. The information found there is usually updated in September for the upcoming season, but you can still get a good idea of what to expect by looking at some of last year's information posted there. Hope to see you in the fall. Please contact me (email works best) if you have any questions or need further information.